

And They Shot Poor Abraham Lincoln.

"Dear Father: We have been reading with interest the controversy regarding the Palais Royale. To date the criticism has been destructive; none constructive.

"At Notre Dame we are taught to associate with good Catholic girls. Admitting then that the collection at the Palais does not come under this classification, what other choice of amusement is open for the student? We believe that there is a very obvious remedy, one which the authorities, while criticizing the present state of affairs, seems to ignore. One half mile away is an institution of Catholic girls. Why does the school not promote social activities between St. Mary's and Notre Dame students? This will provide a form of amusement for the fellows who would otherwise patronize the Palais. Until such a time we do not believe it is fair for the school to condemn this dance hall.

"A Trio of Inquisitive Sophomores."

This is the type of reasoning that brought into being the word "sophomore" -- wise fool. The "good Catholic girls" at St. Mary's will be glad to learn that three inquisitive sophomores at Notre Dame want to amuse themselves with their company during off-hours from the Palais Royale. They will certainly feel proud to know that a Palais hound would break from the greasy embrace of a hunky cheese to amuse himself with a St. Mary's girl.

It takes a sophomore to dictate policies for St. Mary's. Anyone else would observe that the Sisters have done very well with their school for the past seventy years; would observe that any number of fine boys now at Notre Dame are sons of St. Mary's graduates who did not have to go to the Palais for their husbands; would observe that the Notre Dame men who have sweethearts at St. Mary's and appreciate them are very circumspect about the refinement of the company they keep in "Amusement" hours.

If these three musketeers ardently crave the companionship of women, they should get married. They are certainly wasting their time in school. The library can mean nothing to them; art and music are wastrels in their narrow vision. Their time at Notre Dame will be lost for all eternity. The lofty ideals of culture and spirituality which this school has upheld for eighty-three years are quite out of their understanding. They can understand dance posters; they can appreciate jazz. -- And if they are old enough to dictate policies for St. Mary's they are quite old enough to work for a living.

And yet it is for such as these that Notre Dame must struggle on. The mission of the Catholic Church is to save souls, and even sophomores have souls. Just as the medieval Church struggled through the centuries to put culture into the barbarians, so with infinite patience and the blessing of God will Notre Dame continue to receive into her broad bosom the barbarians with the cave-man idea that man's only purpose in life is the pursuit of womankind.

Interpretation.

For freshmen who find the above dissertation too subtle, the editor of the Bulletin gives this final word on the Palais Royale: There are evidently two classes of students who visit this place; those who find it an occasion of sin, and those who find it merely vulgar. The first class must avoid it, under penalty of refusal of absolution; the second class should choose a mother of their children a woman who can inculcate refinement.