

Missing in action:
Ensign Jack Sprague,
ex' 43.

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME
Religious Bulletin
August 18, 1943

(Deceased Jerry
Moynigan, University
workman.

Nudism

The recent hot spells give evidence of a tendency toward nudism on the campus. Unnecessary display of the human body is a violation of the virtue of modesty; it is sinful. The student who goes shirtless, or shirtless and trouserless, in his hall as he studies or as he visits his neighbor is immodest.

The fact that many others do it is not sufficient sanction.

Nor does the heat make it necessary. A light shirt and light trousers will not cause so much inconvenience that study become impossible. Some sacrifice must be made in the practice of every virtue. Our Lord asks you to make this sacrifice for Him. If you are immodest in dress, you offend Christ.

The display of the body can be more than immodesty. Vanity can be motivating it. If you have a perfect figure, there is no need of proudly manifesting that gift of God to the public. Use your body for good.

Of course, there will be students who will say the BULLETIN is all wrong, gone prudish. The BULLETIN knows that argument will not convince those in disagreement. They have their own ideas about modesty. To them we say only this: you are losing your sense of modesty.

Pope Pius XII has something to say about modesty. Those who will accept authority will gain from reading it. These words were addressed by the Holy Father to Christian mothers in 1941.

"You have to prepare your sons and daughters so that they may pass with unfaltering step, like those who pick their way among serpents, through that time of crisis and physical change; and pass through it without losing anything of joy of innocence, preserving intact that natural instinct of modesty with which Providence has girt them as a check upon wayward passion.

"That sense of modesty which in its spontaneous abhorrence from the impure is akin to the sense of religion, is made of little account in these days; but you, mothers, will take care that they do not lose it through indecency in dress or self-adornment, through unbecoming familiarities or immoral spectacles; on the contrary, you will seek to make it more delicate and alert, more upright and sincere."