

Meeting of 3rd Order of  
St. Francis tonight (Wed),  
Sorin chapel, 7:30 P.M.

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
February 4, 1947

Have you started the  
Novena for Purity in  
honor of Our Lady of  
Lourdes?

### On Petting.

Recently, in her newspaper column, Mary Hayworth, expressed her opinion about petting. There is sound doctrine in her treatment of the matter. Do your ideas line up with hers? The following is an answer to a young girl.

Petting is wrong, Obviously. It is a form of sensual vice. Like all forms of vice, it starts with sportive or gingerly experiment, then gradually assumes the proportions of Frankenstein, in its frightful and frightening, mind-darkening dominance of the foolish dabblers.

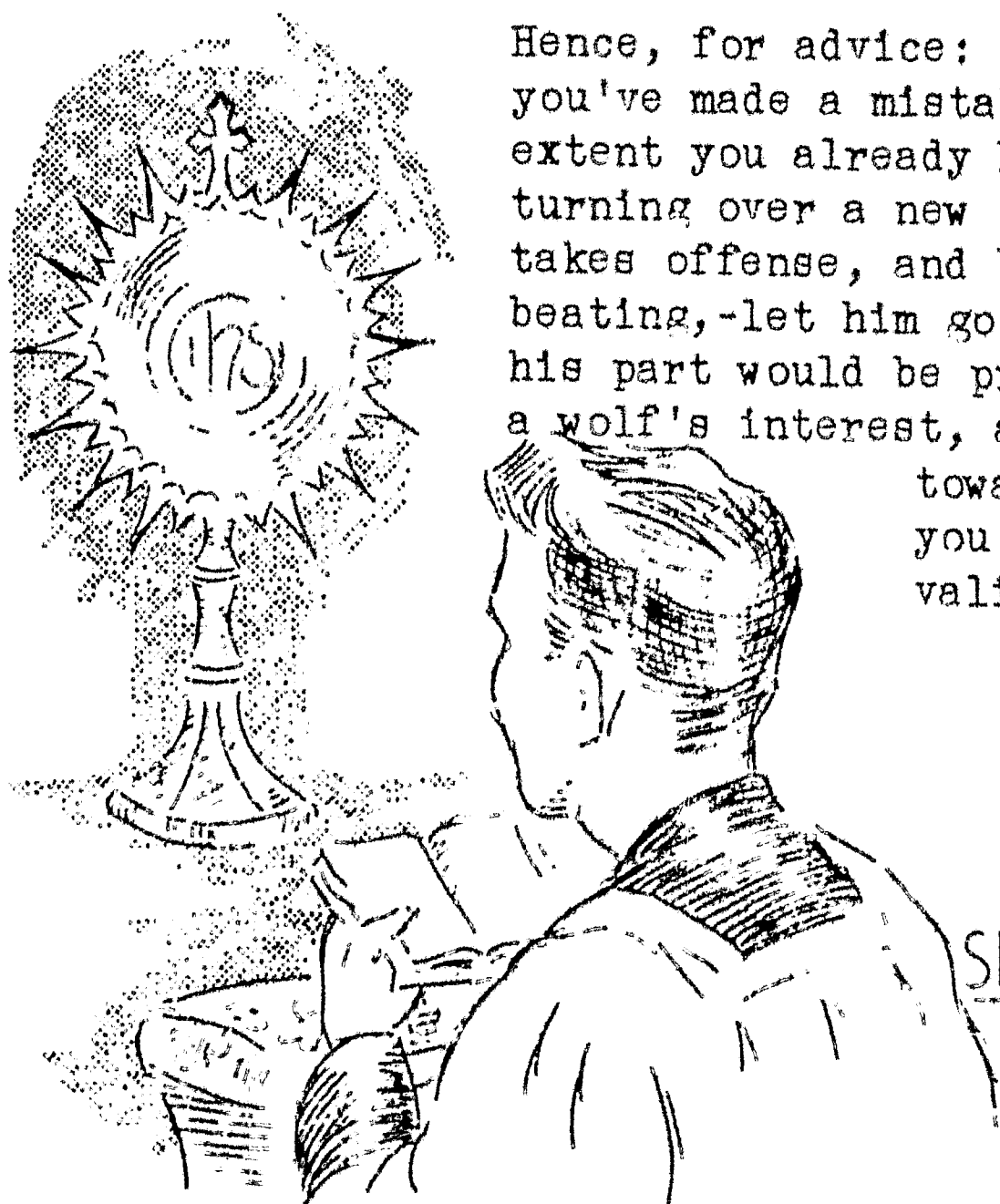
In the field of a boy-girl romancing, petting as a pastime is the thief of virtue of bonafide happiness -- in the sense that it (1) undermines dignity of personality (2), subtracts from self-regard as well as mutual trust and esteem (3), clouds thought and depresses felling, and (4), generally involves the two in a demoralizing spiral of secretive dealing which changes the "tone" of all their relationships with other people, too, to something vaguely furtive and negative.

That's the basic reason why not to pet; its self-debasing. Also, it is the reason why your beau, having drifted with you into this phase of sensual vice, now wants to increase the scope of licentious indulgence. And if you concede more intimacy, he is sure to think you're "bad", -- in the sense that he will evaluate you as being "just as bad" as he, in his heart, feels himself to be.

Furthermore, this trend of behaviour leads to illegitimate pregnancy in the majority of cases where the lad's selfishness is allowed to rule. In which event, the lad usually repudiates the girl and holds her to blame -- as does the world -- for letting their relationship take that turn. Much of my unpublished mail comes from teen-age girls in that desperate plight, who lack the savior faire or plain common sense to say "no", to immoral advances.

Hence, for advice: Tell your boy friend it's plain that you've made a mistake, the two of you, in "petting" to the extent you already have. Tell him that you, for one, are turning over a new leaf -- no more of that. If he sulks and takes offense, and begins to neglect you as a form of brow beating, -let him go without a whimper. A surly reaction on his part would be proof-positive that he never had more than a wolf's interest, anyway. Whereas if his heart is right towards you, he will like you better and court you more eagerly -- on the level -- if you valiantly rule out "playing with fire"

M.H.



SPEND A HALF HOUR IN ADORATION  
FIRST FRIDAY EXPOSITION IN  
CHURCH 8 A.M. - 7 P.M.