

Controlled Enthusiasm Or Hoodlumism--Which?

A review of certain events of the past week is in order. It will remain just between ourselves. You have done some things wisely, others unwisely. You realized the importance of school spirit, made plans to bolster it before it waned and died. The number of Holy Communions increased somewhat--but Mass attendance did improve considerably. A team riddled with injuries has a special claim on your prayers.

Okay--but your response could have been much better. October adoration fell down miserably last week. Attendance at Rosary and Benediction Friday was 51% less than the day before. Juniors and seniors woefully neglected their adoration periods. For two and three hours daily for two weeks the Blessed Sacrament was unattended--Brother Boniface and an old lady from South Bend substituted for your slights to Our Lord.

Your reception of Holy Communion Saturday would have been very much better, for instance, had you stayed on campus Friday night and gone to confession, instead of snake-dancing around town, tom-tom serenading much of the night out here, making nuisances of yourselves in general and blockheads of yourselves in particular.

You were right in your aroused enthusiasm for the team that needs your prayers, but your method of showing it went out of bounds except at the altar rail. The pep rally was all right too--great stuff! Yet it wasn't enough for the hoodlums who could not restrain their post-adolescent urge to sate themselves in an emotional binge. Good sportsmanship will always be good religion. School spirit at Notre Dame has its religious aspect which we try to keep uppermost in your mind. If Notre Dame ever sets aside this aspect, it will mean that she has lost the "spirit" that has guided her like a light to this very day.

There are right leaders and there are wrong leaders. You have many responsible men--found mostly among level-headed juniors and seniors--capable of proper leadership, men who have an instinct for knowing what to do and how to do it. Among them are your duly elected representatives. Follow them. If you have one iota of circumspection you will not be hoodwinked by sophomoric harum-scarums who ignore the rules of what is fitting and decent. (Thanks to the juniors and seniors for keeping their heads.)

If principles mean anything at all--stand pat on them. There are certain definable limits to your actions. If you keep these in mind and follow them, your actions will be above reproach, your conduct will be representative of the institutions you stand for--your family, your school, your Church.

What are these limits? They are set by the Ten Commandments of God, the Precepts of the Church, the traditions of the University, and family honor. Among the Ten Commandments are the Fourth and the Seventh. By the Fourth we are obliged to show due respect to all superiors--parents, civil and school authorities, priests and religious. And by the Seventh we are bound to respect the property rights of others.

The University never has tolerated, and cannot in conscience ever tolerate, disregard for these Commandments. The University wants you to have good times--lots of them--but the right kind of fun. The University cannot condone crashing theaters, tipping cars, rowdy behaviour. In the late twenty's a Notre Dame student was killed during a welcome-the-team-back celebration. We have no assurance that another will not be hurt if wrong leaders pull you around by the nose. Enter into your festivities wholeheartedly, but suppress just as wholeheartedly any spontaneous deviation from them that would transgress the limits set above, and all will be well. Notre Dame wants you to shout--with shouts that burst from clean hearts. But she does not want hysterical freshmen, or wild-eyes sophomores on the loose. If you are so adolescent that you are unable to detect bad leadership--it is high time to grow up and get acquainted with the good. Let us see no more of this--this reckless uncontrolled enthusiasm.