

Either you rule your body,
or your body rules you.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
November 29, 1951

If you didn't start your No-
vena today, begin it tomorrow.

Thou Fool!

You look forward to the day you can retire and take it easy. Our Lord tells the story of the ambitious rich man who was too much concerned about his earthly treasures. Said the rich man: "Soul thou hast much good laid up for many years, take thy rest: eat, drink, make good cheer."

But God said to him: "Thou fool, this night do they require thy soul of thee: and whose shall those things be which thou hast provided?"

"Death-bed repentance is very dangerous, for in Scripture we find only one example of it, the Good Thief, who was truly penitent. This one example is given lest we despair; only one is given lest we presume. In the healthy man, repentance is healthy; in the sick man, it is sickly; in the dead man, repentance is dead." Take it or leave it, this advice of Saint Augustine.

On the day of your Particular Judgment there will be no arguments. Cardinal Newman in one of his famous sermons tells the story of the man who had just heard his sentence of damnation. In terror he cries out, THERE MUST BE SOME MISTAKE! Were not his friends and relatives even at this very moment praising his achievements? Was he not a man of culture, refinement, education?

If a Notre Dame man ever hears a sentence of damnation--God forbid!--it will not be because he is a Notre Dame man, but because he is not. Today he may argue with the promptings of grace; Pray. . .Get to confession. . .Up for Mas. . .Receive Holy Communion. . .Go all out for this Novena for Purity. . .But the night will come!

It is a rare and singular favor to go through an entire school year without the death of a student. Last year was one so blessed. Against the record, we dare not predict this year will be another exception. At any rate, it behooves us to make the most of this day, "for the night cometh in which no man can work."

"It Doesn't Bother Me!"

Now and then one hears of a smart aleck who says of lewd magazines: "They don't phase me in the least." The only answer to that one is that he's a liar, or a eunuch, or a libertine. . .but he isn't a normal man. There's something wrong with him.

If you want to straighten out his UNBALANCED LINE, tell him to take a look at the statue on the dome. She is the symbol for judging what belongs on this campus and what doesn't. This is her school. Nothing else matters. Every day is her feast day, but December 8, we will honor her immaculate soul and body. We will pay special tribute to her as the Virgin Mother Most Pur. We ask her each day to help us in our struggle with dangerous temptations--temptations that can destroy us.

No book, no magazine, no paper, no picture, no phonograph record. . .nothing that you would not bring in the home of the Blessed Virgin has any business here. Whoever buys, reads, retains, or circulates literature that insults her dignity is her enemy and she will crush his head as she once crushed the head of the serpent--he, too, will lie in wait for her heel.

You have the Index of Forbidden Books, and you have the General Decree of the Index, which forbids, among other classes, "books professedly treating of, narrating or teaching lewdness and obscenity." You have the general instincts of Christian modesty fostered in you by your mother. If all these decent inhibitions are dulled, then take another look at the statue on the dome. If you can't see it cry out with the blind leper at the gate to Jerusalem when Jesus was passing by: "Lord, that I may see."

Prayers: (deceased) James Deignan; father of Rev. David Burke: Ill, father of Hubert Heichelhein (Dil); Dean Mammion's sister-in-law; Dr. Glenn; a priest. 3 sp. inta.