
The Contemporary Scene.

Out of Chicago, last week, came some caustic comments on American schools, on educators, and on contemporary life in general, including the religious aspects. All in all, thinks the author, Dean Bell, the schools are doing an irresponsibly shoddy job. "They refuse to drill in word and number. They neglect discipline because it is discipline, and ignore the wisdom of the past." But the older schools, "founded and run by Christians, encouraged and imparted Christian spiritual entrustments and Christian morals. Today, they cannot legally be taught..."

Of the American denominational church, he says: "It is the promotor of a respectable minor art, charming if it happens to appeal to you; but its only moral function is to bless whatever the multitude at the moment regards as the American way of life." Indeed, "to most of its adherents the Church has become a substitute for God -- a place for socials, and smokers, and innumerable Good Causes."

Of our nation itself, Dean Bell continues: "Ours is a nation of new rich people, well washed, and all dressed up, rather pathetically unsure just what it is washed and dressed up for..."

Maybe We're Old-Fashioned.

Here at Notre Dame we haven't moved along so fast with progressive educators that we have lost continuity with the past. Some of you might be willing to testify that we persist in retaining certain disciplines, and certain religious implications that are a fundamental part of genuine education. And, not being unduly impressed by the tinsel and the trappings of some of our critics, we give every indication of hanging on stubbornly for a long time to come.

Along with Bishop Fulton Sheen, and Milton Berle, we are content to use old material. We could be shy on plumbing, but not on principles.

And the position becomes all the firmer as we look about us and note the confusion of the disciples of the new order. After much experimentation in progressive ideologies that "liberate" the mind from the old shackles, it is revealing to discover these same disciples, now somewhat abashed, hustling back to set up business at the old stand.

What's more important, you don't acquire Christian culture by simply snuffing a sprig of ivy.

Prayers Requested.

Deceased: Mother of Father Branigan, C.S.C.; mother of Johy Reedy, C.S.C.; aunt of Father Leo R. Ward, C.S.C.; Sister Lawrence, C.S.C.; brother of Brother Gabriel, C.S.C.; father of Brother Clement, C.S.C.; Eric Lord, friend of Dick Rogers of Dillon Hall, (Korea);

Ill: father of Jim Dowdle of St. Edward's hall (critical); Father Delauney, C.S.C.; father of Father Wm. Robinson, C.S.C.; grandmother of Tom Kinsella, of Zahn hall; Eynon Dunn, brother-in-law of Dick McCarthy, '49; Wm. Day, friend of Jim Vachris of Cavanaugh Hall; grandmother of Bill Flick of Dillon Hall (dying).

Taken by mistake from dining hall last Saturday -- a suede jacket. Please return to dining hall.