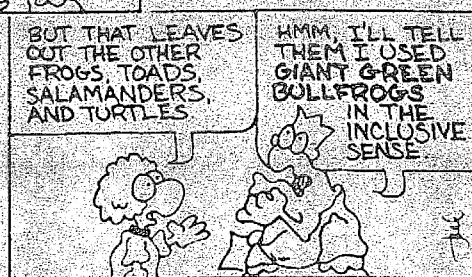
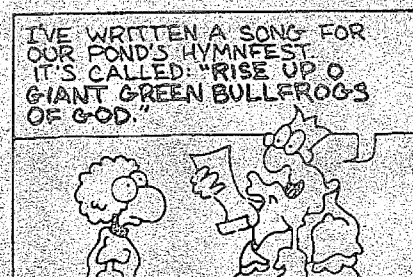


WALK

On October 11, at the 12:15 Folk Mass at Sacred Heart Church, The WORLD HUNGER COALITION will be commemorating UNITED NATIONS WORLD FOOD DAY. As part of this celebration, the Coalition would like to invite all members of campus social concerns groups to attend this Mass. Most especially, all students who are going to participate in the CROP WALK on that day are encouraged to come to this liturgy. After Mass, the Crop Walkers will go over to St. Joe's High School together to register and begin the walk. Please join us as we gather to remember and give thanks for the bounty that God has provided for us, and as we begin our walkathon to aid hungry people without many of those necessities that we so often take for granted.

Laurie Konwinski
PW 283-2959

Pontius' Puddle



AFTER SUCCESS

Thanks, Lord, for the success in those exams.
I feel a burden lifted and can breathe freely again.
The last few weeks were tense:
Forgive my intolerance of others.
It now seems worth the effort:
 the hours of study,
 the parties I refused,
 the time spent with boring texts,
 the sunshine I missed.

Thanks.

I can see now the point of the hours of patient plodding.
It's like seeing the view from a mountain top.
And the climb through the fog was worth it.
I can see now that you were there all the time, friendly companion, peace of mind.

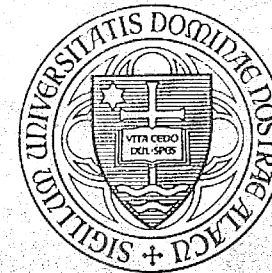
May this success be in your service,
Lord.
May it lead me into genuine gratitude to
you.
May it lead, too, into sincere sympathy and
help
For others whose efforts did not give the
same success.

[illegible]

AFTER FAILURE

Lord, I don't even feel like praying now:
I failed the exam.
I am disappointed that I didn't get the
results I need,
Angry that I didn't work harder,
Jealous, too, of those who passed.

Help me now,
I need your help.
Help me to believe in myself;
Just now my failure makes me feel all bad.



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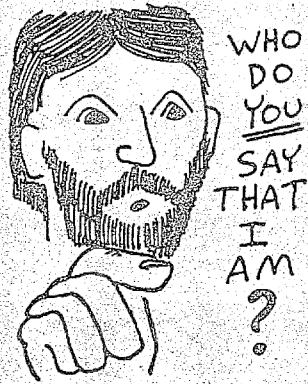
Volume IV
Issue 5
October 11, 1987



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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1987

I have my banquet
all prepared . . .
invite everyone you can find
to the wedding.



MIXING FAITH WITH POLITICS

Last Summer, as a CILA Summer Service Project, I worked as an intern with a Catholic social-justice lobby group in Washington, D.C. The group works to persuade members of Congress to pass legislation which it feels is in accordance with Catholic social teachings. When I tell people about my summer experience, I often get asked: "Why are you involved in that type of work? Religion and Politics don't mix." and "Didn't you have to compromise your beliefs?"

I have found the first question to be relatively simple to answer. For me, political involvement does not conflict with my faith; rather, it is its natural outgrowth. I firmly believe that Christians are not meant to confine their "Christian" actions to specific areas of their lives. Instead, Christianity should be all encompassing. Clearly, our political system is a major determinant of the economic and social well-being of our citizens, the treatment of our environment, and the political stability of our world -- all of which are of concern to Christians. Thus, it is not just acceptable but imperative that Christians be politically involved.

This summer showed me that to be truly effective in politics a group must "play the game" by the rules established by those in power. Congressional aides generally do not care what the U.S. bishops say about arms build-up. Rather, they listen to facts and statistics dealing with costs, employment effects, the Soviet advantage, etc.. I feel that if a group wants to have any political influence, good intentions are not enough. The group must command respect and be able to defend its positions. These abilities are necessary means to achieving their ends, and do not necessarily imply a compromising of Christian values.

Although the accomplishments of my group were often not clear, looking back I know that our efforts were productive. The legislative process is a huge and intricate affair, and one small group can hardly work miracles. But through the involvement of our membership and with other groups, I am convinced that our voice was heard and respected. And if nothing else, we raised some necessary questions on Capitol Hill.

The Answer to "Didn't you have to compromise your values?" was less clear-cut. In retrospect, I feel that political involvement does not necessitate compromising your values, although it assuredly challenges and tests them in many ways. If I stated that I worked with a "social justice" group or if I even mentioned an idea that conflicts with free-market ideals, many people immediately labeled me as a Communist, and then felt justified in completely discrediting or ignoring my viewpoint. This attitude angered and depressed me, but at least it forced me to prove that Christian and Communist certainly are not synonymous.

As a result of my summer experience, I am more convinced than ever that Christians must be involved politics. Their positions may not always be easy or well tolerated, but that does not mean that their efforts are worthless. Many major social and economic decisions are made in the political realm: I know of few places where the Christian voice needs to be heard more.

Colleen Prentice, Senior
(Howard Hall)

Howard

ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT BECOMING CATHOLIC ?

You are welcome to come to our R.C.I.A. MEETINGS (initiation) at 4 - 5:15 P.M., Sundays at Badin Hall (next to bookstore), Campus Ministry. Please call Sr. Pat if you have any questions at 239-5242.

Next meetings are October 11, November 1, 8, and 15. Come and see.