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Further we are extremely interested in McKenna's proposal of a University Senate. Though a long-range plan, it certainly deserves study and investigation now for implementation in future years.

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Father Hesburgh opened by commenting, "It's good to see so many of you in church," and proceeded by answering the first query, which concerned his now-famous letter on campus violence. "The premier issue is lack of its treatment of the letter," he said, "but the main reason for it was this: the members of the community wanted me to do something on the subject of academic disturbances, but the stipulation that it be something fair. The result was my letter, which lays out one of the ground rules demanded by the community." The President concluded that his form of action was only one of several possible methods, but that he felt it was the best way to go.

Hesburgh stressed the need for increased enrollment of minority groups, stating that "The improvement of ghetto high schools is far more important than the lowering of our admissions standards." He did advocate, however, for special tutoring courses for underprivileged freshmen for a period as long as needed. He also promised better food preparation in the dining halls, with the additional promise that "If the food isn't better next year, I'll go over every night and eat it myself."

Regarding the question of co-education at Notre Dame, the President hinted that a closer system of girls' colleges will probably happen with greater explanation. "Several students expressed impatience with the present social structure, however, to which Hesburgh replied, 'I definitely agree that female companionship is necessary here, but people (i.e.,Barat College) who said they would deliver didn't deliver.'" Hesburgh also acknowledged that the parochial hours resolution passed by the Student Life Council would be coming before the Board of Trustees in ten days, and that it would be "an uphill fight. But I'll do what I can."

The University President concluded by expressing his faith in Notre Dame: "It's got a great tradition, which I think will be preserved. Contrary to what many people think, this place is not going broke, pagan, or to hell.

The word, then, because of these strongly derogatory connotations, can be used to degrade an opponent and make people fearful of saying things which may bring down upon their heads that charge. In fact, it is used at Notre Dame for that purpose. "It is proper to study the truth of these accusations, of course; but another question must be raised which goes beyond the truth of the individual charges. There are students at Notre Dame who say "nigger" and avoid blacks at mixers, and Notre Dame's aid to blacks will not equalize opportunity for them overnight, or even this year. But what must be noted is that, even were they 100% true, neither of these communities exists for a charge of racism. It is deplorable that many whites are de facto black friends and it is deplorable that Notre Dame's admissions policy is unfair, those charges are bona fide expressions of opinion which deserve serious evaluation, though not necessarily agreement.

The charge of racism, however, ought to be avoided by any thinking individual, as being irresponsibly libelous, because the evidence on which the charge is based has nothing to do with a belief in the inherent superiority of whites over blacks.

The question then becomes "why do people employ this particular word?" The answer is found in the use which can be made of the overtones of "racism." It has connotations, interconnected with Hitler, fascism, apartheid, a disproven, unscientific theory, the stereotype of the Southern "bad guy" who says "nigger" and admits that he uses it derogatorily. These connotations make the charge of racism particularly strong and justifiable so, for racism is a thoroughly evil belief.

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The Observer

NCR, Commonweal blast Hesburgh

by Bill Mitchell

Father Hesburgh's much-praised get-tough policy took it on the chin this week from a pair of national publications.

Lead editors in Commonweal and The National Catholic Reporter criticized the Notre Dame president for failing to respond to the issues raised by campus dissidents.

The NCR says Hesburgh's stance is founded on an unsupported assumption, i.e., "It takes as granted that the university and the society of which it is a part, is worth serving." The editorial points out that Hesburgh is only "tack to student radicals as subordinates of all that is good and holy.

It is the NCR's point that what is "good and holy" is not necessarily found today in today's secular universities, or at Notre Dame. From the above assumption, emerges the question: "It then becomes part of the technique to acknowledge that real issues exist in our 'affluent' non-glorious civilization, and to concede that students are put in a position to address these issues seriously may be moved by good motives 'idealism, generosity, dedication and service.'"

The paper describes these admissions as "not so much generous as conceding, however, because the issues raised in the campus revolt are not treated with real seriousness . . . but are only mentioned in fleeting fashion and vague, non-consequential terms.

"What radical students do, however, in contrast with what they think, is spelled out in vivid and scornful language. When students talk like radical social critics they are given a put on the head "it's nice to see that you're concerned, dad. When they translate their criticism into disruptive action, they become instant monsters."

NCR editors maintain, "There is something ominous about the Hesburgh lettr. The university's right to defend itself and to expel dissident members from the academic community is grounded on the contention that the university is genuinely an open society, ruled by traditions of civility, respect for the rights of all and obedience to the rule of reason . . . Anyone who claims to be defending the rule of reason, and who begins his defense by begging the question is not going to be very persuasive to those who know what the question is."

"Father Hesburgh's stand, the editorial continues, "was bound to appeal to President Nixon and to make a favorable impression in the living rooms of suburban ranch houses and mock college bungalows. To students who know that Father Hesburgh has brains enough to grasp its content, his letter was one more predictable establishment performance, one more non-response.

"What is it that Hesburgh should have said?"

The editors suggest, "Well, for one thing he might have said what he himself really thinks about the war in Vietnam. The indictment presented by radical students says, according to NCR, "That war goes on in its haressing murderous fashion because people who know it should stop will not risk even saying so, inhibited as they are by institutional commitments, attracted as they are by the comfortableness of ambiguity."

"The indictment specifically includes American universities, which are accused of profound complicity in a massive act of moral evasion."

The Kansas City based weekly puts this question to Hesburgh: "Graces the existence of such convictions, given also the evidence that peaceful protest and political action are futile, robbed of meaning by a decadent party system, what kind of behavior would Father Hesburgh commend to those who believe the war is wrong? What promise does he give of his own support, of Notre Dame's?"

The editors take care to point out that "the point of these comments is not that universities don't need roles . . . rather it is that the country needs to hear something more from its Father Hesburgh besides pious phrases in defense of civility." (Continued on page 4)

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Adm. $2.30

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THE SPENCER DAVIS GROUP

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PLUS

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The Marriages: A Place in the sun

by Ted Price

This is the third of a five part series on the married students at Notre Dame and St. Mary's. It is intended that your bride in South Bend hopes to spend a few days housekeeping begins to look like the mistake of your life when all you can see is either a marriage of way of tax financial, or others that you wouldn't use as a doghouse. The real frustration comes when you begin to see that most people, whether they are part of the college community or from town, don't seem to care what you are doing.

"We came up over Memorial Day weekend, and got ready to rent a house," one off-campus student said. "But the landlord won't accept the final decision for the next quarter of the Student Body Council, so there appears to be no way of getting a house."

The Off-Campus Commission maintains lists of available housing for which students are updated periodically. They are compiled by landlords and agents coming to the office and answering a questionnaire about the facilities offered. However, the Commission specifies that such a listing should not be construed by students as any type of guarantee.

"We simply cannot check out any of the houses or apartments we list," said Off-Campus Commission President Phelps. "We do have certain standards, such as lighting and so forth, which the landlord must agree to. But we don't try to drive around the area to see which listings are in the better neighborhoods or look like they are more comfortable, etc. All we know about these places is what the landlord says on the questionnaire."

He added that the only criterion that the Commission may impose is that a listing is evidence that the landlord is discriminating by race or other standards. This is the only type of guarantee implied in a Commission listing.

Many students said that they found the Commission listings inadequate and turned to the classified sections of the local newspapers. However, they often found that rents being asked here were out of the question.

"I looked around for almost three weeks before classes began," said a junior. "I quickly ran through the listing the O.C. office provided and couldn't find anything decent. I just happened to hear of this apartment through a friend at school, and I grabbed it. Going through a realtor or the newspaper seemed to up the rents almost ten percent."

There are several apartment complexes for married students in the South Bend-Mishawaka area but the rents here ran in the neighborhood of $90 per month. They are all subject to the same problem of the landlord being one who has the advantage that they are well taken care of and maintenance and other services are provided.

University Housing located north of the two campuses, has 108 units available for married Notre Dame students. They are managed by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Walters, who are students themselves. But they are hard to get into. "We begin taking applications in the spring," said Walters, "and we try to give preference to couples with children."

The apartments rent for $70 per month, plus utilities. Tenants are provided with household appliances, but must bring other furnishings. The complex is University-owned and are rather attractive. However, because of the over 21 rule and the long waiting list, most of the residents are graduate students, although a few undergrads do manage to get in.

Unfortunately, neither the college, nor the city have given any indication that there will be an expansion of student housing in general or married student housing in particular. South Bend does not provide adequate housing for the large student population here, so it would seem that the institutions themselves would start a building program to alleviate the situation. However, the expense of such a project would be high, and few officials have given the subject much thought.

"Housing is bad for all of our campus students," said Mike Phelps, "but for the marrieds, it's murder." The situation has assumed the form of a status quo without any change likely in the near future.

Tomorrow: A Look from within the Marriages, themselves take the floor to give their outlook on married life.

Dub policy "delusionary...non-response"

(Continued from page 8)

It is NCR's opinion that the Hesburgh letter will have "effective" impact on the author's "delusionary" intent—it will help radical recruitment, but it may encourage backlash. At the least, it will not make the contribution to public debate, on the basis of the generation gap crisis which one might have hoped for from this particular president of Notre Dame.

The editorial also criticizes Hesburgh for failure to issue the policy through the Student Life Council. It criticizes the proposed "student-originated, Hesburgh-endorsed program to insatiate a department for the study of non-violent means of resolving human conflict."

NCR concludes its 2,000 word plus editorial: "We hope and trust Father Hesburgh and the students who suggested the idea understand that non-violence as understood by Gandhi and King is not just a way of keeping the peace, but a way of making an intolerable status quo collapse."

Commonweal rejects what they call "Hesburgh's Law" as "delusionary," claiming that he who believes that "discipline is the key to controlling the unruliness of campus, schools like Catholic" is casting about in a "feud's paradise."

The editorial suggests that "the notion of student influence and meaningful reform are kept subordinate to old ideals of discipline. Students are to be taught in what amounts to an atmosphere of benevolent repression, with the administration shielded from all the muddle of pressure from students frequently sensitive to social and political urgencies than the universities suspect directors."

The magazine says, "Crisis will soon so long as conventional policies keep Catholic campuses almost as inflexible as they are for questionable agencies and companies have free access to the student body, as long as ROTC units troop about campus with students over officers for dirty wars, and so long as tax are maintained with alumni and others that foster evils like institutional racism. The Catholic university is a tainted place, and as such has an accountability to those it promises to educate."

NCR, Commonweal concludes its editors, has a "future worth anticipating, it will have substantially larger percentages of students demanding, like their counterparts on the secular campus, an authenticity and commitment purer than that presently known."

As does NCR, Commonweal reasons that all that its goal is not a "reckless university, but insists that before the university administration lays down its fascist dicta, it look itself to those it is serving, which justify the grievances, and therefore validate the confrontations of students who refuse."

"Disturbances abound on the Catholic campus, beginning, as most would admit, with Notre Dame. So much so that to talk of campus order primarily in terms of student departures rings of fraudulence."

SVP ELECTIONS TODAY IN THE HALLS

11:30 - 1:00
5:30 - 7:00
OFF CAMPUS OFFICE BASEMENT OF LAFTOUNE
9am - 7pm

REMEMBER: SENIORS ARE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE

APPLICANTS are now being accepted for the position of Editor-in-Chief of the OBSERVER. The position is open to any undergraduate student of St. Mary's College and the University of Notre Dame. Applicants must submit a letter of intent and resume to:

THE EDITORIAL BOARD c/o Mr. William Luking
Editor-in-Chief The Observer Box 11 Notre Dame, Ind. 46556

Applications for editor should be postmarked by March 13.

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