

SPIRITUAL AWARE

Is there a spiritual awareness on campus? The question is difficult to answer because it is difficult to define. Perhaps the difficulty in answering is some indication of its lack of existence.

Personally, a spiritual "awareness" would mean something beyond the physical and material actualities of college life — an awareness of a greater and more meaningful reality beyond the feedback on exams, the memorization of scattered notes, the compliance with the personality of a professor, the occupation of a seat when the mind is still in bed.

What is the end of all of this? I admit, we learn something from college life, only it is how to tactfully and diplomatically beat the system. A spiritual awareness is not part of that something. Why? Partly because we don't have time to think, which is essential to being spiritually aware. What is the purpose of this great variety and quantity of general "knowledge" if we never have the time or the peace of mind to reflect or to relate this accumulation to life beyond St. Dunstan's. The copied book reports and the instant, plaguerized term papers contribute little to a spiritual awareness, let alone thinking.

But then, is it all that important?—Is it?

ACTION asks me about spiritual awareness at St. Dunstan's and allows me to write it as "spiritual" or "Spiritual".

Is there a spiritual awareness here? The very question seems self-destructive, almost blasphemous! Is God divine? . . . Many times, on and off the record, these past few years I've said that a spiritual awareness, that is, a deeply intellectual life is not present on this campus.

I mention this lack of intellectuality, this lack of spiritual awareness, only because I think it explains a lack of spiritual awareness. Spiritual awareness, alertness, responsiveness to God's Spirit and His utterances. The Spirit of God is community; the Holy Spirit is the personified community of Father-in-Son and Son-in-Father. And where God's Spirit is there is community, sharing, giving, receiving in joy the fruits of the Spirit—knowledge, prudence, wisdom, truths, Truth. God's spirit begets no factions, allows us to assume no stances, but unites us in differences, in fact, unites the very differences. The Spirit makes us brothers because we are sons of the same Father. St. Paul could say no Jew or Gentile, no slave or free man, but all one in the Spirit. "We" and "the" are not uttered in the Spirit; Administration, Faculty; Faculty, Students; priest, lay teacher. Factions? Stances? Brothers?

The Spirit lets us have good sense and sound judgment about those things which have been straightened out by the Father in Christ. And in Christ the Father righted all. But for this good sense and sane estimation we need the docility, humility and prudence which the Spirit gives. The Christian intellectual — any intellectual — must be docile, for he, too, must say "Abba! Father!" The great truths seep into us, not allowing themselves to be conquered. They are the mysteries, for the problems can be conquered; problems concern "technical" matters. Oh yes, I know that docility and humility and prudence as intellectual attitudes are scorned. The secular intellectual does not want to hear of a docility of mind as a precondition for truth. And the pseudo-intellectual, in refusing to be measured, returns in the veritable Greek cycle to the Protagorean, "man is the measure of all things". Was that not the second temptation with which Christ was confronted? to write his own ticket? That leads to secular humanism, to cynicism, to skepticism, to spiritual death, but not into the Christocentric community into which the Spirit leads. And note that the Spirit leads, he does not push, nor will he be pushed. (Liberal daring and conservative faintheartedness are equally lethal to intellectual and spiritual awareness.) Man is the measure of some things; but man will be measured before he reveals himself, even to himself, just as the Spirit measured Christ on the cross. We must be docile to have the Spirit measure us.

And where the Spirit is there is no sickly pre-occupation with self. We can't be spiritual and hyperegoistic. Concern with my rights, my freedoms, my privileges doesn't come from the Spirit, for the Spirit is the personified other-directedness of Father and Son.

Is there Spiritual awareness here? Is there community here? Are we docile? Are we hyperegoistic? "And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts crying 'Abba! Father!' So through God you are no longer a slave but a son. . .", and you therefore enjoy a spiritual and a Spiritual awareness, for Truth is the intellectual's Father.

I'll agree, it doesn't look all isn't it, before George Orwell listening in on the housing commercialization and urbanization with complete neglect) of Nature, including giants forever tampering with little "floater" power (shades of horrible nightmare. . . Sixteen years ago I St. Dunstan's column on spiritual awareness came? Well, it goes like this. . .

Already our Great Master has ITS empire far beyond the come any time; like any good brainwashing campaign, and the hasn't COMPUTER speeded up molern city; isn't COMPUETR logical master of electronic technology for breadth and depth? At pet let all bow down and adore question COMPUTER'S dominion

But hold!! . . . a little one terday's weighing): "STAND ALL YOU PEOPLE" I WILL not even call COMPUTER "he" it would make the writing of say "he" or "you" because basis of COMPUTER'S imposture wardrobe and donned the royal largest part of the robot's conce robot had only taken the rage PUTER'S prestige, it would (if fice all else if it could become

I have challenged, it is PUTER'S rising away. COMPU chine. But we, who are persons, left; far worse, we are aping subtlest stratagem that has wholesale drift over into that machine: the mentality of the "she" and "it" come to replace

The animal — so far themselves — can meet any appropriate response of eating it or own way — the animal can often of "I"), or a touching friendliness efforts are interesting for the next stage up in creation, viz. US is itself but a weak preparation the mind in the bosom of the

We, in effect, constantly incredibly richer experience. . . We do, indeed, and must, appropriately, i.e., each thing is an our philosophical speculations. the unfragmented view of childhood the respectful acceptance of old mystery and lesson. And the creatures are fellow-creatures, design; they can only fulfill them to be the parts they were designed same sun; they recall our minds

The poets will be our I-THOU, and prayer will be a it we will find it easier to respecting remaining the mouth-piece through be satisfied to "know" things, or and we must respond — indeed, in spiritual awareness. While ever-better experts at saying "yes dual life will culminate in an eternal from behind all the objects of our and summoned us onward — awareness.