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EDITORIALS

COLLEGE SPIRIT

During the past four years of college we have heard college spirit discussed, made the object of pep talks, and compared with that permeating other campuses. But too often many students mistake an over-enthusiasm in some one department of college life, generally athletics, for that broader and more stable complex of attitudes to the different phases of college activity.

It is difficult to define something so obtruse as college spirit in an intelligible way, and consequently a definition is seldom ventured even by those who never tire of harping on it. College spirit is an intangible vital force, or soul, that a college can acquire through good student material

and orderly function. In it we discover the students and the college as complementary elements blended in a unity of purpose and action.

Students, on the one hand, should have a general interest in every phase of college life, the classroom, extra-curricular activities, the social life, and athletics. This interest will vary in intensity in the several phases of college according to the temperament and back-ground of the student; but it must not be isolated wholly in one or another department and absent in all others. There is a serious danger to the student who is wholly centered in the classroom and fails to become an integral part of the communal life which does so much to shape him for society without the campus. Again it is equally as dangerous to have an exaggerated interest in athletics to the exclusion of other more important things.

There must be a proportionate interest in the range of college activities on the part of the student if he is to give a worthwhile contribution to the college, and get the most out of his college career. If each student is aware of these factors, he can then contribute his due to college spirit which is but the total of those individual parts. Coupled with this interest there must be a cheerful and ready compliance with the many regulations and seeming restrictions to the student without which a well-ordered community cannot function smoothly. When these dispositions on the part of the students are realized the college can more easily apprehend the needs of the students and provide in greater measure for their interests.

Perhaps this may sound more idealistic than practicable to students, but nevertheless it is the goal which must be set in order to ever strive for a better and better College Spirit.

STUDENTS AND POLITICS

Wars have been waged in the past and wars will be waged in the future in the cause of freedom. Our freedom is our glorious heritage and it is our determined purpose to preserve it for future generations. One thing that emphasizes the graces of freedom more than anything else is our right to vote, our right to choose our own form of government and our own government, and our right to exercise control over that government through the medium of the ballot. Our vote is something sacred; it gives man the opportunity to exercise the natural gifts of reason and will. In spite of this our vote can be cheapened, mainly through our indifference to it. Only through the application

of our conscience to our decisions in balloting can we preserve the sacredness of the ballot. Our conscience is our reason,—we must apply reason to the ballot. To vote for a certain party because it has been family tradition to vote for that party is not using reason in voting. We must consider what has been presented for our support, not just from one point of view but from every standpoint. We must know not only what we are supporting but also what we are opposing for only in this way can we be sure that we have given our support to the group offering the best form of government for the common good of all the people. This can only be possible through a study of the policies of every group offering for election. It is not asking too much of any man that he be interested in the government whose duty it is to safeguard his rights, in safeguarding the rights of all its people.

Of all groups who fall behind in showing an interest in the governing body of the nation, probably in no group is it more noticeable than in the students of many of our colleges. This is true of the students of St. Dunstan's. We must recognize the fact that it will be considered by many of the more narrow-minded to be a reflection on our college if many of her sons show an indifference to the interests of the country. Of course the fault lies entirely in the students. If we, who have greater opportunities than many of our fellow-men who have been denied the privilege of a higher education, refuse to interest ourselves in the affairs of the nation, why should we expect others to do so, how can we expect others to do so? We have been given a glorious opportunity to develop our reason but to what avail if we refuse to exercise reason in our most important function concerning our fellow citizen. At this critical moment in world history, more than ever before, it is doubly necessary that all citizens have an intimate knowledge of world affairs. If students are to be the leaders of the country, it is all the more important for them to take a deep interest in the affairs of the nation. They must know the problems besetting it and must study the various proposals for settling them. Then they have a duty to strive to effect the most remedial proposal. How can they do this when in most cases they do not even know the number of representatives in parliament, let alone the policies of the different parties making up that parliament.

Now is the time for us to study the affairs of the country. If we leave this until the few pre-election months there is the strong possibility that we might mistake the questionable representations of most of our politicians for the truth. Let us study these affairs for ourselves. Only

in religion have we revealed truth; in all other matters we have to search for it. This is especially true with regard to politics. If we ever expect to find the truth, now is the time to begin the search.

FAREWELL

Another college year is almost spent and another editor of **Red and White** pens, Farewell. The same characteristic feelings of pleasure and regret that must surely have influenced each farewell of former editors is inevitably present. There is pleasure in the thought that all the trials and labors of editing a college magazine are at an end. And this pleasure is heightened by the fact that, despite our limitations, we have done our best in upholding the tradition of **Red and White**. Mingled with this pleasure is the regret that we must now give up the work and sever relations with our associates with whom we have always worked in harmony.

The editing of a college magazine is a thrilling adventure, but it is also a serious responsibility that entails great sacrifice of time and energy. Yet it is an agreeable task that affords a wealth of valuable experience and that furthers one's education.

One of the chief difficulties that every **Red and White** Staff faces is the problem of obtaining enough worthwhile contributions for the magazine. Most of the students have not yet grasped the idea that the magazine is their magazine, or, if they have grasped it, they are too apathetic to act upon it. A few, however, are convinced of the idea and they constitute the regular contributors on whom the success of the magazine largely depends. It is our expressed hope that some time in the future every student will be alert to his duty of putting forth his best literary effort on behalf of the magazine. We can now visualize to what plane **Red and White** could be raised if such an attitude became general. It is the students who make the magazine what it is.

And now in leaving we wish to thank all who have taken an interest in our magazine, especially the members of the teaching staff, the contributors, the advertisers, and the printers. We also wish the incoming staff every success in their **Red and White** activities and we solicit for them a continuance of that loyal support which now becomes for us a pleasant memory of college days.