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CROSS CURRENT



STRENGTH FROM WITHIN THE CORPS

Events concerning the Reserve Officers Training Corps this year have been important and numerous. The Ad Hoc Committee and its report questioned the corps at the very beginning of the academic year. The faculty gave the corps a subsequent vote of confidence but without an overwhelming majority. Thus I would be cautious in gleaning too much security from such a decision.

On the other side of the fence, the Revolutionary Students Union has once again lashed out at the corps in their pamphlet, Holy Cross, Holy Shit. I refuse to dismiss their arguments simply because the arguments are theirs. I know there must be many tasteful and intelligent people in their organization, but the other students of Holy Cross must wonder why they all disappear when the RSU takes to writing.

However, I take this occasion to congratulate the RSU for their attempts at intellectual rather than riotous action. It is definitely a step in the right direction. Unfortunately, I am made to wonder as to how long conservative tactics can successfully foster a revolutionary idea. After their conferences end, who will be the next unsuspecting victim of their violent struggle against all evil.

The point to be made is that those of us within the corps cannot rely upon the ideas and actions of others to provide us with a future at Holy Cross. I have noted in the past few months that many members of the NROTC unit are apathetic. They lack enthusiasm and refuse to do their share of the work. They are those who leave the corps after financial benefits no longer outweigh the drudgery of minimum participation.

I am not overly dismayed at the steady decrease in our ranks, but I am very concerned about the lack of vigor of those among us. We can no longer depend on others for our mere existence, we must earn the right to exist at Holy Cross. This demands participation and concern from all of us. I suggest we need strength from within the corps.

by Frank A. Vargas

SEMPER FIDELIS SOCIETY

The Alpha Gamma Chapter of the Semper Fidelis Society was established at the College of the Holy Cross on March 6, 1962. The parent chapter of the Semper Fidelis Society is located at the University of North Carolina. Both these chapters and the Semper Fidelis Society as a whole share a twofold purpose--a double edged sword. First, the Society prepares as future officers in the United States Marine Corps those students seeking a commission through either the NROTC or PLC programs. Secondly, it provides those students not in either of these programs, but "sincerely interested" in the Marine Corps with an opportunity for service to school, community, and country.

As of this fall, a new chart has been drawn up by the Board of Governors of the Alpha Gamma Chapter. There is but one major change. For the first time since its establishment the Alpha Gamma Chapter will be "open" to the entire student body. However, as in any organization of worth there several qualifications for "active membership". The most important quality which a candidate must possess is a "sincere interest" in the Marine Corps. Along with this interest, a candidate must be willing to work for the betterment of the Society. Upon making application for membership, the student must then be interviewed by the Board of Governors of the Chapter. Next the applicant's membership must be approved by a 2/3 majority of the current active membership. Finally, if received, the candidate becomes a trial member for a period of one month. During this period the candidate enjoys full privileges, but it is not until the end of the month that he is initiated into the Society. The road is a long and arduous one, but one which we of the Semper Fidelis Society feel is well worth it. We ask that any "sincerely interested" students contact the Society's president Ed Knight or secretary Ken Tarr for further information.

Paradox Ad Infinitum

Last week the R.S.U. held a "Radical Conference" in Hogan. The purpose of this conference was to arouse support for the union and to improve its relations with the college community. The affair was marked by discussion and debate with certain obvious paradoxes.

First, there is a certain paradox in the meaning of "radicalism". The conference declared that radicalism is a "sense of alienation from society, a self-inflicted alienation." This cause for radicalism is an inherent part of society which fosters injustice and cruelty. To the R.S.U. radicalism is like an acorn planted in a brick wall. It begins to grow until the wall breaks from within and crumbles. How does it all start? Who plants the acorn? No one seems to know. But one thing is certain, the wall will collapse.

Ultimate change is necessary and the American system is beyond hope! Its inherent "evils" can never be cured without utter annihilation. This will "wipe the board clean" and give man another chance. Yet, we have seen what men do when given another chance. All throughout history nations have been toppled and "new societies" set up only to result in further violence and blood-shed.

This leads to a second paradox. The term "violence" is used as a means to achieve true reform. If nothing else works, violence will show men the evils of their ways. The R.S.U. was questioned more than once this past weekend how they would fill the void created by the destruction of the American society. They could not answer. Why? According to the R.S.U., they are a "blanket group". All their members possess different ideas about future societies. In addition, since societies evolve, it is both impossible to present a timetable for change and the types of changes to be made. But, violence is necessary to show us that society is evil and must be destroyed so future society can evolve from the rubbish of the old.

Here is another paradox. How is it possible to believe that the new society will evolve from the debris of the old society when the very nature of evolution constitutes a gradual, peaceful change? And if the new society evolves, from what will it take its foundation? It is obvious that any change in society cannot be made without the influence of the previous society. Therefore, the union's society will be based on the present one unless all of humanity were destroyed except for the "chosen ones".

And who is to stipulate that man's "new start" will not cause him to evolve again into the same system we possess today?

A fourth paradox is that the god of the R.S.U. is faith in humanity; trust in mankind to affect a system of humaneness. What kind of faith do they have in mankind if they think his entire society must be destroyed? Where is your faith in the Holy Cross community if you question whether or not this college should exist? It maintains R.G.T. Apparently, the R.S.U. doesn't have faith in mankind and mankind doesn't seem to have faith in the R.S.U.. Yes, because of the very fact that the union thinks reform cannot be achieved under the status quo, their basic trust in man is lost.

Their tactics form a fifth paradox. The conference announced that R.S.U. tactics are whatever the situations dictate and whatever the R.S.U. thinks is necessary. That is rather vague and abstract. Their tenets that racism, unemployment, poverty and unfair overseas business practice have all pervaded our American life are true. It is a tragedy, but one which can evolve into a just, fair society if the methods used to accomplish reform remain as real as the problems.

A proposal is being presented to Dean Shay concerning the establishment of a Revolutionary Studies Program. "Professors" are to be hired to teach such liberal arts courses as "Demolition", "Explosives" and "How to become accepted on college campuses". This sounds facetious but the R.S.U. has boasted of doing it. It is truly ironic. The union fought to destroy R.O.T.C. at Holy Cross by citing it as "professional", "immoral", "unliberal" and as "too rigid for change". Yet the R.S.U. has become exactly that which they have attempted to liquidate.

by Kenneth J. Marra

The Cross Current is published bi-weekly by the midshipmen of the Holy Cross Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps. The opinions expressed herein are personal and are not necessarily those of the Department of Naval Science or any other governmental agency.

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