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Cross Current

ROTC

3-29-1971

Cross Current, March 29, 1971

Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps, College of the Holy Cross

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Recommended Citation

Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps, College of the Holy Cross, "Cross Current, March 29, 1971" (1971).

Cross Current. 4.

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CROSS CURRENT



BERTRAND - Mike Burke

A friend of mine on campus has been laboring for months over what he proclaims as his "modern heroic epic", and assures an eager audience that he should begin writing any morning now. The reason for the unfortunate delay he will admit to concerns the projected poem's locational setting. "Why, Homer had an immense, mysterious world through which to toss, say, his Ulysses," he wails. "The immense distances! The geography! The danger! Today, a journey to most places on the globe is no more mysterious or heroic than a jolly pedal down the driveway." "If you're looking for places of natural danger," a fan submits, "why not the sea or space or...?" "No! There are so many safeguards. Auxiliary systems and assistant-to-auxiliary-systems systems. My hero would be risking nothing but death by boredom." The fan waves his hands over his head and gasps "But there are abundant examples.... I'm sure if you thought about it...." hence, they find no solution. Perhaps the poet has chosen the wrong emphasis.

It becomes evident that if the idea behind the phrase "modern heroics" has any meaning, it has less to do with location than do our more dated epics, where the danger and adventure of the setting gauged the stature of its hero. Modern heroics, in art and in life, are often those subtle struggles in the minds and wills of men for preservation of their basic sense of uniqueness, of individuality. Here, the stature of the hero rests not in the degree of merit universally judged to be in his attainments, but rather in the degree of inner struggle involved in his sustainment of his highly-prized uniqueness. A heroic fall could then be perceived as the slow loss of an individual dignity, the descent into grey regions of that namelessness which is cornerstone to an overpopulated world.

And it is impossible for me, as an M.A.T.C. student, to disassociate that concept of individualistic character, of subjective modern heroics, from the concept of leadership. A man cannot lead or influence others unless he has mastered himself, and self-mastery implies, in a contemporary world of obliterating identities, a sizzling pride in his uniqueness. Leaders cannot afford to become subject to a system, nor can a man conform to another's rules, to the point where he feels his sense of character dissolving.

Aspiring to at least this heroism, modern man may elude the bulk

FRED NOTES - Ed Zesk
Recently there has been some discussion on the role of the holy Cross student in the government of college affairs.

The reaction of the majority of students has been no better than apathetic. Yet one tends to regard apathy from the student community as typical to holy Cross.

The approach of the average Sader is usually to leave it up to that small faction of students who must constantly and without backing attempt to represent the whole body. Questionnaires which require minimal effort to fill out are rarely returned. There is often grumbling about the I.S.C. or lack of student representation in school affairs and yet it never develops to anything beyond that grumbling.

The concept of house autonomy is being destroyed not because the idea has failed but because we have failed the idea. Lack of initiative on the part of students can only be viewed as lack of interest by college officials.

If we are content to limit our participation to showing up for an occasional class we must resign ourselves to having a corresponding amount of influence. It is up to the individual to lend support to and take part in the effort to amplify student voice.

(cont. on reverse)

of file-boxes and raveled magnetic tape hungry in his path. And perhaps in this way "heroism" is and will be a significant term within the military and on earth.

The bi-weekly Cross Current will accept and consider letters to the editor from anyone interested enough to write them. A letter feature may be made a regular part of the opinion paper. if you can believe that skulking phantom, Ed Zesk.

PHANTOMS IN MAHOGANY Row Ken Tarrant

During the past year much has been said about improving the conditions of the "academic classroom" ... much, too, has been done. There has, however, been a noticeable lack of reform and innovation in the area of departmental activities outside that "improved classroom".

The small showing of colloquiums, panel discussions and guest lecturers has been fine as far as it goes... it just does not go far enough. There are too many good reasons why these programs should be implemented further for students and faculty not to demand more. Such events are extremely important for developing cohesiveness and communications, within and among the departments. They also provide an excellent opportunity for developing an intellectual rapport among all "students"... whether they stand at the high or low side of the classroom. This type of outside academic activity, which is neither punched indelibly into class cards, nor squeezed into a brief hour span, is the kind of thing which can make the liberal arts system work at Holy Cross.

Setting such workshops and colloquiums into the fabric of the department is not merely the responsibility of the faculty. In fact their roles in these situations should not be as prime movers, but as advisors and supervisors. The real burden of such projects should be placed on the student. Those interested enough in their major course of study should head academic reforms outside the classroom. However, as it has been shown in the past, for such programs to work on even the minutest scale they demand full cooperation on everyone's part. The cry for "relevancy" has long echoed along "mahogany row"... it is time that cry was answered... in action.

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