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Cross Current

ROTC

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Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps, College of the Holy Cross

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CROSS CURRENT



1971 Military Ball
Saturday, 27 February
Hogan Ballroom 8-12 PM

°°° Open to All Students

°° Only Semi-Formal of the Year

° Let Your Date Be Queen

Send a black + white, pocket size photo of your date to Box 1607 before the 19th of February.

She would love to be Queen

Pictures, Roses, Gifts

Favors, Pictures, Refreshments

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

Decorations

Entertainment

Receiving Line, Queen

A RETROSPECTION

On 1 March, 1971, the student command and control of the Holy Cross Naval ROTC Battalion will pass to members of the junior class. The retiring seniors can look back on a year of crisis, confrontation, and introspection in which the question of ROTC emerged as one of the most bitter, emotional and recurring controversies in recent years. In analysis, however, it seems that one thing has emerged virtually intact from the crisis despite some intense buffeting; that is, the general lack of interest of the Holy Cross student in anything outside of his immediate, narrow and self-oriented world.

In the past year, both during and after crises, much has been voiced, argued and promised by momentarily enthusiastic students. By now, however, the great majority have forgotten their commitments both for and against, and ROTC, like many other activities and issues has been left to its own devices.

During the past two years, the Holy Cross NROTC has undergone many changes; its concept of its relation with the Holy Cross community, its means of officer preparation, its internal organizations and activities, and its attempt to involve the individual midshipman. Although a detailed list of the changes would not be well-understood by those outside the Battalion, it is probable that the NROTC has undergone more change than any other campus organization in the same period.

This is not to say that these changes were the result of a concerted, enthusiastic effort by every midshipman. Although suggestions were solicited on several occasions from each member of the Battalion, the general attitude of the Holy Cross student found its reflection in the NROTC and the resulting changes were due to the efforts of a small but very interested group. What is most noteworthy in this transition, is that every single change came as the result of efforts and suggestions of people within the framework of the NROTC; to this moment, (although the EPC has not, as yet, made its recommendations) no change is due to the activities of other members of the Holy Cross community. This is not because the NROTC has been deaf to such suggestions, it is simply because none have been forthcoming.

For many years, the ROTC was largely ignored at Holy Cross; except on Monday when the sudden profusion of light and dark blue uniforms aroused quizzical glances and half-hearted jokes. Then, suddenly, disillusion with the war in Vietnam sparked discussion on the right of ROTC to exist as an institution. Gradually, the issue pushed further and further to the fore, although debate never went beyond the stage of considering ROTC in terms of national foreign policy. The gathering momentum eventually erupted in the storm of last May, although again it came as the result of events in foreign affairs and the violent debate centered on this relation. The final report of the Ad Hoc Committee on ROTC further reflected this outlook when the majority rejected ROTC not on its own merits but because of disagreement with national foreign policy.

It is not my intention to summon students to a return to violent emotions, nighttime raids on rhetorical, haphazard "symposiums." Rather, I wish to indicate that the Holy Cross student body has slipped into the malaise which so many last year proudly declared had died -- apathy. To those members of the Holy Cross NROTC who have participated with minimal effort and concern, I ask for an enthusiasm and interest in an organization to which you have promised so much. To members of the Holy Cross community, I ask for inquisitiveness and personal examination so that ROTC may gain a status that rises above quizzical glances and half-hearted jokes.

Indeed, such renewed curiosity, if it ever occurs, should not be occupied solely or even principally with ROTC. The problems of racism and other national failings that are reflected at Holy Cross deserve more concern than the lip service dealt them last year. In addition, student participation in campus administration, such as teacher evaluation, deserves far more cooperation than it has received if it is to continue to exist. The Holy Cross student must stimulate himself to a constructive, active approach to these problems thrusting aside the empty rhetoric of now ancient crises. The energy is here when aroused, the ability is here when directed, all that is needed is interest.

Brendan O'Donnell