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First Woman Law Graduate at Notre Dame [Graciela Olivarez]

Mark Walbran

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Nutting on education

Goal: to educate the man himself

In a five-part position paper to be published in installments in *The Observer*, members of the Nutting for President committee face the fundamental challenge to their campaign: Why bother changing the existing structures or the existing personnel?

Written by Notre Dame students Steve Tapscott, Nick Scarpelli, Mike Kovacevich and Mike Fallon, the essays discuss the concerns at the heart of any university situation. Their conclusion is that Notre Dame could be a better place to learn if some changes were made. Specifically, and with

detailed rationales, they suggest the existing office of president be changed to a two-man post of chancellor-president. They also give their reasons why Father Hesburgh would make a good chancellor, and why Willis Nutting would be a good president.

They seek discussion and criticism of their position either personally or through *The Observer* letters column.

Did you enjoy that last class? Was it stimulating? And do you feel like reading a book about what you talked about or going deeper into that theorem? Sex is a word that attracts a great

deal of attention. Does the word "education" do the same? If you are like most of us, you've already safely shut that last class into its closet to be remembered only when you have to. If you're one of the few, you've become interested in that subject or idea. Good teachers—those who spark interest and discussion—are few and far between. Count yourself lucky if you have one or two.

Judging on your experience, Samuel Clemens' adage that he never let his schooling interfere with his education seems to be woefully too true today.

You get knowledge—a great deal of particular facts and some general truths in some subjects such as Psychology, Economics, and Physics—while most of your education occurs outside the classroom. Outside the classroom, perhaps even outside the university, you reach an understanding of what all those particular facts are all about. To some extent this has to be true in any university, but unfortunately, Dr. Nutting says, current educational systems neither lead you towards that understanding nor tie those varied

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THE OBSERVER

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1970

Serving the Notre Dame and Saint Mary's College Community

VOL. IV, No. 82

Proposes channeling of Student Union funds

by Steve Hoffman

Explaining that there is a definite need for the strengthening of Hall Government in order to unite the students in a viable community structure, Howard Hall Senator Russ Stone is currently sponsoring a bill designed to channel a portion of Student Union funds directly to the individual halls.

Stone's proposal is now under consideration by the Student Union which will draft the final bill. Stone stated that, if the Union bill is in keeping with his proposal, he will then present it to the Senate for final approval.

Concerning the particulars of his proposal, Stone observed that those smaller halls with no access to needed money should be allotted funds sooner than should those larger halls who benefit substantially from food sales and hall taxes.

When asked to comment on his reasons for proposing the bill, Stone remarked that "the present Student Government isn't aware of who should be the spokesman for the students, and consequently is unaware of how the students should be united in the community."

Citing a need for one place where the students can actively participate in community life, Stone recommended that Hall Governments respond to this need, and remove the problem from the political arena of Student Government.

Voicing a dissatisfaction with the present Student Government Stone was asked to relate his impressions of the Student Senate during his term.

"In one word, I'm disappointed," he stated.

"When I decided to run for

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Students met last night in open forum to discuss plans for the March - April Vietnam Moratorium.

ND Mobilization formed

by Steve Effler

Having recently decided that the Anti War sentiments are on the wane because, in the words of Tom Schoaf, they are "no longer fashionable," a group has decided to form a committee in this area. This group, mostly sophomores, was represented at Nieuwland Science Hall last night at 9:15 by Tom Schoaf and Bill Wilka.

According to Schoaf, the group wished to form a steering committee of as many people

present who were willing to work 3 to 4 hours a week. This committee would organize the March and April Moratoriums. They would also like to publish bi-monthly an anti-war newsletter if workers could be recruited and money collected. Schoaf emphasized that this publication would offer the public the kind of information on national administrative moves not often found in the Chicago papers. He asked that all interested in receiving it sign up.

Schoaf emphasized that there was more to the war than the issue of morality. He mentioned that "480 out of the average 900 dollars in taxes goes to military spending." The April Moratorium will attempt to bring out some of the correlation between the spending and high taxes, high prices and inflation.

The March Moratorium will have the draft as its focus. Schoaf said that the reasons behind it, its structure, and its "channeling effect" would be considered. According to one of the audience, Chris Cotter, there will be some national turning in of draft cards on March 18th. He suggested that perhaps at Notre Dame this event could be symbolically held on March 17th. Cotter is among those who are organizing the effort here for South Bend residents, IUSB and ND students. Bob Molitor also spoke on a new loophole available to those who are willing to change addresses without report-

ing since, under the current law the government must take every change of address case to court, a few thousand of these actions would seriously hamper the draft boards.

There was quite a bit of debate as to the most effective means of demonstrating the opposition to the war at ND. Chris Ottenweller, a CPA member, said that it was foolish to split forces. It was pointed out by Schoaf that the committee was not specifically affiliated with the CPA because the CPA was "more involved with the corporate complicity than with the war". He felt that there were many students who would not support the whole attitude of the

(continued on page 7)

Security forum

An open forum on Security will be held tomorrow night at 7:00 PM in the ballroom of LaFortune Student Center on the second floor. The panel who will discuss the issue with students, and answer any questions, will consist of Mr. James Frick, Vice President for Public Relations; Fr. Edgar Whelan, Director of Student Residence; Fr. James Riehle, Dean of Students; and Steve Ahern, Student Life Council member.

The issue of campus security has been a controversial one that

(continued on page 2)

To Dayton

In a surprise move, the NCAA invited Notre Dame to its Mid-East Regional Tournament, instead of the Mid-West as was expected. The Irish will play on Saturday, March 7 at Dayton against either Western Kentucky (winner of the Ohio Valley Conference) or the winner of the Mid-American Conference (probably Ohio University). The other bid went to Jacksonville.

The winners of the doubleheader at Dayton will move on to the Regional proper at Ohio State, Thursday and Saturday, March 12-14 where Kentucky and the Big Ten champion will join the field.

Mrs. Grace Olivarez, Juris Doctor

To balance the scales ...

by Mark Walbran

This spring the Notre Dame Law School will break with a century old tradition and confer the *Juris Doctor* degree on its first woman law student, Mrs. Grace Olivarez. Although this is a unique event for the Law School, for Mrs. Olivarez it is just the beginning of a new chapter in a life full of unusual and fascinating events. Mrs. Olivarez is a Mexican-American. She has never received a high school diploma. She has never earned a college degree. Yet her transcript for admission to law school records a liberal education few students could ever obtain during four years in college. Mrs. Olivarez received her

education working among the poor in Maricopa County, Arizona. Although she frequently succeeded in correcting the effects of the injustice she saw there, the causes of injustice were out of her reach. Her efforts as a problem solver were inhibited by her lack of legal knowledge. Her dedication to the poor brought her to law school to learn how the scales of justice could be balanced. In a recent *Observer* interview Mrs. Olivarez talked about her life and work.

Childhood in Mining Town

Mrs. Olivarez was born in Phoenix, Arizona and christened Graciela Gil. Her father, who

was of Arab descent, was born in southern Spain. Her mother was born in Arizona, but her maternal grandparents were from Mexico. Soon after she was born her family moved from Phoenix to Sonora, Arizona, a mining town where her father went to work for an Anglo-owned company. Sonora was a segregated town, one of three administered by the mining company. Spaniards lived in Barcelona and the Anglos lived in Rey. The towns were only a mile apart. She attended elementary school in Barcelona. Although only Spanish speaking children were enrolled there, the Anglo teachers punished the children if they spoke Spanish.

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Mrs. Grace Olivarez, Juris Doctor

Dedication to the poor leads to education

(continued from page 1)

Today she recalls the confusion this brought to her, and analyzed the effects this practice continues to have on Mexican-American children.

"You grow up with a distorted image of yourself. First of all, you see a teacher who gets her hair done once a week, who wears stockings, high-heel shoes, and good dresses, and she tells you Spanish is no good. You go home—and your mother doesn't get her hair done. She can't afford the silk stockings, at best she wears cotton hose, and she doesn't own a pair of high heel shoes because you are living in dire poverty. So you start making comparisons. If one week you are in the teacher's good graces, you swear that the teacher is right. You disown everything that even smacks of Mexican or Spanish. But then if you have a falling out with the teacher your mother starts looking real good and the teacher looks like an ogre. So you grow up in total confusion."

After finishing the eighth grade in Barcelona, Mrs. Olivarez enrolled in the integrated high school in Rey. Then as today, she explained, the Anglo teachers who are hired by the Anglo bosses of the mining company, favor Anglo students. As a result, she said, the inferior image instilled in early childhood is reinforced. The confusion and the frustration which occurs among Mexican-American students accounts for their high drop-out rate. After dropping out of school the boys go to work for the mining company in "the yard" and eventually get jobs in the mines. Thus the cycle continues.

Works for Ad Agency

Mrs. Olivarez finished the junior year in Rey, but then her parents were divorced and she

moved with her mother and her three sisters and brother to Phoenix. There she did not re-enter high school but enrolled in a business school and learned stenography and book-keeping in order to get a job to help support her family. For four and one half years she worked for a small firm. But a recession caused her to be laid off. For three and one half months she took in ironing and sat with children to help her family. During this time she taught herself how to take shorthand in Spanish. With this skill she landed a job with a bi-lingual advertising agency which concentrated on the Spanish speaking market. The agency bought radio time, selling time to clients and broadcasting some of the time, using its own announcer. Through this job Mrs. Olivarez was launched into a 14 year radio and advertising career.

An Active Volunteer

One day when her boss was away on business and when the ad agency's announcer didn't show up, the station phoned and said that the agency would be guilty of breach of contract if someone didn't go on the air. Mrs. Olivarez then didn't really know what a breach of contract was—but it sounded bad. So with a batch of announcements in one hand and a stack of records in the other she went on the air. For three days she announced during the agency's time. When her boss returned, his mailbox was full of fan mail for "that lady who spoke Spanish over the radio." Spanish-speaking housewives enjoyed hearing a woman's voice. Soon Mrs. Olivarez was handling the agency's morning program.

During the hours she wasn't on the air or writing copy for the agency, Mrs. Olivarez worked with volunteer groups which helped the poor in Maricopa County. There the bulk of

Arizona's Spanish-speaking people lived, as well as Indians, Blacks, and poor Whites from Appalachia. Although she is a devout Catholic, she did not limit her activities by working with programs sponsored only by the Church and became just as active in volunteer groups organized by the YMCA. She recalls with a smile that this caused quite a furor at the time for which she was almost excommunicated.

Full Time on Radio

After three and one half years with the advertising agency Mrs. Olivarez left and joined Radio Station KIFN which broadcasted solely in Spanish. The station's manager was not a Mexican-American but Siamese-English. He possessed a real social conscience and believed radio could be used for more than just selling. His attitude complemented her own. Already she had gained immense popularity in the Spanish speaking community and was seen as their one source to the outside world. She became a kind of "Dear Abby" to her listeners except that her letters were from the poverty-stricken, not the love-stricken. Some of the problems she heard of in these letters she could not believe. For instance, she could not believe that county health clinics treated Spanish-speaking people with inferior care. As her face was unknown, she could easily present herself to such



Mrs. Grace Olivarez is the first woman student to receive a law degree from Notre Dame.

clinics and found that such discrimination was actually taking place.

From the problems her listeners wrote to her, Mrs. Olivarez and the station manager planned educational programs to help the Spanish speaking community in all areas. Whatever information she could gather concerning her listeners problems she would broadcast to them. KIFN was soon broadcasting countless programs on food, health, immigration laws, and social security. In addition Mrs. Olivarez got hold of several soap operas in Spanish and played these daily between eleven and twelve o'clock. It was these programs that introduced

her to the power of mass media. Salesmen who kept a parasitic beat on the Mexican-American community complained that these programs had cut down their selling time. Then Mrs. Olivarez sympathized with the salesmen but today she realizes the problems they caused with their hard selling technique to the woman alone in the house.

(continued tomorrow)

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Choate subsidize s Mrs. Olivarez

This is the second of three installments on Mrs. Grace Olivarez, who will be the first woman to be awarded a Juris Doctor Degree by the Notre Dame Law School. She will receive the degree this spring--ed.

by Mark Walbran

In 1962 Mrs. Olivarez met Mr. Robert Choate who profoundly expanded her opportunities to do social work. Mr. Robert Choate of the Choate Foundation had long been interested in her work and asked her to join the Choate Foundation in its work in the southwestern United States. She was rather wary of Choate and suspected him to be just another White out to solve the Mexican-Americans' problems. Choate knew that at this time Mrs. Olivarez was supporting only her mother and was using a considerable amount of her income to help starving families in the county who could

not wait for the bureaucracy of the local Welfare board to provide them with food. Choate made her see that she had become dependent on helping these people on a day to day basis without solving the situations which caused them to be poor. She admitted that she



Mrs. Olivarez

sometimes almost felt hurt when families she had helped no longer asked her for assistance.

Taking a leave of absence from the radio station, Mrs. Olivarez went to work for the Choate Foundation. At this time she began to realize how little formal education she had had. After speaking nothing but Spanish for fourteen years, she was now required to use English.

At this time too she began to read the reports of sociologists like Oscar Lewis and Michael Harrington. These people broadened the scope of her understanding of the poor. The problems were much larger and more widespread than she had expected and she realized how sheltered her life had been. Her work with the foundation took her around the Southwest and she met other concerned Mexican-Americans. Realizing the opportunity to make real progress, Mrs. Olivarez left her radio career behind and went to work full time for the Choate Foundation, taking a considerable loss in income from \$7,800 to \$5,000 annually.

"Mr. Ford Foundation"

One of the projects the Choate Foundation was working on at the time was a motivation program for minority group children to improve their progress in school. The work Mrs. Olivarez did in this area attracted the attention of the Ford Foundation who gave her a 30 day grant to travel the Southwest to investigate the problems of Mexican-Americans. After travelling and preparing her report, she went to New York to present her findings to Mr. Paul Ylvisaker, "Mr. Ford Foundation." Choate had advised her before coming to New York that the Ford Foundation people were on top and that she should remember that the future of her social work depended on how well she presented herself. But it soon became obvious to Mrs. Olivarez that Ylvisaker had not read her report, and she told him so. He said very few people told

him that he had not done what he said he had, and that it was very refreshing. Most people, he told her, were so concerned about getting money that they would never think of disagreeing with him. He extended her travel grant so her investigation could continue and recommended her to the Advisory Council of the Office of Economic Opportunity.

Serves on committees

"All of a sudden I was a big shot," she explained, "serving on committees with Kenneth Galbraith and Mrs. Robert McNamara, Whitney Young and Dr. Spock." Soon she was travelling extensively and giving lectures and organizing workshops on minority groups and their problems.

In 1962 Mrs. Olivarez met Fr. Theodore Hesburgh when the Civil Rights Commission was having hearings in Phoenix. In Phoenix no one really talks about discrimination but she spoke out and presented re-

vealing information on the condition of the poor in Maricopa County and throughout the state. Hesburgh was impressed and the two became friends. She was impressed by this man who knew Spanish and who displayed a genuine concern for the poor.

By 1966 Mrs. Olivarez had finished two years of television work in Phoenix and had left the Choate Foundation, presenting on TV the same kind of educational program she used to do for KIFN. She was serving as Director of the Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity, a job she lost after Governor Jack Williams came into office, later that year. She was becoming more disillusioned about the progress all her efforts were really having. Although she enjoyed travelling and serving on committees, the results of her work never seemed visible among the poor she knew so well in the mining towns and villages of Maricopa County.

Continued tomorrow

Marilyn Reed is named Wilson Designate

The Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation has announced that Miss Marilyn J. Reed, a senior at Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, Indiana, has been named a Woodrow Wilson Designate for 1970. The "Designate" status singles out those young men and women as outstanding students with a

strong interest in teaching. Miss Reed was listed as one of 1,153 designates selected from approximately 12,000 outstanding graduating seniors nominated for the honor by more than 800 colleges. This list of designates will be sent to 200 graduate school deans in the United States and Canada, with the recommendation that the winners be awarded graduate fellowships.

The designates join the ranks of 15,000 former Woodrow Wilson Fellows which include consumer crusader Ralph Nader, poet Erica Mann, and eleven college presidents.

Miss Reed is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. John J. Reed of Hobart, Indiana. She graduated from Andean High School in Gary, Indiana, and is an art major with a special interest in art history at Saint Mary's College.

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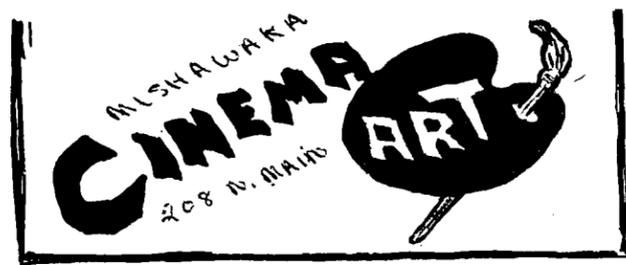
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Mrs. Olivarez.. to serve the poor

This is the third in a three-part series on Mrs. Grace Olivarez who this spring will become the first woman ever to receive a Juris Doctor degree from the Notre Dame school of Law.

She met Hesburgh again one day in 1966 in O'Hare airport. He sensed her frustration and they spoke a moment before their planes departed. Soon afterwards she received a letter from him in which he explained that her frustration stemmed

from her lack of education. People would only listen to her so far, he said, only to a certain degree. After that they would question her background and intelligence. He suggested she go to law school, not only because it would open many more doors for her, but primarily because one of the major problems of the Mexican-American community was the shortage of lawyers who were willing to get into the civil rights movement. He invited her to come to Notre Dame to study law, waiving the normal entrance requirements. Later she received a letter from

Dean O'Meara who said that although he doubted if she would make it through law school, he was willing to give it a try.

"I may not always agree with some of Father Hesburgh's ideas," Mrs. Olivarez said, "but I would defend him with cape and dagger." It was a brave move for him, she said, to invite her to the Notre Dame Law School. Kenneth Galbraith, she said, asked why she was going to Notre Dame to study law. "You're not built like a fullback," he said. But he never invited her to Harvard.

But then Mrs. Olivarez was reluctant to accept Hesburgh's offer. From January to June 1967 she continued to think about the offer as she commuted between Phoenix and Los Angeles serving as a special consultant to O.E.O., the Labor Department, and the H.E.W. Department. Why did she need an education, she asked herself, in a

country where it was said you could get anywhere with just hard work. She soon realized that although she herself had succeeded so far without even a high school diploma, there were limits to the extent to which she could help the poor.

Comes To South Bend

On July 10, 1967 Mrs. Olivarez came to South Bend. She and her son Victor moved into the University Village. In September she enrolled in the Notre Dame Law School.

She disliked law school very much at first. It was very difficult for her and she had never developed serious study habits. Contracts and Corporations held her interest very little. But now she enjoys law school very much. It is very easy for her to see the relevance courses in constitutional law and civil rights have for the poor in the Southwest.

Extracurricular Activities

Mrs. Olivarez, besides going to law school, is very active in "extracurricular activities". Locally, she is on the board of Action, the South Bend anti-poverty program, and she is

active with the Model Cities Program and the Indiana Program for Migrant Workers. Her national activities include membership on the Democratic Party's Policy Council, the National Committee of the American Civil Liberties Union, the Skilled Achievement Institute Board, and the National Committee of Household Employment.

Mrs. Olivarez was one of the main forces behind the change made last fall in university facilities for women. As a result of her efforts today women graduate students receive health service and enjoy recreational privileges at the Convocation Center and the Rock.

Counsel for the Poor

After Law School Mrs. Olivarez is unsure of her plans. She has received three offers from

Washington, from the Department of Labor, the Civil Rights Commission, and the Urban Coalition. However she has never forgotten the poor of Arizona and eventually plans to return there to continue her work. Like many law students her main concern after law school is the Bar examination.

Wherever Mrs. Olivarez goes after leaving Notre Dame one can be sure her work will continue to be with the poor. She wants to bring the law to the people. "The Constitution is great," she says enthusiastically, "it's just so often poorly interpreted." A picture of the late Senator Robert F. Kennedy with a child in Appalachia well reflects Mrs. Olivarez's own intention. Soon Mrs. Olivarez will begin her new career as counsel for the poor.

SMC sponsors lecture

The philosophy Department of St. Mary's College presents Dr. Nicholas Wolterstorff in a public lecture this afternoon at 3:30 in Carroll Hall. The title of the lecture is "The Ontology of Art"

Dr. Wolterstorff is professor and chairman of the philosophy department at Calvin College. He was educated at Harvard University and has taught at Haverford College, Yale University, the

University of Chicago and the University of Texas. He has written for numerous philosophical journals and is the author of a book soon to be published by the Chicago University Press, *On Universals: An Essay in Ontology*.

Staff meeting: 4:20

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Presented by Student Union Social Commission

O.C. to run poll

by Don Ruane

A phone survey designed to determine why students move off campus will run from Saturday until Thursday of next week, according to Off-Campus Commissioner Bernie Ryan. Assisted by Carol Cusick of SMC, Ryan and fifteen to twenty other Notre Dame and SMC students will conduct the survey from their rooms during their free time.

The survey consists of thirty-nine questions and is directed at all undergraduates living off campus. Ryan plans to put a survey through the Hall Presidents Council to get the opinions of the undergraduates residing on campus.

According to Ryan, the "primary objective of the questionnaire is to find out why people move off campus and particularly to try and get some idea of how much influence dorm life is to living on campus." Ryan contends that the prime reason students move is a dissatisfaction with dorm life. The survey will try to find the reasons for the dissatisfaction. "We want to find out what can be done to im-



Bernie Ryan

prove the residential community; to get some idea of where student government is lacking in communication and where the university is lacking and to try to get a better perspective of the problem," said Ryan.

The survey is tri-sectional and covers the reasons for the move off campus; the responsibilities of student government and the university to the off campus student and the advantages, quality and expenses of living off campus. Other questions cover such things as restrictions set by landlords, consideration of returning to campus housing and recommendations for or against freshmen living off campus.

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