

How Can I Stop My Son Reading Lurid Magazines?

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I have lately found that our 17-year-old son has been reading and exchanging sex magazines with his schoolmates. This has left us at a loss as to what has gone wrong and what should be done about it. Our son has a good Catholic education. How can we best fight this in our home? These magazines are so easily accessible that it is impossible to keep our children from coming in contact with them in one way or another.



Your letter raises a problem that many modern parents will have to face up to realistically. I suppose there has always been a limited amount of obscene pictures and suggestive literature surreptitiously circulated among youth, but at present such material is flooding the newsstands and pouring through the mails in ever increasing volume.

Although we need not assume that young people are the principal consumers of this product, they are freely exposed to it at every turn. Granted the normal curiosity of youth in such matters, it is not surprising that some of them are tempted to become "users."

WHAT CAN parents do about it? The problem is highly complex, involving both social and individual, negative and positive aspects, so that it can be dealt with effectively only if it is tackled at many different points. Let us consider them separately though they all must be included in an adequate program of action.

First, young people must be prepared to face this challenge as individuals. Such preparation requires that both parents and teachers take a positive approach in training youth for chastity. What does this mean? Since chastity consists in following the order of right reason in the use of one's procreative faculties, young people must be helped to understand and appreciate the nature, function and purpose of sex, together with what might be called its mechanisms of arousal or excitation.

This is to say that educators must have two major aims in training youth for chastity. Young people must be taught to regard sex as essentially life-giving or procreative. The personal, social, and spiritual significance of sex is based on its relationship to the transmission of life.

The traditional negative approach to chastity, consisting of a series of "don'ts," is so inadequate because it does not help people "make sense" of their sexual drives and powers. The proper use of sex can be defined only in terms of its life-giving pur-

pose. Training for chastity primarily involves an understanding and appreciation of sex as a procreative privilege, for this is the positive value that gives meaning and significance to the norms regulating proper use.

Further, educators must help youth acquire some understanding of the mechanisms of sexual arousal. Like all human faculties, sex responds to a definite set of stimuli. The process is relatively simple; if the proper stimulus is received, the faculty responds by preparing for action. Young people must be taught to recognize the usual sources of sexual stimulation. They must see the connection between what they think, see, hear, or do and sexual arousal.

This understanding is so important because one avoids sexual arousal by controlling the stimuli. Young people need careful instructions on this point, since lack of experience, curiosity, and the normal desire to manifest or receive affection frequently disguises the sexual nature of some stimuli.

Second, although your children are being adequately trained for chastity, they are still immature. Hence, you must carefully guide their reading by providing good material and rejecting trash. When your son brings home sex magazines, use this occasion to explain the connection between such material and sexual arousal. Speak plainly.

Explain that you understand youth's normal curiosity in such matters but

point out that he is filling his mind with thoughts and images that are designed to cause sexual arousal. That is their purpose. Why should he try to fool himself?

Remind him that he will be a man only when he has learned self-mastery in sex. If he continues to stimulate himself by such magazines, he cannot hope to control his sexual drives, for God has designed them to respond to such stimuli. This is his problem and he must learn to face it honestly before God.

You have only limited control over what he does outside the home. Either he himself resolves to avoid such sources of temptation, or he is not sincere in his desire to serve Christ.

The third approach to the problem consists in an attempt to control the production and circulation of such magazines. This must be a community effort in which all men of good will cooperate for the common good.

Current laws and court decisions render legal action quite ineffective, but community pressure can be a powerful force at the local level, and a concerted, intelligent long range program supported by earnest citizens can bring the force of public opinion to bear on state and federal legislatures.

As I have indicated the problem has many aspects. We need more adequate training for chastity, more vigilance on the part of parents, and an aroused public opinion that will support legal action.

US Prelates Mark Feast In Ireland

Dublin — (RNS) — St. Patrick's Day on March 17 will be a day of special glory this year in the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Armagh which was founded by Ireland's national apostle around the year 445.

On the great feast day, two cardinals from the United States, and one from England will join John Cardinal D'Alton, the 110th successor of St. Patrick in the ancient, primal See, in celebrations honoring the saint who was brought to Ireland as a slave, only to return years later to win his people to the Christian faith.

The celebrations will be one of the highlights of the Patriotic Year which is being observed throughout the country to mark the 15th centenary of St. Patrick's death at Saul, where legend says a heavenly light shone around his bier for several days.

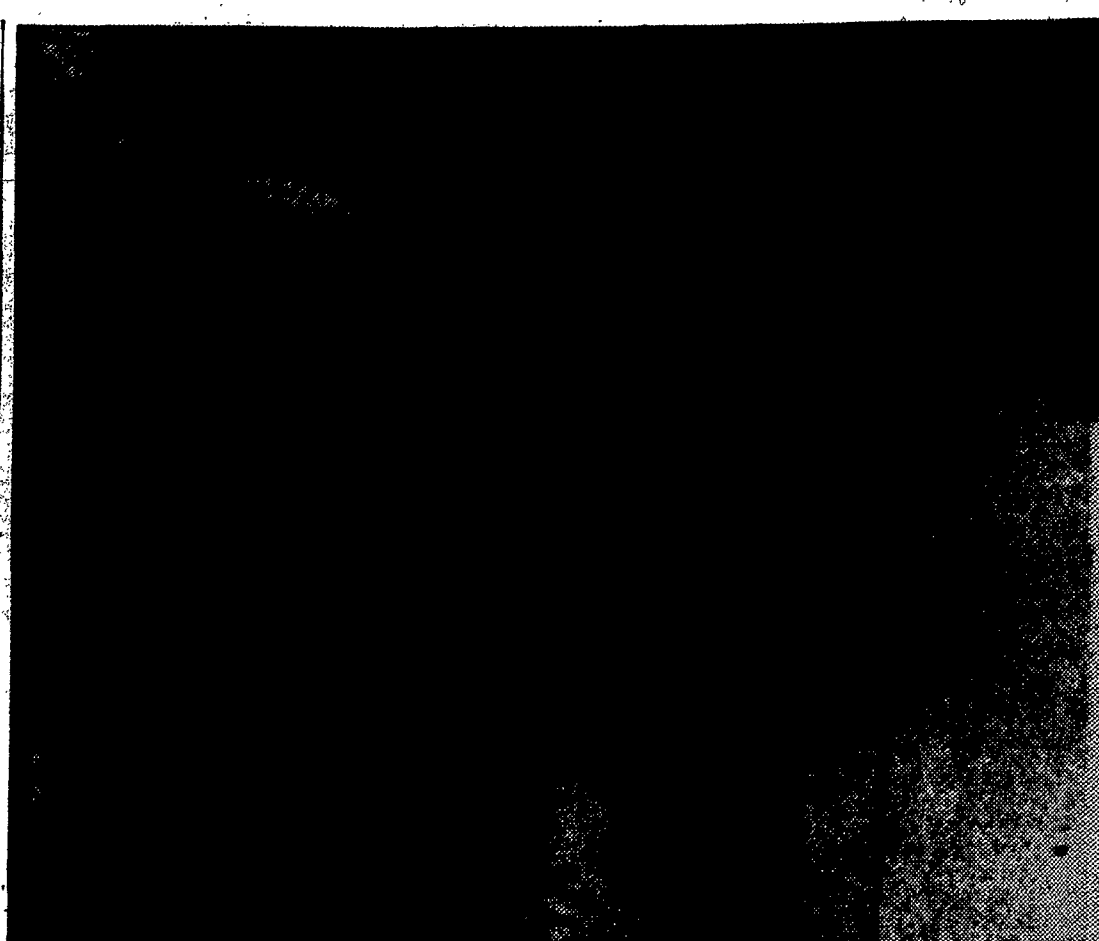
Joining other archbishops and bishops from countries overseas in tribute to the great missionary and man of prayer and penance will be Richard Cardinal Cushing, Archbishop of Boston; James Francis Cardinal McIntyre, Archbishop of Los Angeles; and William Cardinal Godfrey, Archbishop of Westminster.

Cardinal Cushing will preach at a Pontifical High Mass in St. Patrick's Cathedral celebrated by Cardinal D'Alton. Rung at the consecration of the Mass will be the ancient bell of St. Patrick, whose sound was heard often over the valleys and hills of Erin as the saint went about preaching his message of faith, peace and joy in God. The bell, referred to in the Annals of Ulster as early as 550 A.D., is being brought to Armagh on loan from the Royal Irish Academy here.

Cheshire Homes In Jordan

Amman — (RNS) — Msgr. Nemech Siman, Latin Rite Patriarchal Vicar General for Trans-Jordan, will supervise a home for aged and sick persons which is to be built here by the Cheshire Foundation.

This was announced here after he had accompanied Leonard Cheshire, former group captain of the British Royal Air Force to an audience granted by King Hussein of Jordan. Mr. Cheshire founded the Cheshire Foundation as a charitable agency following World War II, during which he witnessed the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and resolved to devote the rest of his life to the relief of human suffering. He is a convert to Catholicism.



Missioner With Parishioner

Sarong, New Guinea — (RNS) — Father Michael E. Bodnar, a Divine Word Missionary, spent twelve years serving the natives of the New Guinea bush country such as this stylishly dressed layman. However, an accident on his cycle stopped Father Bodnar from traveling between missions there and has forced him to recuperate from injuries sustained in the mishap. He is now convalescing at Techny, Illinois. When he recovers, Father Bodnar will be assigned to southern missions in the U.S. Ordained at the Divine Word Seminary in Techny in 1948, he left for New Guinea the same year.

Education Aid For All

Washington — (NC) — All existing system of higher education suggests important limitations. The council said it anticipates an increase of two million students in U.S. colleges and universities by 1970. It called the next decade one of "crisis" for higher education.

More than half the colleges and universities, enrolling nearly 45 per cent of the students, are privately supported," it said. "All types of institutions must be expanded and improved if the essential national goal of providing for future students is to be met.

Among these, it adequate minimum standards for compensation, for granting with held; at least a gram of work' pay.

It proposed the federal government provide \$350 million each year in loans for dormitory construction and an average of one billion dollars in both loans and matching grants for classrooms, libraries and laboratories.

THE COUNCIL also favored continuation and expansion of the program of loans to college students provided by the Defense Education Act and a new program of scholarship starting with \$25 million the first year and rising to \$100 million by the fourth year.

The statement by the council, whose membership reflects the variety of private and public institutions of higher education in the United States, said "the

Catholic Group Backs Governor

Albany — (RNS) — The State Catholic Welfare Committee endorsed as "reasonable" and constitutional Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller's plan to help private college students finance their education.

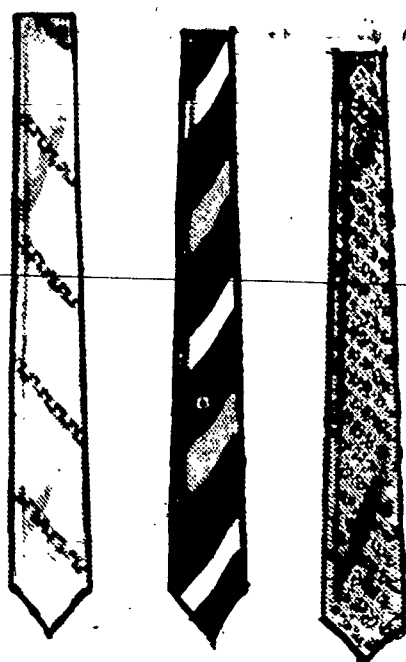
Representing all Roman Catholics in the state, the committee said there had been "considerable confusion, misunderstanding and even distortion" of the program.

"It is a distortion to say that such a grant is made for the purpose of aiding the institution which the student may attend," the Catholic group stated. "It is unsound to argue that, because the grant may enable the student to exercise his freedom to choose a private institution of learning, it is a violation of constitutional limitation."

The committee, headed by Bishop William A. Scully of the Albany Roman Catholic diocese, said "a relatively small portion of the state's private college students attend institutions conducted under sectarian or denominational auspices."

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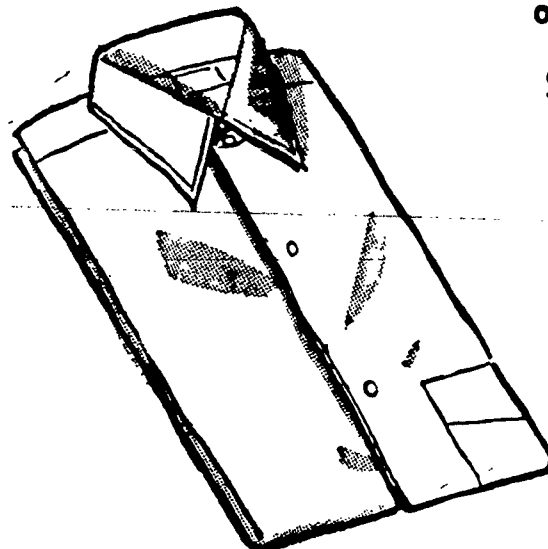
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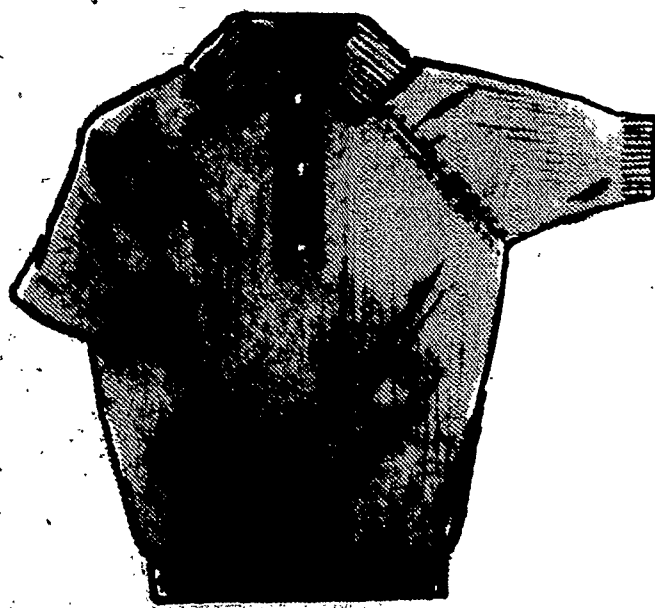
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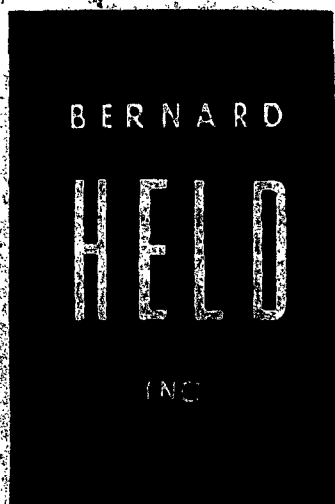
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