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The University of Notre Dame

Values, Goals & Opinions

of Students Involved with the
Center for Social Concerns

May 1994
Baccalaureate Graduates

Institutional Research Report #94-30
October 1994

User's Guide

This report summarizes the responses of several subgroups of specific interest to the Center for Social Concerns and of the May 1994 graduating class as a whole to questions in the following areas:

1. Additional Questions -- The additional twenty questions are a version of a longer set of items developed over the years by C. Lincoln Johnson, former Director of the Social Science Research and Training Laboratory (now called the Laboratory for Social Research) and Kathleen Maas Weigert, Faculty Liaison/Academic Coordinator at the Center for Social Concerns, as part of their work of exploring relationships among undergraduate experiences, beliefs and attitudes in the general area of social awareness, social action and faith. In 1993-94, Kathleen along with Jay Brandenberger of the Center for Social Concerns, worked with Joe Pettit, Office of Institutional Research at Georgetown, to hone the 20 questions as part of a research project by the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities to explore the issues among students at the member schools which have volunteered to be part of the research. Data from this project will be analyzed and presented at the 1995 meeting of the ACCU at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, MN.
2. Life Goals and Values -- 17 standard questions on the College Student Survey
3. Student Opinions and Political Views -- 17 standard questions on the College Student Survey

The Center for Social Concerns was especially interested in several specific subgroups of students. Additional information identifying these students was passed onto the College Student Survey data set, thereby enabling a comparison of these students with the graduating class as a whole. The subgroups of interest to the Center for Social Concerns are the following:

1. Post-graduation plan is full-time volunteer work:
 - Alliance for Catholic Education
 - Holy Cross Associates
 - Other Religious or Church
 - Secular Volunteer
2. Leaders of various Center for Social Concerns student groups:
 - Group Leaders
 - Community Service Commissioners
3. Students who took various experiential/service learning courses that are coordinated by the Center for Social Concerns and the Department of Theology

1749 baccalaureate degree recipients responded to the College Student Survey. Response rates to individual questions vary because not all students answered all questions. We were able to pass local data onto 1722 cases.

Table of Contents

| <u>ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS</u> | <u>PAGE</u> |
|---|-------------|
| 1 How often were you involved with volunteer service or social action activities during your undergraduate years? | 1 |
| 2 In approximately how many of your undergraduate courses have moral and ethical questions been considered? | 2 |
| 3 How many of your undergraduate courses required some type of participation in community service or public service with regular academic assignments? | 3 |
| 4 During your undergraduate years, how often did you usually spend periods of time in private religious thought, prayer or meditation? | 4 |
| 5 During your undergraduate years, how often did you usually attend church or religious services? | 5 |
| 6 In examining your total undergraduate experience and its influence on your thinking about faith and morals, which of the following has had the strongest influence? | 6 |
| 7 As you plan for the next few years, what kind of church or religious involvement do you anticipate in your new setting? | 7 |
| 8 As you plan for the next few years, what kind of service or social action involvement do you anticipate in your new setting? | 8 |
| 9 Which of the following do you think is the most pressing issue at the present time? | 9 |
| 10 I have been personally helped by faculty and staff members while in college to relate my faith to contemporary moral issues. | 10 |
| 11 Concern for community and cooperation needs to be emphasized in our society more than individual achievement and freedom. | 11 |
| 12 The Catholic identity of this college/university should be more widely integrated into course work and academic efforts. | 12 |
| 13 Living on welfare is more likely the result of a lack of personal initiative than of problems of society or the economy. | 13 |
| 14 My faith encourages charity to the poor more than challenges to social structures. | 14 |
| 15 Most persons have a lot of control over what happens to them in life. | 15 |
| 16 Peacemaking is not an optional commitment; it is a requirement of our faith. | 16 |

| | <u>PAGE</u> |
|---|-------------|
| 17 It is the Church's business to help believers form their consciences on the moral dimensions of economic decision-making, for example, in areas such as unemployment, poverty, immigration policy, national spending priorities, etc. | 17 |
| 18 Realistically, an individual can do very little to bring about changes in society. | 18 |
| 19 How would you evaluate the contribution this college/university made to the growth of your knowledge about the Bible? | 19 |
| 20 How would you evaluate the contribution this college/university made to the growth of your knowledge about Catholic teachings and doctrine? | 20 |

LIFE GOALS & VALUES (CSS)

| | |
|--|----|
| Importance to you personally of becoming accomplished in one of the performing arts (acting, dancing, etc.) | 21 |
| Importance to you personally of becoming an authority in your field | 22 |
| Importance to you personally of obtaining recognition from your colleagues for contributions to your special field | 23 |
| Importance to you personally of influencing the political structure | 24 |
| Importance to you personally of influencing social values | 25 |
| Importance to you personally of raising a family | 26 |
| Importance to you personally of having administrative responsibility for the work of others | 27 |
| Importance to you personally of being very well off financially | 28 |
| Importance to you personally of helping others who are in difficulty | 29 |
| Importance to you personally of making a theoretical contribution to science | 30 |
| Importance to you personally of writing original works (poems, novels, short stories, etc.) | 31 |
| Importance to you personally of creating artistic work (painting, sculpture, decorating, etc.) | 32 |
| Importance to you personally of being successful in a business of your own | 33 |
| Importance to you personally of becoming involved in programs to clean up the environment | 34 |

Importance to you personally of developing a meaningful philosophy of life 35

Importance to you personally of participating
in community action programs 36

Importance to you personally of helping to promote racial understanding 37

STUDENT OPINIONS & POLITICAL VIEWS (CSS)

The Federal government is not doing enough to protect
the consumer from faulty goods and services..... 38

The Federal government is not doing enough to
control environmental pollution. 39

The Federal government should raise taxes to help
reduce the deficit..... 40

The death penalty should be abolished. 41

Abortion should be legal..... 42

The activities of married women are best confined to the
home and family..... 43

Marijuana should be legalized..... 44

It is important to have laws prohibiting homosexual relationships. 45

The chief benefit of a college education is that it increases
one's earning power..... 46

There is too much concern in the courts for the rights of criminals. 47

Just because a man feels a woman has "led him on" does not
entitle him to have sex with her. 48

Colleges should prohibit racist/sexist speech on campus. 49

Racial discrimination is no longer a problem in America. 50

A national health care plan is needed to cover everybody's
medical costs. 51

The Federal government should do more to control the sale of handguns. 52

The best way to control AIDS is through widespread,
mandatory testing. 53

How would you characterize your political views? 54