

My comments on Fr. McGuire

(These are not in increasing or decreasing order...just as I recall them.)

1. SCHOOL

Innumerable instances (thoroughly documented by students, other teachers, counselors...and even by his own admission) of physically striking the students. There is an explicit and frequently announced policy against this...for obvious reasons. He is not chairman of the department, but usurps this authority, considers the Honors Course his business only, and declares to the laymen in the department that he hires and fires them, and that they are responsible to him.

Never responds to the counseling offices in requests for comments on students, for purposes of college writeups and the like. (Cf. Bob Humbert's letter in this regard, and his answer.)

Contrary to an explicit policy of the school, lets out keys to select students. Has a couple of strange people who are constantly around him, who are practically his slaves. Source of a great deal of admiration. (... who is the boy he brought over from Germany with him.)

Has been quoted to me by several of the lay teachers (often, I should add) as publicly stating that all the rest of the staff, teachers and especially administrators, are incompetent and peasants. (No comment.)

Frequently not at class, though he will insist that he gives them work to do. There is one lay teacher who must be ready at any time to step in for him, but he never knows when or at what point in the text, etc.

He simply took over what used to be counselors offices and made them into his own private complex. He calls it the Classics department, but the department members feel no freedom to use it except at his whim. He has it thoroughly stocked with the classics books he brought from Milford's library...he says, with Carl Moehl's okay. Maybe so. They were acquired "for our library," but have never been accessioned nor allowed to be put on the shelves.

Was supposed to teach Senior Theology this year; just did not, and insists he was never told to do so. This is just not so.

I think nearly everyone on the staff...teachers, administrators, clerks...and nearly every student and many of the parents have, at one time or another, been subject to his rages. He cannot be questioned on anything without a violent reaction of denial. See Bob Humbert's letter to him and his reply as one of the milder samples. There is genuine fear of him in the minds of many. The letter from the ex-student is an instance in point and should clarify one aspect of what I am saying.

I would not suggest, Tom, that his denials of charges or his refusal to submit to any sort of questioning, even the mildest, may not be subjectively justified. I used to think he protested too much; I think it is just that he lives in such an autistic world that he feels totally righteous about it.

One other thing, he has often allowed his friends to remain over night in the offices (Room 222). In fact, , as I understand it, practically lived there for a long stretch. He insists this is not so, and gets outraged if you suggest it.

EXHIBIT 5

00520

2. COMMUNITY

For a few days, at the beginning of the year after I had told him of my conversations with Harv, he showed up at meals. Before and since, he never comes to a community meal.

He attended one or two of the community meetings at the beginning, and was present at our weekend at Aurora. Since then, nothing. I never know when he is in. His hours are mighty strange, to say the least. Often I have seen notes on his door for several days, one or two days at least. And, although I live directly across the corridor from him, I have not physically seen him for better than two weeks. Of course, that could be my fault...or, at least, I am sure he will think so.

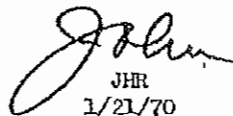
I don't recall his ever asking permission for money...certainly he has never asked me. I have occasionally received bills for car rentals, for which neither I nor John Henry gave him permission.

Almost everyone in the community, Tom, has at one time or another expressed concern over his independence, and rebuked me (quite correctly) for the things "he gets away with." I have nearly every time brought up to him whatever complaints I have received; but I get awfully tired of having my head blown off when I do it...so I have sissied out on it lately. Honestly, though this may seem like and may actually be a rationalization, I don't feel it does any good. He simply denies the major, and usually vehemently. Or, if the argument does proceed, I usually wind up being the one in the wrong. Hard to keep the issue straight.

In short, Tom...I really don't like to list things, as though I've been keeping tabs. I haven't. These things are off the top of my head, to a great extent. I find it hard, in fact, to retain such things in my mind.

Anyway, it isn't so much a question of creating a litany which, when it acquires a certain weight, solves the problem. It's more a situation in which attitude, approach, life-style...what you will...are just so thoroughly out of key and out of gear, that it is destructive. Don frankly leads his own life, expresses a great deal of contempt from time to time about everyone else, and is unapproachable in terms of trying to achieve any sort of compromise or working adjustment.

Well, that's about it. If I can elaborate, I'll try.


JHR
1/21/70