

Box 1549
Georgetown Univ.
Washington, D.C. 20007
13 February 1969

Dear Rabbi Lamm,

This letter to you, a total stranger, was prompted by an article about you in the New York Times of 1 Feb., 1969. I turn to you because you seem to have wrestled with the New Morality and found at least part of your answer. We here at Georgetown have only begun to wrestle.

I am a Resident Assistant on a dormitory floor of 45 freshmen, and these gentlemen regularly participate in the Intervisitation program which was put into effect last year. The Student Development staff, the House Councils, and the students are currently engaged in a review of this program. The students have overwhelmingly adopted the idea that what another does in his room is his own business. The arguments roughly approximate your statement about the "negative rule of not hurting anyone else." What is especially disturbing is that these are the same students who, in October, faithfully promised to allow the student community on each floor to operate as the conscience of the floor, following the general norms of society. This has plainly not been done. Having failed in exercising their stated responsibility, some of the New Moralists demand that they be given more responsibility. Indeed, all rules are now to be abolished if they have their way. One House Council is apparently pushing for a parietal program of 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

I am especially perturbed because last year I was the instigator of the movement for Intervisitation. I now feel that I have fathered an immoral and irresponsible child. I would like to know what answer you would make to the student body as a whole. How can they be made aware that they are responsible for each other? The traditional teachings of the Catholic Church seem to have gone by the boards to appoint that even the younger Jesuits, who are radically liberal, are disturbed.

Your answer, if there can be any to strong wills attached to weak minds, will be appreciated. I, too, share your apprehension about the effect on society as a whole, because we are both at institutions which are presumably training our future voices on influence.

Sincerely,

David H. Mamaux

David H. Mamaux
College '69