new priest articulate on secular topics

By David Searls

Anyone who has a stereotyped image of a priest would do well to discuss some- thing—almost anything—with Father MacNevin. Not only can he change one's head as sacred material, but he can change one's head about other aspects as well.

Father MacNevin is one of the several full-time religious counselors on the MIT campus. Usually after- noons he can be found on the ground floor of the MIT Science Drive, where he and the other counselors, all of different religious persuasions, are available to anyone who wishes to talk with them, either minis- tering to his own worshiping community (the largest on cam- pus—about 400) or pursuing more unconventional activities, such as attending seminars or eating in dorms, all with the intent of displaying the fact that he is human.

"Students just won't come up near you until they discover that you're a human being, until they begin to realize that you can trust me. I'm not a robot."
The religious image is not a reality as far as students are concerned. Some of the right reasons. Often their personal experiences with religious communities to make students, 'I'll tell you where I'm going to happen here

I asked Father MacNevin to elaborate on how he would actu- rally counsel a student who was 'not right' for MIT.

"I would first ask him, 'Why are you here? Is it for Mommy and Daddy? Are you trying to keep from destroying Daddy?' And I would tell him that there are times when it's okay to hurt Daddy. Perhaps the fact that a religious figure was telling him that would free him. I told him 'honor thy Father, etc., he might end up no good.

"The obvious thing is the student's bought to believe that there is a k ind of dichotomy, that if I told him 'honor thy Father, etc., he might end up no good or flunk, to drop out, so as to be free to be themselves, because there is a kind of dichotomy, where you seek approval, yet try to be what you want to be. One way to get out of this is just to

play to the question.

"I don't think that there will be a marriage between science and religion, but I do think they are good helpmates. Science has made great contribu- tions to religion, and I'm sure

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Freshmen and sophomores who are curious about the topics above are invited to use an experimental system containing these four interactive lectures, which were recorded specifically for individual listening. The lectures are unique in that they include a great many recorded answers to intriguing questions. The answers extend and deepen the discussion, and can be quickly and conveniently accessed.

If you would like to try the system, please call 984-6000, ext. 2800, or write a short note to Stewart Wilson, Polaroid, 730 Main St., Cambridge (near MIT), mentioning when you might be free and how you can be reached.

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