

THE GREAT



HAVE YOU AN OPEN MIND?

GREAT AMERICAN FLYTRAPS

by Colin Frazer

"There is no question as to whether or not a person is an individual," ventured Mr. E. W. Kemp of the Philosophy Dept. "The real question is 'What kind of an individual shall you be?'" He feels that this is a question that each person must answer for himself, according to whatever strength of character he may possess.

Mr. Kemp was interviewed by Gateway Features concerning his views on the "Great American Fake," or the lack of individualism that exists in our society today. He believes that there isn't much doubt that North American civilization—in spite of its proclaimed devotion to individual freedom—is inclined to make individuals into "uncreative, passive receptors—going around with their mouths open and swallowing any flies that they might trap." Our civilization tends to produce minds that "are open only in the sense that any winds may blow through."

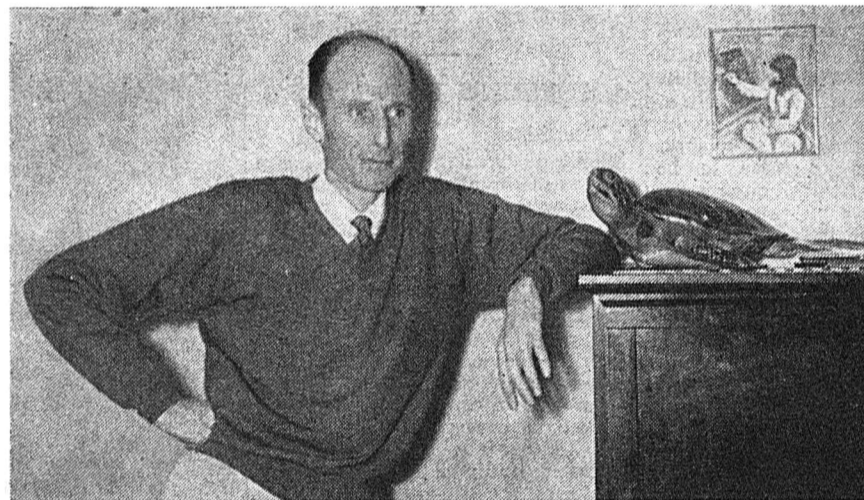
He claims that there are thousands of youths whose highest ambition is to have a car, and as many girls whose highest ambition is to have a boy who has a car.

"Look at the youngsters on our streets, listening to Jim Hand on their portable radios, and never entertaining a thought except the all-important 'How can I get by without thinking?' The exception deserve praise, but they are still, just exceptions. These are the citizens of

MORE SOAP AND SEX THAN IDEALS

tomorrow. We don't have much to brag about the citizens of today—but it is evident that, if tomorrow comes, the citizens could be worse."

Mr. Kemp, when asked if this applied to Varsity students as well, replied that "There are far too many students who hardly have two ideas to rub together,



IDEALISTS ARE SELF-MADE

and if they do have two ideas they don't know how to put them together to get a third."

He also feels that there is too much conformity in our society, and doesn't like to see people conform just to be "in." But he agrees that no matter what ideals you have, or how much you want to see them realized, that to do this one has to be in contact with other people—which you cannot do if you are "too far out." "I think that this is one way in which beatniks are mistaken—in withdrawing from the world."

"I do object, strenuously, to the people who give themselves up en-

COURAGE IS WHAT WE DON'T HAVE

tirely to the struggle to 'belong.' There's too damned much emphasis on 'belonging', and not enough on what you'll belong to. This is a weakness, and you can't respect it."

Mr. Kemp claims that many North Americans have decided to be sheep, "because that's always easier than doing your own thinking and making decisions that might be difficult and unpopular." Of course this is a democracy, which gives us the right to be sheep—"even to have your political decisions made for you by high-powered ad agencies and their hired psychologists—witch doctors with college degrees—who create an 'image' of Honest John for

Perhaps you didn't know that you are a mere cog on the gigantic wheel—nay, less, you may be but a twist of grease.

Or, you may have realized, and remained content—unruffled by the knowledge or the invective.

On the other hand, it may be that you don't agree—just possibly we will hear a murmur of protest, an assurance that there are, after all, a few individuals even in the midst of comfortable conformity.

GREAT AMERICAN DOUBLETHINK

A concentration of thorns by Penny Meisner

Feed their fever, starve their hopes, and sustain their neurosis! This is the therapy offered to alleviate society's chronic ailment—imposed self-deception. The beatnik's flat declaration "Society is sick!" is much closer to the truth than we would care to admit. But this "ailment" is more pernicious than the Black Death for we not only refuse to admit its existence but perpetuate it.

What is the nature of the disease? In a recent interview Dr. Rose of the department of English offered a diagnosis. "This is the GREAT AMERICAN FAKE."

"We believe that we are individuals but we are not—in fact nothing could be farther from the truth. We are completely subordinated to the organization. The essential element of the fraud is the self-deception that we are not only individuals but significant parts of the whole. When we feel we are most individualistic we are most dedicated to the organization."

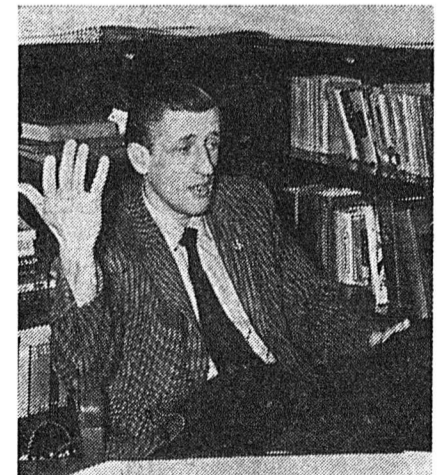
There are two diametrically opposing views of the individual, according to Dr. Rose. One maintains that each person is a complete entity and the other advocates the treatment of the individual as a statistic. The first is the American ideal supposedly in practice but the second is more accurate (in fact painfully so). The American people is a collection of assorted statistics and little more.

Is there a means to raise ourselves above the level of a statistic? "Yes," replies Dr. Rose. "There are two means of accomplishing this. The

CURRENT CANNED OPINIONS

first is to fight the machine by independent effort; to run against it, for example, through civil disobedience. Gandhi, Thoreau and Hennessy are subscribers to this school of thought. However this requires a supreme independent effort. The second way is to take over the running of the machine, as magnates such as Rockefeller have done.

KEMP PHOTOS
by Fred Mannix



SOCIETY OFFERS NARCOTICS