

# A MATTER OF APATHY

Is a student a machine? Is a student a wind-up doll that hasn't a spring?

On Tuesday night the Student Christian Movement was to present a panel on the topic "Man as a Machine." Professors from three departments went to the trouble of preparing four diverging opinions on a fascinating subject. Only a dozen people showed up.

What is a student? A person who goes to all his classes and hands his assignments in on time? Or does being a student include a certain amount of intellectual probing, a desire to find out what man's place is in the universe?

The SCM is a non-sectarian organization of people who valiantly, year after year, have proved their intellectual responsibility by the presentation of such panels and their Friday noon "prof talks." Even those of us who are agnostics can feel quite at home at a meeting of the SCM, for we can be among people who are at least slightly worried about man and his destiny.

1984 is only 22 years away. Man is becoming more and more a soma-swallowing machine every year. If "students" are not interested who will be? Beware, O World, for your intellectuals will betray you again.

## Guest Editorial

# A MATTER OF EMPHASIS

by Don Wells

It is obvious from conversations—and letters to the editor—that sexual intercourse, both in and out of marriage, is wrongly emphasized, probably because we at University are at an age when sex, marriage and love are extremely important to us. But we must look beyond our age and feelings.

There is a great deal more to marriage than sex, as any married couple will verify. Virginity has become a platinum idol set high on a pedestal and worshipped (by virgins). It has been said that virginity is the most precious gift a wife can give her husband. If it is, then it's all over after the first night!

If sexual intercourse is not so important, what is it? It is a highly pleasurable, physical release of sexual tensions; and it is a method of reproduction. It is a very natural instinct and should be understood and appreciated as such, not looked upon as something "dirty" or immoral. It is an enlightening experience shared by two people. But it is not the crux of marriage!

The whole controversy boils down to one central question: is extra-marital sexual intercourse morally wrong? In this light it is much like religion. If you have grown up indoctrinated by your family, school and church to believe in the existence of God, then you believe. The same applies to sex—you believe it's wrong if you've been told it's wrong.

But an even bigger question arises: is moral education right or wrong? Does anyone—parent, teacher or priest—have the right to indoctrinate you with moral values? The obvious answer is "yes", in order to preserve our society from chaos. But times and values change and so must morals. Moral teachings are essentially rules for peaceful coexistence of the individual in society. They teach us not to harm others. Does premarital sex harm anyone if it is carefully planned so as to avoid pregnancy and the spread of disease?

Some say sex is right if there is love. Love is a very important, but illusive word. Dic-

tionaries say it is: "a warm attraction, attachment, liking or fondness," or "a sexual affection or passion or desire."

But love must be more than either of these. It is a fulfillment of two individual's needs. Love is not easily attained; so very much must be learned and understood about the partner. Actually love is a deepening and extension of infatuation. Infatuation is what we feel first, and love develops from it.

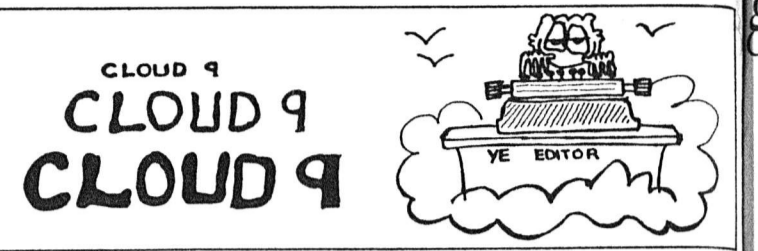
Then why premarital sex? Because we have the urge, the instinct, which, if denied becomes frustration; because it is a high pleasure; because it is an experience in which we can learn about ourselves and about life; because it is an intimate and personal relationship which is shared with another person; and because it is a method of discovering what the other person is really like. And the old adage, "you don't really know anyone until you've slept with them," may be truer than you think.

Many young people enter marriage without really knowing each other. A few get married because it is a legal license to sexual relations: which they were afraid of, single, because they felt it was morally wrong. The result is usually tragic.

**Marriage is a deep friendship, an understanding based on love. The couple should be compatible in interests, intellect, ambition and in bed. But the bed is not as important as the others; it can't be, because (if for no other reason) very little time in marriage is spent in acts of sexual intercourse.**

Education—plus a little thinking—is the obvious answer. Children at the age of puberty, when they first become interested in sex, should be given the straight, clean facts so it doesn't become something mysterious and eventually "dirty" for them. As they grow older and more curious they should be told the functions of sex, the physiology and psychology, the methods of hygiene and birth control.

When they are mature enough to accept the responsibility, they should be given the freedom of making up their own minds, based on the facts and their own common sense.



My staff tells me that the time has come to define Gateway sex policy. But I'm not going to spell it out. I'll sidestep policy for the moment and come at the sex thing from an angle.

Some people feel that a campus paper shouldn't discuss sex—it is too personal, and should be kept a private thing. Aunt Pheobe is one of these. She thinks we are likely to be too radical, And irresponsible. And indecent.

I don't agree. I don't mind admitting to radicalism; it's kind of flattering really. But irresponsibility is a different matter—I won't admit to that. I think it is a good idea to consider possible effects before I set causes in motion. And I insist on taking the consequences of my own actions.

**Responsibility is the crux of sound policy as far as I'm concerned—newspaper policy or sex policy.**

And I think it is quite appropriate to discuss sex in public forum. That is why I've been tickled with the letters which have followed the Vant edit. I'd rather hear your ideas than insist that you hear mine.

**The letters have prompted a guest editorial, which in my opinion handles the subject maturely.**

Obviously it will provoke and disturb some of the conservative-religious. But while they question our reasoning and our conclusions, I hope they recognize the appropriateness of the discussion.

Having said that, let me put Gate-

way minds at ease by assuring them that my personal views, like Mr. Graham's (this issue) are somewhat liberal.

**Not to be outdone by Edmonton's greatest newspaper, we want the world to know that we too can print kissing stories, though ours doesn't make the front page.**

The Journal's Mr. Dean answers his accusers in Forum. We are glad for his assurance that he too believes in responsibility.

Back to sex. It is possible to discuss the subject in a way that combines delicacy with a sense of humor? And intelligence too?

I think it is. Two of the things I am most reverent about are sex and sunrises. Both of them need to be shared. And both of them make me smile.

Here I am Aunt Pheobe, waving to you from Cloud 9.

le baron



## KENNEDY WEAK

To The Editor:

Be sure you were not alone on Cloud 9 Friday, October 26. Your "lone voice" was not by itself. Don't apologize—even in the face of the kind of abuse that Terry Nugent found on his doorstep.

Even the Financial Post, in its issue of Oct. 27, carried a whole page (3) of J. B. McGeachy, which should give you solid consolation. If you haven't already read it, do so and take heart. "Kennedy has done so with an exceedingly weak case in law . . . and considering the tiny insignificance of Cuba compared with the multitude of American bases next door to the Soviet Union, an equally weak case in political dialectics."

Rev. George Young, the United Church's field secretary for Christian Education, tells me that his questioning of the people the past week has elicited a consensus which makes you and me "encompassed about

with a cloud of witnesses." I was rather surprised, because my own statements questioning Kennedy's arbitrary actions almost invariably aroused intense antagonism.

Let me also commend—most heartily—Robin Mathews' treatment of Basil Dean, and your publishing it. It is high time courageous souls stood out against illogical and highly emotional statement—whether made by Dean or John Kennedy.

Sincerely,  
Arthur E. Etter

Ed. Note: I am overwhelmed by the congenial company.

## DEVIL HORRIFIED

To The Editor:

I have seen and heard things lately that would horrify a devil!

A week ago all our lives were threatened by the Bomb; everybody was scared stiff; some people were going home to spend the last few days with their relatives. It got

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