

God gave us a choice



between good and evil

GOOD AND EVIL

Why doesn't God do something about all the evil in the world? Before we hasten to condemn God as either not all-powerful or, if all-powerful, not all-good, there is a critical factor that must be considered; namely free will.

What kind of good, loving God would have created individuals who were only programmed for proper actions and thoughts in every situation - that is robots?

Look how we react to someone who insists that we MUST love them, regardless of their actions toward us or our feelings about them. What kind of loving parent would refuse to let a child make his own mistakes? Surely most of us have at some time said, "Let me live my own life!" if your 16 year old sister or brother were dating someone you knew would likely hurt them very deeply, and if this loved one refused to listen to your advice, would you lock them in their room? of course not, because you would realize that love has to be able to let the loved ones go.

Real love then has to allow the loved one to reject that love. God, our loving heavenly father, knows that love has to be freely given. Therefore, he created human beings with the freedom to make moral choices.

Think for a minute about the abolishment of evil. Where is the line drawn? Evil thoughts often lead to evil actions. Do we brainwash people? What about the intent of an action? A drunken fight may contain little malice, while a cold look can indicate bitter hatred. A fight can lead to clearing the air and a deepened friendship, while passive and aggressive actions can poison a whole household. And what about sins of omission rather than of commission? If we don't actively love people, but merely refrain from not stealing, etc., then we are at best hypocrites.

Further problems in dealing with evil include the fact that we do not know everything. (as God does). We are bound by time and space, and we do not know men's hearts. The effects of evil actions may be very good. An abused child may thus dedicate his life helping children in these terrible situations. A man, whose life has been characterized by hatred, may suddenly change and do a great deal of good. How are we to know that Idi Amin may not make such a change? Don't we all hope to become better people in the future? what we do know is that regardless of the evil perpetrated against us, we can choose whether or not to forgive, whether or not to use the experience to keep others, whether or not to let love conquer.

Remember, if we decide to wipe out evil in all its forms, we would all have to be destroyed because we all have the capacity to choose evil.

Remember, too, that we know very little about what happens after death. Because we cannot know the depth of God's love anymore than we can know the heart of the person who died, or his future if he had lived a longer life.

A final consideration if we personify good (ie God), does it not follow that there may be forces of evil? The bible says yes; and the thousands of Satanic Churches, covens, etc. would agree. These forces, according to the bible, have subverted men's better instincts, until he has become what we now see - largely self-seeking, and all the rest. If God were to have left it at that we could cry "unfair" or accuse Him of some very short sighted planning. But He foresaw what would happen and gave us a way out of our sins, Jesus Christ, Son of God and the second person of the Holy Trinity, died on the cross for all men, past, present and future. So for all who freely chose to acknowledge what he did and who wish to be forgiven, can find the joy and peace that this forgiveness affords.

Alistair MacLeod appears at STU

St. Thomas University's Department of English is pleased to sponsor a reading by the noted Canadian short story writer, Alistair MacLeod. The reading will take place in the auditorium of Edmund Casey Hall, St. Thomas University, on Monday, November 13 at 8:15 p.m., and will be followed by a reception in the Faculty Lounge.

Alistair MacLeod has published one book, *The Lost Salt Gift of Blood* (McClelland and Stewart, 1976). This book includes tales which have appeared previously in *Fiddlehead*, *Tamarack Review*, *Stories from Atlantic Canada*, CBC radio's *Anthology*, and *Best American Short Stories* (1969 and 1975). He has also published poetry and prose in other Canadian and American magazines such as *The Atlantic Advocate*, *The Massachusetts Review*, and *The Southern Review*.

MacLeod's stories show characters caught between the traditional life of the Maritimes and the enticing big cities of central Canada. Reviews of *The Lost Salt Gift of Blood* praised his work for

its emotional strength free from sentimentality, for its powerful and authentic use of detail, and for MacLeod's obvious knowledge of the people and place he writes about. Critical appreciation has perhaps been summed up best by R.P. Bilan, writing in the *University of Toronto Quarterly's* annual review of Canadian fiction:

While intensely regional, these stories are in no sense merely regional for they centre on the relationships within families: fathers and sons, grandparents and grandchildren. This concern with a regional world and the family come together in MacLeod's best stories, but this subject matter by itself is less remarkable than the quality of MacLeod's prose and the emotional depth with which his characters are presented.

His prose calls attention to itself most obviously and is most successful, in the... passages in which he makes us truly see the physical settings of his stories.

This sense of setting and place is perhaps remarkable in the work of a writer who, like MacLeod, was

born in Saskatchewan and spent several years growing up in Alberta before his family moved to Inverness County, Nova Scotia, where both his parents were born. He was educated at Nova Scotia Teachers College, St. Francis Xavier, the University of New Brunswick, and Notre Dame University and has taught in a one-room school as well as at the Nova Scotia Teachers College, UNB, and Indiana University. Since 1969 he has been a professor of English and Creative Writing at the University of Windsor and is fiction editor of *The University of Windsor Review*.

NDP Views unemployment

Unemployment was a major topic at the UNB/NDP meeting held last Monday. Chairperson Randy Brodeur called unemployment a "grave situation" and emphasized the importance of a major unemployment campaign proposed at their previous meeting.

Further research concerning the proposed campaign was presented at the meeting. Official statistics dealing with such aspects as National unemployment percentages were brought forward in an attempt to allow members a better understanding of the present situation.

The establishment of verbal contracts with as many provincial Unions as possible, and the New Brunswick Federation of Labour, was suggested by Brodeur as an important step to take for the understanding and aid of organizations throughout the province. Brodeur added that various contacts have already been secured.

Faculty unionization was another major topic presented at the meeting. After a brief discussion regarding possible outcomes, a unanimous motion was passed, supporting the unionization of UNB teachers. A letter stating the UNB/NDP stand will be sent to the UNB teaching staff.

A final educational presentation on the subject of socialism was given by UNB/NDP member Harold Smith, with the purpose of enlightening those in attendance with his personal views of present-day socialism and some suggestions for an improved society.

drop into the shed

The WOOD SHED, formerly the "Sub-Terrain" will be reopening in the "Old Social Club", room 208 of the SUB, November 12, 1978 at 8:00 p.m.

The Wood Shed will be open each week Sunday through Wednesday 8:00 p.m. to 12:00 midnight.

Featured Sunday through Tuesday of this week will be Marc Lulham and Steve Peacock, two well-known local musicians and on Wednesday evening Bill Staines a folk musician from New Hampshire will be appearing.

Everyone is invited to drop in for a coffee and enjoy the music and atmosphere of the Wood Shed.

Chess club gets blitzed

By FRED MCKIM

The 1978 UNB Fall Open starts tonight at 8 p.m. in Room 103 - SUB.

This is the 4th Fall Open, previous years have been won by Neal Monkhouse (Saint John) - 1975; J.F. Pelletier (UNB Chess Club - Edmundston) - 1976; and Tom Gibson (UNB Chess Club - Moncton) - 1977.

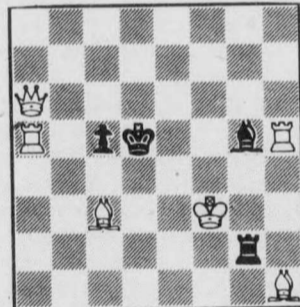
In addition to winning this event last year Tom has also won the 1977 and 78 UNB Winter Opens. In those three events he has compiled a record of 13 wins, 5 draws and 0 losses.

His main competition will come from Robert Hamilton who in my opinion will this time prove to be too much for the Duck (T.G.) and will verify his claim that he is N.B.'s best player.

I am expecting a turnout of about 40 players so if you are not doing anything tonight come on up and play or just watch.

PROVINCIAL NEWS — The Edmundston Open was won by Rejean Castonguay of Riviere-de-Loup, P.Q. Second place went to Michel Pedneant of Cabano, P.Q. A total of 11 participated.

CLUB NEWS — The game of Blitz is chess played extremely fast. Chess clocks are used and each player is given 5 minutes to make all his moves. If you use over 5 minutes a flag built into the clock



drops and you lose the game.

A lot of people consider Blitz to be a crazy game, however most of the great players throughout the world play it and it is perhaps the best way for a serious player to relax and try out new ideas.

This past Tuesday night we had a blitz tournament at the club. Top ranked Robert Hamilton was upset 3 times letting Tom Gibson take 1st place. Final Standings 1. T. Gibson - 7 (out of 7!), 2. F. McKim - 6, 3-4 R. Hamilton, N. Jewett - 4, 5. J. Fryer - 2 1/2, 6. P. Brunet - 2, 7. M. Shaio - 1 1/2, 8. B. Spinney - 1. Chess problem White to play and mate in 2 solution to last weeks problem

1. P-B4 (threatening PxN equals N mate)

1... P-B4 2. Q-K1 mate

1... N-N2 2. P-B8 equals Q mate

1... N-B3 2. R-Q6 mate

1... BxP 2. NxB mate

1... Q moves white mates with one of the above.

Composed by K.S. Howard, 1935.

"NEW BRUNSWICK INVITATIONAL SQUASH TOURNAMENT"

Hosted By:
FREDERICTON/UNB SQUASH CLUB
November 17, 18, & 19, 1978
at
Lady Beaverbrook Gymnasium
University of New Brunswick

Floor Hockey: Organizational meeting
Tuesday, November 15, 7:15 p.m. Room 207
at the L.B. Gym.