

The New Morality

Precis of a talk by Prof. Neil MacGill

The 'New Morality' holds that love, in the sense of 'personal concern', is the only ultimate value. It is plausible to suggest that the best world would be one in which all people displayed personal concern for each other, but some proponents of the New Morality seem to imply implausibly that all that is necessary to achieve this is to ensure that one's own motive is always one of personal concern.

The 'New Morality' is also a form of 'Situation' ethics. It advocates the use of moral principles as guides to action, but not as absolute laws. In a particular situation, personal concern may require that an exception be made to any principle. But this does not mean that, when an exception is made, the original principle can be left unaltered. Just as the laws of science are constantly modified to account for observed exceptions, so moral laws must always be adjusted to incorporate the insights which exceptional situations provide.

This modification of moral laws is not a new phenomenon; it only seems so because moral laws are usually changed by redefinition of the words, whose verbal form remaining unaltered. Murder is wrong, but perhaps euthanasia is not

murder. But although it is not new, there is a greater need today for careful examination of the moral law. It is not only moral insights that are enshrined in our moral principles, but also factual beliefs about the consequences of our actions. The rate of advance both of the social sciences and of chemistry and medicine means that moral principles can no longer be left to evolve gradually. They must be adjusted carefully but explicitly to the newly discovered facts.

For those in charge of university residences the implications are twofold; they must ensure that the principles on which the residences are run are based on a full awareness of the actual consequences of applying such principles; and they must also recognize that the aim of moral education today must be to provide men and women with the skills they need to build their own personal morality on a sure foundation of fact.

"The young bring the sword of integrity to the issues of morality. Our duty is to help them to temper it with reason, and so forge a weapon that will not break under all the trials of life and death."

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT CHRISTMAS?

This most widely observed holiday of modern times is not the oldest of Christian festivals. December 25 was made a church feast about A.D. 336.

Various historians have set the time of the actual birth of Jesus to dates corresponding to our present January 6, March 25, May 20, April 19 or 20, November 17, etc. Christmas has been celebrated on more than one hundred different days of the year.

Adoption of December 25 was favored in the early church because it corresponded to the Roman Saturnalia, or celebration of the winter solstice. Its establishment assisted in conversion of the pagan festival into a Christian occasion.

Pope Gregory I, surnamed the Great, enjoined missionaries not to destroy such pagan customs as were innocent and could be woven into the fabric of Christian ceremony. Romans practiced exchanging gifts at the Saturnalia. Pagans decked their halls with evergreens, holly and mistletoe.

The traditional figure known as Santa Claus, Father Christmas, or Kris Kringle, among various peoples, is traced back to Nicholas, the son of a merchant named Epiphaneus, in the town of Patara, near the port of Myra on the Mediterranean. Nicholas entered the church and became bishop of Myra in the fourth century, and a notable public benefactor.

He personified the Christian injunction, "It is more blessed to give than to receive", to an unusual extent in an age when the biggest robber was the king.

His fame spread till he became established in European hearts as special protector of children, travelers, and merchants, presenting gifts to people while they slept.

By the fifteenth century it was the general custom in the Netherlands to present gifts on the eve of St. Nicholas' Day. Dutch colonists in America carried the custom overseas.

Settlers who followed the Dutch into the Hudson River were infected by the jolly good time the Dutch had each December. They adopted the December 6 gift tradition and Sant Nikolaas became our Santa Claus.

Carnival Entertainment Signed - Only Eight Weeks Away

It is difficult to realize that the UNB-STU Winter Carnival (third annual), opens with a blaze of fireworks just eight weeks from tonight.

The questionnaire which was completed by many students last spring, has resulted in many new events and innovations to the Carnival format. More student participation will be encouraged by such events as the co-educational snow football game, tug-of-wars, skating, skiing, and a Moosehunt. Steaming hot cider todays will be served during these outdoor events to help the circulation. Following the UNB-STU hockey game on Saturday afternoon pass holders will be invited to participate in an event which will attempt to be both physically and intellectually stimulating, called the "In Thing".

Replacing the traditional formal, the "The Storyland Masquerade", is shaping up into an exciting new event. The fifteen piece Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra will be featured and many valuable prizes are being offered as incentives to improve the calibre of the costumes. For those attending in formal wear, masks will be available at the door.

In the words of Stan Rust, this year's Chairman, "It should be a blast!"

TOMMY JAMES AND THE SHONDELLS

Among the many groups appearing at the UNB-STU Winter Carnival, Feb. 1, 2 and 3, will be Tommy James and the Shondells. The record that brought them notice was "Hanky Panky" and they currently have a fast rising hit on the charts, "Out of the Blue".

From the Pittsburg area, the Shondells write all their own arrangements. Their versatility is reinforced by the various instruments that they play. Tommy James and the Shondells is made up of Ron Rossman, piano and organ; Mike Vale, bass; George Magura, tenor sax, piano, bass and vibes; Vinnie Pietropaoli, drums, clarinet and sax; Joe Kessler, lead guitar; and of course, Tommy James, vocalist.

THE TOYS

One of the distinguishing features of any UNB-STU Winter Carnival should be variety. This will be highly emphasized with the performance of The Toys - a group of three very

attractive and talented young ladies in the Motown tradition.

THE UGLY DUCKLINGS L'EQUIPE 79

For those who aren't inclined towards the more formal stylings of Dorsey, this year's Carnival will feature two well known Canadian psychedelic-rock groups - The Ugly Ducklings from Toronto and L'Equipe 79 from Quebec.

Both French and English students will be highly entertained by the contrasts of these two groups. The Ugly Ducklings and L'Equipe 79 are the trend-setters in their respective areas. Together at Carnival they represent the best of the "Canadian sound".

THE BLUES MAGOOS

The Blues Magoos represent the biggest single departure of conventional music form today. They have been described as "an electrical storm", "the shotgun marriage of Pop Art and Looney Tunes". In short, they are the front runners in the "psychedelic" race.

The Blues Magoos first gained recognition with their hit, "(We Ain't Got) Nothin' Yet", and quickly followed with "There's a Chance We Can Make It".

Without music, the Blues Magoos are great. With music, they are fantastic. With their lights they achieve "out" effects of color and form. Their huge Lava Lites, filled with red lava and clear fluids, on opposite ends of the stage, make The Blues Magoos a "must" see 'group'.

THE LEFT BANKE

The Left Banke is one of the new exciting groups experimenting with differing styles of music. Their attempts in recent months in new styles have led to many innovations - featured in "Pretty Ballerina" and "Walk Away Renee" - both highly successful pop tunes. Their great new hit is, of course, "Desiree".

Much of The Left Banke's success can be attributed to their "new sound". Many of the discs feature piano, harpsicord and clavichord - instruments usually associated more with the baroque style. But then this is what makes The Left Banke so successful.



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