

THIS WEEK AND NEXT

by Ray Argyle



The New Morality

Conventional standards of morality are under almost continuous attack. But it seemed, for a few days last week, as if the winds of change had suddenly taken on gale-force strength.

While fashion designers unveiled a "nude look" for women's clothes — complete with cut-outs, bare midriffs and ever-shorter skirts — there were other more significant but less noticed breaks in accepted moral standards.

In Canada, a church magazine declared that unmarried mothers may soon be keeping their babies. A teen-age girl told a national TV audience, "You make your own rules" in sexual behavior. Actors in Toronto put on a play about homosexuality. And churchmen talked openly about something called "Christian atheism" while proponents of the "God is dead" school of religion stirred a storm in pulpits across the land.

To many, the increasing permissiveness in personal behavior and the mounting questioning of Christian dogma are signs of erosion and decay that will bring the Western world to an appalling level of decadence.

In every field — books, movies, television and advertising — a flood of sexuality seemed to bear society's stamp of approval for a new age of morality. The pregnant bride was outnumbering the virgin bride, according to some church ministers.

The apparent universal preoccupation with sex could be seen in such instances as the recent move by a group of University of Toronto students to dispense birth control information on the campus.

"Canada has absolutely the most hypocritical attitude to birth control in the world," a spokesman said. Dissemination of birth control information and contraceptives is outlawed by the Criminal Code of Canada.

The revolt against such obvious hypocrisy may, according to some sociologists, be actually a sign of a new and more honest morality. There is much evidence that personal sexual behavior actually has not changed greatly in North America in the past 30 years. The difference is that most people today frankly accept certain patterns of behavior which a generation ago were hushed up — but nonetheless prevalent.

If this be the case, a strong argument can be made for the New Morality as far preferable to the guilt-ridden, complex-inducing twisted standards of the recent Victorian age.

The New Morality, according to this interpretation, does not really basically change society's reliance on the family and on marital fidelity as the foundation of Western civilization.

It may, however, bring a new objectivity and a new personal freedom, leaving citizens free to work out their own behavior patterns, while still restricting practices recognized as detrimental to society as a whole.

This would explain the mounting public demand for more liberal divorce and abortion laws. Advocates of change in these fields argue that to lock people into hopelessly tragic marriages, or to force a rape victim to bear the child of her assailant, are in themselves acts of extreme immorality.

Whatever moral standards a society adopts are usually influenced by its science and technology. Primitive tribes permit polygamy because their society has no place for excess females. People in over-populated lands produce large families because they look on their children's labor as essential to their security.

Thus in our society, the birth control pill has already wrought a change at least in public attitude toward sex, if not in actual practice. And we have a mixed-up generation, trying to find new standards, unsure of what will finally prevail.

Ironically, during the past 10 years the number of illegitimate births have jumped 50 per cent. in Canada — at a time when birth control measures were more readily available than ever before. And according to a new survey by the United and Anglican churches, the majority of unmarried mothers were "nice girls" who just didn't know anything about birth control.

The essence of the New Morality would seem to be that an honest approach to sex — backed up by factual knowledge — offers hopes of a higher morality than the old standards which often brought tragic consequences as a result.

CANDY STRIPERS (Continued from page 7)

a bit we can see that, in some aspects at least, they are alike. Both groups are setting an example for the rest of society. Both are attracting attention. They differ in the type of example they set, and in the type of attention they attract.

Only through the combined efforts of all groups of society can such gangs as Hell's Angels be abolished, and such groups as the Candy Stripers be expanded.

SKI CLUB RACES (Continued from page 1)
at 2:00 P.M. — Intermediate Girls (12 to 15 years)
Intermediate Boys (12 to 15) — Senior Ladies (16 and over) and Senior Men (16 and over).

Register at the Clubhouse. Registration closes on Friday, March 4th at 10:00 P.M.

During the races there will be pleasure skiing as usual on Horseshoe and Rabbit runs.

ART COURSE (Continued from page 1)

The N.W.O.A.A. is composed of fourteen member groups and divided into 6 areas. Manitouwadge, Marathon, Schreiber and Terrace Bay are in the first area. Mrs. Sadie Gaulin is N.W.O.A.A. director, representing the clubs in this area.

In approximately two weeks Mr. Page will have covered many miles. Leaving Terrace Bay he goes to Red Rock, the Lakehead, Fort Frances and Red Lake, conducting a workshop in each place. Then on to Winnipeg from where he flies to Toronto, completing the circuit.

Prior to this the N.W.O.A.A. conducted courses in the Lakehead and Quetico which were to serve the entire Northwest. Now, rather than the student going to the course, the course is brought to the student. This is the first of four such art teaching tours planned.

Attending from Marathon were Mesdames Rumsby, Rail, McDonald, Wagner, Reed, Gee and Lieben. From Red Rock, Mrs. L. Brown, and from Terrace Bay were Mesdames Boyd, Ferguson, Briscoe, Battershell, Ferrier, Gaulin, McDonald and Miss B. Rapke.

NURSES GROUP HOLD SUCCESSFUL CARD PARTY

A successful Bridge and Cribbage night was held on Wednesday in the High School Auditorium by the Terrace Bay Nurses. Lucky recipient of the door prize was Mrs. Floyd Liebrock of Terrace Bay.

Winners in Bridge were:— Ladies first, Mrs. Marjorie Anderson and Consolation Mrs. Alice Farrow. Men's first — Butch Pattysen and consolation Ed. Kennedy. Cribbage prizes went to Mrs. Phyl Boutilier, first — and Olga Papineau, consolation. Mr. P. Plummer got men's first and L. Hiebert won the consolation prize.

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