

Oregon Daily EMERALD

College Morals—A Series

Petting--One of a Few Appreciable Changes

This is the fifth in a series of articles on the college students of 1950—their outlook on life, their moral codes and behavior, their changing standards. The series originally ran in the New York Post.

By Max Lerner

It may surprise some people to know that young people in college lead a relatively restricted sexual life. The figures in the Kinsey volume, based on extended case interviews with 8,500 men and 8,000 women, show this fact to be true beyond any reasonable doubt. Kinsey has thus far refused to give any summary figures about the women, until his next volume appears. But the figures on the males show that, when compared with the same age-groups on the high-school and grade-school level, college boys are far from leading the wild

and Bacchanalian lives that are so often attributed to them.

The important fact about the college population, both for the boys and girls, is that they are constantly aware of the moral code, even when breaking it. This does not mean that they are able to live like saints and ascetics until marriage legalizes a full sexual life. The repeated point that the Kinsey volume makes is that the biological impulses may be dammed up at one end only to burst out at the other.

The young people on the college level have found a way relatively to the other groups—of staying technically within the moral code, of salving their conscience to some extent, of not jeopardizing the prestige of the girls in the group in which they will eventually marry, and at the same time of getting sexual release.

The most important form of

such release—not statistically, but in the attention it gets from commentators on college morals, and from students themselves—is petting. Its importance must be found, as Kinsey puts it, not in quantitative terms, but "as a means of education toward the making of socio-sexual adjustments." And he adds that "petting as a source of outlet has acquired vogue only in more recent decades."

One of the notable facts about petting is that it represents one of the few respects in which sexual behavior seems to have changed appreciably from the generation of the mid-nineteen-twenties to the present one. In spite of world wars and tensions, economic depressions, periods of moral disillusionment and of actual crusade, the pattern of actual behavior seems to stay pretty much the same from one generation to another. But there are a few shifts of emphasis, of which the greater frequency of petting-to-climax is one.

Such is some of the factual material. What its meaning for the students and for us may be is quite another matter. The question of meaning is one on which no two psychiatrists are likely to agree with each other, and neither of them is likely to agree with whatever implications Kinsey draws from his own material.

I think it is dangerous to conclude that the sexual life of the college student is a badly frustrated one. In an essay on "Sex on the Campus," Prof. G. M. Gilbert of Princeton writes: "The bulk of the nation's leadership in all fields today comes from the rank of the college population, but society seems to demand prolonged sexual frustration as the price of training for such leadership." Prof. Gilbert goes on to suggest as a solution the encouragement of early marriages while the students are still in college.

I doubt strongly both the conclusion and the solution. One can be frustrated just as much from later unhappiness from a choice of mates made too early as from a period of experiment and adjustment while waiting for a career and marriage. Nor do I find

Sincerely,
Richard Laing

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It Could Happen Here

Ten thousand tons of TNT ripped open the Bonneville Dam yesterday.

Students at the University of Oregon started a mass pilgrimage homeward, leaving the campus largely deserted . . .

A stray blockbuster put a large cavity in the Eugene airport, dropped there by Soviet bombers that swung southward.

The spanking new two million dollar Student Union building at the University (it's now closed) becomes a hospital ward.

A communique from Military Headquarters (it's the old faculty club, asks everyone to remain calm.

Industrial Portland gets a pasting from Naval launched aircraft—and University dorms and fraternities and sororities open up their doors to wandering evacuees.

No, all this isn't exactly science fiction or pseudo make-believe. It's a straight-forward indication of what the University of Oregon may face in the event of war.

Dean Sidney W. Little, coordinator of campus civilian defense, says the UO will be able to assume its war-time duties on 24 hours notice, after the end of this month.

Little says that if a bomb were dropped in the Northwest, or even possibly the country—the UO would immediately become a defense service. Classroom work would be either suspended or greatly modified, unless you were a pre-flight student.

This is grim stuff. Maybe you believe its unnecessary, or maybe you feel things have been moving too slow as it is.

The realities of war have not hit citizens living here in this country and on this campus yet.

But we're getting a taste of it—just in case.—T.K.

Does Oregon Need NAACP?

Is a campus organization of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People needed on the Oregon campus?

That question was weighed last week at a meeting of a dozen or so students, some of them members of the NAACP on the campus last year. The '49-50 group died because of internal dissension, graduation of members, and general apathy on the part of both colored and white students.

The four or five remaining members are considering re-organization. Several oppose it, several strongly favor NAACP at Oregon.

Opposition to revival has the strongest case. A colored student who is charter-holder of the old organization strongly believes that the 17 or 18 Negro students on the campus are not interested in NAACP here.

As colored students, they have no grievances against the administration. The discrimination they face comes from individual students, but tolerance cannot be legislated. No NAACP can erase a mental set or 20 some years of background which says "you're superior to the black and yellow people."

This lack of interest by the colored students and absence of immediate problems on the campus stands strong against re-organization of NAACP.

However, educational work could be done, several students argue. And those favoring NAACP here say there are projects such as establishment of a course on history of the Negro, hiring of a colored professor at Oregon, organized movements against discriminatory clauses in fraternity and sorority charters.

Anyway, there was enough disagreement within the meeting of the 12 students to warrant a test of all-campus interest in NAACP. They decided to hold an open meeting (definite time and place will be announced soon) to find out how many Webfoots are interested.

NAACP will plead its case there.

THE DAILY 'E' . . .

to the Student Affairs committee for postponing action on whether to discontinue desserts until all ramifications of the question are studied. Student opinion was truly considered.

THE OREGON LEMON . . .

to students who don't call the Oregana office if their name is misspelled or omitted from the Pigger's Guide. May they boil in their gripes when the Oregana comes out with incorrect names.

Letters The Campus Answers

Nothing Controversial
Emerald Editor:

I have followed your editorial page and your editorial policy with deep interest in the past three years, and now I have read a statement which gives The Oregon Lemon to "far right Republicans who have kept Oregon's Wayne Morse off the Senate foreign relations committee."

My political views are of no consequence in this letter, nor am I ignorant of the fact that it is quite correct to write personal views on controversial subjects on an editorial page of a private newspaper.

However I believe that you have no right to taint our newspaper with your political beliefs. I believe that you have done this by implying that to be a far right Republican is wrong and that such men are bad for our country.

In most newspapers the staff derives this opinion-giving right through private ownership, thus making the opinions not official but personal. This is quite understandable. But here at Oregon you are not working for a small group of private individuals but, in effect, us—the students at the University of Oregon. You are using our organ to print your views on important subjects in which there are great varieties of opinions. As I see it, the function of your page is to inform and to write opinions on which there is no, or little, serious controversy.

William A. Mansfield

Just Deserts
Emerald Editor:

The current moans and groans against the oppression of supervision of student affairs is just a little late to receive any real sympathy. We are now burdened daily with elaborate complaints against the administration, the state liquor commission, and anyone else who has curtailed some of the "rights" of the students. These complaints would be truly justified if the student body was composed of adults. Such is far from the case.

Let's go back a little. Remember the beginning of last fall term? As far as beer drinking goes, things were wide open. Student conduct certainly did not tend toward moderation. The fiascos of Homecoming and the Freshman bonfire did nothing to endear us to the hearts of the ad-

ministration or the people of the state (and we musn't forget, this is a state institution) There were many more lesser known instances of trouble, usually to minors, where beer or other liquor was involved. Even at this time, the administration was willing to let the students handle the problem. Meetings were held and discussions with student leaders were long and verbose, but the plan failed. Why? Because the students refused to accept responsibility for their own actions. Any amount of privilege entails a certain amount of responsibility. If you refuse the latter, why should you have the former?

On the other hand, if there is a sincere desire on the part of the student body to do something constructive and stop griping at the inevitable consequences of their actions, they should cease blowing off steam, roll up their collective sleeves, and go to work and prove they mean it.

But, it's far more easier just to complain and I strongly suspect this is where the matter will end.

It Could Be Oregon



"Now let 'em try dribblin' all th' way down th' court!"