

A Generation Seeks Deep Roots

(Continued from page two)
don't believe that the maturing of a personality depends equally upon it. In one important realm of the personality—that of the sexual impulses and behavior—we leave the development of the adolescent almost completely to chance and blunder, and the grapevine of smutty stories exchanged between boys are the giggling whisperings of girls.

* * *

The job of sex education in the school and home is being done with a dismal inadequacy. I have seen one questionnaire in which a group of students were asked whether the American parents do a good job of preparing youth for meeting adult problems. A few answered Yes, some said they do the best they can according to their ability and their lights, but a distressing number said No. I found bitterness in the answers, little disillusionment and little rebellion, but simply the recognition that the job has been somehow muffed—that there is not enough guidance, nor enough effort to speak candidly about what the young people will face.

Time after time I found the students answering that their fathers had been too absorbed at the office and on the job, had been too distant and distracted, too busy supporting the family to do much about helping the child to grow up. As for the American mother, most of the burden is put on her shoulders, and while she struggles valiantly she is herself too tied down by fears, tabus, and sometimes sheer ignorance to do the job herself.

In the case of the school, there is a lack of adequately trained teachers to do the job of sex education. There is also the fact that in many cases the American community has left the teaching job to those who have themselves led sexually frustrated lives, in most cases spinsters.

The Kinsey volume points out the fact that the adolescent boy of 15, 16 or 17, at the height of his sexual activity, finds himself in a classroom where the teacher has a wholly different sexual experience and a different structure of impulse. Under these circumstances, the job of sex education is bound to be done badly.

The college situation is not much better. In the big state universities, which are monster rallies of students and teachers running sometimes into the ten thousands, the student feels lost. The classes in most colleges are impersonal, the subjects studied seem only distantly related—if at all—to the real concerns of a boy or girl developing into a young adult.

Sometimes the student will stumble upon a teacher willing to talk about the problems the student has to tussle with, and the decisions he has to make. But this is rare. State universities are watched over by the legislatures and Boards of Regents. Other colleges are watched over by Boards of Trustees. In either case the need for funds is great, and few colleges have thus far been willing to take the "public relations" risk of focusing their educational program on human growth and development, including the sexual as well as the social and moral realistics.

* * *

We are living in what may be called a moral interregnum. An interregnum is the period between the death of an old king and the coming of a new one to the throne. Similarly the old moral codes are no longer the operative ones, but the new ones have not yet been formulated. The college generation is doing its best, with whatever help and guidance it can get, to shape new ones. But it is a slow process, and a difficult one, and there are casualties in the form of twisted and wrecked lives along the way.

The first thing to remember about this search is that there is no hope or prospect of getting back to the old moral condemnation of sexuality. The students know too much about the life to believe that it can be instinctual

wholly suppressed, or wholly postponed until it can be given some kind of expression within the bounds of convention.

Everything we know about the actual behavior of young people, not only in this generation but in the one before it and no doubt the one before that, shows that when you try to dam up the strong human drives, they break out at unexpected points. We do live, at least in part, in a natural universe. And no moral codes still to be shaped can afford to ignore that fact.

* * *

But it is also true that moral relativism, which says that you can go shopping for moral values at will and buy those that suit your fancy, is equally impossible as a guide to conduct. A whole generation has tried it and found it wanting, and the young people of today have a sure sense of its bleakness.

They know there is a moral universe which applies not just at one time or one culture or one person, but to the human personality in itself. This does not mean that the same moral rules will fit all cultures equally well. But it does mean that there are things which all men and societies have in common.

We are just beginning to learn about the relation between sexual expression and the needs of the total personality. I have found a growing awareness among students that what they want is a depth of relationship, a chance to respect the other person as well as themselves. They want a morality in which they don't use others and are not themselves used. Ultimately they want a meaningful love, and the chance to raise a family and to bring up children (they are talking more and more in terms of large families, not small ones), and some rootedness in a community.

They want a life which is productive in its terms and not simply in terms of what other people think, and a relation between husband and wife in which both of them keep growing.

These are vague when students talk about them and sometimes they can't put it into words, but nonetheless there is a deadly earnestness about them when they do. For they are talking about the relation of morals to the deepest life-purposes of the person and the culture.

Which is what morals should be about.

Delinquency Talk Set by Christian House

Juvenile delinquency will be discussed by Dr. John G. Kilpack at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Christian House.

Kilpack is director of Juvenile Protection and Rehabilitation for the Oregon Council of Churches. Before working for the Council of Churches, Kilpack was with the Portland city schools for 20 years.

Release And Indemnity Agreement For Minor

Permission is given herewith voluntarily to my son (daughter) _____

..... to make a donation of blood to the AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS, to be used in any manner it deems advisable, and for that purpose may, at his or her own risk, submit to the tests, examinations and procedures necessary and customary in connection with donations of blood. The undersigned parent and minor agree that neither the AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS, nor any surgeons, physicians, technicians, nurses, agents officers or employees connected with any of them or who may be participating otherwise in connection with the operation of the AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS BLOOD CENTER, shall be in any way responsible for any consequences to the minor named herein from the giving of such blood, or from any of the tests, examinations or procedures incident thereto, and the undersigned do jointly and severally hereby release and discharge each and all of the above named individuals and the AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS from any and all claims and demands whatsoever which we, or either of us, have or may have against them, or any of them, by reason of any matter relative or incidental to such donation of blood.

The undersigned parent, in consideration of the premises, does hereby covenant with any of the individuals named hereinabove who are in any way connected with the operation and supervision of the Blood Center operated by the American National Red Cross, and the AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS, that the undersigned parent will at all times hereafter indemnify each and all of said individuals and the AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS against all claims, demands, damages, suits or actions which may be brought or made against said individuals or any of them on account of the donation of blood authorized herein.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and seal this day of

....., 19..... In the presence of:

..... (SEAL)
Parent

..... (SEAL)
Minor

Medical School Gets Contract

The University of Oregon medical school is one of the six colleges in the Northwest granted a research contract by the Atomic Energy Commission.

The AEC announced that 16 new research contracts were signed during 1950 with the following schools: Washington State College, University of Washington, Oregon State College, Reed College, University of Wyoming, and the U. of O. medical school.

The new projects involve commitments of \$115,706 by the AEC and raise the total under 31 old and new contracts with universities and colleges to \$792,661.

Play Cast Meeting Scheduled Tonight

An organizational meeting of the cast of "Goodbye My Fancy," University Theater production scheduled to open Mar. 2, will be held at 7:30 tonight in 104 Villard.

Director Ottlie Seybolt requests that all people who tried out for the show check the tentative cast-list posted on the bulletin board outside 216 Villard.

Mrs. Seybolt reports that tryouts are still open for two parts, that of the principal men's role, a college professor, and the remaining female part. The latter role is a plump, middle-aged, slightly fluttery woman, says Mrs. Seybolt.

SU Committee Petitions Due Now

Petitions for 69 openings on seven Student Union standing committees are being accepted until 1 p.m. Tuesday in either the program director's office in the SU or by Bill Carey, chairman of the interview and referral committee.

Committees needing new members are concert, dance, movie, workshop, publicity, house, and cultural.

Petitions may be obtained in the program director's third floor office. Grade eligibility certificates are available in the Office of Student Affairs.

CAMPUS CALENDAR

9 a.m.-5 p.m.—Ore. Assn. of City Police, 315 SU
12 noon—Architecture School, 112 SU
12:30 p.m.—Police luncheon, 113 SU
4 p.m.—Panhellenic, 213 SU Foreign students, 110-111 SU
Pi Delta Phi, 112 SU
7 p.m.—Phi Mu Alpha, 334 SU City Panhellenic, 113 SU
7:30 p.m.—ASUO Executive Council, 337 SU



SECRETARY OF DEFENSE George Marshall and Assistant Secretary Anna Rosenberg appear before the Senate Armed Services Committee in Washington as Marshall urged the draft of 18-year-olds for 27 months' service to build up the nation's fighting forces. (AP WIREPHOTO)

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