

ST PAT DISPLAY HAS LUCK

Since morality seems to be a concern of at least some students attending U.P.E.I., I am presenting a few of my views on the issue.

First of all, morality deals with what is right and what is wrong. Because we U.P.E.I. students are rational beings, we are morally responsible for our actions and have an obligation to act in accord with moral principles that are valid. What these principles are exactly is quite impossible to state in this article, and to deduce from these principles rules of conduct would seem to be an impossible task, for it would involve a discussion of man's origin. Nevertheless, we all act on some moral principles that must meet one criterion before they can be accepted as moral principles - that is, "they must be rationally justified".

A principle stated: "We must not kill professors for keeping us late in class" would escape the need for immediate justification simply because we all realize that to violate this principle would be wrong. There is a large number of principles that are not nearly as simple to decide whether they are right or wrong, such as the principle, "pre-marital sex is right", or "premarital sex is wrong". A principle that deals with controversial issues must be reflected upon and studied for some time before an honest answer can be given to the question, "Is it right or is it wrong?" If a person denies that issues such as premarital sex, the use of contraceptives in general, or even abortion are issues in need of more consideration, they are simply kidding themselves. In fact, these above-mentioned issues are probably the hottest contemporary issues that concern students. If a person makes a decision on whether or not he will practise any of the above stated issues, he is making a moral decision. If a person makes this decision without properly justifying it, he is unaware whether the decision he has made

is the right one. This person is deciding only what he wants and is acting not only contrary to reason but frequently in a selfish manner. This slackness in moral thinking is a result of a slackness in character in general. The pressures of peers, university environment and society can cause people to abandon moral thinking, and this is evident all around us. We are inclined to follow the crowd, but it is good to remember that even if everyone in the world begins to adopt the principle, "kill without reason", it is wrong. It is due time that we slowed down in our day to day lives, taking a rest from the hustle and bustle common to the "technological" age and start asking ourselves some basic questions about the way we live and the moral problems that we come in contact with.

I would now like to deal with the much raised questions concerning the use of prophylactics by students. The underlying notion of pre-marital sex is the real issue of concern, of course, so all married students can breathe a deep sigh. First of all, I would like to address myself to the anonymous writer of a previous issue of the SUN feeling free to direct himself/herself to the Southport C.W.L. on behalf of all students. I, along with many others, did not share his (or her) views in the least, however, and I feel the writer was not fair in saying "we students of U.P.E.I." Anyhow, this is not my main criticism of your letter. In your letter you said, "We are open-minded people here at U.P.E.I. and we don't

need you, or your league, to make our moral value judgements for us." Now all along I believed that we were in fact open-minded at U.P.E.I., but after reading your article I know there is at least one person here who isn't. You have no right to act on behalf of all students to shun comments from the C.W.L. of Southport the way you did. Also you are wrong in saying that the C.W.L. are making any moral value judgements for us, for although their thoughts on the issue may seem a bit forceful, each individual must (in the end) decide for himself (or herself) where they stand on the issue in respect to the real meaning of life. In view of this fact, anything anyone has to say about a moral issue should be listened to tentatively; and who knows, we may even learn something!

Immediately after the above-quoted statement you say, "Open your eyes and maybe you might see that you are no longer living in a society hung up on nineteenth century morality." This statement says a lot about nothing! I don't know what you mean by "nineteenth century morality". I would like to remind the writer of this article (and the readers) that morality is basically universal in time and place and is not something that changes with the tide. If a moral principle can be rationally justified, it stands justified for all time. It is true that conditions arise that were not previously present that demand modifications to be made in the application of some moral principles,

but in general, morals do not change and one is to be extremely cautious when determining whether or not conditions of the times are enough to cause change in the application of a moral principle. My last criticism of your article concerns your position on premarital sex. In view of your article it appears that you think premarital sex is morally permissible. If this is so, I am dying to see your justification for believing so. If you have a valid justification, it will be the first one I have seen with regard to this position that is so.

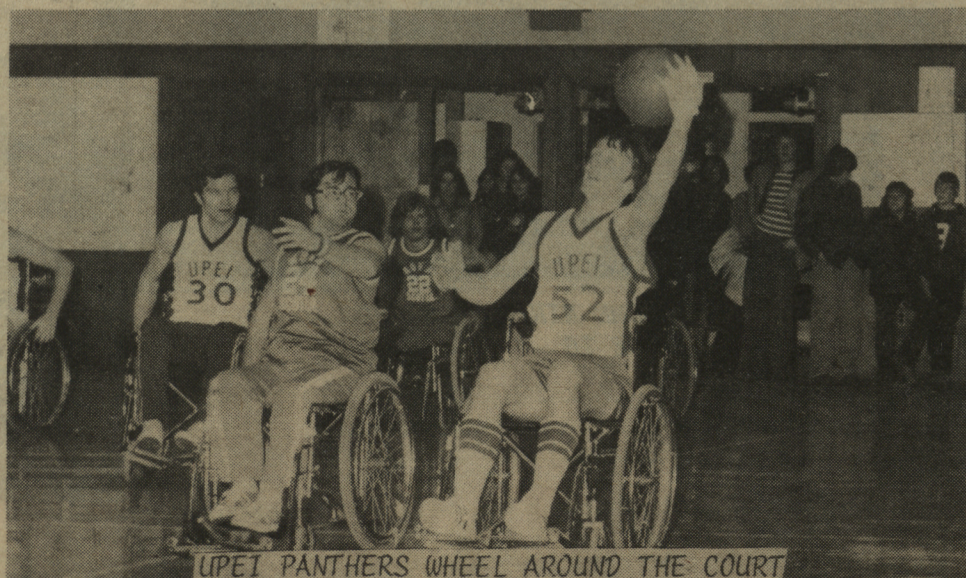
I will refrain from commenting on whether or not premarital sex is morally permissible, for this is a subject that each person can resolve if he truly wishes to find out the truth of the matter, and this article is hardly the place for an inquiry into the problem.

I do have one belief concerning the advertising of prophylactics in the SUN, being "they should not be!" My reason for this belief is simple. The advertising is propagandist in nature. It implies (at least suggests) that it is a common morally permissible act to have premarital sex. I do not agree with this type of advertising. The ads serve no useful purpose, for I am convinced that any persons engaging in premarital sex have already taken the necessary precautions.

In concluding, I would like to say that I think the C.W.L. of Southport was treated much too harshly by several writers of "letters to the editor". Whether you like it or not, some people (namely the Catholics on campus) were interested in what the Southport C.W.L. had to say about the matter.

Finally, I would like to remind one and all several points of importance I have already mentioned. We are responsible as rational human beings to act morally and we have an obligation to determine what courses of action are moral - and above all: Don't kid yourself! Be honest to your powers of reason!

Kevin Arsenault



UPEI PANTHERS WHEEL AROUND THE COURT