

ALCIPHRO

WHO IS IN THE "CAVE"?

Philosophy Senior: "There is only one person in the world, and that is every person in the world. In his world there are others and, he too, is in their world. I am part of your world, and you are part of mine. I am not part of the universe — the universe is part of me. You are part of the universe for me; ie. you are contained in that universe which is part of me. I am part of that universe which is part of you. You are therefore part of me and I am part of you. The difference between your universe and my universe is that I am in your universe and you are in mine. I am not in mine and you are not in yours; because your universe does not contain you, you contain it. It is similar with me ie. my universe does not contain me — I contain it. There is a universe for every person, but he does not exist in his universe; he can only exist in others, who, in turn, can only exist in his. And this is true of all people".

Philosophy Freshman: "I fail to see why an individual can not be part of his own universe. Explain."

Senior: "Consider, if you did not exist, would your universe exist?"

Freshman: "No. I guess it would not."

Senior: "The existence of your universe is dependent upon your existence?"

Freshman: "It is according to your argument."

Responsibility?

The four panelists had just finished their interesting, if rather formal, monologues. Now it was time for discussion. The chairman asked for questions from the audience. A prolonged silence followed. Finally she directed a question to one panelist herself, and was given an appropriate answer. Another period of silence. No questions, no participation — no reaction at all! The discussion, entitled "Responsibility", and intended to examine

Senior: "Therefore, for your universe to exist you must exist. You are a necessary condition for the existence of your universe, and the opposite is not true."

Freshman: "Explain why."

Senior: "Why aren't you listening?! The answer simply is, if your existence were dependent upon the existence of your universe which is dependent upon YOUR EXISTENCE; then your existence would not be possible, nor would the existence of your universe be possible simply because you would not exist to maintain the existence of your universe in which you think might maintain your existence, and of course, that is absurd."

Freshman: "It seems you are making of yourself a god!"

Senior: "But, aren't we all?"

Freshman: "I think not! Perhaps, eventually we may become "as gods", as you put it, but to-day we are mortal men; a reality which may seem repugnant to you, but a reality nevertheless."

Senior: "Let me tell you my skeptical friend, that reality is NOT as we see it, although what we do see is real to us."

Freshman: "It's a matter of perception?"

Senior: "In a sense, yes, but it goes beyond that."

Freshman: "You are a visionary then?"

Senior: "No! A realist! But I see that what you believe reality to be compares in no way with mine. Are you familiar with Plato's analogy of the "Cave"?"

Freshman: "Is that where you perceive me to be?"

Senior: "I found you there!"

Freshman: "Then enlighten me if you can Oh Plato and lead me into the light of truth!"

Senior: "Your sarcasm, my unfortunate friend, serves only to confirm your status as being that of a cave-dweller."

Freshman: "And you, my friend, are alienated!"

Stan Dalton

the responsibility of women toward society, was going nowhere. The audience, a heavy concentration of females with a few males scattered here and there, didn't seem to care about the topic. Finally, some of the males in the crowd had to start the ball rolling, even though it meant assuming a "dominant" position in something created for the benefit of the female population. Now that action had been initiated, some of the female species began to get involved, even to the point of asking questions. As the evening progressed, the audience, with the assistance of the panel, eventually relaxed and the discussion flourished. Such topics as open residences, co-ed residences, women's role in society and woman's concept of herself were among those discussed and a free-wheel-

in exchange of ideas ensued. Unfortunately, by the time that the session ended, the majority of the audience consisted of males and off-campus females. It seems that many of the residents of Marian and Bernadine had decided for one reason or another that "responsibility had nothing to do with them. On the whole, the people who were involved in the seminar seemed to get something out of it, but, then, if they were responsible enough to participate in the first place, they were not the ones who could reap the most benefits from this program. The people who had the most to gain were not "responsible" enough to attend, or if they did attend, were not mature enough to benefit from it.

The topic next week is "Sex". It starts at 7 o'clock in Marion Hall Lounge. If you were "irresponsible", please — don't be "sexless"!

