

I SAY:

By J. C.

Considering that this is the last issue before the culmination of our academic endeavours and considering that we are all full of Christmassy spirits, it is necessary to satisfy all the spiritually minded beings on this campus with a comment on Christ, Santas, beer, neon, and poverty.

As of Dec. 2 we commenced to hang our Christianity on the light poles downtown, on our front porches, and in the next week or two on our marble altars. The business world deck their establishments with traditional "bough of holly" and frustrated Santas attempt to bring all the joy and splendor to their kiddies. Come "Day 25" it attains fulfillment as we sit righteously and hypocritically worshipping our Redeemer, nonetheless. We are really turned on!

If at no other time we don't forget, or if at no other time we are not Christian we really screw it at Xmas. We forget that there is a Vietnam; that there is a Biafra; that there is an American Negro; that there is an Indian. We are full of a blind aimless love, good for food and bad beer. When its all over our spirit has been flushed down our toilets or hauled away by our garbage collectors. So, brothers and sisters in Christ, look around you and discover that Santa is not the only big fat myth.

SEX — The greatest driving force.

A reflection on the world around me.

By G. H. Bobb

Today's youth are not a lost generation... the church is fifteen hundred years behind the times... sex is an art which can only be mastered by practice... money is far from being the root of all evil... politicians are greatly underpaid.

The church today is a sedentary organization; it is not giving its followers sufficiently a sense of spiritual values and it is becoming lost amidst its ceremonies, and pomp; and its tendency to point the finger of scorn at persons. The church preaches against wealth while she herself enters the rat-race to acquire. Doesn't she think that material wealth would be considered as "blessings of God" and that the only way to Spiritualism is materialism? My firm conviction is that the only way you can get a starving man to think spiritually is to first feed his belly.

For many years the church has been saying that money is the root of all evil. How can you claim this in one breath and in another ask for more collection? If material blessings were such an evil, then the church should meet in the fields instead of erecting million-dollar cathedrals.

ON TODAY'S YOUTH

Today's youth are the greatest, if only by virtue of the fact that progress is inevitable. Thousands of years ago Aristotle wrote that the youth of his day was disrespectful to elders, disorderly in conduct, and on the verge of the immoral. Since we are living in today and too often with yesterday's ideas, obviously every generation of youth is looked upon suspiciously by its elders, who are two or more generations behind in their thinking. Every generation of youth is restless but this is so because they have one foot in childhood and one in adulthood and daily the river between the two widens. Most youths do things merely with the object of creating an impression. At some stage in the evolution of everyone, however, there is an increasing awareness of himself. No longer does he consider himself to be part of the mass or mess, but as a distinct and separate entity.

ON SEX

The world will have to change its view on this all important subject of sex, since it is the

greatest single driving force in humanity. It has been said that over 70 per cent of the women of the Western World are either frigid or frustrated. Undoubtedly, this is not so because they were born this way. They were made that way by society, and by their parents who are more concerned with making sure that their children don't disgrace the family rather than building them into mature and exciting females, capable of expressing themselves completely, spiritually, mentally and physically.

Love-making is both an art and a science, and until it is practiced as any other art or science, one could not become efficient at it. When wives are inefficient lovers, their husbands find others who are more capable. Sex is here to stay. It's either we use its forces creatively, and make this a love-filled world, or these forces will destroy us.

All hatred, all envy, all fear occur because of a lack or absence of love. And since the greatest complete expression of love is sex which results from the movement of spirit within the mind, heart and body. It follows then that sex must be put in its right perspective and indulged in a clean and trained manner. Only then would we start to experience the Kingdom of Heaven in the only place it exists, right here on earth.

ON POLITICS

The reason why most politicians end up being dishonest is that the people make them that way. No politician is paid adequately enough and this factor leaves him wide open to corruption and bribery. It is in America, that in order to make sure you get an honest president, elect a rich one. The only way to keep a politician honest is to pay him such a good wage that he'd have too much to lose if he were to become dishonest.

In conclusion, I believe that man's future is here on earth and in spite of the fact that the church has stood still for the past fifteen hundred years, man should stop thinking of himself as a sinful creature of dust. He should start to understand himself as the all-powerful and all-knowing son of God; then he'll start to construct from within himself.

THE SMUG MINORITY: AN ANALYSIS

By Jim Dorsey

Editor's Note: The following is not a judgment of Mr. Berton's thesis, although judgment may lie implicit in Mr. Dorsey's literary tone and structure. It is intended to be an analytic presentation of Mr. Berton's thesis.

Mr. Berton in his book *THE SMUG MINORITY*, proposes that several contemporary social standards may be myths, and it is his intention to challenge them. In this text, he presents a sweeping survey of Canadian society, and sociological beliefs and patterns of activity. It appears, albeit not explicitly stated, that his only self-imposed limitation is to present no articulate vociferated conclusions or alternatives, but to opt for the Socratic method of intellectual animation.

His major thesis is that society today is "...in essence, a serf society run by a smug minority of well-entrenched overseers." This smug minority is a "...small, in-bred, establishment of business and political leaders who have a vested interest in maintaining the *STATUE QUO*." He ascribes the attribute of smugness to this minority because he concludes, believing all evidence points to this fact, that this minority of overseers honestly and sincerely believe that public planning is detrimental to society, and that all members of society or possessed of freedom. Mr. Berton maintains that the smug minority, in their search for Mammon's cave, are Medicean

tyrants whose oppressive instrument is a dying ethic.

This dying ethic is a complex and fatuous mythology, in whose pantheon are lodged religious folklore, mythic sexual morals, and long outdated patriotism. Some of these myths, he presents, are the following: "A woman's place is in the home"; "Satan finds more mischief still for idle hands to do"; "Too much security kills initiative"; "Government planning is a denial of freedom"; "It's your own fault if you're poor"; "Hard work is the backbone of the nation"; "Anyone can work his way through college"; and "Private property must be sacrosanct." All of these myths, he asserts, are open to challenge and he declares "it is the purpose of this book to challenge them." In juxtaposition to these he presents aphorisms that are credulous predictions of the future — "Political parties may be obsolete"; "Work, as we know it now, may be obsolete"; and "Cash may be unknown."

A secondary and exigent consideration of his thesis is freedom and the insufficiency of it... "freedom from want and sudden disaster... freedom from foolish toil... freedom from ignorance." Freedom in these terms, he says, is viewed, by the smug minority, from the apex of their established pinnacle, as anathema, and those who seek a society which these qualities are catalytic agents whose intended metamorphosis shall result in a chaotic society.

Mr. Berton then gives consideration to each of these three conceptualizations of in-act freedom, as they are viewed today, by the smug minority, and proposes queries about future possibilities.

In regard to "freedom from foolish toil" it is his thesis that "...society would benefit if it could eliminate entirely the kind of pointless drudgery which serves to degrade human beings; and that people so employed would be better off if they were given unlimited time, with pay, to do what they want; drink beer, argue in taverns, lie in the sun and stare at the clouds, get an education, work in their gardens and write poetry." He prophesies an age of leisure, during which citizens shall have a choice between work and leisure, and adjudges the hippies, who the sacerdotal smug minority regard as blasphemous, to be the heralds of the new age. He maintains that the citizen of the age of leisure shall not respect work, activity done to support's one's self and one's dependents, as an enhancement to the human spirit, the prevalent belief today.

"Freedom from want and sudden disaster," Mr. Berton says, is the phantasy of the poor. The myths of toil, endorsed and perpetuated by the smug minority, are the tethers which prevent our society honestly confronting poverty. If we were to cut our mythic hawsers and float free we would take cognizance of the fact that poverty is self-perpetuating, as it is treated today, and that freedom from present eleemosynary attitudes and freedom from the "folklore of motherhood" would cause us to become aware that government and corporate planning combined with investment in our greatest natural resource, people, would yield greater dividends than the smug minority could ever anticipate procuring.

In his discussion of "freedom from ignorance," Mr. Berton states, that it is one of the theses of his book that "...the country must now be prepared to accept a totally free educational system." Contrary to popular belief, he points out, with statistics for verification, that all are afforded equal opportunity for post-secondary education, and that, indeed, a very *SELECT* percentage possess the opportunity. This fact is resultant from an inter-causation of environment and finances, and its rectification is inherent in "freedom from want and sudden disaster" and "freedom from foolish toil."

Consistent with Mr. Berton's method, this author posits one question — Does Mr. Berton adjudge the incorrect side of man's dichotomy, to wit, the intellect, to be the dominant force in man?