

### Catholic Guidance Given In Current Events By Verein

#### Should Sex Invade The Classroom?

The policy of imparting sex knowledge to youth in the classroom has generally in favor, was vigorously condemned in a resolution emanating from the recent annual convention of the Catholic Central Verein of America. The organization proposed such instruction be provided preferably in the home or, if necessary, to the individuals by men and women competent to discharge this obligation in full accord with the dictates of right reason and Christian principles. The text of the resolution follows:

While conscious of the havoc which ignorance regarding the proper functions of sex is apt to cause and with no intention of impugning the motives of those who are bewildered by the evils resulting from the so appallingly widespread transgression of the sixth commandment, we seeking to stem the tide of immorality, we affirm our conviction that the problem of sex cannot be solved by the individual except with the help of God and His Church. The wise man, guardian of his own power and continuity of purpose, makes use of every prudent aid at his disposal.

#### REFORMER TONIC

Such help is all the more necessary because of the complex nature of man and the manifold effects arising out of the use or abuse of sex. The union of man and woman may be the medium of sacred, intimate love, or it may be the fruitful occasion of serious sin and terrible disease. Its use, even the thought of sex, can so inflame the passions of those lacking proper self-control that it becomes toxic and perverts the will and intellect of men. And although we do not assert that such intoxication is inevitable, at the same time those who understand human nature and its weakness (Galiz), the difficulty of banishing an urge of nature not kept under constant control.

For these reasons it seems somewhat rash to allow every teacher to discuss so intricate a problem in the school room or similar public assembly. Serious writers on the subject admit that a detached consideration of the matter leads to the conclusion man's problems with reference to chastity do not always result from ignorance or merely from his own weak complex nature, but largely from sinners or occasions extrinsic to himself. A normal, healthy, intelligent, well-meaning human being can live a chaste life without too great difficulty, provided his surroundings are normal and morally unobjectionable. It is the duty of those placed in charge of others to see that such normal, moral environment prevails, safeguarded by sound public and private morals, by common decency and common sense.

#### PROPER CONCEPT

Catholic teachers and parents, therefore, following the golden mean, do not regard sex as something sinful and obscene. But they do see in it something very seductive and complex and they seek a prudent method of procedure in training the young in accordance with these considerations. This training demands of the teacher a knowledge of man; his body and soul, his individual welfare and his duty toward society, of which he forms a part, his responsibility as a man and his dignity as a child of God. The teacher must know what makes an action right and what makes it wrong, he must have a proper concept of the place pleasure holds in the orderly program of man's life on earth.

In consequence, Christian guardians ask for a sound, individualized instruction in the delicate matter of sex. They justly prefer the instruction be imparted by the parents or, when the latter are derelict in their duty, by those conscious of man's dependence upon God and the sublime destiny of man. They understand, too, that mere knowledge is not sufficient to overcome existing evils. Knowledge may indeed prevent disease, but it may also be used so as to remove man from the face of the earth, even if it be denied that his soul goes to hell.

Hence we must refuse to sanction the indiscriminate education in matters of sex in the public school room. We ask for teachers who will provide the proper environment for their charges, who will promote and cultivate and

### IN THIS LITTLE LOG CABIN



The cradle of Polish Catholic education in America is a little log cabin built 87 years ago by Rev. Julien Przytycki, and now located on the farm of Jerome Ploch, near St. Hedwig, Tex., according to Father Francis J. Ledwig, pastor of Annunciation Parish, who is shown examining the heavy oak logs. It was originally used as a rectory and school. (N.C.W.C.)

### TIMELY ETERNALS

By Rt. Rev. Msgr. Peter M. H. Wynhoven  
Editor-in-Chief, Catholic Action of the South

#### SHORTS—SLACKS—GIRLS

The king of an African tribe had at last consented to allow his eldest son and heir apparent to go to Paris to pick up some modern civilization. When the prince returned, the royal pater discovered that, according to his way of thinking, he had made a grievous mistake by letting the boy go.



A few minutes after the escorting caravan arrived, the young man proudly presented himself to his anxiously waiting father. When the son approached the old man's eyes grew big in consternation, and he cried out: "How dare you come into my august presence all dressed up?" The young man wore the usual loincloth, but, besides that he was adorned with a rabbit's foot on a silver chain, a pair of celluloid cuffs and a stovepipe hat.

This incident brings up the question: When is a person properly dressed? There are two essential conditions to be kept in mind in human attire: protection and comfort of the body and the safeguarding of the soul's health. A general and accepted style of nudity does not, as a matter of fact, militate against good morals. This can be attested by conditions among wild tribes in blazing-hot Africa, where morality is on a much higher plane than in Paris, formerly the world's fashion source. Sex difference beyond the child age should always be modestly shielded. This makes for charm, especially in women. It is even observed as a fundamental among the savages.

esty as a safeguard, who will strive to instill into children and youths entrusted to their care a knowledge of their dignity as children of the Father, brothers of Christ and temples of the Holy Spirit. We on our part must help young people not merely by providing information but must urge them to make use of prayer and the Sacraments, which grant strength from God.

Anyone interested in the problem is invited to procure a copy of the free leaflet published by the Central Bureau of the Association, 3835 Westminster Place, St. Louis, Mo. The title of the leaflet is "Sex Has No Place in the Schools."

Slacks and shorts and bathing suits may be all right in the privacy of the family, but abbreviated garments in public denote only lack of a refined soul. Custom and the vogue are no excuse for extreme dress or undress, because these daring departures from decency have been invented by Satan himself. The most prevalent sin committed, the greatest disorder created in social association, is prompted by wrong sex impulses. It is the offense against the Creator's order that brings more misery to many people's lives and to the world at large than disregard for all the other Commandments of God.

The sex impulse is a natural, God-given instinct. It is something noble and, we may say, sublime, for, according to the Creator's holy intentions, men and women, with due regulation, become His partners in the procreation of the human race. Because God's purpose is so solemn and sacred, any abuse of this instinct frustrates the Lord's objectives. So, this precious, divine potentiality should be kept in check and under control. This can be successfully accomplished, Freudists and other animalistically inclined scientists to the contrary notwithstanding. However, the grace of God and strict avoidance of temptation have to be relied upon. No young person can remain decent, good and pure if these two requisites are disregarded. The help of God can be obtained at all times by prayer and implicit religious dependence on Him. As for temptations, are they any the less avoidable today than at other times in the human story?

We leave the answer to any man who is not a stockfish or a marinated herring. The way some women dress and flaunt themselves, a young man is simply forced by circumstances to behold unholliness, and bad thoughts and desires are bound to course hot through his blood. Not even a saint could withstand it. An old masculine saying, commenting on the way women dress, ran thus: "As you show, so shall we peep."

Women should, at all times, study to be dressed attractively, but they ought never to aim to be seduced temptingly. In the first instance, they do God's bidding; in

the latter, they work hand-in-glove with the devil. No refined girl with a sound and healthy mind will do it, custom or no custom.

If you still think that these ideas are old-fashioned and out of order, then answer this: Why do not brides walk up the middle aisle in slacks? Why are maidens snatched away from their dear ones in the bloom of life, not buried in shrouds? Answer: Because it wouldn't look right. Why not? Because it is not done in

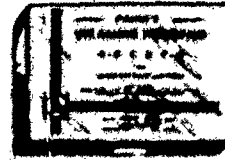
polite society. These are the only replies and explanations that can be given. Still, a mentally honest person has to grant, irrespective of his modern view on the subject, that a living bride or a maiden's corpse in a semiskirt gown would be less offensive to God and not so harmful to man.

Wise, sensible women will dress decorously to be attractive. Only the right kind of men are worth attracting. Therefore, do not sell your soul to the devil to gain the body of a ruse.

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