

# 3 Speakers Discuss American Morals

By BOBBIE WEINBERG

Three speakers discussed "Is There a Crisis in American Morals" Sunday night at the Hillel Town Meeting. Henry A. Finch, associate professor of philosophy, William G. Mather, professor of rural sociology, and the Rev. Andrew E. Newcomer Jr. of the Presbyterian Church, spoke on three aspects of the problem.

Finch recognized the crisis and advised that it be met with resourcefulness lest "all be lost." He said there has always been a crisis in morals everywhere, in all periods of history. He added that the realization of such a problem should not lead to "nihilism, failure of nerve, or retrogression of any kind."

### Morality 'Low' Then

He alluded to ancient Greek literature and to the sayings of the prophets which indicated that a similar condition existed in their times as well as in our own. According to the writers of the Middle Ages, the morality of the people was seemingly as "low" as it is now.

Finch reminded his audience that when we speak of morals, we must realize that human problems have characteristics that are not found in mathematics, astronomy, or any other definite science.

"Humans are required to act on incomplete knowledge," he said. A mathematician may postpone his decision because he lacks sufficient information, but an individual must make his decisions, facts or no. Risk is involved in error, but because of urgency, acts must be completed with speed, Finch stated.

Everyone presumably knows the necessary factors to a decision; whereas, few know the limits. According to Finch, it is obvious that a parent must love his child, but the degree is uncertain.

### American Illusion

Many Americans are under the illusion that they are immune to change, both in religious and social life, he said.

The modern age is very rational, and is under the influence of rational actions. We are living in the time of a movement from "ecstasy to calculation, from the personal to the impersonal, from myth to science," Finch said. Our sentiments remain in the school of the "personal, mythical and non-rational," he said.

Today there is a definite decline in supernatural sanctions according to Finch. People are not acting on the aspirations of receiving heavenly blessings for their deeds.

Finch concluded that conditions

in the United States are favorable, our vices corrigible, our sins—those of American generosity and liberty—our progress not leading towards the illusion of Utopia.

The second speaker was William G. Mather, professor in rural sociology. Mather noted that each generation tends to worry about the one following. Mather said, "What we have in sexual morality is merely more frankness."

In one generation the people of the United States have seen a tremendous change in the physical culture of our country. The many inventions, plus the changes in the ideas of what is right and wrong, the revision in our everyday pace, and in our relationships with those who live at a distance from us, have accounted for this mild revolution in American society, Mather said.

### Personal Basis Gone

Previously, the personal basis upon which all affairs were conducted led to an integrity not found today, Mather pointed out. This lack of honesty is due to the presence of many in our daily life and to the freedom of advertising.

Professor Mather hoped that "aging morals" would soon catch up to the pace of life, but admitted that the race will probably continue endlessly.

The final speaker was the Rev. Newcomer of the Presbyterian Church in State College. He was not willing to admit that a crisis in American morals existed, but he added that if such a crisis did exist, then we must deal with its symptoms. These include delinquency, both adult and juvenile, corruption, alcoholism, and promiscuity. He spoke of "morality by majority."

### Revealed Religions

Newcomer based his talk on what he termed "revealed religion." This revelation is that which God has made to us, rather than our discovery of Him.

Newcomer suggested that low morality could be "discontent with what we are, but not wanting to change in the pretermined way." He quoted the comment that we "love God and do as we please." If we follow the moral law, the way of God, no crisis will exist, he said.

## Glancing Around--

(Continued from page four) look the same as everyone else, including the officers.

Unfortunately this idea became tangled with a few other concepts. One such concept is that few people like to look like everyone else. And in the army this idea is recognized by the issuance of various bits of material for actions somewhat out of the ordinary.

An example is the shoulder tab that was available shortly after World War II. It read "Regular Army." Unfortunately, "friends and neighbors were still abducting one another for the frugal life at the time. The idea then came up that the man's being able to wear a patch that said, "Look, I enlisted," would make the draftees feel bad. Nine months later the draftees were discharged. They sure felt bad.

The Pentagon was silent for

a while after that. But not for long. A new idea came to the fore. This was a combination of two previous ideas. Everyone must look the same. But the man who has the privilege of sitting in mud regularly must be designated differently than the man who is deprived of this diversion.

Solving this problem wasn't easy. But, it was done. Stripes were reduced to postage stamp proportions so the enlisted man looked almost like the officer who didn't wear stripes. Different color stripes were available for the troops depending upon their proximity to mud.

And so the pendulum swings. Today we have yellow signs. I'm looking forward to tomorrow with great anticipation. American ingenuity is not dead. It's been drafted.

### Santa Claus to Visit Ed College Students

Santa Claus is going to visit the students in the College of Education from 7:30 to 9 p.m. tomorrow in the Temporary Union Building.

As part of the evening's entertainment members of the Education Student Council will present a skit. Music for dancing will be provided by Lynn Christy's Campusers. Members of the council will serve refreshments.

### Prof to Discuss Yule Art

Harold E. Dickson, professor of fine arts, will present an illustrated lecture on "Christmas in Art" at 7 tonight at the Penn State Christian Association Assembly in 304 Old Main.

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### Independents to Hold Carole Sing, Social

The councils of Leonides and the Association of Independent Men will meet at 6:45 p.m. Sunday inside Old Main to begin Christmas caroling. Independent men and women may join the groups to carol and attend the social which will be held in McElwain lounge after the caroling.

Independent women may still order Leonides pins. Orders will be taken by Leonides representatives.

### WSGA Senate Meeting

The Senate of Women's Student Government Association will meet at 6:30 tonight in the WSGA room in White Hall.

## THE STUDENT SHOPPER



*Gifts for Sis*


If your sister likes sweaters, you can stop at the CHARLES SHOP and pick from their selection of wool, nylon, either plain or jeweled, and cashmeres. Or you can find in the SMART SHOP other gift suggestions such as belts, leather collars, and knee socks. At SCHLOWS you can purchase beautiful silk head scarves, wool stoles, sweaters including Hadly cashmeres, and a wide selection of man tailored blouses.

Maybe Sis would like a leather or dressy handbag or something exclusive from their exclusive line of shoes at SIMONS. At ETHEL MESERVES you will find iridescent brocaded slim-fold wallets for evening wear or something in the line of unusual jewelry. For nick nacks, paintings, and vases you will find a great selection at the TREASURE HOUSE. If you would like to purchase something with a sorority crest, stop in at the AA STORE and make your selection.

If you are feeling creative, make your purchase of yard goods at EGOLFS. The exquisite jewelry at the BLAIR SHOP might be just what Sis wants. They also specialize in wrapping and mailing gifts until December 15. To end your shopping trip, stop in at the CORNER ROOM. If you are hungry, their chopped steak sandwiches are delicious.

## Pretty ideas for Christmas giving... Glamour-touched practical gifts...

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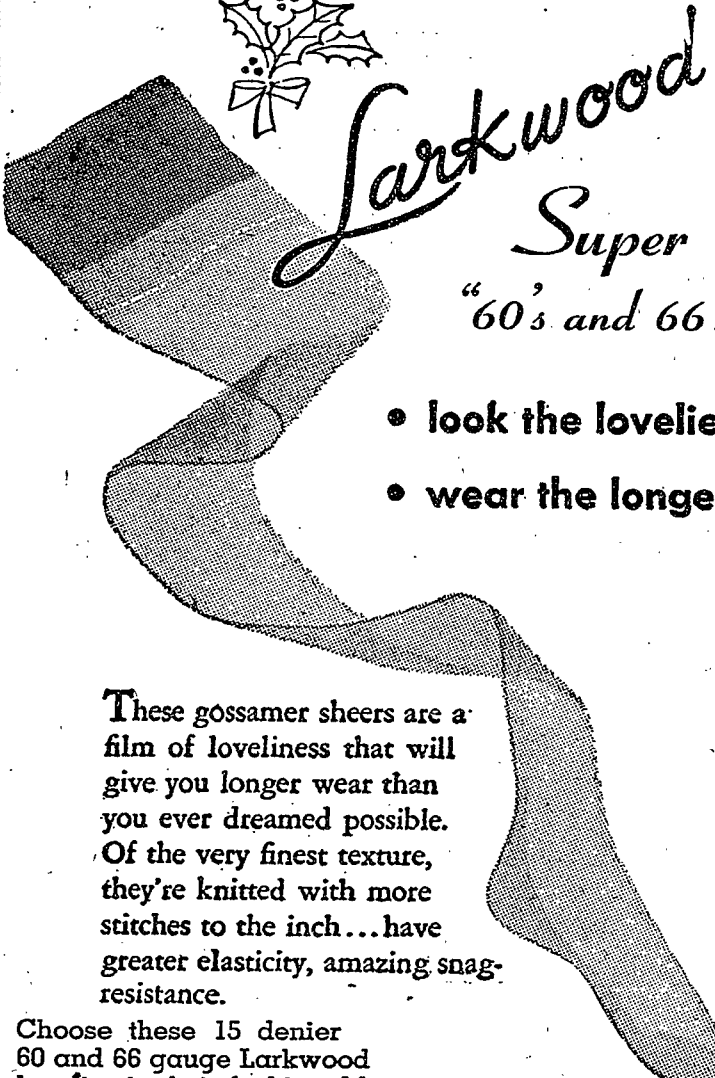
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