

**SEX EDUCATION**

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learn by doing. So it is only logical to expect they will experiment in this, too."

The over-riding objection to the program, however, was that it is "immoral" as it is "not based on the scriptures." The Rev. Tallent suggested that the Supreme Court's ruling that prayers in school violate the traditional separation of church and state means that "a moral stand is not permitted in school anymore."

The Rev. Pierson contended that "all morals are based on the Bible, and even people claiming not to be Christians abide by these morals. Although there are no twisted facts in it (the film series), there are no moral teachings either."

The Rev. Warren Birdsall, pastor of Shickshinny's Bible Baptist Church, agreed. "It is impossible to separate sex education from the morals of the Bible and there are no morals apart from the Bible."

The Rev. Thomas Bonham of the Calvary Bible Chapel, Hunlock Creek, was even more adamant. "Sex cannot be taught without morals and morals cannot be found outside the Bible. Teaching sex without the scriptures is teaching humanism which is the same," he suggested darkly, "as communism."

Who, then, should teach youngsters about the birds and the bees? Without exception, the ministers agreed that parents have the primary responsibility in this area. But while the Rev. Pierson said that "only one family" in his congregation was not fulfilling this "opportunity and obligation," the Rev. Derrick quite candidly admitted that "many parents just don't live up to this responsibility."

Should the Church, then, take an active part in educating children about human sexuality? Well, yes and no, the ministers replied somewhat paradoxically.

Although the Rev. Tallent does not now conduct classes in sex education for the youth of his church, he said, "I have considered it, and when the children in our church are old enough, I might very well undertake such lessons." He added that he considers teenagers of 14 and 15 old enough for such instruction and notes that he would be certain they "know the dangers of not having the proper use of sex. They should know that when sex is used improperly, the spread of venereal disease increases, as do illegitimate births."

The Rev. H. E. Bassett, pastor of Bowman's Creek Free Methodist Church, acknowledged that while no sex education classes are held at his church, "we do conduct such lessons at our youth camp." He noted, "I do believe the Church has an obligation to provide sex education for the youngsters" and added that "when all this controversy clears, I want to give the kind of sex education that we believe is necessary."

Not all members of the clergy interviewed believed sex education was a prerogative of the Church. The Rev. Hildebrand suggested that if he were to learn that parents within his congregation were failing to fulfill their responsibility to their children in this area, he would "go to the pulpit and in a sermon bring out parables from

the Bible that would apply to the situation."

The Rev. Bonham was of a similar mind. "It is not our position to teach such things to the children but to admonish parents to do so."

Taking a different view was the pastor of Sweet Valley's Community Bible Church, the Rev. Jack W. Cooper, who sug-

gested that "there is a great need for sex education" and indicated that church-sponsored sex education classes might be a good idea "if there were material available which was not apart from the Biblical view." Primarily, however, the Rev. Cooper saw his duty as "training parents, who would in turn be responsible for training youngsters."

A fellow Sweet Valley colleague agreed with him. The Rev. E. P. Murphy, Church of Christ, proposed a sort of adult sex education class. "It wouldn't be a bad idea for schools to set up night school to teach parents how to teach children about sex. Many parents," he conceded, "are skeptical about talking to their children about such things." Although his church does not sponsor sex education classes for their younger members, the Rev. Murphy conducts private classes which deal with "sex in marriage" for couples about to be married, using materials published by Family Life Publishers, Durham, N.C.

The Rev. Derrick, too, conducts pre-marriage counseling, although, in his words, "I will admit that this is not done to the extent it should be." It is his belief that "parents should answer questions about sex as they come up—but that's all. Later, fathers and mothers should take their children aside" for more complete instruction. Most important, the Rev. Derrick believes, the parents must convince the youngsters that "sex is not for young people, it is not for the unmarried state."

"We don't have classes directly for the purpose of sex education," the Rev. Birdsall said, "but the entire area of sex education is handled as it comes up." He noted that he has, in the past, distributed literature based on the scriptures which deals with human sexuality.

It is the Rev. Nelson's belief that "we must minister to the parents in God's word, then they in turn will talk to their children in their own way as all families are different and must handle the problem in different ways." He recommended using the Bible in teaching such matters. "The Bible is very plain on sex," the Rev. Nelson stated. "It explains everything we need to know about sex; it tells all about refraining."

Counseling from the Bible is also advocated by the Rev. William Howie, Reyburn Circuit of the Bible Protestant Church,

**EXPRESSWAY**

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was in favor of the Cross Valley Espressway, a contrary position held by Mr. Marianelli and his group. "But I am concerned about the procedure in this matter," Rep. Flood continued.

Mr. Marianelli, when asked if he would consider an alternate route for the expressway, expressed an unequivocal "no."

Mr. Marianelli told NNI that should his appeal fail to stop the expressway in its current planned route, he would attempt to launch another attack against the roadway from the standpoint that the state is acquiring the land with state funds, with the anticipation of later attempting to enlist federal money as the project moves forward. "I think this will be a new surprise for them," he said, explaining that he would consider trying to show that due process had not been carried out by contending that federal regulations had not been fully met with the expressway taking part of the recreational and park areas.

"The President has cut everything," Mr. Marianelli said, "except recreational expansion. He has cut education, road building, the defense budget and welfare. But he has added \$100 million for recreational purposes, and it doesn't make sense that the federal government would put this highway across these park areas if they knew the facts of the case," he continued.

The meeting last week was for the purpose of outlining phase three of the planned development, the last step before construction begins.

In the \$450 million planned highway system for the entire Wyoming Valley, from Carbondale to Nanticoke, the Cross Valley Expressway is considered a high priority project. Planners, in their study of growth potential for the entire valley, have placed the Wyoming, Back Mountain and Mountaintop areas as three of the highest.

The transportation study report covering a time period from 1970 to 1990 was developed as a cooperative effort by local, state and federal agencies. The Lackawanna-Luzerne Transportation Study was organized to plan a highway system for the improvement of auto, truck and bus

Shickshinny. While he emphasized that "parents have the main responsibility in instructing their children in such matters," he added that "when parents in my church tell me they do not feel qualified to do this, I send their youngsters to my wife, who has raised three children. She sits with them and counsels them individually from the open Bible. The testimony of one man for one woman can be found in Genesis, and Paul's letter to the Corinthians deals with keeping one's body as a temple. The evils of pervers-

sion are to be found in Romans, which also warns us about such actions by telling us about the fate of Sodom and Gomorrah."

While psychiatrists dealing in child development, pediatricians, and even other clergymen may consider "A Time of Your Life" as an intelligent, honest, and warmly human attempt to educate the young people toward an understanding of themselves, there can be no doubt that the 11 ministers with whom The Post talked harbored no such feelings for the program.

transportation. The planning effort satisfies a condition for obtaining federal funds for highway improvements in urban areas.

When the transportation study was initiated in 1964, there were 453,000 people living within the boundaries of the urban area defined for the study. By 1990, the study indicates, it is estimated there will be a population of 633,000 or a 40 percent increase. The number of jobs in the area will increase by 52 percent, from 180,000 to 273,000, the study also shows. But urban travel will grow even faster.

By 1990, according to the report, it is estimated there will be 83 percent more cars in the area, up from 145,000 to 265,000. The number of vehicle trips made in or through the area on an average day will increase 71 percent from 760,000 to 1,300,000.

**release banned**

The Pennsylvania Game Commission this week prohibited the release and importation for release of some members of the wild cat, wild dog and wild bear families not previously banned.

By resolution, the commission declared, "It shall be unlawful for any person to release for any purpose on any lands, private or public, within his commonwealth, or to bring into the commonwealth for the purpose of release, the following species: lynx, bobcat, cougar, ocelot, jaguar, leopard, tiger, lion, coyote, fox, wolf, bear."

The commission said that release of the above species was undesirable from the standpoint of public safety, disease, predation, etc.


**weed control**

The State Highway Department has announced it will control and eradicate weeds along the roadside this year with a special formulated spray that will reduce "drifting."

The directive to control chemicals sprayed along the countryside is one of a number of environmental steps taken by Highways Secretary Robert G. Bartlett.

In 1969, the department sprayed approximately 21,200 acres of roadside to control or eradicate undesirable plant and weed growth at an average cost of \$10.75 per acre.

Mr. Bartlett said that the Commonwealth maintains more than 43,600 miles of highways



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**BASEBALL SCHEDULE**

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May 7 — Lake-Lehman	A	May 7 — Dallas	H
May 11 — Wyo. Valley West	A	May 11 — Nanticoke	H
May 14 — Nanticoke	A	May 14 — West Side Tech	H
May 18 — Central Catholic	H	May 21 — Central Catholic	A
May 21 — West Side Tech	A		

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