

Quakerism: A Process

by Jeanette Ebel

"Quakerism is more a process than a belief—a way of seeking truth rather than a truth. For Quakers, it's not a doctrine, it's the way you live your life."

This description of the religion of the founders of Guilford College was delivered by Dr. Cyril Harvey to a group of Quakers and non-Quakers gathered in an English Hall rap session to discuss the religion.

Special guests at the session were, in addition to Cyril Harvey, Mrs. Mary Feagins, Dr. Carroll Feagins, Dr. Ann Deagon, and Dr. Grimsley Hobbs, all members of the Society of Friends.

Carroll Feagins explained that Friends subscribe to no creed and that the one belief that all Quakers share is "the presence of the divine holy spirit." "In other words," he said, "you don't have to get clearance from the scripture to respond to the leading of the spirit of God."

Corporate Worship

Several participants asked the Quaker delegation to explain the difference between meditation, which is part of most religions, and the uniquely Quaker silent corporate worship.

Mary Feagins answered that compared to worship, meditation often seems "circular" and added "I'm not sure I'm getting beyond myself. When with a group in fellowship you are aware of the fact that it can't be a circular thing because you are aware that everyone is seeking the same thing."

"During worship you become sensitive to the presence of others and to your



A less weighty Friend

responsibility," Carroll Feagins added. "The most vital religious experiences occur when you don't delegate the responsibility and you are in a group that doesn't delegate responsibility. You realize that if you are moved you have a responsibility to share."

Nirvana Selfish

"I don't want to go off into a corner with God," Ann Deagon said defending the corporate worship experience. "I feel joy at hearing a fellow human speak."

The sharing of the worship experience means more than attaining "salvation or Nirvana," Ann Deagon said and Cyril Harvey agreed. "I was eleven years old before I heard the word 'saved.' I remember

thinking that it sounded very selfish."

Cyril Harvey explained the format of the "Meeting for Worship" for those who had never attended one or had never realized that the meeting has a definite form

The meeting usually lasts an hour, he said, although some groups hold longer meetings. The exact length of the meeting is set by the member designated to break the meeting with the traditional handshake which is passed around the group at the close of each meeting.

Worshippers gather and sit in silence. Seldom does anyone speak in the first ten minutes.

Cyril Harvey explained. Although individual contributions are customarily surrounded with silence, the short speeches taken as a gestalt form a meeting with continuity. "An idea develops and becomes alive."

The Peace Testimony

Carroll Feagins spoke of the "peace testimony" for which Quakers are well known. Passivity "does not have the status of doctrine," he explained. Individuals are encouraged to reach a decision concerning their personal attitudes toward violence and war in the knowledge that their meetings "must support them for their sincerity."

The Friends explained that the Society of Friends is evangelical only in the sense that they are willing to share their worship experiences with all. The group expressed that Friends never ask "seekers" to become "members" of a meeting so that each individual might make a decision to join the Society of Friends individually.

Anyone is welcome at any Friends meeting for worship, they explained, and invited all to attend the Friendship Meeting which meets for worship each Sunday at 11 a.m.

Caps and Gowns

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How can the educational environment of Guilford campus sparkle even more with the electricity of ideas and understandings which come from around the world?

USE the money normally allotted for caps and gowns at graduation for aid to foreign students! They need the aid because America is the most expensive country in the world! It takes three hours of work here in Finland to buy one loaf of bread in America. That money is on hand; it's not essential for preservation of world peace, for hate and war don't remember to look at graduation photos before they strike.

Here is one small opportunity for all the seniors to demonstrate by deeds and not just words, that they truly are trying to be a part of the solution.

Vieki Wyszynski
University of Tampere, Finland



photo by Willson
Dancer Nancy Brock presented a lecture and dance class last week

Kissing: The Killer Deed

by David Musser

America is about to reach a major crossroad in the highway of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. We all know of the rising tide of illegitimate births, venereal disease, abortions, and mononucleosis. We must get to the root of this problem and dig it out before it comes into full blossom. This is the problem of the kiss.

This seemingly innocent proposition may be offered to you by a "friendly" stranger, but beware! In it lurks crime, insanity, and death.

Although kissing in itself may be perfectly harmless, it is an indisputable fact that it leads to other things. Over 98% of all the illegitimate births in this country were the result of getting turned on by that first little kiss.

Concerning those people who frequently indulge in kissing, there is conclusive proof that they become psychologically dependent on the act. In their ecstasy, their guard is relaxed and they overlook the imminent hazards that they are toying with. Some, in their insatiable search for that elusive kiss, even

become apathetic and lose ambition toward their health, home, and job. This is Un-amerikan.

Stringent legislation must be enacted if we don't want to see our Amerikan dream go up in smoke. Even first offenders, usually those who kiss out of curiosity, must be dealt with severely (for their own protection). We must make sure that the first step is not taken. Most offenders are between the ages of 16 and 25. We must, above all, protect these, our susceptible youth. A conservative estimate is that 50% of our college students have tried kissing, and that at least 30-40% of these students may be considered "regular users." The Pentagon says that even our boys in Vietnam are doing it. At many rock festivals, public kissing was widespread and authorities overlooked it completely.

Not enough is known about the long term effects of kissing, but one thing is for sure—we had better do something about it quickly before our whole country goes to pot.

Africa This Summer

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for off-campus seminar experience as well as three hours for independent study if it is arranged in advance with a Guilford faculty member.

Second semester, Gilbert Mbeo and Bennett Udoto will be teaching program participants basic Swahili. In addition, there will be study sessions on Kenyan culture.

During their first week in Kenya, students will spend a week in Nairobi attending lectures and discussions on the development of Kenya as a nation.

The group will then participate in a six-week work project at a site approved by the Kenyan government in co-operation with the Friends United Meeting, Kenya.

For three weeks of the seminar, students can pursue their independent studies as desired. Locations for this study will be determined in advance.

The Kenyan ambassador to the U.N., Mr. Odera-Jowi, will visit the Guilford campus the weekend of February 5th. Mr. David Scull, president of Partnership for Productivity—a volunteer program for training

Letter

The General

To the Editor:

While pondering the recent rise of affluence in certain areas of the campus, we at Guilford feel compelled to apply for any discarded remains that might have been seen as unsuitable for further use by these areas. As the new additions were credited to the General Fund, we, being of the General, would like to collect our part of the Fund.

Hopefully yours,

Lynn White Sally Hay
Julie Jones Judy Kihlaw

Kenyan—will visit Guilford on February 8th. Both men will help finalize the project plans.

As the plans are now, the group will leave the U.S. on June 10th and return on August 25th. The minimum cost is expected to be \$750.

The project is still open to interested, committed students. For further information, contact Robert Shaffer at 299-9953.

SUNY Peace Corps Degree

The State University of New York, College at Brockport, is looking for students who want to earn college credit while preparing to teach mathematics and science as Peace Corps volunteers in Latin America.

Peace Corps and college officials announced today that the unique Peace Corps/College Degree program at Brockport will be extended with the admission of a fifth group of candidates in June, 1971.

The decision by the Peace Corps to extend the four-year-old program, was made after a comprehensive evaluation in which graduates of the program serving as Peace Corps volunteers in Peru, Colombia, El Salvador, Honduras and the Dominican Republic were interviewed along with their host country counterparts and overseas Peace Corps staff.

The program is open to students who are in good standing at any accredited college or university and who will have completed their sophomore or junior year by June, 1971.

Applications must be made to the Peace Corps/College Degree Program, State University College at Brockport, Brockport, New York 14420 by March 1.