I!S. to the NEWS

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CAMPUS MORALITY

The recent furor about cheating at West Point raises some funda mental questions about enforcing a code of behavior on college students. While there is room for argument about whether the particular West Point honor code is too strict or was arbitrarily enforced, no one challenges the desirability of maintaining some kind of standards that proscribe cheating.

Few colleges have so strict an honor code as West Point, but not many colleges are neutral about cheating on examination . Sanctions of various sorts are invoked to prohibit such morally offensive conduct.

It is an **anom&.ly,** therefore, that in other areas most colleges today profess a position of moral neutrality.

Some concerned alumni of one of the well-known eastern colleges have j t published a booklet called "Sex on Campus" which examines the consequences of the prevalent position of moral neutrality. The college shall be nameless here because its Pontius Pilate attitude is typical.

The booklet cites a recent poll of students showing that **'2.8** percent of undergraduates believe it is "all right" to carry on two or more intimate sexual affairs at one time• .Another 12 percent are uncertain whether such behavior is right or wrong. A shaky majority of only 59 percent still feels that sexual relationships should be exclusive.

No report was given on what percent believe that sexual relation ships should be reserved for after-marriage; that may be an irrelevancy on today's campuses.

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Although college regulations and state laws prohibit.oohabitatlon, many unmarried. tmdergradu.Ate couples share a dormitory room. In response to iuquiry, v college official said, 11 1 don• t thi:nJr we'd want to do anyt.h:i.:t.l.f,t about it unless someone comploirrnd. 11 1.nrn coll,r-Jge irnpotH:,s :no sanctions for forn:lcat;ion, adultery, promisoui ty, <H>habi.tnthm, homosexuali. ty, abortion, or vene,r„\1 disease.

The attitude of the college ailininistrntion and of the college connseH.ng servi(H:: is that a student's sex lLfe ls entir ly his or hi::n own concern, and tho col leg"' c.Annot and should not serve in loeo p.a.rentti .

In :practice, however, ,·s amou.nt.s to a position not <E1.ly that euch student fft4..'ll determj_n(i. her own ·behavior, hut also that ·what.ever thH ,tudent does must lw right for him or her. If the student chooses promiscuity or homosexunl.ity1 then that is right for him or her.

This is **not** netrality but an underminJng of Ju<leo-Chriatian ethioG. 1l'hO 'I1en Coum1andments are an olJjeot.ive moral eode, tHJt subjective o.r 1dtuational.

Some argue that the college authorities should keep their bendR off because sex is a private matter involving couse:uti.ug adults who are not interfering with the rights of others. Just to cite one type of interference with the rights of others, many students are evicted from thelr own rooms l,y <R roommate who wants to ,mJoy a private t.ry8t.

Moral codes repr,e·sent the hest 1:,fforts 01' a soc:i_ety to re1,rulate itself in a decent and orderly way. A society is held together by the sharing of on ethical system. If the best en0 the brightest refu e to respect any objective standaI s of morality, then our nation will ecline es rapidly ae has Washington, U.C. where abortions ona illogiti-mate births now outnumber legitimate oables.

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