

# RECORD

MARIST COLLEGE

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November 20, 1963

## Is The Pull of Gravity Real?

### Father William A. Wallace Poses Question In Lecture On "Reality In Science"

The early 20th century saw in modern science, a crises which still persists today. Father Wallace wanted to show us how a perennial problem of philosophy, whose solution was sought and dealt with by the Greeks, is reaffirmed by modern science today. This problem, which is materialized in the realism of modern science, is two-fold; the problem of the very large and the problem of the very small. The first, that of the very large, is posed with the question, is the pull of gravity real?; and the second is posed with the question, are the elementary particles real? With these questions he hoped to stimulate the problem of realism in science.

The question is asked, what is gravity? The most common answer is that gravity is the pull the earth exerts on all bodies. Because of this commonly entertained notion, Fr. Wallace then asked the question, is the pull real? And from this pressing question we realize that the real, like the true and the certain, is another perennial philosophical discourse. What Fr. Wallace understood by the term real was to first simply compare it to something that is not real.

Fr. Wallace defined the real as including that which exists outside our minds, independent of thought. An opposing definition would be one denying the mental, the rational, and the logical. The rational or logical exists in the mind in such a way that it can not exist outside man, such as the concept of nonman or nonbeing. Therefore Father concludes that the real exist in and outside the mind.

Now returning to the original question, after establishing the above concepts, we ask, does the pull exist outside our minds? Or is it only a fabricated concept to aid in understanding

what is outside our minds? To answer this question, Fr. Wallace pointed out first that we must distinguish between two kinds of real, the Physical and the Mathematical. In order to exemplify this need, Fr. Wallace presented the example of the historical development of the present theory of order in the Universe. Pertaining to the universe, the early Greeks thought that the celestial spheres in their revolving motion were physically real. This is evident in Aristotle as seen in his necessity of a first mover un-moved. The causal relationship of the bodies' motion is transmitted directly through the spheres themselves. Later, men like Eudotus, Colupis and Ptolemy, in order to save the appearances of things, designed complicated schemes such as eccentrics and epicycles. From the Greeks to men like Copernicus and Galileo, the concepts of eccentrics and epicycles never ceased to cause discussion, and most of it was centered on their physical significance. But these thinkers gave the general feeling and were convinced that, although the celestial spheres were a physical entity, the eccentrics and epicycles were only mathematical expressions or theoretical expressions to save the appearance of things. As more data was accumulated, and schemes were formulated to save the appearances of things, the intellectual climate was such that when Copernicus presented his Heliocentric theory of the Universe, a great philosophical problem arose. If what Copernicus theorized is true then the planets and the earth actually rotate around the sun, and the moon rotates around the earth, leaving the conclusion that the bodies of the universe do not revolve about one absolute center, as held by Aristotle and the Book of Genesis. The

Moon, from the earliest of thought, went about the earth in a physical way. In Copernicus' scheme, a physical motion and not a mathematical one is displaced from the center of the universe. This motion, now representing that of the epicycle, becomes a physical real.

For Newton, the planets were physically rotating around the sun, and the Moon around the earth. The reasons he gave for their remaining physically in orbit resulted in his first two laws of force. Since the first required that the planets should shoot off into space, the second was a force

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### Marist Students Attend International Conference

This year Marist College will be represented at the Fifth Annual International Conference to be held at Skidmore College November 22 and 23, 1963. The area of concentration will be Post-war Germany with emphasis on the following:

1. How the division of Germany affects the Cold War.
2. Whether a democracy "imposed" by the Allies can succeed despite an undemocratic tradition.
3. How the internal political contest between the Christian Democrats and the Social Democrats reflects a border conflict between conservative and liberal elements in government.
4. Whether Germans will eat French or American chickens as the European Economic Community grows.
5. How our German contemporaries, a new generation of university students, view the past, present, and future.

The two delegates representing Marist College, are Ed Krissler, President of the Fleur de Lis and John Passmore, Vice President of the Junior Class.



# The RECORD

Editor: George E. Hallam  
Asst. Editor: Gerry Marmion  
Moderator: Dr. George Sommer

## NOCTURNE

### THE EYES HAVE IT

"The night has a thousand eyes," goes the song, and the Marist College Evening Division has about seven hundred -- but Marist makes up in variety what it lacks in quantity.

For example, there are those heavy-lidded eyes in the back of Mr. Rendich's 8:30 to 10:10 lecture; and those pupils-dilating-in-shock eyes staggering out of Br. Murphy's Scared Scripture midterm exam; and those veined, quivering eyes, struggling back to normalcy after a tortuous session with Dr. Schroeder's tachistoscope; and those slightly crossed eyes of the fellow who made the mistake of gazing too long at an E. Rimai Fisher painting; and the wide, panic-stricken eyes in Dr. Balch's classroom whenever he makes one of those characteristic pauses and requires some student to supply the rest of the statement that he (Dr. Balch) was making; and those crafty, knowing eyes filing out of Br. Cornelius' Business Law I; and those harried, guilt-ridden eyes emerging from Br. Michael's Morality of Marriage course; and those beady, shifting eyes sitting around the conference table of the Evening Division Student Council; and those sad, poet's eyes, turning sadder as they scan the latest edition of the Record; and those widely staring "what have I done?" eyes whose owner has just won a point of argument from his instructor and then remembered who grades his exam papers; and those smugly-staring-straight-ahead eyes of the guy who has just answered a question correctly after four others had bungled it; and those desperately unexpressive eyes of the fellow whose work is being read aloud to the class as a negative example; and then there are those wincing, searching eyes of the fellow who's just taken his first mouthful of the cafeteria's vending-machine coffee (wincing at the awful taste -- searching for some place to spit it out); and those weary, long-suffering eyes staring ceilingward while the instructor goes over for the fifth "once more" for that "I'm still not convinced" guy of which there seems to be one in every class; and of course there are the intense, slightly hurt, "I'm-pursuing-truth-no-matter-what-you-guys-think" eyes of that same "one in every class;" and last, but by all means not least, are the solemn, downcast eyes of men praying for the guidance of Blessed Marcellen Champagnat at the beginning of each class.

## RESPONSIBILITY

Is there a student body? Perhaps a minority group of about 30 students can be termed as such.

Recently the Student Council of Marist College asked the student body to come forward and voice their opinions on what they thought should be done to improve the Constitution of said body. The Student Council, for the convenience of the students, set up a table in the cafeteria specifically for this purpose. Where are all the students with their gripes about our student government? One man or even thirty men cannot do the job. Our constitution is badly in need of revision and improvement. I voiced my opinion how about you, fella.

The student government is supposed to work for the students. This end cannot be accomplished without knowing what the students want. The door was opened but few chose to enter.

Maybe it would be better to revise and improve the student body. It is about time that they were moved off their butts and started acting like responsible college students. Responsibility is a big word which almost everybody on this campus tries to avoid. Everybody seems to come up with the same excuse, this is a small college and it's young how do you expect us to do anything". With an attitude such as this Marist is bound to stay small and stay young if not immature.

The original idea that had been presented to the Council was to have questionnaires passed around to the students. This idea was quickly voted out because they realized that an attitude such as yours existed and a questionnaire was not the answer. So they decided to make it simple for you. Maybe the student body is waiting for a personal visitation by Mr. Verrico or Mr. Treanor. You might have a long wait.

Many thanks from the Student Council and staff of the Record.

Features: Gerry Marmion, Editor; Joseph Sendra; Edward Douglas; Peter Maronge; William Meagher; Ted Flynn; Ed Parr; William Treanor; Rodger Caloa; Daniel Meyers; Gus DeFlorio; Joe Cavano; Tom Duffy, John Falcone; Joseph D'Onofrio.

Sports: John Barry, Editor; Dennis O'Brien; Brian Johnson

Make-up: Jim Sullivan & Gerry Johannsen, Editors; David Bonoghue; Dick Freer.

Circulation: John Guiliano, Manager; Thomas Troland; Chris Hynes.

# Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

One can be nothing but stunned at the speed in which Mr. Treanor condemns... one... two... three... no less than four of the forerunners in the upcoming presidentials. John Kennedy is no good because he's the incumbent; Nelson Rockefeller because he follows the political tradition of campaigning while in office; Barry Goldwater because he's "ultra" and William Scranton because he don't wanna play.

What shall we do Mr. Treanor--- burn these men as witches or use your space for advertisements?

Respectfully yours,

Peter Hanley

Dear Mr. Hanley,

According to Webster's New World Dictionary of the American Language (College Edition), a witch is: "...1. a woman supposedly having supernatural power by a compact with evil spirits; sorceress: the term formerly was also applied to men. 2. an ugly and ill-tempered old woman; hag; crone. 3. (Colloq.), a bewitching or fascinating woman or girl..."

Therefore, the first part of your question must be denied since it is inherently contradictory. As for the alternative, this space is much too valuable for advertisements.

Bill Treanor

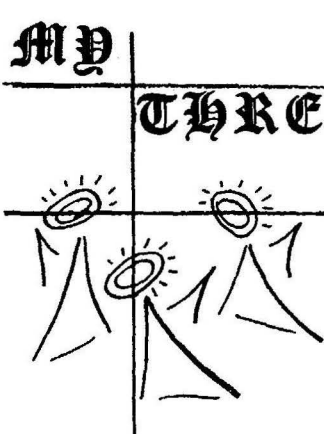
To the Editor,

In a certain society there exists a process of government which besides being despotic is also detrimental to the majority. It is that type in which there exists a dictator who is elected by a council of nobles. This monarch, for in fact he is a king, with all the protection of Divine Right, has absolute power concerning the framing of laws and their enforcement. He is chosen by the nobles for his strength and therefore has their complete support in his use of Machiavellian principles.

Reviewing this process, one fact stands clear; there has been no provision made for the will of the majority who are governed, concerning the laws and their enforcement. The people have no agency to which they can appeal when either an unjust law or punishment is imposed upon them. Therefore they are being denied the basic right of trial by a jury of peers. Rather they are being condemned by an all powerful despot, without recourse, on the basis of laws which

## THE THEATRE GUILD

PRESENTS



# THREE ANGELS

By Sam & Bella Spewack  
Directed by J.W. Britt

**NOV. 21, 22, 23 - 8:30 P.M.**  
**NOV. 24 - 2:30 P.M.**  
**Marist Auditorium**

**Marist Students - \$1.25 Others - \$1.75**

they did not approve.

What is the solution to this problem? Simply stated, it involves forming a common council which would not only help to frame laws but would also be involved in their enforcement, by serving as a court to which offenders would be referred. Each offense would carry with it a specific and just punishment which would be strictly enforced at all times, for all people, and not merely when and upon whom the dictator decided. Such a solution as this would remove from the despot, the power of police which (all dictators repeatedly) claim they do not want but need to insure order and prevent chaos.

Thank you,

Robert Hackett

## NOCTURNE

Dear George,

You asked me how things are comin along up here en I have to say "not too well." You remember why I came heer in the first place, right after Kennedy was elected. We both thought that with a catholic in power that great Jesuit army would start to move, en I wanted to be on there side. Well, I been hangin around, keepin my ears open but their awful cagey.

Like the other day, I 'thought I'd try to take the bull by the horns. A bunch of em was sitten in the cafeteria an I sashyed over an took a chair.

Right off, I gives a wink and sez "I'm with you boys. When's the big day?" To show you how foxy they are, right away they all dry up and look at me like I was scruwey or somethin. I sees that they aren't goin to let me in on it so I snickers a little an makes out like I was kiddin. They know I'm on to em now though cause I catch em lookin at me funny-like when I pass em in the hall.

They aint much other way to get in with em cause they always keeps to themselves. In class they sits together, an don't have anything to do with us. They calls themselves religious so I guess we 'uns are irreligious.

I got the leaders marked out though. All the regular guys wears black robes with white ties but the leaders dress in white. I use to think the one in white was the Mother Superior or somethin but now theys too or three of em. I think one is the captain en the others are his lootenants. When I git on the inside I'll let you know.

Your frend

Chuck

P.S. I didn't do too well on the exams. In philosophy I got a F. When I asked the perfesser how cum he sez "I'm my own sufficient reason for the F." I still aint figgred out what he means.

**FACULTY OFFICES**

Upper Donnelly 214-220

ROOM 1 - Mathematics  
Bro. Carolan  
Mr. Thomas

ROOM 2 - Modern Languages & Latin  
Mr. deSurcy  
Mr. Norkeliunas  
Bro. Joseph Robert

ROOM 3 - Philosophy & Religion  
Mr. Casey  
Dr. Drennen

ROOM 5 - Business  
Mr. Kelly  
Mr. Doran  
Bro. Cornelius Russell

ROOM 6 - Admissions  
Bro. John Malachy

ROOM 7 - Teacher Education  
Bro William Murphy

ROOM 8 - Academic Vice President  
Bro. Edward Cashin

ROOM 9 - Psychology  
Bro. Daniel Kirk

203 - English Department  
209 - History Department

Lang. Lab - Bro. Joseph Balengar  
Bro. Gerard Weiss

to keep this from happening. This operating force was for Newton, the force of gravity. The cause of gravity, Fr. Wallace points out, was never established by Newton. However, was gravity only a mathematical entity? For Newton, No! The reason for this was that the force, operating in the first law is real, and since the revolving motion of the planets is real, the force holding them in must be real also.

Now returning to the original question, is the PULL of gravity real, is it a physical real or only a mathematical real? In the light of the difference between the two reals as presented in the lecture, Fr. Wallace concludes that the pull of gravity is not real.

Arriving at this conclusion, Fr. Wallace points out that he is not a Positivist or a Atomist but a Moderate Realist. Positivism, stated Fr. Wallace, has a long history, in dealing with the very problems which were discussed in the lecture. With men like Bishop Barkely saying that a knowledge of causality can be only gotten by the metaphysician, to men like David Hume saying that not even the metaphysician can know causality. The Positivist, from Perthuese to the present day Bertrand Russel, contend that force and pull are only mere convention,

signifying the product of mass and acceleration. On the other extreme there is the Atomist or Mechanist who say that atoms and other elementary particles are real answering and explaining everything. Seeing this dilemma, Fr. Wallace states, that scientist of our day must make a stand. He says and I quote, "The characteristic of our age is the flight from responsibility". The responsibility he speaks of is that the scientist must make a choice of the above extremes or take the path of the Moderate Realist. If he does take this path, and remain on it, he must be a scientist as well as a philosopher. To deal with reality you must be a scientist and a philosopher of science as well.

## Sports Spot

With the opening game of the basketball season only two weeks away the team is getting down to some serious practice. Last Wednesday, on its initial scrimmage, the team more than held its own against a strong and big New Paltz team.

The squad for this season has more depth and size than last year's. Fred Weiss, the leading scorer and everything else for the last two years, returns for his final campaign. An improved and slightly taller John Ouellet has moved into the pivot with Weiss taking up his new station in the corner. Veterans LaForge and Barasonak,

second scorer on last year's squad, suffered a broken thumb in the first practice but hopes to be ready for opening day. Jimmy Wright and Paul Mahar are two more returning lettermen ready for action this year.

This squad isn't completely made up of returning players. There are two newcomers Freshmen battling for the starting lineup. This pair consists of 6'4 forward John Murphy and back court speedster Bill Davidson. It wouldn't be too much of a surprise to see both in the lineup on opening night.

The team has been really working hard to bring Marist victory with a rather impressive schedule. One thing is beyond a doubt, and that is that the team needs the support of all the students.

It's good to see no games scheduled for the "cardboard coliseum" this year... Let's hope vet Denny O'Brien isn't as injury prone in basketball as he was in intramural football... The Giants should face the Bears in the playoff of the N.F.L. this year. With Tittle at the helm the Giants will overwhelm them as they have the Browns, Cardinals, and Eagles... The Knicks, since they've finally decided to use some smarts, will make the N.B.A. playoffs.

with their tremendous outside shots will see duty in the guard positions. Tom Financane will add muscle under the backboards besides his varied driving techniques. Denny O'Brien, when they roll themselves into shape, will play important roles in the team's balance. Bernie Dooley and Jim Daly,

### ST. FRANCIS HOSPITAL

Fri. Dec. 6 - The annual "Holly Hop" to be held at the "Covered Wagon" from 9:00 P. M. to 1:00 A. M.  
Len Schultz Orchestra - Tickets \$4.00 per couple.

Tues. & Wed.

Dec. 10 & 11

The annual "Christmas Festival of Music" by the Glee Club - this year's theme - "Peace on Earth". Curtin rises at 8:00 P. M. - tickets - \$1.00.

Tickets for both events may be purchased from any student or by contacting the School of Nursing.

## TURKEY SHOOT

Nov. 23, 1963 12 - 5 P.M. Place: Poolside

12, 16, 20 gauge guns - No adjustable chokes

Shot & Slug contests

Ammunition & Guns supplied

Junior Class