

RISING STARS

No One can Forbid Us the Future

TIME was when certain subjects were taboo in all societies. With time however, certain societies have moved into the frontiers and taken off their masks of shame while others have held on to them for fear of what can go wrong if the masks come off. A hint of any such topic can mean a city wide scandal. Even today, topics such as smoking, drinking, love and sex are treaded upon with fear. It just so happens if some families do talk among each other more or less openly then others go into spasms. This article will also create a minor (or perhaps major) furor because I will mention things which are otherwise not mentioned in print.

It is easy to assume that a girl and a boy seen together are upto "no good" but if we look upon it objectively then we can see that they are doing nothing at all. Times change and we change with them. Now "going out" is not a matter for a major scandal even though there are those who feign shock at the mention of two people liking each other.

However, not every boy and girl step out together with an "affair" in their heart. Two people can enjoy each other's company and like to go places without necessarily wanting all the things that an affair entails. Going out doesn't mean physical attraction but for some it is just "that" and nothing else. Couples get together once in a while and go on a "date" and do whatever they consider to be fun and that's what they claim "love" is all about. It is wrong for others to presume that everybody does the same thing. Relationships can last for a long time without physical needs coming to surface until much later. The topic will rise every once in a while, usually due to peer pressure. Some friend will mention that his girl lets him so he will say to you "If you loved me then you'd let me!" That's logic for you. If a guy needs to emotionally blackmail you into it then you don't need it. Some girls are so desperate to hold on to the creep that they end up giving in. Others may do so out of their own free will. If you two are so sure of each other's devotion and you see no reason why you

shouldn't, then who am I to say anything? Some may not care what others have to say but if you are the type who does care and are unsure of yourself and often find yourself looking into someone else's eyes, then hold back.

The sad fact is, in the beginning, all relationships seem to be destined for marriage (or so we like to think) while others are far more practical and do not consider the future now, for what will be will be. After a while if you find that you are sick of staring into each other's eyes and the magic's gone then that's it! Now what do you do? Once the rot sets in, like a marriage gone sour, an affair gone stale can be frustrating and painful. You both keep holding on hoping against hope that all your love, efforts and sacrifices have not gone to waste. If you are a girl then you have more to lose because you have given to him "that" which is most precious to you. Worse yet, what if he talks? The biggest fear yet for all of us is of a ruined reputation. No matter how much I scream "I don't give a — about what they say!" I will still feel slightly queasy when I hear of someone saying I am tainted (even if I am not). Their point is: Do you mean to say you went out with him/her and did nothing? My point is: Whatever I did with whomever, is (was) between us two alone. I was not going out with the world so why is the world suddenly interested and involved in this?

Another changing aspect of society is that love does not necessarily mean forever anymore and two people going out does not mean eventual marriage. It is inevitable that our parents will be worried about our safety and security. However, when our own parents may not have worries about where we go, other parents will be very very worried. You'll say to them that it is not their kids out there so why are they screaming murder? Their reply to you is that us bad eggs can ruin their good ones. A lot of kids hide everything they do or say from their parents. The fault is partly on both sides. If the parents could loosen up then the kids would not have

by Naheed Kamal

to live in fear and do anything wrong. If the kids knew their limit there would not be any problems at all. If a lot of parents think that their kids need any influence then the jokes on them. Majority of the kids do everything on the sly. That is the saddest part of life. If "sex" was not considered a dirty subject and avoided all the time then kids would not have this acute curiosity about it. This only exists because noone talks to them about it



openly. Ninety per cent of the time rules are broken for the simple reason that they exist. Not all of us are well mannered. Besides if we all showed good manners, we wouldn't need laws. But who wants to be good (all the time)? It is so much more fun to be a rebel (with or without a cause). Adults will point out that curiosity kills the cat but they forget that satisfaction brings it back. No matter how badly battered we are for breaking rules we still come back knowing what it was all about. The only reasons for rules are for those who don't know where to stop. They don't realise that the thrill is only momentary but the stigma lasts longer. If you can live with it then well and good but if you can't then look before you leap. The biggest fear for any parent is that of our future going haywire. Our biggest

fears are the same as theirs. An addition to the list of unwanted pregnancies, bad reps and STDs, is AIDS. In more developed countries where sex educations and condom vending machines are everyday things, the fear of AIDS is made into a reality and is not just a distant nightmare. Kids here know of the dangers and they too take all the necessary precautions but all this is done by referring to what we read, see or hear from each other.

Everybody tells us that kids today are wild, reckless, irresponsible and downright awful. Kids back then were good, reformed and wonderful. If history is anything to go by then kids have always been downright awful specimens of human beings. My plea to adults: Give us time. Sooner or later we all grow up and then stalemate. The fact remains our generation has done more than our parents ever did and much more than our parents ever imagined for us. In time we all realise that the hangover follows the party and often lasts longer than the party ever did. Sooner or later we all stop partying. It is the willingness to break rules that distinguishes a free man from a robot. We do not control life not even our own. We know not what the future holds for us. We are still young and for what seems to be an infinite

moment between reality and dream we stand unsure of ourselves. At that moment everything seems to evolve around "sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll". Then our senses return and all of a sudden we are grown up!

It is unreal to expect kids today to live by yesterday's rules. Parents will tell us nothing is impossible. To that I once heard a man say, "try walking through a revolving door with skis on your shoulders!" Telling us we cannot talk to a member of the opposite sex and we cannot feel anything even though we study and work together is the impossible. If God had intended for us not to talk to each other then God would have made two different worlds and put us on either one separately. I am not promoting pre-marital sex or anything of that sort. The point I am trying to put across is simple: Take off your masks and don't be afraid of the outcome. There is no need to hide anymore. Once we let go there will be no need to break free anymore. Half the things forbidden to us hold no big thrills for us but just because they are forbidden we fight for it. If kids and parents could have more of an open relationship then kids would not need to break away in anger.

Two people in love cannot do wrong and what we do is not always wrong. Anything that comes so naturally cannot be so bad. Pre-marital sex has its dangers: You can get pregnant (if you are a girl), you can get bogged down with unwanted responsibilities at an early age, you can get AIDS, etc. But you can get the same things even after marriage. Times are changing and who's to say a marriage will last forever? Does that mean we sit back in fear? That is an unreal expectation. The point to highlight here is that what two people in love do is not wrong nor is it something for the world to know. It is something for the two of you. Even when you are bad you can be good depending on how you handle yourself.

Perhaps I alone cannot change the society but I can tell them how we feel. We feel different because we are different. Don't hold back and don't hold us back because noone can forbid us the future.

The Miracle

by Judith G De Costa

THE clothes lay strewn over the bed while Susan kept pulling one dress after another out of the closet.

"At this rate you'll be choosing what to wear till dawn," Lisa drily commented. The two had been flat mates and best friends for a long time — so long that they fondly referred to it as "a lifetime". In more realistic terms it was around four years.

Susan gave a weak smile at the older girl's comment and pulled yet another evening dress from her tiny closet.

"I tell you, it's that fashion sense of yours that will kill you. Always gotta look your best, no matter what. If he's asking you only a week after you've met, I don't think he cares for what you wear, all that much. You could get away with jeans and a T-shirt rather than all this!" Lisa slapped her arms at the pile.

"If you were going on your first date in two years tonight, I can assure you that you'd be in hysterics by now."

"At least, I'd be dressed though! So, whose fault is it if you wanted to sit around mourning what's-his-name forever?" Whose indeed, mused Susan as, finally having picked something out she began to pile the lot in.

"He must really be something to have got you out after all this time," said Lisa.

"He is," replied Susan dreamily. Even since they had met at a party last week (one of those impersonal gatherings she didn't mind attending) she could barely get him off her mind. He was so suave, so self-confident, yet so gentle and — for want of a better word — sweet. "He has the most beautiful eyes and the loveliest of smiles," she sighed.

Here is a new serial story about a girl who is having the greatest romance of her life with a man whom she has just met. It is love at first sight and our love struck heroine is in cloud nine. Will this romance last? Or is Mr Right just too good to be true...

"Yeah, I bet he's been saying the same about you to all his friends."

"Tonight's the night I fall in love," she sang, waltzing into the bathroom.

"I believe you're seven days too late."

"How do I look? No, don't tell me, I don't want to hear it. If you say I look good, something will go wrong. If you say I don't, I'll go to pieces." All Lisa managed was a shrug. Just then the bell rang and Susan gave a visible start.

"Saved by the bell," said Susan gleefully as she went to

answer the door. "Now, ladies and well, lady, then, may I present you with Mr Right," she announced with a flourish of her hand.

The first thing that almost knocked the breath out of her was his striking resemblance to what was his name? Susan's ex. The same lean figure, the same hairstyle, the same EYES! What's more they even had the same casual dress sense. Great, while she goes out of her way to dress her best, her dates always seemed to show up as if her flat were the last stop that night. So, do you believe in re-incarnation, she thought looking at him, not realising that she had thought out loud, while he questioning raised one long eyebrow. She could only grin apologetically, whereas he pulled a face. She invited him in and went to get Susan, not sure what to think of this guy.

One look at the expression on Susan's face on her way out with him was enough to tell anyone what she thought of him, though.

"How was dinner?" Susan apparently hadn't heard her question because she lay down flat on her back on her bed and lay there looking straight up at the ceiling. Susan repeated her question, this time bending over her face.

"Delicious. I think I'm in love," Lisa rolled her eyes. "No, I'm not joking" she said, at least without the silly grin she had been wearing from the moment she stepped in. "He's too wonderful to be true. You know, Liz, I can't remember ever actually been taken out to dinner and not having to split the bill and he even bought me flowers!"

"So where are they bought?" "We... em... ah, crushed them by accident in his car." She'd gone beetroot red and was searching hard for words. She was embarrassed for obvious reasons. "So, I threw them away," she finished, frowning.

If I don't talk to her, I think she's going to go over the edge with ecstasy thought Lisa. But she could barely open her mouth before Susan started. "Listen," she said in a suddenly sober voice, sitting up to deliver her words. I guess I'm being carefree and happy about this to the point of silliness, but that's no crime, is it? Since Jake, I thought I was finished, that I'd never be able to fall in love again. He left me stone cold. Not till recently I believed that only a miracle would change things and if Richard is now that miracle come to life, I'm not complaining. Suddenly I realize all the things I was missing. You've been my only true friend in God knows how long and talking to Richard makes me see things through a different light, and from a new point of view.

To be continued



This is Aziz Huq — a 17 year old Bengali who has won a prestigious John Motley Morehead Scholarship to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in the US. Only three of these awards are made in Britain every year. Aziz lives in London with his family and has come for a visit to Bangladesh.

Star Profile

Lead vocalist of the world famous quartet from Ireland, U2.

Name: Paul Hewson (Bono).
DOB: 10th May, 1960
Marital status: Married.
Interesting Info: He goes around on his own Harley Davidson Motorbike; he probably prefers that as he's such a bad driver.

When once asked about religion he said he belonged to the Frisbeetarian Order. "When you die, I believe your soul goes up on the roof and you can't get it down. Just like a stuck frisbee."

He used to put the word "la plage" meaning "the beach" in every French essay he wrote in school. U2's music has been known to have a therapeutic effect on the damaged lives of their fans.

Bono comments, "we are not here to save the world."



We're here to save ourselves by making decent music and, hopefully, a respectable living!

Although presently the front man of U2, he was actually the last member to join the group. He also didn't have much of a voice at the time and it's probably just an Act Fate that he stuck on.

Leaving

by Mehreen Rahman

As the British Airways Boeing 747 gathered speed, I clutched the arm-rests. I always felt scared while taking off. I tried to divert my thoughts as the tyres ran on the Bangladeshi runway for a few more seconds, and then gracefully the plane raised itself. I glanced out of the window for a last glimpse of Dhaka but could not take my eyes off until the last of the shimmering lights had melted into the black of the night.... complete darkness....

How did one say adieu to one's dearest friends? There

were no words. We just sat, and tried to let the fact sink in. They tried to make me feel better by saying how lucky I was to be able to go to London; I would have so much fun there; no restrictive parents! I would have to live in a boarding school, and study hard, but there were so many exciting things to do too. I did not want to act like a miserable, spoilt sport. So I lifted my spirits and decided to make the most of whatever little time I had left. I had been in this school for five and a half years. It meant a lot to me — held many cherished memories.

My friends and I visited our favorite haunts for the last time: the three little steps behind the school building, which we had discovered and called "our den". S (my friend) and I would spend all our free periods there under the huge leafy tree, talking, laughing, confiding sharing our hopes and fears. ...

Before going back to my classroom, I peeped into one of the supervision rooms. That was the place where we would hide when we (S, Z, A, S, F, and I) bunked classes — I thought with a smile.

The hours flew by, the last bell rang and soon the playground was filled with screaming, running children. In the midst of all that chaos, I bid farewell to my friends. As I hugged each of them, tears rolled down my cheeks. I looked at them and saw that it was just as painful for them; I said, "I'll see you all next summer", and went home. I had some packing left. I was flying that night.

It was morning when I woke up. The air-hostess was serving breakfast. A couple of hours more and I would be in England. A new place — a new life. I was no longer leaving. I had left.

QUIZ CLUB

We are proud to announce the winner of June 27th's Quiz Club. The lucky winner is ... Tareq Arafat. Congratulations Tareq! Please contact us to know when you can come and collect your prize.

And now here is a new set of brain teasers. Please send in your answers no later than next Saturday (July 18th).

1. Where does Tom Cruise's wife, actress Nicole Kidman come from?
2. Which famous person said "The world is round?"
3. Which is the fastest snake in the world?
4. Who wrote "Far from the Maddening Crowd"?
5. Who created the character Hercule Poirot?
6. Who killed Julius Caesar?
7. What is the real name of "Victor" in L. A. Law?
8. Who was the famous Indian Scientist to win the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1930?
9. Which is the largest river (in volume) in the world?
10. Name the biggest park in the world.

Answers to June 26th's Quiz questions:

1. Otto Hahn a German in 1941
2. Ferdinand De Lesseps a Frenchman in 1869
3. Victor Hugo
4. Keats
5. Mrs Harriet Stowe
6. Famous Arab Scholar in the Court of Mahmud Ghaznavi Distinguished statesman and administrator. He was also the Viceroy of India (1899-1905)
7. John Wilkes Booth in 1865
8. Socrates
9. A nonscientific name for a group of stars

So, What's New in Beauty?

Saiqa Qader
O' Level

(Step-by-step; the newest look for summer feet)
Give yourself a "French Pedicure" sitting at home. All you will need is: nail polish, remover, a base coat, a top coat, an old eye-liner brush, and a correcting pen/a blunt tooth-pick would also do)

What to do: 1. Wet your feet in lukewarm water for 10-15 minutes. Then dry your feet, and massage it with a cream.

2. Use correcting pen or a tooth-pick to clean any smudges or the inside of long nails.

3. Cut a little bit of the edge of your nails and then, shape them with a nailfile (it should be attached to the nail-cutter).

4. After cutting nails, and preparing cuticles, apply base coats (a coat of nail-polish).

5. Dip eye-liner brush with white polish and draw thin line along tip of each nail.

6. Let dry.

7. Apply two coats of nail-polish.

8. Let dry.

9. Finish with a top coat.
After all is done, your feet will feel soft, smooth and pretty as ever!

Fill out this form and send it to us, and you will be a member of the Rising Star Club. Send in your writings, illustrations, and cartoons. It is an ideal opportunity to express yourself through the print media.

Name: _____
 Father's Name: _____
 School: _____
 Full Address: _____
 Telephone No. _____

