

4-17-88

Short Book

In bibliography: Gurvitch's article "On the Conceptual Consciousness"; the chapter on abstraction from Goldstein's Psychopathology and Human Nature; that woman's New Scholasticism article on universals in Aquinas.

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Thomism and Short Book

The Scandal of Thomism. This could be the theme of an appendix in the short book.

M. E., at the 1988 ACPA, says the problems in ethics I am addressing are "not real problems". Perhaps they are not. But if not and if we know it, it is our moral obligation to try to explain to all those colleagues who think they are real precisely why they are not real. M. E.'s kind of thinking is why Thomism is in such bad shape.

4-17-88

Sexuality

"Social Relationships and Social Cognition in Nonhuman Primates", Science, Dec. 12, 1986, pp. 1361-66, by Dorothy Cheney et al.. They examine "the reproductive benefits of long-term social bonds," whether and how long-term social bonds contribute to reproductive success of the actor or its close relatives.

In man, the connection between the long-term bond between husband and wife and their offspring's chance of reproduction should be obvious. Human children are helpless at birth and unable to take proper care of themselves for years. They need the help of adults who are committed to them. In other words, human sexuality contributes to our reproductive success by supporting a long-term relationship between the parents. It supports this relationship in different though related ways. It provides an ongoing source of immediate reward for the sacrifices one makes in marriage. And it gets the marriage started by fostering an emotional relationship which will not last as long as the marriage but which is extremely helpful for the beginning to be the beginning a relation that will outlast the emotion. Also, it provides memories to help sustain the relation.

Human sexuality was selected because it performed these functions. For otherwise, it would not have fostered the reproductive success of the members of the species.

042488

Short Book

A way of expressing thing-object identity: Identity between what has been objectified as existing in certain ways and what exists.

042488

## PCG and Sex

We are taught not to expect any more of ourselves than to be controlled by our sexual desires, to have them be the organizing factor in our lives, to have them be in charge of our lives; not to expect any more of ourselves than to submit our lives to the service of our sexual desires.

That is the kind of self-image we have developed -- and that shows what an effect on our lives our self-image has.

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## UPS

We have the power to free homosexuals and others from their bondage; if we are not succeeding in doing this, it is because we do not have enough faith.

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## Sex, Society, and Rights

The PAQ criticism. State early: The literature, the discussion, of free expression has not adequately considered society's need for the family to function well nor the effect of pornography on the family.

State early: Democracy must recognize the parents' right to bring up their children. Therefore, a democracy has no choice but to try to make the family work. Because a society must also fulfill its obligation to provide children with loving environments.

The real issue is how much love we think our children deserve, how much risk we have the right to take that many children will not get that love. Do they only deserve the kind of love we can offer by setting up a cabinet office of children's affairs?

042688

## Ethics Epilogue

Which is the solution to is-ought, that ethics is practical or that the will is a rational appetite? What a dilemma for the Thomist, both doctrines are Thomistic doctrines, but Aquinas never linked either doctrine to the is-ought problem. So Thomists are forced to do something unnatural, think for themselves.

Contrary to Grisez and Finnis, it is the nature of the will as a rational appetite that both responds to the is-ought problem and shows that speculative knowledge has ethical implications even though ethics is practical knowledge.

042688

Speculative-practical

No matter how subtle the distinction between these two kinds of knowledge and how difficult it is to accurately articulate their difference, there must be a distinction to be drawn. Mathematics is a perfect example of knowledge speculative in type. Therefore the distinction is clear in some cases even if obscure in others.

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Short Book

Title of Epilogue: Profundity and Precision or Profundity and Rigor, as opposed to the title of the Preface: Profundity and Clarity. Sadly rigor and precision in philosophy do not coincide with clarity, due to the paragenetic nature of philosophical concepts. (not typed on date of entry).