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 crisis 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 twofold; 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 body's motion is transmitted directly through the spheres themselves. Later, men like Eudotus, Colups and Ptolemy, in order to save the appearances of things, designed complicated schemes such as eccentric and epicycles. From the Greeks to men like Copernicus and Galileo, the concepts of eccentricities 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 eccentricities 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.

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 Postwar 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.
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 the question: 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 open 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.

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In the lecture, Fr. Wallace concludes that the force holding them in must be real also. He points out that he is not a 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 Barkley 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 Ptolemaic 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 ball 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 newcoming 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,