

Editorial

In *Think* 9, Daniel Sokol ('Reflecting on our "Yuk!"') argued that the fact that something (genetic engineering, homosexuality, abortion) tends to produce a 'Yuk!' response in us does not justify us in morally condemning it. In this issue, Michael Levin ('Non-Euclidean Sex') argues that while someone who is exclusively homosexual might not be doing anything *morally* wrong, their behaviour is nevertheless abnormal, and involves a misuse of the penis. Those who are exclusively homosexual are driven to use their sexual organs in a way that prevents their proper reproductive use not just *now*, but at *any* time. As Levin explains elsewhere:

Someone playing a melody on his teeth as a xylophone is not misusing them so long as he chews his food at mealtime, but let him paint miniature landscapes on his teeth, avoid eating to keep these paintings spotless, recoil at the thought of chewing, and nourish himself intravenously — then he is misusing his teeth. This is why homosexuality is abnormal, while male homosexuals are misusing their penises...

Levin has argued that while we are not justified in morally condemning homosexuality, that's not to say we're not within our rights to feel disgusted by it. Just as we should not be blamed for not wanting to sit next to, say, a very smelly person (even if their smelliness is not their fault), so neither should we be blamed if we find homosexuals equally repellent and don't want to be in close contact with them either. Our 'Yuk' response might not justify us in *morally* condemning homosexuality. That doesn't mean it isn't an entirely proper response, a response we are entitled to act on. Perhaps those liberals who (paradoxically) wish to *compel* people to have dealings with homosexuals should think again.

Whether or not you agree with Levin, his article provides a

thought-provoking challenge to those, like myself, who take a more liberal line.

Also in this issue, the religious education debate continues, with Marilyn Mason now entering the fray.

Stephen Law, Editor