

Letters

WORDS, WORDS . . .

TO THE EDITOR:

The letter by Joan Clement (Sept. 22) commenting on Rena Corman's article "Close-up of the 'Normal Wife,'" is a good example of demonology masking itself as psychology. Mrs. Clement uses a phalanx of neo-Freudian terms—"immaturity," "pathology," "infantility," etc.—to categorize those who do not accept the Judeo-Christian form of compulsive monogamous marriage. She is not using these words in their scientific meaning, however, but is employing them as clubs to beat off the specter of those who behave in ways that are frightening or incomprehensible to her. An animal would snarl; a medieval theologian would shout "sin" or "witchcraft"; Mrs. Clement hurls the charge of "neuroses."

Exponents of "sexual freedom" like to hurl the same neo-Freudian terms at believers in compulsive monogamy. To an anthropologically aware observer, there is something wry and amusing about the same magic formulas tossed back and forth by those who think that the Judeo-Christian sexual code is the only correct one and those who think it is the only incorrect one.

Some people cling to monogamy for neurotic reasons, because once having achieved a sexual partnership with another human they are too timid and too unsure to at-

tempt to find a better one. Some people cling to monogamy because they are happy in it. Some people reject monogamy for neurotic reasons, because they are incapable of a deep affection for another human. Some people reject monogamy because they are too large and bold, emotionally and mentally, to fit into any pattern of any sort created by previous generations.

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SPINSTERS, ARISE!

TO THE EDITOR:

Ho hum! Your piece "The Case of the Vanishing Spinster," (Sept. 22) by Marion K. Sanders adds another tiresome chapter to the nonsense being written about unmarried women.

Once more, spinsterhood is equated with celibacy. Once more, you feed the fiction that unmarried ladies with the brains and charm to have good jobs, cozy flats and gold cigarette holders are going to have trouble finding partners for parties or anything else.

There are plenty of men around, including the army of nervous newly-splits (married men, now divorced), eager companions to be found at parties, airports, business meetings and hot-dog stands. And why knock man-chasing? Men adore being chased.

Further, why should "spinster" be a dirty word? "Bach-

(Continued on Page 48)