

SPECTRUM

The views found in Spectrum are not necessarily those held by the *Brunswickian*. People interested in writing for Spectrum must submit at least three (3) type-written articles of no more than 500 words each to the *Brunswickian*. The *Brunswickian* retains the right to publish material at their discretion.

METANOIA

By John Valk (Campus Ministry)

People go to university to change. Oh, we seldom put it that way. We speak instead of learning, of gaining a skill, of preparing for the job market. But in so doing we are in fact changing. A student will be a changed person from the day he/she walks into UNB to the day of graduation.

Now that a new school year has begun it might do to ask oneself how one will change. Or, better still, how one wants to change? What will be most important? What will one strive for: more knowledge, more power, more independence, more awareness of the self?

Metanoia means change. That is what I have named this column. Life entails change. Even if we choose to do nothing we change, by time: we age. But few university students choose such a course of (in)action. Letting the world merely pass by hardly seems appealing, at least in the long run. So we seek some change, but not necessarily for change's sake. We seek to alter our situation, and for a variety of reasons.

Metanoia also means conversion. That is a more difficult notion. We can all change, and we do change. But change that simply entails allowing something to rub off on us, or allowing ourselves to be influenced by something, does not lead to conversion. Peer pressure, if nothing else, will change a person, though not always for the better.

Conversion has more to do with changing one's perspective, one's outlook on life. It may mean a change of heart, or an awakening. It may result from something experienced, be that positive or negative; something that has shocked us into perceiving life a little differently. In any event, there is more active engagement. More thought is required, and a more concerted effort undertaken.

University years are precious. They afford one a golden opportunity to be exposed to a host of people, thoughts, ideas and lifestyles not necessarily, or always, found in such variety outside of the university setting. By the very fact of that exposure one will be molded or changed. But what will be the nature of that change? To what degree will one be awakened or converted, and to what?

Will one be molded in the individualism so rampant in our society? Will a program of study be chosen in order to enhance one's own power and influence in the market place? Will the sole purpose for study

be to gain a high salary, whereby one's university programme becomes a mere means to that end? Will university study become also your tried and proven method of increasing future buying power, hence a net material gain? If such is your intention, you undoubtedly will be changed. But consider the kind of person you will become, and to whom this is all directed.

It has been said that work or study is most meaningful if the fruits thereof are shared, rather than hoarded for ego satisfaction. Try as we might, however, our actions indicate by and large that we really

don't believe that. We are inclined rather to believe that our greatest happiness lies in possessing and having things or skills, for ourselves. So the change we are seeking, or the conversion taking place, is largely self-centred. We are in it for ourselves.

One can also choose, however, to undergo more radical change, a conversion, a **Metanoia**; one which includes a global consciousness. That is, where the sole concern is not the elevation of the individual. Rather, the focus would shift from gaining insight, knowledge, training and skills solely for service of the self, to one of serving humanity in

general, one's community in particular, and the environment as a whole.

That sort of conversion or awakening has to do with **transcendence**, that is, with religion and friendship. It has to do with changing our whole perspective on life, one in which we come to see that there is more to life than the here and the now, more than the satisfaction from elevation of our own individual selves.

Much of life is mysterious. Things happen to us and around us that defy reason of logic. They often take us by surprise, occurring when we least expect them: a friend's death or suicide, an unwanted

pregnancy, contracting AIDS. Then the harsh reality of life suddenly sets in. And then we inquire about the meaning of life, especially our own. That puts us in a religious frame of mind, and then we begin to ask big questions.

And so we return to our original concern. Being at university entails asking big questions, and as such entails change and conversion. Those big questions are not unrelated to what we choose to do with our life, how and where we seek meaning, and above all, what use we make of our precious university years.



Almost everybody has assumptions of what their legal rights and obligations are. Sometimes these assumptions are correct but more often they are wrong. It is in your best interest to be accurately informed of your rights and responsibilities. As people learn more about the law they gain a new respect for it. An understanding of the law allows them to respond to other people in a civil manner. It is therefore understandable that legal information is required in a university community.

With this in mind the UNB Student Union has initiated the Legal Information Programme to provide every student with

accessible information about the law. The cornerstone of the program is the Legal Handbook **Campus to Courtroom: A Student's Guide to the Law**. For 1990, this Handbook has been updated and distributed to all university students in New Brunswick.

Throughout the school year the Legal Information Programme will be producing a series of articles in the *Brunswickian* under the heading "Legal Ease". The purpose of the column is to supplement **Campus to Courtroom**. The articles are designed to touch on some of the everyday legal issues that you as a student will encounter as well as some

special areas of interest or concern.

The Student Union and the Legal Information Programme hope all students will use this column and the Handbook to facilitate a greater awareness of the law. Students have enough on their minds without having to wonder if what they do is right or wrong.

The Legal Information Programme would like to draw your attention to the new Rules and Regulations Handbook **Tackling the System**. This Handbook covers the steps on procedure for academic and disciplinary matters. If you do not have a copy of **Tackling the System**, you may pick one up from the Student Union Office of the Dean of Students.

You should remember that neither this column nor **Campus to Courtroom** are intended to replace professional legal advice. Both of these sources are only intended to be guides. If you require additional legal advice or counselling, you should contact a lawyer.

The Student Union has established the Student/Lawyer Consultation Service for students who wish to consult a lawyer. It is free for all UNB students. You can make an appointment by calling or visiting the Student Union Office in room 126 of the SUB. A full discussion of the Student/Lawyer Consultation Service will be covered in a separate article.

The Media, AIDS, and Gay Men

"AIDS sparks an epidemic of violence against homosexuals. In New York city alone attacks on gays jumped from 176 in 1984 to 517 in 1987, obviously a small fraction of the actual total." (From "Time" magazine: August, 1988)

Throughout the summer months I was thoroughly appalled by the many editorials printed in *The Daily Gleaner* aimed directly at gay men and AIDS. In July an editorial (the second of its kind in four months) written by Tom Crowther stated that "[gays] should be treated like the plague. . . and that taxpayers are being forced to foot the bill for wanton homosexuals." The piece further stated, "it is the curse of the day that public money has to be allotted for the relief of those who deliberately indulge in unnatural acts while aware of the dangers involved."

The *Gleaner* should realize that a 1985 gallop poll showed that 71% of Maritimers believed that discrimination against gay men and women ought to be illegal. This newspaper is discriminating against gay men, as it implies that gay men are the cause of AIDS. Newspapers are one of the many factors which help shape public opinion and this kind of

journalism only helps to increase homophobic tendencies. Gay men are not the cause of AIDS; a virus causes it and it is through unsafe sex practices and the sharing of needles that AIDS is transmitted.

The editorial states that gay men with AIDS should be quarantined. Does this also mean that innocent children and others with the disease should be quarantined as well? The paper has made it sound like gay men are not human. We are human; we eat and breathe just like everyone else. One of the goals of a newspaper is to try and educate the public on what society is, not to discriminate against certain people.

One thing many fail to realize is that the number of gay men acquiring the disease is decreasing while more and more incidents of heterosexuals with the virus are being reported. We are taking precautions while having sex. This leads to the question "why aren't

heterosexuals doing the same thing?"

A system of quarantine would simply never work since mandatory testing would be compulsory. Mandatory testing, under Section 8 of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, is a violation of our rights to be free from search and seizure.

If you also believe that gay men with AIDS should not receive public assistance then you must also believe that the public should not support patients with cancer or help fund detox centres to help alcoholics.

In my opinion gay men are simply the scapegoat for people's fear of AIDS. They believe "Well, if I'm not gay then I can't catch it." If this is your theory, who are you really fooling?

After Crowther printed his editorial, several homophobic letters were printed. One of the more offensive said "both the Old and New Testament clearly condemn the corrupt lifestyle

that leads to this horrible and fatal disease. God is certainly judging those who chose to ignore Him and His instructions." My answer is that if God really felt this way and, as another editorial stated, "homosexual AIDS victims got exactly what they deserved" then again why are innocent children getting the disease?

It is people like the editors of the *Daily Gleaner* who publish such slanderous material who are the barriers to effective learning and prevention. People need to understand the reality of AIDS. The *Gleaner's* actions over the past six months are clearly an example of how the media is not being responsible and is not playing a role in stopping the spread of AIDS in Canada. People simply have to be educated on the reality of AIDS and gay men.

Remember, AIDS is everyone's disease. All should care!!!

GAY FORUM

By Terry Richards

De
I w
your
the
camp
Cyst
artic
searc
in va
Chu
Sick
Toro
locat
land
pote
scre
enor
socia

CH
just
To
pus
in P
Uni