

How do you spell relief?

Bill Clinton has only been president of the United States for one week (Thursday), but he has wasted little time in sinking both himself and his administration neck deep in Washington's political mud.

In fact, he was so anxious to implement a few of his countless campaign promises, he effectively ended the traditional presidential honeymoon before he was even sworn into office. Although there are many to

choose from, here are three of the more pertinent events transpiring over the last week or so.

1. The omniscient, virtuous senators (Ted Kennedy was obviously absent) decided to deprive Clinton and the American people of an excellent attorney-general in Zoe Baird. Baird, you might recall, paid two illegal immigrants to look after her infant son. Clinton, in what I hope was an abnormal show of disloyalty, accepted

Baird's resignation "within minutes" of receiving her fax.

2. With one stroke of his "executive order" pen, Clinton effectively reversed twelve years of Republican political philosophy by strengthening abortion rights. The executive order overturns restrictions on abortion counseling at clinics that receive government funding, overturns prohibitions against using fetal tissue for research, allows abortions at military hospitals, and allows financing for over-seas population control programs. Also, he ordered a review into the decision to ban the controversial French abortion pill - R.U. 486.

3. Finally, Clinton has strongly advised the American military to rethink its position on banning homosexual men and women from the military, or discharging homosexuals already serving. His advice is more an indication of events to come. Considering he does not have to secure the military's support, he need only use his magical "executive order" pen and the question becomes moot. Clinton's policy has come under intense criticism, especially by military leaders, and has prompted

General Colin Powell to insightfully insist that the policy will be detrimental "to good order and discipline." Someone should remind General Powell that Canada along with most other Western countries lifted their bans years ago.

Apart from Clinton's handling of the Zoe Baird situation, Clinton has competently handled, in only one week, politically difficult decisions that would make a second term president reach for the Roloids.

Jonathan Sunderland

Our own worst enemy?

Oppression. Something queer people know all too well. Something which certainly affects us all.

I recently read an article entitled "Gay Liberation and the Struggle for Socialism" by Noel Halifax. Bought from the International Socialists. Being queer and having alignments with the Socialist Movement, I fervently read the 40 or so pages.

I was unfortunately met with a disturbing and quite inappropriate statement. Halifax indicated: "The first oppressor of gays is themselves - coming to terms with a sexuality which is deemed 'deviant' by society means learning to be proud and not ashamed of your sexuality."

My first reaction was that Halifax did not appreciate, understand or realise the extent of societal power in this matter. When one is made to feel inadequate, alone, isolated, inappropriate, marginal, ashamed, etc. because of a sexuality which does not follow prescribed guidelines, then it seems only reasonable that queer people would deny, negate and avoid their own sexuality.

We need only to look at what is presented to us as appropriate behaviour. A heterosexual couple can show affection in public without fear of ridicule, alienation or gay bashing; the same does not apply for a same sex couple. Role models are all presented as heterosexual, although surely this is not the case. The church holds queers as sinful and degenerates, although the church claims not to be judgemental. Heterosexual society views queers as disgusting and

loathsome, keeping them in contempt; although the love and passion that queer people experience and feel are just as real and legitimate. Love is not limited to an exclusive group. Does it therefore seem inappropriate or unreasonable for queer people to try to maintain their membership in the category of heterosexual, effectively negating their lives and very existence through denying their sexuality? It would seem the only logical choice.

So, who is the first oppressor of queer people? Is it the queer population itself? Is it in fact society as a whole? Is anything to be gained by appropriating or laying blame? It is important that we do not allow ourselves to be oppressed and denied yet again by having others make us believe that we are responsible for our own oppression and again feel more self-hatred and desperation. If we were not met with such opposition then we certainly would not feel it necessary to repress our sexuality and orientation. I do not deny that queer people play a role in their own oppression but it is fundamentally important that the position is contextualized, understood and explored.

More importantly, however, is the fact that blame should not be directed at queer people. Societal perceptions, oppression and judgements force us into repressing our sexuality. We are not the primary or the first players in the system of delegitimization, hatred and oppression that denies us our identity.

Anthony Roberts BGLAD

it is offensive. The material displayed by this Dalhousie student group is nothing less than hate literature. The stance taken by the students we spoke to is bigotry masquerading as Christianity. We realize that these may be considered harsh words, but nowhere near as harsh as being told to one's face or reading that one is inferior, twisted or perverse.

There will come a time when lesbians and gay men will not have to worry about being ostracized by family, losing a job, being sexually assaulted, beaten up, or even murdered simply because of their sexual/affectual orientation. But that time will only come if we continue to point out that it is unacceptable to propagate hurtful stereotypes which promote discrimination against lesbians and gays in our society.

Dykes at Large

Third Annual DSU CHARITY BALL & AUCTION

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1993
**In the McInnes Room, Dalhousie Student
Union Building**

All proceeds will go to
ALICE HOUSING

"Providing safe and supportive housing in the metro
area for women and their children fleeing abuse."

Grand Prize: Trip for 2 anywhere Canadian Airlines flies in Canada
Second Prize: Weekend for 2 at the Halifax Hilton

7pm Cocktails
8pm Dinner & Auction
9pm-1am Dance Featuring: **The Aviators**

Tickets available at the Enquiry Desk of the Dal SUB

Students: \$20/Single

\$35/Couple

General: \$45/Couple

For more information, please call 494-3527/1106

Canadian • Air Atlantic



CONT'D FROM PAGE 9

is a part of us as much as any limb), the reinforcing of outmoded stereotypes, the argument for the superiority of one group of society over another group. If this is done under the guise of 'Christianity' then that may tell us something about 'Christianity', but it is not a valid defense for active discrimination. Freedom of religion is not a defense for anti-semitism or racism and is therefore not a valid defense for homophobia or heterosexism. (In fact, one could argue that there is no defense for bigotry, ignorance and discrimination.)

Whether this information/ material is being distributed by DCF or by another student group at Dalhousie