

# SPECTRUM

## Metanoia by John Valk

### New Male Manifesto

At last Friday's (Campus Ministry) Spaghetti Supper we discussed, what it meant to be a man. Much of the conversation focused on the ten theses of "The New Male Manifesto" by Aaron R. Kipnis, from his new book *Knights Without Armour*, published by Jeremy P. Tarcher, Inc. Reactions to these theses ranged from tacit agreement to mild disgust.

Some at the gathering clearly, and quickly, recognized that the manifesto was little more than a male reaction to feminist movements of the last decade or two. Some (males) did not feel the need to articulate such a manifesto, either on paper or in public. They felt it was more important to be a male, in the best way they knew how, sans public fanfare. Others, who recognized the need for equality for all, voiced their weariness with the male bashing that still lingered. A few appeared unaware, or ignorant, of the (structural) inequality still occurring, whether in the church, in the marketplace, or in society in general.

I list the theses of the "New Male Manifesto". You might find them thoughtful, challenging, interesting, perhaps even humorous. They are as follows:

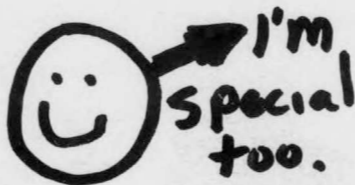
I. Men are beautiful. Masculinity is life-supporting. Male sexuality generates life. The male body deserves to be nurtured and protected.

II. A man's value is not measured by what he produces. We are not our professions. We need to be loved for who

we are. We make money to support life. Our real challenges, and the adventure which makes life full, is making soul.

III. Men are not flawed by nature. We become destructive when our masculinity is damaged.

IV. A man doesn't have to live up to any narrow, societal image of manhood. There are many ancient and modern images of men as healers, protectors, lovers and partners with women, men and



nature. This is how we are in our depths, celebrators of life, ethical and strong.

V. Men do not need or want to become more like women. Women can help men by giving them room to change, grow and recover masculine depth. Women support men's healing by seeking out and affirming the good in them.

VI. Masculinity does not require the denial of feeling. Men have the right to express all their feelings. In our society this takes courage and the support of others. We start to die as human beings when we are afraid to say or act upon what we feel.

VII. Men are not only competitors. Men

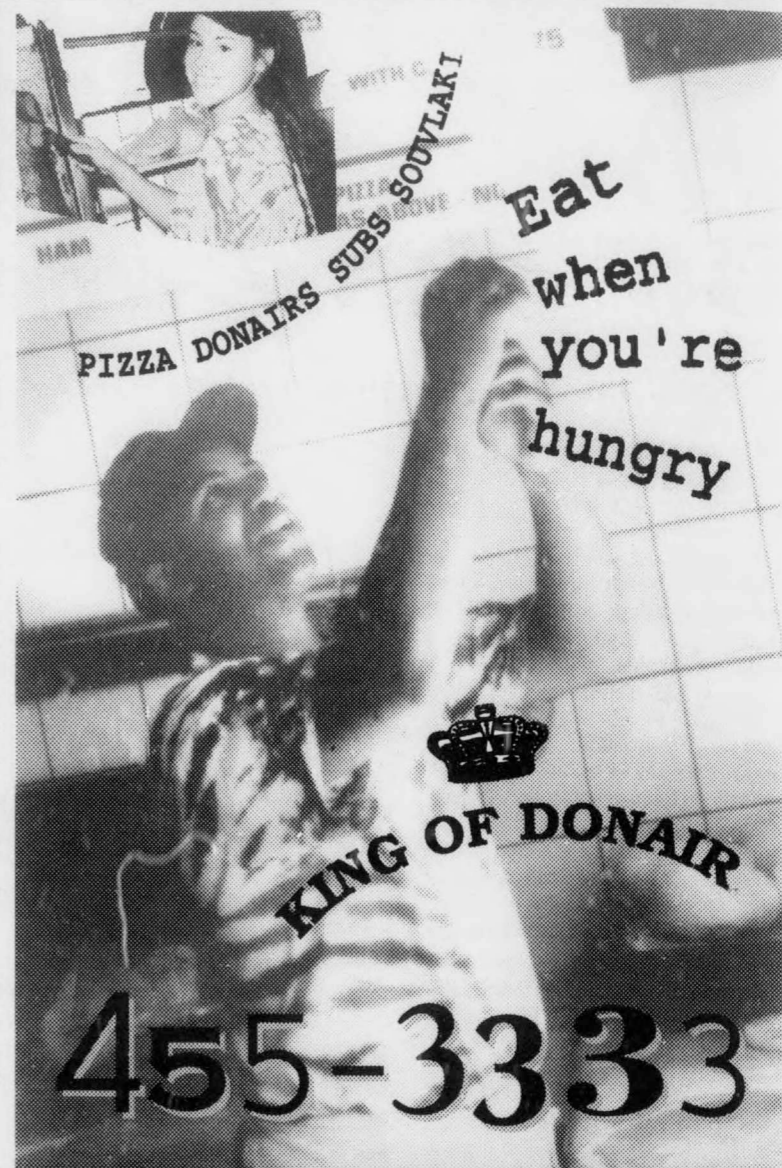
are brothers. It is natural for us to cooperate with each other. We find strength and support through telling the truth to one another — man to man.

VIII. Men deserve the same rights as women for custody of children, economic support, government aid, education, health care and protection from abuse. Fathers are equal to mothers in their ability to raise children.

IX. Men wish to be equal partners with women in all things. As men learn to treat women fairly, they want women to work toward a vision of partnership as well.

X. Men's lives have been too circumscribed. We have the right to be wrong, irresponsible, unpredictable, silly, inconsistent, afraid, indecisive, experimental, insecure, visionary, lustful, lazy, fat, bald, old, playful, fierce, irreverent, magical, wildly impractical, unconventional, and many other things we're not supposed to be.

Perhaps you would like to respond to this new male manifesto via *The Brunswickan's* Blood n' Thunder or our Spaghetti supper talks on Fridays. Whether you agree or disagree, your input is valuable.



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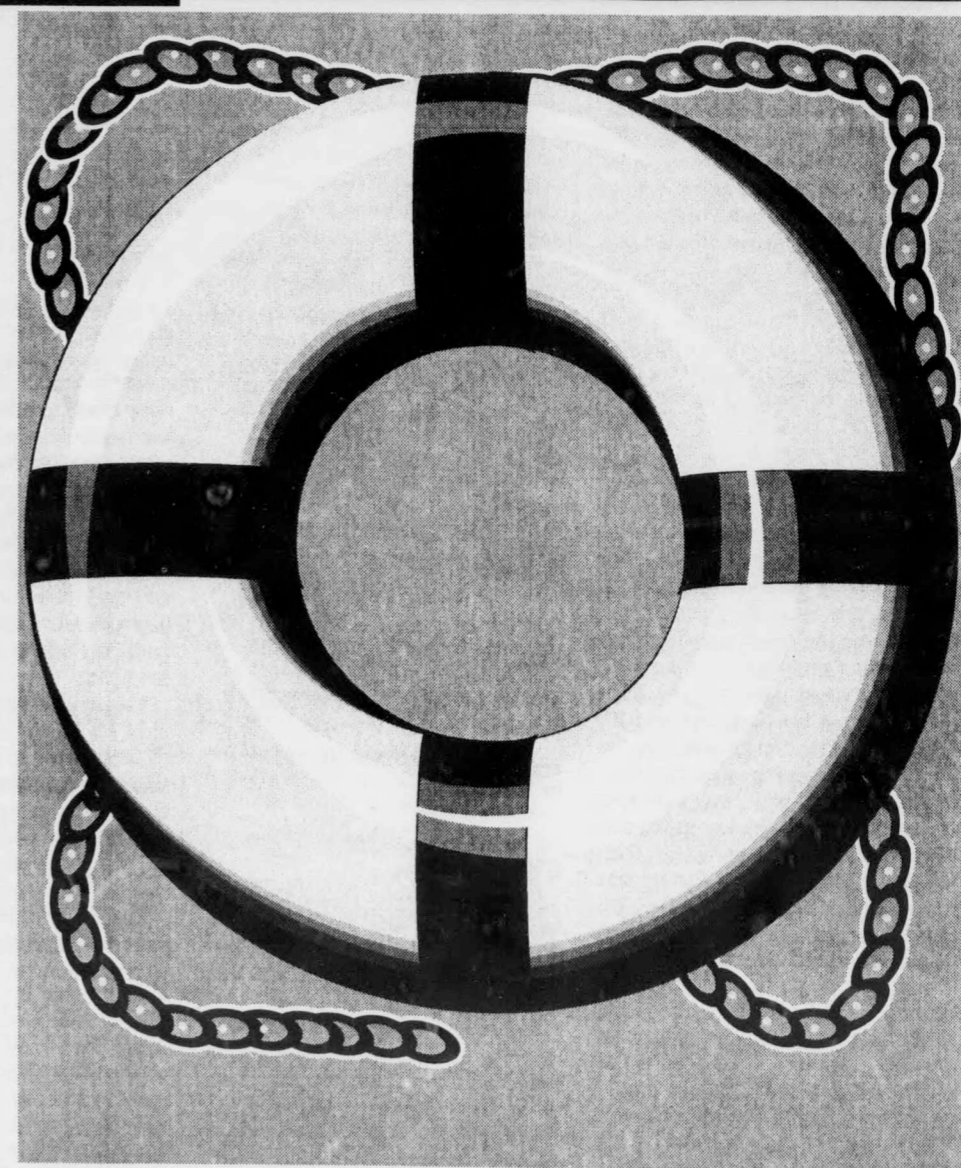
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