

# soundoff continued

## Who gets the very last word?

Dear Editor:

I thought that your readers would have the last word on M.K.'s attack on the gay community printed in the January 28th edition of *The Brunswickan*. Apparently, I was wrong.

Mark Bennett's letter last week is another such tirade. I would like to deal with each of the points that he raises so

that we can perhaps put a few more myths to bed.

Mr. Bennett tries to resurrect the tired notion that homosexuality is a trait that is acquired by children who live in a society where homosexuality is accepted.

How does he think gay people got here in the first place?

We are, for the most part, the offspring of heterosexual couples. We grew up in a

society that has been hostile towards our rights and needs. We had no positive models or notion of what it meant to be gay.

I would challenge Mr. Bennett to put his thoughts down on paper and try to get a member of the Psychology department to accept them as a term assignment. Homosexuality is a complex issue. For every gay person, there is

bound to be a different explanation of the factors which governed their sexual orientation.

Most of us have an ingrained distrust of the psychiatric profession. We consider theories to be irrelevant, we are happy the way we are and we do not require any cures!

To gay people the question of why we are gay is largely irrelevant. We are more interested in living open and rewarding lives in the community, participating as equals that we are.

Mr. Bennett says that gay people do not have to worry about children. My question is, where has Mr. Bennett been? Our membership is made up of dozens of married men and women and single parents who, in turn, are the parents of numerous children. The newspapers are full of battles involving gay parents. Enlightened judges have recognized the worthiness of gay parents and are awarding custody to them in a growing number of cases. Most major cities in Canada and the U.S. now have organizations for gay parents.

Finally, I would like to point out that Freud was not the great emancipator of homosexuals, as Mr. Bennett would have us believe. You will find very few gay people ever referring to any theory in

order to justify their existence.

Most of us have an ingrained distrust of the psychiatric profession. We consider theories to be irrelevant, we are happy the way we are and we do not require any cures!

If anything does require a cure, I would suggest that it is Mr. Bennett's theories on homosexuality and his grammar and spelling. The antidote is not without pain. I would prescribe mandatory enrollment in Psychology 1000 next semester and a few dozens of married men and women and single parents

Hotline.

In conclusion, I would like to make a general comment about both M.K.'s and Mark Bennett's letters. Most of the people in the gay community who read their letters found them to be vicious and inflammatory. We do not consider these types of letters to be "fair comment". The fact that they did appear is suitable testimony of the need for our rights to be better served in this province.

Yours truly,

Bev Macdonald  
Human Rights Chairperson  
F.L.A.G.

## Letter was unfortunate

Dear Editor:

I don't know whom I should blame - the editorial staff, or Mark Bennett - for the unfortunate appearance of Mr. Bennett's letter in last week's *Brunswickan*. I say "unfortunate" because, on the one hand, I find it hard to believe that no attempt was made to correct Mr. Bennett's grammar before printing the letter and, on the other, I find it equally incomprehensible that such a letter was offered for publication in the first place.

Having trudged through the rhetorical mire of Mr. Bennett's missive several times, I find I am at a loss to pinpoint any one meaning. For example, Mr. Bennett writes: "I also was, as was the President of Flag, disappointed not to see rape, pillage, sex with dead people, mass suicide and more not included on M.K.'s list, as I too agree they should be considered in the same category as homosexuals." "Disappointed" is spelled with only one "s"; "too" is spelled with two "o's" in this sense. Bennett used the word "not" twice in his sentence, producing a double-negative situation. Therefore, it really reads: "I also was... disappointed to see rape, etc. included on M.K.'s list..." Yes, that statement might read much more logically, except that "rape, pillage, etc." are all actions and therefore not categorically related to "homosexuals", a group of people.

Benett "...the Bruns last week it was implied that homosexuals don't affect the 'other' people of society and therefore we should 'live and let live'." Has a typesetting error perhaps misplaced the "in"

at the beginning of this sentence? Why is "other" set in quotation marks? Looking in the February 4th issue of the *Brunswickan*, I find that Bennett's "live and let live" is a misquote of the signed alias, "Live and Let Live". In no place did I find the implication that "homosexuals don't affect the 'other' people of society..." Don't heterosexuals affect the other members of society, too?

Bennett: "I feel any person growing up in a society where homosexuality is openly accepted is most definitely affected." Bravo, Bennett! A sentence! However, the opening "I feel any person growing up..." denotes something rather socially unacceptable. Does it not? Perhaps "I think that any person..." is what was intended. And might I offer "in which" as a substitute for "where?" Would Mr. Bennett care to indicate about which society he is speaking - e.g. Canadian, North American, Western Hemispheric?

Bennett: "Children growing up in such a society would more readily tend toward this type of sexual abnormality as the children would see it as an acceptable alternative." In this case, without altering the sense of the sentence, I would suggest: "Children growing up in Canada (let's drive the point home, shall we?) would choose a homosexual lifestyle because they understand it to be an acceptable alternative."

Mr. Bennett's "Of course the Bruns last week it was implied that homosexuals don't affect the 'other' people of society and therefore we should 'live and let live'." Has a typesetting error perhaps misplaced the "in"

Mr. Bennett? (And don't

you like question marks?)

Bennett: "I believe any Freudian (or similar) theories... You do? No questions asked? Oh, surely, you mean: "I believe that any Freudian (or similarly derived) theories that condone homosexuality are only cheap attempts to justify and explain away this outrageous behavior." When your credentials match those of Sigmund Freud's Mr. Bennett, then I might just consider taking your argument into account. (Any why are the attempts at justifying, etc. "cheap"? Are they really very inexpensive?)

I find I have no energy left with which to unscramble "Hopefully though, someone, someday..." however, I do have enough fight in me yet to point out that Mr. Bennett's last sentence is really no sentence at all. Like most of the other imperfect sentence that he writes, it fails to communicate any coherent message about the subject of homosexuality. Am I merely condemning Mr. Bennett's grammar, or is a more deeply-rooted problem implied? I can only hope that, before he writes to the *Brunswickan* again, Mr. Bennett will realize that there can be no attempt made "to justify and explain away (his) outrageous (written) behavior", and that "hopefully though, someone, someday, "will come up with a cure" for what ails him.

Very truly yours,

An Incredible Reader

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