

FEATURES

It is God who made woman beautiful,
It is the devil who makes her pretty.
— Victor Hugo

DATELINE

by Rolf J. Schultz

FRACTURED REACTIONS

The time will soon be coming when Dalhousie's noble football heroes will be hanging up their equipment and give our hockey stars a chance to step into the spotlight. Most everyone realizes that either of the two sports can become very dangerous unless supervised very carefully. Reactions to the danger of these sports has been voiced by numerous people who at one time or another have had the misfortune of breaking a bone or two; since their comments, however, proved to be rather dull for publication, I have decided to tackle the subject in another manner, namely:

What's your reaction to a broken leg? Not your own but someone else's. With a few Dal men sporting large, white casts around the campus from time to time, this is obviously a question of great importance. The following guide, compiled through personal experience and with all due acknowledgement to Mary White, is to aid you in a basic personality analysis.

Omniscient: Skiing..

Naive: Oh! Did you break your leg?

Chivalrous: If that weren't such a heavy cast I'd carry you in my arms.

Encouraging: Race you to the corner?

Aesthetic: If I had a cast like that, I'd at least get one on the other leg so they'd match.

Medsman: To me that looks like a continued fracture of a navicular with avascular necrosis of the distal fragment.

Scienecman: You'd think those doctors could make casts a little more shapely!

Prof: Do you realize that the coefficient of thermoconductivity of the cast is 3.3 Btu's per sq. in. ft. hr. deg. f?

Keener: Lucky it was your right leg and not your writing arm!

Artsman: Lucky it was your right leg and not your drinking arm.

Literary: May I autograph my latest poem?

Practical: I understand you have some skis for rent?

Spoil Sport: You should know better than that at your age.

Haligonian: I told you those wild X-men would do you no good.

Epic-Historian: Did I ever tell you all the trouble I had when I broke my leg?

Dramatic: Is it a leg which I see before me?

Beatnick: Like jive much?

Optimist: It'll be great when you get your cast off!

Pessimist: Wait till you get the cast off! Your leg will be so stiff you'll need crutches for another two weeks.

Oh well, so much for leg breaking. Next year: tiddley-winks. A word to the wise should be sufficient.

DO YOU KNOW YOUR ENGLISH?

The "Webster's New International Dictionary" is now on the market. For those who are constantly seeking revenge with their English professors, may I suggest that memorizing several new terms just accepted into the English language from this dictionary and using them on your Christmas examination paper will be a sure way of starting the New Year off with a big bang.

For example: "A soigne peccifogger was yawping galactically at an elaborate peacockery which recreated the screaming memies that overcame the populus in the williwaw."

Translated: "A well-groomed heckler was uttering loudly at an elaborate and unnecessary display which recreated the intolerable terror of the people in the tempest."

The intolerance of "Broad-Mindedness"

If any student wishes to know the key to success in argument and discussion, he need search no longer. The pass-word for success is "broad-mindedness". Invoke this magic word, and victory is assured.

Almost all men have primary interests, almost all tend, in varying degrees, to be culture-bound. As a result, it is quite easy to analyze a person's argument and to locate the focus of his interest.

If an opponent expounds a position contrary to that of a "broad-minded" person, the plan of attack should be obvious, for it is our thesis that the "broad-minded" person is, in fact, a person who tenaciously defends his own views and has predetermined in all debate not to budge an inch from his original position.

Accordingly, he will not set his own position against that of his opponent, for in the resolution of the conflict, either a new position will emerge, or his own will be greatly attenuated. To the so-called "broad-minded", this would be anathema.

Rather, when the views of the "broad-minded" person encounter opposition, he jumps to his feet, thumps the table, and roars at his opponent, labelling his position as narrow-minded, astutely observing for one and all the principal interests of his opponent. While the stunned opponent, cringes under the unexpected assault, the "broad-minded" debater will call upon the hallowed liberal spirit of liberalism, and will declare to all and sundry that he has an open mind.

The issue at stake will be lost behind this smoke-screen, the audience will applaud deferentially the man of the open mind, and our "broad-minded" friend will emerge triumphant. With a little bit of stage presence and some handy Bartlett's oratory, it should be quite easy to win an argument, shouldn't it?

However, it is our contention that the position of the self-declared "broad-minded" person is both audacious and untenable. It is better far to take a more humble approach, to realize one's limitations, but to strive nonetheless to accommodate the views of others as far as one can. This attitude comes much closer to the elusive state of true open mindedness.

The stance of the self-appointed custodian of open mindedness is characterized by a negative approach to all positions which he deems to be "narrow-minded". There is one position indeed, which seems to be universally described by all of our proud guardians of liberal thought. It is that of censorship.

When our "broad-minded" person hears of anything that smacks of censorship, a warning tingle races up his spine, a gong sounds within his head, he sees red, he quivers, he breaks forth in righteous indignation. The accepted phrases will flow in routine succession: "Liberty!" "We live in a democratic society." "Who is to tell me what is morally right?" "I can do as I wish." "Don't be narrow-minded!"

Upon appeal to our revered tradition of freedom of the press, our "broad-minded" person will clear the arena for the display of all licentious books, pornographic films, and verbal diarrhoea that come his way. Little does he realize that those who framed our well-hallowed freedoms were thinking in terms of free discourse in the attempt to disco-

ver truth. They were not endorsing the free flow of the licentious, they were not giving carte blanche for the indulgence in and appreciation of lewd tripe.

In short, it is time we ceased to be cowed by the libertines who hide behind the banner of Broad-mindedness, it is time that people began to discern the distinc-

tion between orderly liberty and chaotic license.

One feels that a final word is necessary for those presumptuous persons who brag about the sewers of this very city stand with gaping maws, ready to receive whatever might come their way.

Sex relations

The male-versus-female story is as old as time. Apparently all the sagacity of modern psychiatry and sociology is still unable to overcome this plainly old-fashioned battle.

The dominating, aggressive and capable lord of house and manor is rapidly becoming as extinct as the dodo. In his place, we now see the female counterpart, fashionable, aggressive, setting family policy, and determining the course of a country's business.

New roles must be played to keep pace with this change. Men feel the pressure to conform to society's image of the masculine individual who head every North American family. In reality, too, many men simply bring home the paycheck and permit their wives to run the details, large and small of their home lives.

Wives and mothers are seldom in environments in which they can play the roles which these titles would suggest. Or perhaps they themselves are responsible for the domineering role they now play.

Women try to live up to images dangled before them by mass media. The ideal woman of television ads for example, has a figure like Miss America, has the executive and administrative ability of a corporation lawyer, is the world's best cook and immaculate housekeeper, is a stimulating sex partner for her husband, and never, never perspires. She controls family spending, and family life in general as well as taking an active part in community affairs.

But she too must present to the world a picture that she is the simple little woman behind her big, strong, masculine husband. How many nervous breakdowns have come about through frenzied women trying to live up to all these demands?

Surely the time has come for us to stop fooling ourselves. Women are definitely playing a more masculine role today than they ever have. Men, although society still pays them lip service as the true leaders, are slipping into more passive roles. Instead of hiding this truth, society must recognize the facts and cease to demand that men and women maintain the traditional masculine and feminine appearances.

It is not necessary to completely lose the distinction between men and women. In fact, it would be impossible. But we must stop expecting both sexes to fit into old-fashioned social conceptions. We must allow women, who are not maternal and submissive by character, to select careers and follow ambitions which take them away from family and married life. Women are doing this today. But society is still asking, "Isn't there something wrong with her." Society is still demanding to know what is wrong with men who cannot accept the responsibility of homes, wives and families.

We must accept people of both sexes as individuals. They must be allowed to develop whatever talents and qualities they have without their acceptability hanging on the thread of their sex. Society will be the richer because it will consist of individual human beings freed from the shackles of the traditional concepts of the sexes.

— By Ryersonian

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