

(Soundoff continued from p. 9)

Words are inadequate

Communications can be a real bother at times. Gregory Betts' article ("The Endangered 'I'") is a good example of this; in it, he expresses some ideas that I agree with very much, but the fashion in which he does it makes me head straight for my poison pen (typewriter, actually).

Wasting no time, Mr. Betts begins the article by criticizing what he refers to as "hand-me-down" values which many cling to. I'm far from a supporter of society and its rules, taboos and rituals, but I'm also far

from assuming the role of a universal judge. If people want to form societies, then the continuity that comes from "hand-me-down" values plays an important role. Maybe I'm too much of an idealist, but I choose to believe that these values are not automatically accepted by most people; Mr. Betts seems to think that they are. Is it really all that difficult to conceive of people questioning their values at some point, or at various points, in their lives? Have a little faith in the resilience of individuals.

I spent the last 3 years down in the States and I watched the "Moral Majority" grow (a cancerous growth is a good analogy). Mr. Betts doesn't seem to like Jerry Falwell and his book burning buddies and that baffles me. The worst thing about fundamentalists is their conviction that they are preaching an absolute truth. It would seem that Mr. Betts is a fundamentalist agnostic/individualist. Nothing to be ashamed of, but the terms "fundamentalist" and "individualist" seem to contradict

each other (I should note that Mr. Betts has not classified himself as a fundamentalist agnostic/individualist; it's simply a phrase that I chose to use).

To show what I mean, let me look at some of the qualities which he attributes to "Man-alive" (apparently a term used to describe anyone who gets anything out of life).

First, Man-Alive is supposed to know "that elitism is not snobbery but necessity." Now, come on; you start with individualism and then you turn around and begin to set up classes? Informal classes, to be sure, but classes nonetheless. Try to keep in mind that the Tao is the "spirit of the valley."

Secondly, he "accepts the necessity of...his own impending absolute death." Again, I fail to see his reasoning. As an agnostic (this much is apparent from his last article), he's not supposed to be making absolute statements like that. Maybe his philosophy has undergone a major change in the last few weeks; I don't know.

Thirdly, Man-alive "realizes that all political and religious creeds are anesthetics or decorations." Personally, I

think politics borders on true insanity (my apologies to the Poli. Sci. people). I do not understand however, why religion is so bad while philosophies not classified as religions, agnosticism among them, get off scott-free. Surely if a belief such as Judaism is merely an "anesthetic" or a "decoration", then so are the non-religious doctrines of agnosticism, atheism and empiricism, to name a few. And if these are so useless, then why does Mr. Betts choose one over the other and why does he write about them in first place?

Just to end this up on a friendly note, Mr. Betts' point on the bastardization of the word "freedom" is very important. In his book *Illusions*, Richard Back writes "We are all. Free. To do. Whatever. We want. To do." There are so many who cringe when they hear that, that I begin to wonder how many actually want freedom for themselves or even understand the concept. Sometimes I wonder if I understand it.

No doubt the problem lies in the inadequacy of words to express such things. Communications can be a real bother at times.

Barry Parkinson

Mullin is temporary advisor

Dear Ms. Walker,

In your last issue you carried an announcement of my temporary appointment as Inter-

national Student Advisor.

May I, through the medium of the *Brunswickan*, extend an invitation to all interested students - particularly those

from countries other than Canada - to meet with me on an informal basis from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 3 in the Lounge of the Alumni Memorial Building. There will be some light refreshments available there and I hope to meet, and talk with, as many overseas students as possible.

Yours sincerely,

S.S. Mullin
Director, Budget and Special Projects

Foley thanks supporters

Dear Ms. Walker:

I would like to thank all the people who supported me in my re-election to the Board of Governors. I would also like to

congratulate my opponents on a good campaign.

Sincerely,
Carol Foley



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