

opinions

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sides myself were the organizers, the booth people, and a few people who seemed to have come just to hear the band. (The trio was wonderful, by the way). We gathered by the stage and

absorbed the rest of the music. Afterwards, all split off into little cliques and chatted for another half an hour or so. Some distributed condoms. I inflated a couple of them, and played catch. A couple of us exchanged Vax usernames. And then we left.

This was what I'd wished the rest of Frosh Week had been. Perhaps some of it was. Instead of the bossing, the water pistols, the commands, the humiliation, and the elephant walks along Quinpool, it was camaraderie and coolness. I felt welcome.

It was disturbing that so few showed up and even fewer stayed. It may say something of a residual homophobia, or simple apathy, that would keep so many people from taking a chance on a unique event. It certainly says something that no green, pink or powder-blue frosh shirts gleamed in the crowds — I know I can't be the only non-straight in the new wave of residence students, and the only reason I can think of for not seeing them is that their frosh leaders never even suggested that they go.

Leigha White

The good bigot

Growing up, I could never understand discrimination. When I saw pictures of the civil rights movement of the '60s I couldn't comprehend that while blacks marched for their rights, certain whites united on the sidewalks and would openly act hostile by screaming "niggers", etc. I resolved my confusion by simply accepting that evil exists and that bigots were evil people.

Now as a mature man who is categorized in a minority, my understanding of discrimination has changed. I've realized that bigots are fundamentally good people, not evil, who act against a certain group who they perceive to be 'bad'. Bigots have been fed a lifetime of

lies about a certain group or groups of people. As a result they are not, in their own minds, discriminating but rather repressing what they have been brain-washed to believe is a corruptive element in the fragile order of society. Historically, however, it has been the order of society that is corrupt and not the minority. Thus when a repressed group starts to assert its rights, those of the established order would react to the disturbance not unlike the way a respectable citizen would respond to a growing incidence of vandalism. It is tempting but inaccurately simplistic therefore to regard those racists who lined the sidewalks in the '60s as evil people. They were doing what they thought was 'good' for society.

Fortunately we have the hindsight to recognize that it was the black minority who were truly righteous and that the prejudice they faced that appalling. Today, however, a prejudice of a different slant is prevalent and good people like you or your friends are the unaware bigots. Whenever you say 'Faggot' and 'Dyke', 'Queer' or 'Queen' or hear it from your friends and do nothing, then you are exactly like the racist on the sidewalk. Whenever you treat someone differently because of her/his sexual orientation, you are exactly like the racist on the sidewalk. And whenever you'd rather that gays were not a part of your world or that they would stay in the closet, then you are just like the "good" bigot on the sidewalk.

David Butler

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