

Homosexuality: way of the future

So there it is: Bill C-41, proposing to give equal status of homosexuals to the Charter of Rights of Canada. Why? Well, it's simply because such status is not explicitly written there at the present time. Why do we need to explicitly add it? Simply because we're now in the mid-90s. It's finally time for acceptance to start and condemnation to stop. (We are intelligent beings, aren't we?) It's time to realize that homosexuals are equivalent to everybody else. It's called advancement of the human race — advancing our scope of intelligence.

Black, Native or Inuit Canadians should never have to hide, be ashamed, be scoffed at or be discriminated against because of their race. Why does a homosexual have to hide? Why are so many homosexuals hidden and putting on an act for a heterosexual society? If you have 20 friends, there is a strong chance that one, if not two or three, is homosexual. Which friends? Usually you'll never be told. Why can't you know?

Because present Canadian society is just not advanced enough yet. Even today in 1994, coming out of hiding as a homosexual is scary as hell. We must move to change that hell. Bill C-41 is going to be the next step in "upgrading" Canadian society. Maybe in another decade or two, homosexuals will be totally free. No secrets, no shame, no hatred and no hiding. Equality and intelligence will be the key. Ten percent is a lot of

people that need to become totally free and open. We need this bill now! Bill C-41 is a catalyst to this change.

Of course, there are going to be people who are in blind moral opposition to it. These people who are mostly 30 years of age and older came from a very different generation and social upbringing. Whether it is religion, morals, stereotypes, parental teachings, taboos, old values or old prejudices from the past, most of the

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older generations who are opposed to Bill C-41 today were taught that homosexuality was some disgusting deviant condition — learned from a society that was ignorant to the subject, and had not even advanced much beyond racism, let alone homophobia. Unfortunately, these are the values they will carry with them for the rest of their lives. Only a few will change as they learn otherwise.

The youth of Canada are now bridging the gap. Ever notice how

children never have any strong anti-homosexual or racist views? Trash like that can only be taught to them by older generations. Modern Canadian society frowns upon discrimination, racism and homophobia. Why? Simply because they are of stupid, old and unintelligent mindsets. The youth are the future, advancing by ditching the old views of the past. It's too late for most of the parents.

Let's put it this way — soon your children will be part of a society where they will know who their homosexual friends are and accept them as equals with no hesitation — no hiding, no acting, no fears, no hatred, no condemnation, no prejudice and no discrimination.

Opposing Bill C-41 is opposing these future advancements. Without the addition to the Charter, there will never be a national written statement which would protect the rights and equality for homosexuals. So... to the older generations: think about your children's future society, not your past and present one. You may feel bothered by homosexuals — let your kids make up their own opinions. You were taught wrongly. It's not your fault. So please let your kids decide without interference and hopefully not learn the hate and fear. Besides, 10% of our kids are homosexual already. We can at least hope those kids will have a nice society to grow up in.

Kevin Wayte

Leadership? Part II

Last week when I asked "Where's the leadership?" no one seemed to have an answer. I was determined to find out for myself.

I decide that the best place to begin my search is at a DSU Council meeting. I check the DSU bulletin board; there is no notice of a council meeting. Undaunted I check the Enquiry Desk.

"A council meeting? There's no council meeting booked today. It's scheduled for the 25th."

Disappointed that my search would have to wait until Tuesday, I head back home. It's now 7:10 Sunday evening and I'm relaxing in front of the T.V. when the phone rings.

"The council meeting is tonight. It started 10 minutes ago!"

I rushed out of my apartment to the DSU Council Chambers. Wow. Was I excited: I was about to find "leadership."

Unfortunately I was really disappointed. Instead of "leadership" I found many of our DSU councillors and executive members, the official student organization, seemingly oblivious to the mandate of the Union.

One of my initial observations, was the atmosphere of the meeting. I did not feel as though all the voting members were there to work "for the advancement of the interest of its members and others" (preamble to the DSU Constitution). Instead I felt that many people were just trying to advance their personal agenda.

Also, many councillors and executives used an extremely condescending tone. It seemed as though there was not a single discussion without someone interjecting a personal attack or the odd derogatory comment about DAGS or SUNS.

I do not want to generalize be-

cause there were many councillors who obviously wanted to conduct the business of the Union and who did not succumb to this pathetic display of pettiness. Unfortunately they were severely outnumbered.

Another thing I noticed was that several executives and members of council use the constitution and by-laws to stifle debate and degrade other councillors. Most organizations have constitutions and by-laws that are based on the precepts of parliamentary rule, which are intended to allow every participant in a meeting an opportunity to speak in a fair and open debate.

Constitution by-laws and rules of procedure are intended for two purposes only: to increase the effectiveness of an organization's meetings and to enable it to meet its mandate.

They are definitely not intended to be employed in the manner many councillors and executive members chose to employ them.

I am not advocating that the constitution by-laws and rules of procedure be disregarded, but they shouldn't be used to stifle debate or degrade other members. This could easily be achieved if the DSU President were to set the example and use procedural rules and the constitution to increase the effectiveness of DSU Council instead of allowing it to be used to "shoot down" other councillors. If only our DSU Executive and Council could exercise leadership as effectively as stated in the Constitution.

Many students consider the DSU Executive and Council unaccountable and see them as not being relevant. I hesitate to make that statement because there are many people involved in Council who are trying

to carry out the mandate of the Union. Unfortunately if something isn't done fast the Union will become irrelevant to most Dal students.

It is obvious to me that many people just want to maintain the status quo. We deserve better. Find out who represents you on Council and tell them your concerns, then go to a Council meeting (that is if you can find out when the next one is). If more Dal students attend Council meetings and scrutinize the actions of our elected officials, the DSU Executive and Council will have no other alternative than to become a more relevant and accountable organization.

Unfortunately my search for leadership hasn't provided me with any information about DSU leadership, or lack thereof. Instead it raised more questions like: what can Union members do to make Council become relevant and accountable?

Aaron Poirier

Opinions Speak

Tell it to the world,
why don't you!!!

If you've got a
complaint, speak
now or forever
shut the hell up!!!

Deadline for submission is Monday
Morning at 11:30
SUBMIT TO ME!

Ask Joe and Jo

Well, the Student Union Building has been practically buzzing with the topic of SUB renovations. Everyone has been talking about what is going to happen in the cafeteria, in the lobby, on the third floor. In light of all this, we thought that we'd randomly ask a few students what they thought would be best for the building.

We have to tell you: we got opinions from every section of the spectrum. There are people at this university who would like to see the building turned into a mall, and there are those who would like to see all commercial influence removed from the SUB. (And yet others who would like to see a huge orgy in the Gazette office.)

In our opinion, both of these extremes aren't in the best interest of students, and both would lead to the alienation of too many students.

Here are some of the ideas that we thought were really interesting, and also served to take the middle ground of student interest.

•One of the first students we talked to expressed an opinion that we would encounter again and again — the need for a drugstore in the building. This student said, "It's really difficult to find a drugstore that is open on your way home from classes, not to mention the fact that you have to spend extra money on the bus." (Somehow, the bus fare doesn't seem to be the key issue here.)

•One other student suggested moving the Tiger Trap to the main floor. "If the Tiger Trap was on the main floor, more people would use it, and then, the prices might go

down a little." This was another common topic of interest among a lot of students.

•Somebody else talked about a whole range of modifications. "If you move Travel Cuts somewhere else, then you could put the Tiger Trap upstairs. In place of the Tiger Trap, they could put in a drugstore. With the extra place left over from Travel Cuts, they could put in a place to get your hair cut. You know, we spend so much time here we shouldn't have to go downtown to spend our money. We should be able to spend what little money we have to support student services."

What about Jello wrestling where now stands the Enquiry Desk and move them to the middle of the floor? If we moved Travel Cuts to the third floor, put a drugstore where the Tiger Trap used to be... We'd like to see the Tiger Trap upstairs where you could also perm, cut and color your hair while some local band sponsored by CKDU sang to you and the Jello wrestlers... Hell, if the SUB could provide all that, we'd move in — right between the Jello wrestlers and the booth for people of the Bah'ai faith giving out free cookies. THAT would be a SUB we'd REALLY enjoy.

While this is a contentious issue with a lot of students, it is something that anyone can take in. The process is open, and from what we've heard, there will be public forums to come in the next week or so. So, get involved and get interested. After all, it's your SUB.

Jo Mirsky & Joe Tratnik

MOIST
machine punch through
special guest **Head**

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Door 7pm • Show 8pm

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Tickets \$19.50 available at DAL S.U.B.,
Cousin Smoothy's (Park Lane), and
Sam The Record Man (Barrington St. only)

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