

**Comment**

*Comment is an opinion column open to members of the university community who wish to present an informed opinion on a topic of their selection.*

# Prejudice still at large

by Brock McLellan

"I'm not prejudiced, but..." is one of the more popular means of introducing anecdotes, jokes and comments degrading anonymous members of ethnic minorities. The last occasion I stumbled onto an example of this bigotry was one noonhour at the SUB cafeteria.

A student (further discription will merely cloud the issue), loudly and dramatically enacted the following incident, which was termed a joke:

"A man was standing at the edge of a cliff admiring the view when, suddenly, the ground gave way and he tumbled half-way down the mountain. Fortunately, he was able to grab onto a branch, which halted his descent. 'Lord! Save me!!', he cried desperately. Miraculously, a thunderous voice in the heavens replied, 'Have you faith?' 'Yes, Lord' cired the man. 'Then, let go of the branch', ordered the voice. Immediately, the man let go of the branch, but--far from being saved--he died upon crashing at the base of the cliff. The thunderous voice again rang out, this time laughing 'Good Riddance, I hate people.'

It's not a very humorous joke, yet it received a wonderous applause

from the four or five students attentively listening. But, then, they heard it with the substitution of a few words. For example, it was not a 'man', but a 'black guy' who tumbled; God didn't call out, 'I hate people', but rather, 'I hate niggers.'

Young adults, today, are as biased, prejudiced and as bigoted as their elders. But there is a further problem, that of an intellectual dishonesty; the compulsion to hide racism behind the cliché of 'I'm not prejudiced.'

I have to confess that I am prejudiced. Even though I know I should be loving towards all people and that I should try to see only virtue in people, I find it hard to accept the company of bigots and racists.

Earlier, I described the person relating this anecdote as a student-without reference to sex, age or ethnic origin. But, perhaps I should have left the description as 'person', for we are all pretty much the same. We are all tumbling down some cliff of life. Perhaps, we should hope that our student comedian is wrong and that we find--at the end--that God, loves people after all.

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