

opinions

Sexual Orientation a welcome relief

Eventually, you get sick and tired of being roped into toga parties.

I'd been looking forward to the Sexual Orientation Barbecue all week. I'd skipped the toga parties, the Pursuit of Reasonable Contentment concert, the elephant-walking down Quinpool Road. Between mindless entertainment, almost militaristic 'frosh bonding' gatherings, and rather heterosexist 'get-to-know-your-cod-brother' events, I was way psyched for the event. The very name sang, "where a bi can be a bi."

So, after weaving my way through shoe-shining off-campus frosh, I ar-

rived right on schedule behind the Student Union Building. The lines were long, although the frosh present seemed to be ninety-five percent off-campus, so I gravitated towards a small table at the back of the line.

The Student Outreach folk, a brand-spanking new group devoted to educating all persuasions on sexual issues, were setting up their booth. (And before you ask, all persuasions means straight as well as gay, lesbian or bi). We spent a great deal of time chatting about being not-straight at Dal.

And thank heavens, it's not a

vacuum. Besides Student Outreach, a lesBigay frosh can find niches with B-GLAD (Bisexuals, Gays, and Lesbians At Dalhousie) and the NS-PIRG Anti-Homophobia committee (whose table was right to the left). Lesbians and bisexual women can find resources at the Dalhousie Women's Centre. Drinking-age frosh can navigate their ways to Studio or Rumours (that is, if you do the club scene). Tracking down others who are like oneself simply isn't that difficult, and coming out can be done in a fairly accepting environment.

The frosh sat down to eat, and the

various gay-positive campus organizations stepped up to the mike, giving their names and the dates of first meetings. I decided to people-watch.

There were extremely few residence frosh at the barbecue. (If they were there, they certainly weren't wearing their shirts.) I definitely didn't spot any residence squad leaders, depressingly enough. One would think they might have encouraged their wee ones to elephant-walk along. The few frosh that were there weren't paying any attention to the stage; they were wolfing down their burgers and chattering

loudly. Even when the Rose Vaughan Trio began to play, no one seemed to be paying any attention. One of the Student Outreach folk suggested that perhaps Marky Mark might have been a more appropriate entertainer for the younger set; I suggested Neneh Cherry.

A mild and minor rain shower gave some the excuse to leave at this stage; the rest of the frosh began to peter away as the band played on and the sun broke through. By halfway through the barbecue, the only people left be-

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Frosh Week: Does it pass the test?

The following is a test. It is only a simple test to measure whether or not you have had your eyes open this week. Do not be afraid to answer these questions, but please use an HB pencil and the computer sheet provided.

Question #1: What is a frosh?

A) A mound of human flesh waiting to be molded by power-hungry, small-minded simpletons.

B) A living, thinking being who enjoys the small things in life: being demeaned at university, having no control, conforming with the pack, and occasional sleep deprivation.

C) An intelligent and unique individual who is self-motivated and has a lot to contribute to the university community, above and beyond a spare \$3000 every September.

Answer: You are correct, C. Hard to believe, given the Frosh Week activities you have observed this past week, but please continue.

Question #2: What is Frosh Week?

A) A circus.
B) A concentration camp.
C) A daycare.
D) A freakshow.
E) An opportunity for new members of the Dalhousie community to explore and participate in university life.

Answer: The answer is E. Although if you guessed that the answer is B, we understand. Please continue.

Question #3: What is Dalhousie?

A) A prison.
B) A cult.
C) A freakshow.
D) The Lions Club. (But bigger, with a clocktower.)
E) An elitist environment in which those who know how to play the game the best win all the best toys.

Answer: Unfortunately, all of the above. However, let us share our vision with you. Dalhousie could be a place that fosters independent thought, creativity, maturity, and is accessible and welcoming to all individuals, regardless of their gender, race, class, sexual orientation, age, marital status, physical ability, nationality or ethnicity. Student life is about learning from one another, empowering one another by sharing knowledge, and working together to fight conformity, whether it stems from capitalism, the university administration, or some other bastion of white male power.

If you've made it this far, congratulations. Be prepared — you are now entering the reading comprehension section of this test.

Example #1: A group of first-year students are ordered to bow down in front of the Dal SUB and shout, "We are not worthy!" shortly after having paid \$137 to be members of the Dal Student Union.

This example reveals that:

A) Subservience is costly.

B) Students work for the DSU.
C) Hitler's sperm didn't die with his body.

D) First-year students are taught that they are of no human worth and their self-esteem is assaulted every minute of Frosh Week.

A) If you answered B, you were wrong. We argue that A, C, and D are verified daily.

Example #2: A first year woman arrives to move into Shirreff Hall, and has her arms and legs painted with blue paint. When asked if she had permission for this to be done to her, she says, "It sort of just happened."

This example reveals that:

A) Body painters are on the loose in Halifax.

B) The rain in Halifax falls mainly

on Shirreff Hall, and is blue.

C) White people have finally realized how embarrassing it is to be white, and now want to change their body colour once and for all.

D) A woman's right to control over her body is not respected during Frosh Week.

Answer: The correct answer is D. And maybe C.

Example #3: A group of first-year students are being ordered down Spring Garden Road. The Frosh Squad Leader shouts out to one of them, "Hey, Patty Frosh! Open this and give me one!" He holds out a small package of candy. She steps out of line, takes the package, and begins to open it. Her friend nudges her good-naturedly — this is all for fun, right? The Frosh Leader then turns to

her and screams angrily, at the top of his lungs, "Hurry up, Patty Frosh." She is surprised and embarrassed.

This example reveals that:

A) Women were made to serve men.

B) Men were made to abuse power.

C) Candy wrappers should be more user-friendly.

D) A little unchecked authority plus ignorance equals the dehumanization and mortification of others.

Answer: The answer is D. We apologize for including a mathematical equation in the reading comprehension section of the test.

You may have noticed a pattern emerging in this test. We hope that it isn't the pattern that Frosh Week is a daycare, Dalhousie is a freakshow, Hit-

ler's sperm didn't die with his body, and men were made to abuse power. But at the same time, we are far too honest to mislead you by painting you a rosy picture. And you are far too intelligent, based on your observations during Frosh Week, to fall for such a fable.

There is lots of work to be done, but please remember that there are always 'diamonds in the shit.' We're not sure if this is the conclusion you hoped for, but it's certainly a proverb that could use some more airtime at Dalhousie. And, by the way, Frosh, the shit is all over campus and does not mean you. You are the diamonds. Get involved and help us change things for next year.

Sandra MacDonald
Candida Rifkind

CKDU 97.5 FM '93 Halifax Pop Explosion



DOUGHBOYS
REDD KROSS
Thrush Hermit & Hip Club Groove
Sunday, Sept. 26
McInnes Room
Dalhousie SUB
Doors open 7 PM
\$11 in advance
\$13 at door
all ages

DOUBLE DEUCE
1560 hollis around the corner from maritime mall

Thursday september 16
TALL POPPIES + EDEN'S BASEMENT

Friday & Saturday september 17 & 18
Uisce Beatha

Closed Sunday, Monday, & Tuesday until 7 pm.
Open Mike Every Tuesday with Bronco

\$14 ALL AGES PASS FOR POP EXPLOSION SATURDAY AFTERNOON & SUNDAY NIGHT

THE HALIFAX POP EXPLOSION

<p>WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 22 WASHINGTON D.C.'S VELOCITY GIRL & J A L E S8 PLUMTREE \$8 STRAWBERRY \$10</p>	<p>THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 23 LOU BARLOW & ERIC'S TRIP \$8 OF SEBADOH & HARDSHIP POST \$10 QUAHOGS \$10</p>
<p>FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 24 MONTREAL'S DOUGHBOYS & BUBAISKULL \$10 TORONTO'S ONE FREE FALL \$12 LEONARD CONAN \$12</p>	<p>SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 25: ALL AGES 1-4 PM LOU BARLOW & SCARCE \$6 OF SEBADOH & MERGE \$8</p>
<p>SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 25 CALIFORNIA'S REDD KROSS & PROVIDENCE RHODE ISLANDS SCARCE \$10 NEW YORK CITY'S CHETICAMP \$12 FREDRICKON'S \$12 KAREN FOSTER \$12</p>	<p>SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 26 DALHOUSIE MAC INNIS ROOM 7PM, ALL AGES MONTREAL'S CALIFORNIA'S \$11 DOUGHBOYS & REDD KROSS \$13 WITH THRUSH HERMIT & HIP CLUB GROOVE</p>

TICKETS ON SALE WED. SEPT. 7 @ THE DEUCE, DAL SUB, & DISCHORD RECORDS CHARGE ACCEPTED AT DISCHORD

ALL SHOWS BEGIN 9:30 PM

FESTIVAL PASS \$30

UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED