

EDITORIAL

To dispel the myth

"We have no gays or handicapped people working for the Students' Union."

The above quote was uttered by an elected representative of your Students' Union. That person's intentions can only be speculated on, but the tone is crystal clear.

Of course, that person is speaking out of ignorance. Not the evil ignorance—the ignorance of the Klan, or even the run-of-the-mill bigot—but an ignorance based on an alienation with reality. That Students' Union official, like many of us, is just plain unknowledgeable about homosexuals.

Yes, there are homosexuals working for the Students' Union, and the university, and the government, and the churches of the land, and probably even for the company that you worked for last summer.

A full ten per cent of the world's population is gay and lesbian, and that ten per cent is evenly spread across Canada's socio-economic strata. There is no society in the world, and there is no section of any society in the world that has no homosexuals. But unlike most other minorities, gays and lesbians are practically invisible. Invisibility due both to the gay communities desire for anonymity, but mainly because of societies pressure to keep gays in the closet, and not to acknowledge their existence.

This invisibility creates a situation where the majority of society is wandering about with no personal experience with the gay and lesbian minority. In absence of any actual knowledge, people make up their opinions of gays and lesbians on hearsay, misinformation from the media and often just from their own fears and insecurities.

Most of these opinions are extraordinarily erroneous, and malicious.

That's why this issue of the Gateway is publishing the first-ever Gay and Lesbian supplement — our Pink Triangle supplement. We're printing this supplement to help dispel some of those erroneous opinions and to help battle the ignorance on the subject.

This supplement is for both our straight and homosexual readers. For our straight readers, we're providing a convenient and easy way to get factual and honest information on the gay subculture.

And for our gay and lesbian readers, we hope that this supplement will provide a bit of moral support and insight into their own unique community.

This supplement isn't out to preach; it isn't out to rattle rhetoric; it isn't out to convert: It's out to provide information and no one is against information.

Gilbert Bouchard

Third party blues

DIE Board has tossed, a red-hot spud, the issue of third-party campaigning, back into the lap of Students' Council.

At present, By-law 300 of the Students' Union (Nominations and Elections) puts numerous restrictions on candidates and campaigners in SU elections. There are time limits, limits on money spent, limits on the number of banners displayed, and so on. Since the SU dishes out the campaign money after the campaign, and its Returning Officer and DIE Board monitor the various parties during the election with eagle eyes, it is not too difficult to keep the candidates and campaigners themselves well-behaved.

But what happens when people outside the campaign start taking an interest in the outcome? Certain wind-up editors and politicians, after all, are constantly emitting sermons against apathy. What happens when some poor student, goaded beyond endurance by these sermons, starts printing guerrilla leaflets and posters?

Banning such activities outright is the present solution, but its drawbacks are obvious. For one thing, such guerrillas are hard to catch. For another, their shenanigans can swing elections, and re-running elections is very costly. Finally, the limitations on freedom of speech is irksome. Perhaps even unconstitutional (I'm talking about the Canadian constitution here).

On the other hand, a blanket license for third-party campaigning could be just as disastrous. It would be child's play, for instance, for the candidates and campaigners to set up third-party fronts ("Concerned Engineers for Don Millar," say, or "The People's Collective Against CFS"), and DIE Board would go crazy before it separated the genuine independents from the quislings.

What is to be done, then? We have a fine dilemma here and it will take a Solomon or three to solve it.

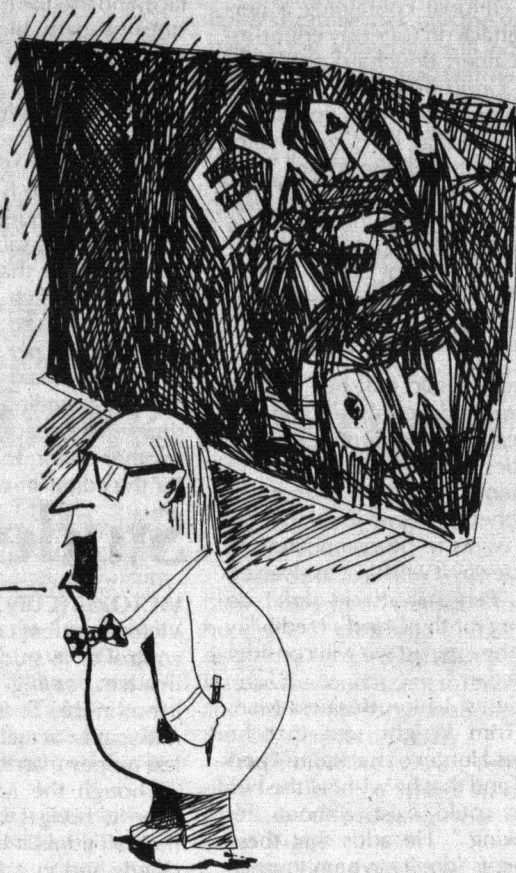
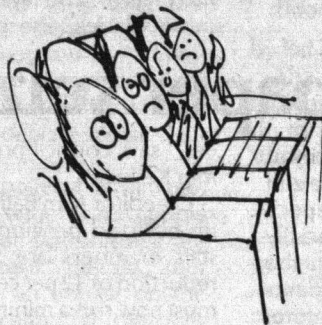
Should third parties have to register with the returning officer? Should their expenditures be deducted from the election expenses of the parties they back? What do you do with issues-oriented organizations who seem to support specific candidates? Should election subsidies be dropped altogether?

Various proposals will be aired, perhaps heatedly, as the SU attempts to grapple with the issue. Or perhaps the SU will simply ignore it, as it does with so many thorny problems.

As for me, I'm holding out for the only logical answer: referenda decided by the flip of a coin, and offices filled by Russian roulette, sudden-death elimination of candidates. Neither the campaigning nor the results would be any different than they are now.

Jens Anderson

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!
ROSES ARE RED
VIOLETS ARE BLUE
GOOD LUCK ON THIS MID-TERM
IT'LL MASSACRE YOU!
hee hee hee!



LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Prayer 100

I would like to comment on Dr. David Suzuki's views as reported in Gateway (Jan. 31). Dr. Suzuki, in essence, was saying that the deterioration of the world ecology could be attributed to God's instruction to Adam to "dominate and subdue" the earth and that this instruction had been carried out literally especially in countries with a strong Judaeo-Christian tradition. I believe that this is a distortion of the truth and that, had Dr. Suzuki taken the time to read the Bible carefully, he might have arrived at a different conclusion. This dictum by God was taken out of context by Dr. Suzuki; if one was to read the Book of Genesis and the rest of the Bible carefully, it will become clearly apparent to the reader that this dictum was made before Adam's rebellion and fall. This dictum subsequently became invalid after Adam's act of rebellion. Adam automatically abdicated his overlordship of the earth to Satan (Jesus Christ referred to Satan as the "prince of this world") who then began his destructive work. Let us look carefully at what God said to the serpent (Satan). He told him that He would place enmity between him and Eve's seed (mankind). He then told Adam that the "ground would be cursed" for his sake which subsequently resulted in a form of enmity between man and his environment. Since Satan gained control of the earth, it so logically follows that the enmity between man and Satan would result in the slow destruction of the world.

Dr. Suzuki is attempting to discredit the exquisite perfection of God's will and work and tries to bring Him down to a mortal level. It must be remembered that God created man after His own image. Since God is the epitome of perfection, it so logically follows that Adam was perfect (it must be remembered that the

image was that of a spiritual one consisting of the personal characteristics of God which are listed in Galatians 5:22-23: love, joy, peace, longsuffering, meekness, gentleness, goodness, faith, temperance; this image is not a physical one). Had Adam continued in obedience to the Lord and ignored Satan, his descendants would have "dominated and subdued" the earth the way God had intended: a perfect and harmonious relationship between man and the environment rather than the present relationship that so concerns Dr. Suzuki. Man's sinful nature has directly led to the destruction of the environment.

Dr. Suzuki alludes to other religions and cultures that aren't steeped in the Judaeo-Christian tradition as examples of a balance between man and his environment. I am not sure why he is being selectively blind to some of the truths about what is really happening. He singled out India as an example of an harmonious balance between man and his environment. Obviously he hasn't visited Calcutta! In my readings about India and conversations with those who have been there, it is clearly apparent that there is much abuse of the environment there; water is not fit to drink due to pollution.

A final word to the wise from the Bible:

"Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four footed beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave themselves up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves; who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator..." (Romans 1:21-25)

Roger Carver

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