

# Medic Says Churches Are Authoritarian Plot

By KATHARINE BOWLBY

God was created by religious officials of various kinds, to give more authority to their claim to power over mankind.

The full enormity of theological disservices to humanity was exposed by Dr. D. M. Chapman of Dalhousie Medical School's anatomy department in a speech sponsored by the Science Society in the McInnes Room Thursday.

In a discussion that ranged through God's instructions to Moses on slavery to dirty saints, and the pill, the audience was given a flippant but bitingly critical assessment of the church's leadership and value to society.

Chapman informed his listeners that priests (taken in the sense of all Christian dignitaries) invented God so that they could claim his authority, which would be more effective than their own. It was convenient that God wanted one tenth of everyone's earnings, since priests took care of it for them. Another convenient tool to power was the conjuring up of religious laws governing people's sex lives. As examples, he mentioned rules forbidding masturbation, copulation for unmarried people, and even lustful thoughts. These laws were easily broken, which produced guilt feelings and put the priest who could forgive sins in a position of power. The lecturer concluded that dirty sex was God's fault for placing the genitals too close to the anus.

Chapman showed the Church's pattern of opposing a new idea, then finding a contradictory piece of scripture if the idea became too prevalent to be opposed. If no such piece of scripture is available,

it is forgotten for a suitable length of time, then embraced as the Church's own. This pattern was evident, he said, in both personal hygiene and medicine. Jews washed a lot, therefore for some time it was against Christian precepts to wash; now cleanliness is considered next to godliness.

About a century ago in Scotland, Chapman continued, a man named Simpson experienced some difficulty when he wanted to use chloroform to ease the pain of childbirth. Theologians claimed that this would be against God's will because woman was supposed to suffer to pay for her sins. The modern parallel, he said, is the opposition to the contracep-

tive pill which is really a benefit to mankind although unaccepted by the Church.

Chapman's talk was full of information, including gems of surprising biblical knowledge. He explained, for example, that when the books to be included in the Bible were selected, one that did not make it contained a description of the laceration of the "virgin" Mary's hymen.

Although Chapman undoubtedly made the most of the humour involved, he made a serious call to the religions for modern leadership. Barring the fulfillment of this requirement, he expressed a desire that the Church should just die away on its own.

## Louisbourg

# Project For Workers, Historians

The reconstruction of Louisbourg was begun to provide jobs for laborers displaced by the closure of the Sydney coal mines; it is also intended to boost the tourist economy of Eastern Cape Breton, besides recreating the lives of the original people inhabiting Canada's most colorful historic sites.

John Lunn, Parks Superintendent at the Fortress of Louisbourg, told the History Club November 13 that he and his staff are planning to create the best historical reconstruction and reanimation ever done anywhere. He hopes the reconstruction of about one quarter of the town and the largest European fortress ever built in North America will be more impressive even than Williamsburg, on which \$115 million of Rockefeller money has been spent.

Lunn explained that the reconstruction project was begun when the federal government decided several years ago to phase out the Cape Breton coal mines; workers were re-trained in a hurry and historians were sent to "the remotest corners of the earth, such

as the French Archives, and Ottawa" to get authentic details of the 40 buildings which will be reconstructed. They brought back about 360,000 copies of original maps, plans and documents, on the basis of which the construction will proceed. Several buildings are already reconstructed.

The fortress itself was destroyed by British troops after they captured it during the Seven Years War; a minimal amount of restoration of the site was carried on during the 1930's as a depression work project.

Lunn's comments, illustrated by over 100 color slides of maps, models, and actual reconstructions, was the third in a series of lectures presented by the History Club this year. The meeting was opened by a brief time spent on business, during which the constitution was revised to permit university staff, as well as faculty and students, to belong to the club, and president Susan Bugey commented on the club's financial problems with the Student Council.

# Course Unions Provide Participatory Democracy

(Bell, Engineering Representative on the Student Council, recently attended a Student Power conference in Montreal where 'course unions' were an important topic of discussion).

The problems of student movements no longer include discussion of the advantages of student participation in decision-making at the department level. The emphasis now is on designing a means of making this kind of student activity a meaningful and educationally valuable experience.

The only effective way a student can speak to the faculty is if he has the student body behind him. He can only secure this kind of backing if each student has an opportunity to voice his opinions. Course Unionism is the most effective way to accomplish these goals.

What is a course union? It is a union of all the students taking a class or classes in any department of the university. A student taking classes in five different departments, therefore, has a voice in five different unions.

Naturally, the people who will be most active in any given union are the students who are majoring

or honoring in that subject. An elected committee acts as a co-ordinating body with representatives from all years.

Such an organization is only valuable if each student is given a chance to voice his opinion and ideas. The elected committee will not make any major decisions without consulting the membership of that union in a mass meeting, so that all opinions can be heard and genuinely participatory democracy can be practiced.


These organizations cannot be run by an elite few with little or no communication with the students in general, since this would defeat the purpose of a student voice in academic affairs. Each student must accept a large part of the responsibility for his own education.

Without a high level of participation, the educational value of student participation in the affairs of the community university is lost.


With experience in dealing with the affairs of the academic community, a student is better equipped to handle societal problems after graduation.

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Merry Xmas!

Lapinette awoke with a start. "by jingles" she said ringingly, "it is december already, which means xmas, which means gifts, which means **money.**" thus demonstrating the value of her seminar in logic.

which means a hop over to the campus bank. otherwise this ad would be paid for by a company that sells logic instead of greenbacks.


now Lapinette's supermanager was only too hoppy to help. they garnered some funds from her True Chequing account: enough to send a chocolate carrot to all her pals.

the manager then reminded lappy about her second-term loan forms.

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won't the manager be pleased to receive a tasty chocolate carrot?

won't one of her boyfriends be surprised to receive a loan form.




bank of montreal

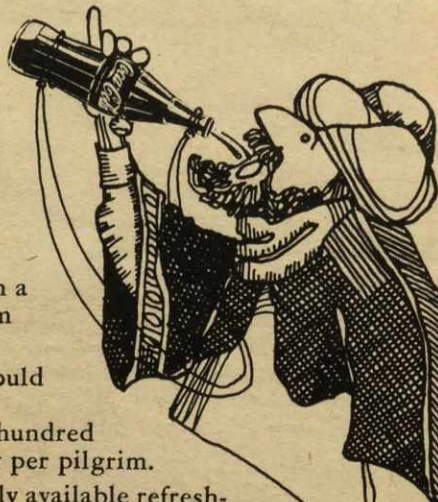
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## A bottle a day per pilgrim



Some years ago, six hundred Moslems gathered together in Bangkok and set off on a four month pilgrimage that was to take them to Mecca, the birthplace of Mohammed.

For such a long and arduous journey, one would have expected them to travel light—but no, included in their provisions were thirty-four hundred cases of Coca-Cola—well over a bottle a day per pilgrim.

Understandably, the pilgrims did need readily available refreshment, but this story indicates a strong preference for Coca-Cola.

It is not known if Mecca was able to provide thirty-four hundred cases of Coke to make things go better on the way back!

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