

Human Sex: Not just a 'bird' course!

BY ANDREA WARD

So there I was, in June, faced again with the challenge of finding the perfect elective. Engrossed in the Dalhousie calendar, I was reading course description after course description, when suddenly the words human sexuality jumped out at me. Sign me up! Everyone knows about the birds and the bees. How hard could this course be? Right?

Wrong! Human Sexuality (HEED 4412) is so much more than that. Even the Don Juans of

the campus could learn a few things in this class. The course covers topics right across the sexual spectrum; from sexual anatomy and arousal, contraception, STD's and abortion, to topics of sexual orientation and commercial sex. An emphasis is placed on integrating and maintaining a positive sexual attitude throughout life.

Four main themes are woven throughout the course: critical thinking, diversity in gender roles, sexually responsible decision making and sexual health.

The format of the course is lecture and discussion (sorry, no labs) and trust me, these discussions leave no room for embarrassment. Students are encouraged to speak openly and frankly about issues that are often danced around in other walks of life.

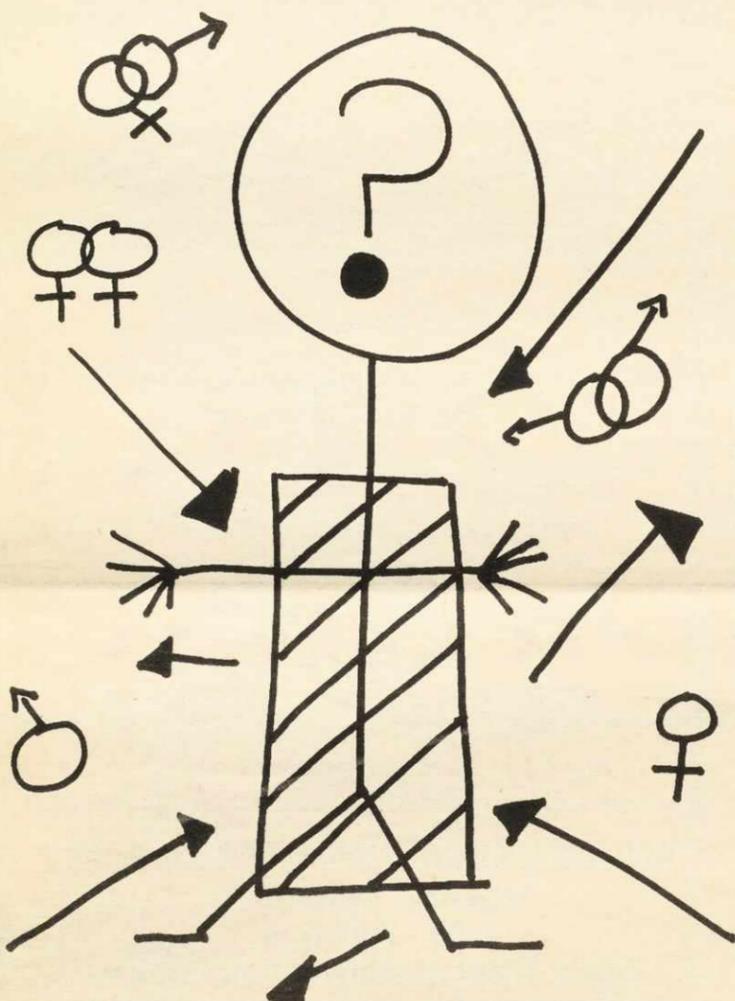
One such issue being forced out of the closet, so to speak, in recent years is homosexuality. On September 26th, three youths from the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Youth Project came to speak to our class about the issues facing homosexuals in the 90s. The presenters began the workshop by encouraging the class to express slang terms used to refer to homosexuals. As terms like queer, butch, dyke, and fairy were yelled out, we were encouraged to imagine the emotional turmoil young men and women would endure on the basis of such name calling. Through powerful statistics we were shown that name calling just barely touches the surface of issues facing homosexuals today.

Issues such as spousal benefits for same sex partners, inheritance benefits, child custody, and anti-discrimination legislation have come to the forefront of national politics in Canada and the United States. These issues are major ones for homosexual rights activists today and likely will continue to be so well into the future.

Human Sexuality is a springboard for discussion. If you are looking for answers regarding sexuality, not to mention an excellent elective, you couldn't do better than taking this class.

By the way: taking notes during class is *discouraged*. That alone probably motivated many students to register.

Leave your inhibitions at the door...class is about to begin.



Conference Hits Target

BY ADEL ISKANDAR

As a new member of the Gazette staff, I didn't have the faintest clue what to expect from a conference being held with other student papers of the Atlantic region.

This past Friday the ARCUP regional conference was held at the Student Union Building (SUB). ARCUP, I learned, is the Atlantic Region Canadian University Press, a regional body of the Canadian University Press (CUP). CUP is a national body representing 42 student newspapers across the country.

Although reluctant to spend Friday night and the weekend mornings note-taking in seminar rooms, I somehow convinced myself to attend. During opening plenary — an introduction to the region's business — I met delegates from the UPEI Panther Prints, the CUP President, ARCUP co-ordinator, National Bureau Chief, and ARCUP staff as well as delegates from other Atlantic university papers.

Saturday morning, by some form of divine intervention, I succeeded in unhinging myself from bed and attending the seminars. No regrets though. I found the journalism seminars organized and extremely informative. Opening the conference was CUP President and the Gazette's former Managing Editor, Judy Reid. Her brief introduction was followed by a photography seminar. Dave Grandy, a freelance photographer who works for the Daily News, provided basics on photography and photo-editing.

Dave Cochrane, ARCUP Bureau Chief, responsible for news-gathering across the region, gave a presentation on newspaper section organization. Stu Clark, the National Bureau Chief, gave a news-writing workshop. By tearing apart news stories from other

student journalists, he encouraged participants to reconstruct the stories along professional journalistic standards.

A general discussion with Kevin Cox, head of the Globe and Mail's Atlantic Bureau followed.

Bruce Wark, a professor from the University of King's College's School of Journalism, discussed the monopolization of the media and the prospects for journalism in the next century. Unfamiliar with the gossip and doomsday prophecies associated with the Canadian media, it was a pessimistic yet insightful and honest discussion. The closing lecture was on newspaper design and layout presented by Mark Belanger. Belanger also did individual paper critiques for attending papers.

What's a conference without bureaucracy? Nothing. So closing plenary was the best time to do it. All of a sudden, the familiarity faded and was replaced by gavels and motions. Every minuscule detail of every issue was discussed thoroughly, leaving me with a throbbing headache and a cramped sternocleidomastoid.

Among the issues discussed, Dalhousie's D.J. Robichaud was elected ARCUP Science issues co-ordinator and ARCUP will pursue the hosting of the 1997 CUP National conference. The next ARCUP conference will be held at the University of Prince Edward Island over the Remembrance Day weekend.

As a newcomer, I found the conference to be an important learning experience and tremendously motivating. My biggest thanks go to Shelley Robinson, Managing Editor of the Gazette, and Jen Horsey, ARCUP Co-ordinator, who were the muscle and brains behind this event. Thanks as well to all those hospitable Dalhousie students who donated their beds, floors, cupboards, and anything else to our visitors. Now, let's bring home the National.

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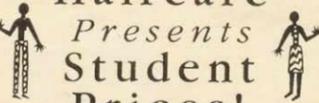
- * Fill out Ballot to win "The Labatt's Blue Canoe" over the Bar at J.J.'s. (Retail value: \$800.00) Draw at midnite and you must be present to win.)
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