

# SPECTRUM

## Voice: getting it, having it, losing it

Having a voice is basic to worthwhile participation in any society. Voice is what the suffragettes were fighting for. It is what feminists, lesbian rights members, and the host of other activists are fighting for now (pick a minority and look for the exhausted, depressed and determined among them)

Voice is what is being attacked in this backlash from the dominant culture against the phantom umbrella organization lovingly referred to as the P.C. (the politically correct movement)

We are all supposed to be card-carrying members of this anti-white-men-from-western-civilization club. "We" is anybody who points to any unfairness in the establishment, or challenges its right to step on whom-ever it pleases.

I realize even as I write this that there are lots of people who are going to disagree with me on that definition. Everyone who does is going to have their own, conflicting definition to take its place. My point is that there is no one, not any of the minority groups, nor the traditionally empowered, who can come up with a consensual meaning for it.

They can't. It doesn't have one. It is not an organization, club or society. It's not out to rule the world, or take it over, or any such nonsense. It doesn't have a constitution. It is a boogy-being, a fairy-god(dess)parent. It's an awareness.

This awareness comes from many different voices calling out around their gags to educate each other (with greater and lesser success). I am now aware of some of what I did (or continue to do) that causes grief for someone else. I try to change myself. I often use my voice to pass that message on to others who are doing the same damage, as well. That's all it is, simple communication: listening and relaying information. Except that there are a lot of snags in the lines. Eventually these voices reach people who really do want that golf course to be built, or who can't shake their phobia enough to let you love who you chose, or doesn't want to pay for community radio that isn't 79% solid gold rock & roll. These people don't want to hear about the loss to others they are causing. they don't want to know that minorities have wants and needs, too.

What I have been hearing, both on campus and out in the real world, is a distinct grumbling (whining actually-big long whines about being picked on from all sides). People who are used to getting what they want without worrying about others don't like hearing all the assorted trampled individuals telling them to get their boot off their backs.

They (the folks wearing the boots) are not just saying "we don't want to concede this or that right to you." They are saying "shut up!"

If they can silence the voices, they can ignore the group. Without voice, there is not challenge to the establishment, and things can go peacefully forward, with the power-holders claiming that everyone agrees with them. They can say they represent everybody, because they don't hear any nays in the votes that move this "democracy" forward.

One such gang of boot wearers is this year's UNB Student Union (other SUs read along and look for similarities). Without a single minority seat, they have been rating and debating, deciding and presiding over student interest with the usual junior politician fervour. Mostly harmless, we thought, going about, doing their junior political thing. Face it, there is a lot of apathy in amongst us. This year, they went a little further than usual, though. First, they came to some rather predictable conclusions about student media. They decided that it should be aimed at some imaginary, homogeneous students that they call "the student body", and any references to specific groups within "the student body" was seen as a waste of "the student body's" money.

This section of the Brunswickan is aimed at specific groups. My radio program, Dos Lesbos on CHSR-FM is, as well. Believe me, I am very concerned about being shut-up by the current student union. Deeper than that, though, I am worried that their decision will go un-opposed by "the student body" because there is no voice within it to say "hey! I want that!" or "some of us need it!"

When I brought this up to several people these last few weeks, they said that the elections were open to all, and if minority student wished to run, they could. I don't think I have to send

people scrambling for their sociology textbooks to point out that members of disenfranchised groups rarely attempt to run for elections. There is real bigotry out there. If you stand up, you make yourself a target for it. If that isn't enough, there is the more subtle bigotry that keeps the ever-smiling, perky white kids in power: voters tend to vote their own in.

Now, we all know that there are women on the SU, and there are probably gays. The same bonds that hold back students of colour from running keep these people from acting in the

## The Black Triangle

by

## Tristis Bhaird

interests of their particular "minority". I have noticed that some women (and some progressive men) are standing up for women, but they have tough arguments to fight, and their own port-

folio to work on. Burn-out of these people is a real danger. Why should they take on the extra battles?

The SU should have - must develop - seats for minorities on campus.

## Swat: Genital Herpes

According to a recent UNB study 1% of the UNB student population have been treated for Genital Herpes. Genital Herpes may be caused by either Herpes Simplex Virus-1, commonly associated with cold sores, or Herpes Simplex Virus-2. HSV-1 can be transmitted by oral-genital contact, while HSV-2 is usually transmitted by genital-genital contact. The Herpes virus may be transmitted if a Herpes lesion comes in contact with an abrasion in the skin, or the mucous membranes of another individual. HSV is most easily transmitted to others when lesions are red and swollen, blistered, or ulcerated, although it appears that dried up and crusty lesions may also transmit HSV. Viral shedding usually lasts for at least 12 days during an initial episode.

Following exposure to HSV there is an incubation period of approximately three to ten days. The first symptoms are tingling, pain and itching sensations in the local area of infection, usually occurring about 1-5 days before the appearance of lesions. Enlarged, painful, lymph nodes in the groin area, and inflammation of the cervix, referred to as cervicitis, commonly occurs in women. Genital blisters or ulcers appear on the skin or mucous membranes between 10 to 14 days later. They usually heal by the third week after onset. Other symptoms, such as fever, fatigue, muscular pain, and headache increase in severity for up to 3 or 4 days following the development of lesions, and gradually subside within another 4 day period. It has been estimated that up to 50% of all initial outbreaks of herpes are asymptomatic (no symptoms) and as a result many individuals are unaware that they harbor the disease. One study predicts that all women with recurrent herpes will experience periodic episodes of asymptomatic viral shedding.

Following primary infection the herpes simplex virus lies dormant in the lower area of the spinal cord, known as the sacral nerve-root ganglion, where it rests until it is activated again. Although the factors that trigger recurrences are not completely known it is believed that increased stress, as well as environmental stressors such as exposure to ultraviolet light, heat, wind and physical stressors such as illness, menstruation, sexual intercourse or physical trauma may be the impetus for recurrent outbreaks. Almost 90% of patients experience recurrences. Much like the primary episode, recurrent episodes they may also be asymptomatic (as many as 20% of all recurrences), are usually less severe and last for only 5-10 days. The symptoms of recurrent genital herpes, such as shooting pains in the buttocks, hops or legs, are localized to the genital area and the length and severity of each recurrent outbreak will vary from person to person.

There is no vaccine or cure for HSV. Herpes can, however, be treated with 200mg of Zovirax (acyclovir), five times daily for 7 to 10 days. For best results, this treatment should begin within 6 days of onset of the lesions. Although this drug has not been found effective in preventing recurrent outbreaks it is useful for limiting their severity. Oral acyclovir works by speeding up the healing process of the genital lesions, decreasing the period of time in which HSV can be transmitted, as well as decreasing the discomfort associated with the ulcerations, and relieving systemic symptoms. Recurrent episodes may also be treated with acyclovir.

Since there is yet no cure for herpes, it is extremely important to prevent the spread of this disease. Before having sexual intercourse take a look at your partners genitals, watching for any redness, blisters or open lesions. If you have any doubts at all about your partner's genitals abstain from having sexual intercourse, especially if you are aware that they have a history of genital herpes. Unfortunately condoms are not 100% effective in preventing the transmission of HSV since the herpes virus is smaller than the pores in latex condoms, making it possible for HSV to penetrate the rubber. Although nonosynol-9 has proven to be somewhat effective against the herpes virus, much like the latex condom, it is not entirely reliable. Once the lesions have healed it should be alright to have sexual intercourse with your partner.

With regards to prevention of recurrent episodes of herpes it may be effective to learn some stress management techniques. It may also be beneficial to avoid certain factors which might predispose you to a recurrent herpes outbreak. For instance, if you normally wear a synthetic brief change to cotton underwear. Synthetics hold in normal body heat, possibly aggravating a recurrent episode of herpes, while cotton underpants will allow your genitals to breathe easily.

## Talkin' Garbage: Continued from page 8

places. Toronto, where residents think their "doo-doo" doesn't stink and the rest of Canada is their inferiors anyhow. Cleveland, where it's proper to throw garbage around as it's cited as a civic improvement. And naturally, New York City, which is such a cesspool, it should be bricked off and allowed to fester itself into oblivion. Wishing only to return the "favour" the budding environmentalists took the Yahoos' own garbage and also their family garbage and under the watchful eye of the local police delivered the mess to the owner's yard in Toronto, with a polite thank you note.

That was then, this is now. What's going on? I know for sure it couldn't be

the wonderful students on the UNB campus perpetrating this insult. This offense is taking place everywhere. In the SUB, where it's relatively clean, tables etc., in the early morning. Food, grease, drinks, paper, and sundry trash gradually appears on virtually every table by mid-afternoon. To sit at one of the tables requires a bulldozer to clean it off. If you're careless enough to put your arm on the table, it'll be glued down by some scummy substance previously applied earlier in the day. Is someone beating up our fine scholars if they attempt to use one of the many strategically placed trash cans? It can't be laziness, not with the workaholic students permeating this campus.

WOW!!! where do all of these shoddy posters come from?? I saw seventeen (not seven, but seventeen) yellow and black posters calling for a grad class '92 meeting; all in a span of less than twenty feet of wall space. Are the members of our next graduating class so stupid they can't remember the meeting for the length of time it requires them to take a single step? NOOO! Not the future representative of our university, particularly noted for their comprehensive involvement in all phases of university activities. This is only one example. Our bulletin boards are layered in notice, after poster (most of which appear to have been carefully lettered by a three year old chimpanzee), after sign. Sometimes the crap is three inches thick. On a campus which has attempted to maintain some architectural integrity for over two hundred years some insurgent mob is coating our bricks with dead trees and nuisance. What's going on? Who's doing it then? Fellow "UNBers", students, staff, and faculty alike, we must unite against the interlopers. Join with Dr. Know, environmentalist extraordinaire, and his faithful sidekick, namely me, D.J. and face up to these slithering, profanities being conducted out as you read these very lines.

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