

The body politic

Let's face it. Modern society is anal.

Sigmund Freud believed sexual repression is at the heart of every neurosis and psychosis. William Reich, a well-known twentieth century psychoanalyst, went on to suggest the universality of this condition in our culture and its link to maintaining the status quo. "Its purpose is the ultimate and total submission of the individual to the family, to the state, and to work."

Indeed, many find the structure of our day's world to be unnatural and confining. One friend resented the mode he was forced to adopt in order to live. "I have to work to *earn* money, not survive, but earn money. Why couldn't I work and get a sack of potatoes?" It is no secret that we are moving further and further away from the Earth and simple ways.

Manufacturers are constantly presenting us with new and improved versions of everything to keep up with our ever changing tastes and constant need for additional stimulation. Perhaps this is an indication of a certain lack of satisfaction not supplied by our plastic culture.

But this is not to devalue all that modern civilization has to offer. Many of us would probably prefer a high-tech high rise apartment in a big city to a cabin in the woods with no electricity or running water. The question remains, however, are the conveniences of civilization worth the sacrifices we have made to how connected we are with nature?

We each walk a tightrope balancing Nature and civilization. Society as a whole has chosen to move towards the developing civilization. Feminists say this is symptomatic of a culture dominated by patriarchy, whereby Nature is associated with the feminine and intellectual pursuits are perceived as masculine. As theoretician, Reich has been dubbed a feminist, a label reflected in his view that sexual energy is at work in the whole body, and his deep concern with the common difficulty in uniting body and mind.

Unfortunately, however, Reich was not entirely progressive in his attitudes concerning sexuality. He dubbed all forms of homosexuality and bisexuality as "unhealthy" and "regressed". Attitudes towards freedom of all forms of sexual expression are very slow to change.

In this age of AIDS, the dusk of conservative American politics and a generation of post-sexual revolutionists, we have continued to trend moving away from acknowledging our bodies' needs and desires, towards the satisfaction of our minds' ambitions. Ronald Reagan's platform of fostering America's arms build up while subtly encouraging abstinence suggests a disturbing re-channeling of energy.

As one psychotherapist observed, after retiring from forty years of practice, "the world is in need of a good shrink."

-Miriam Korn

the Gazette

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Give us bread and circuses

Clinton has taken the White House, Cameron has started his machine in motion, and Mulroney is going to wait until the last possible moment. These depressing days of our cold winter can only be a sign of an impending political circus here at Dalhousie. After all, it has already begun on Saint Mary's' campus.

'Annie4President' is what one sign declared. 'President Grosvold 93-94' read another. What can I tell about these candidates for the Presidency of SMUSA? Well judging from the handwritten marker print that has been so professionally photocopied, either Annie and Grosvold used the same designer to show their expertise to the uncaring masses, or Annie would be Annie Grosvold. My point is not to single out Annie and her unprofessional marketing strategy... who would I be to do so after running a Crayola campaign myself here at Dalhousie. My point is about the 'uncaring masses' themselves.

I'm sure that we will have no shortage of political wannabees crawling out of the woodwork, willing to spend up to \$400 on their campaign to convince the 12000 or so eligible voters here on campus (and why not...they get the money back if they get enough votes.) Amid the thousands of posters, fliers and banners that will be strewn around our cam-

pus (each with a 'Please Recycle' logo featured prominently on the bottom) will be pictured the grand few who believe they can make a difference.

It may be difficult for students to believe that these few players in university politics do make a difference with the quality of education going downhill and tuition hikes that seem

Student Unions are not "play" politics

to come rolling on no matter what...but they do make a difference.

Before we can accomplish all we want we have to show that we actually do care about our education. I'm not talking about everyone going out and getting involved in committees and demonstrations and going to Board meeting and Council meetings and becoming active in their education outside of the classroom.

I've learned over the years not to expect too much from people. I would just like to see people actually take a few minutes out of their busy schedules to find out what all the political wannabees want to do. Listen to them. Ask them questions if you actually get moved enough to do so. Most important - get out and vote this year.

Last year had a Dalhousie record high voter turnout - around 25%. That means that only one in four students actually cared enough to voice their opinion on who should get the positions of President and Vice President of our Student Union, positions that come with an honorarium of over \$16000. Money which comes out of your Student Union fees. Just as CKDU is not 'amateur radio', the Gazette is not a 'pretend paper', the offices of the Student Union are not 'play politics.'

Well, the election trail hasn't begun yet, but look for it. And this year make a point of deciding who you want to spend the \$137 that the Student Union gets from each and every full time student. And if you don't think that they can do it properly...then maybe it's time that you become a political wannabee, and put your mouth where your money is.

-Mike Zelle



LETTERS

The Dalhousie Gazette welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should not exceed 300 words in length and should be typed and double-spaced. The deadline for letters is Monday noon before publication. Letters may be submitted on Mac or IBM-compatible 3.5" disk.

Step forward not back

To the editors:

This letter is in response to Jasen Gannon, Black Man's opinions, who in the January 28 edition of the Gazette wrote an article concerning the prejudice and self-concerning views of the Dal Student Union. I'm afraid I cannot help but squirm at the ignorant views this man has. In trying to control the prejudice against himself and all black students he is at the same time putting down all whites. Although I am not a member of the DSU nor am I an entirely white student (being the multicultural mix of African, English, Italian, and Spanish) I felt angry at his continual low opinion of white students. As much as he, I too sympathize and agree that not always is enough done for the black student, however if he disagrees with the ways of the DSU why not become a leader, and do something to change things or support someone who will. I personally disagreed when the Dalhousie Art Gallery displayed art that was offensive to black students, and had I been approached with a petition from him I would have gladly signed because I disagreed with what was happening. With these same morals I signed the petition against

tuition hikes, not because DSU leader asked me to. Had this plea for support been a little more white-related, say an art display offensive to white students, I could understand his stubborn reservation. However this protest had as much to do with him as the next person - regardless of race. I cannot admire the fact that he purposely went against something he believed in only because the white DSU leaders were protesting the same things. In my eyes he went one step backwards not forward.

Santina Cross

Human Being

Love is love is love

To the editors:

I am writing this letter, not on behalf of the DCF or as a member of B-Glad. I am simply writing this letter as a concerned Christian. I was deeply hurt by the impression the DCF left on the general public after their little demonstrative week and also by the article published in the Gazette following that week. I am a heterosexual and a firm believer in Christ and his teachings. But the truth of Christ is the truth of love. Not just love between a man

and a woman or a general love for others. I believe that this love includes love between a woman and a woman or a man and a man. It is my sincere wish that marriage between homosexual couples will be legally sanctioned soon just as I believe it is sanctioned in the eyes of God. Why wouldn't God approve of love in any form? It isn't the fault of the homosexual couple that they aren't legally able to marry in the usual sense. The marriage ritual is a man-made restraint to their expression of their love to their mate which they have no control over. I feel that if one person makes a pledge to be with another person, that is as much a marriage as any other, regardless of gender. As to calling all homosexuals sinners, that is, to use an over-worked expression, the pot calling the kettle black. We are all sinners and, in God's sight, sin is sin, no sin being greater than another. And if loving someone is a sin, then I feel pity for anyone who isn't guilty of that sin. So, if you were put off by the DCF week and any distorted message they may have purveyed, please don't ignore

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