

Making love — An honest look at love, sex & romance

BY HILARY WHITE

Are you confused by the mysteries surrounding making love? Do you find the whole issue of romance completely mind-boggling? The Dalhousie Christian Fellowship and Dalhousie Navigators took a stab earlier this week at solving the mysteries of love making.

Bruxy Cavey, pastor of Upper Oaks Community Church gave talks Monday night at the Grawood and Wednesday at the McInnes Room on the mysteries of love and romance.

One surprising aspect of the night was the speaker himself. Religious professionals, in the popular mind seem to fall into three distinct categories: stuffy and dour legalist; sentimental, earnest fool; or slimy, ingratiating shyster. At least these are the ones we see most on TV.

Cavey failed to fit into any particular category. His style was professional without being too rehearsed. The initial appearance of the hipster was quickly believed by his easy familiarity with such "serious philosophers" as C.S. Lewis and Abraham Maslow. His style gave the impression of one with a long experience rendering an unpopular and challenging message comprehensible and digestible without recourse to dumbing-down. He was personable without being patronising.

And he gave some serious food for thought on a subject which is too often treated lightly even by counsellors and professional theorists. It is a simple fact that in the end, all the well-

worked out philosophies, all the money and material success available will not amount to much if our relationships do not go well. But the difficult question is always, how do we get the most

and to treat them as valuable."

The implications of this new/ancient idea are pretty far reaching.

Turning love into something one chooses to do instead of a helpless state into which one falls puts to rest a lot of commonly held ideas about romantic relationships. "Falling in love," becomes bad excuse for irresponsible behavior. "Making love," to describe having sex becomes a simple misnomer. "Sex," Cavey said, "does not make love; sex makes babies." It seems obvious when it is said so plainly but it is said plainly so infrequently that it's easy to forget. Happiness in romance and life is not going to be found by an endless string of "relationships," but by a lasting commitment founded on mutual self-giving. With this in mind, love can be made "to as many people and in as many places," as possible. It is the way to make the world better, to save it, in fact.

These are ideas that don't get a lot of air time in our cynical, postsixties, postmodern world. If we aren't trying to make as much money as possible we are often in full retreat from the world. It is seen as an irredeemably bad and hostile place and we feel lucky enough not to get bitten too badly by it. But Cavey's

unapologetically Christian message was that making love, in his sense of the term, will turn the world around for the humans.

It is possible to reject this kind of message as too simplistic. Individuals and the world have huge problems. Hunger for authentic human contact vies with hunger for food as the planet's most pressing problem. But Cavey is a Christian in a time when institutional Christianity is often blamed for a lot of the world's troubles. He was making no excuses for his rather unpopular religion. He had something important to say, that doesn't get said out loud very often.

And the response was generally positive. The question period showed that the forty or so attendees were listening and were thinking about what was being said. He said after his presentation that people often say they don't think much about religion but they do think about the issues that religion traditionally address. People are not generally looking for capital R religion, but they do still want answers that postmodern philosophies have failed to address. He gave at least one response to one of these issues. It may not be the answer everyone is able to accept but it does make one think.

"Sex does not make love; sex makes babies."

out of our relationships? Any of them? Cavey's message offered an answer — that we get the most by not trying to get anything at all. Give instead.

He asked what seemed at first to be a simple question, "what is love?" The usual answers were forthcoming: "love is a feeling, love is personal attachment." But the real idea was that love is in fact the action of a mature will, to "value someone

RAVE

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when they are made to believe by something that they, personally, can experience.

I agree. Blind faith is not enough for our generation. We need evidence. Regardless of the validity of the experience, the fact remains that raving causes these kids to feel something, which is always better than nothing.

Too many people choose to condemn us for something that they have no idea about. They think that our pants are too big, that we have too many piercings and that, since we attend raves, we must therefore be drug addicts and thus have nothing valid to say. The fact that they think of ravers as drug addicts — for no other reason than because we attend raves and wear big pants — means that they have nothing valid to say on the subject.

To say that there are no illegal substances at raves would be a lie. Of course there are drugs at raves, but there are drugs in bars, at concerts, and in schools too. While the local and national media seems content with flavor-of-the-month, sensationalist journalism, condemning our parties as "places of rampant drug use" and "an excuse to get high on designer drugs," they seem to be

missing the point. If drug use among today's youth is really such a big deal to them, then here is a blatant red flag waving directly under their collective noses. If this is a serious social disease that needs to be "stamped out," as is so often claimed, then the very people whose job it is to uncover and reveal these ills just aren't getting it.

Drugs are everywhere. They are not, nor have they ever been, limited to any single class or subculture. We're all adults (or should be) and those who choose to participate in the sale and use of illegal substances will do so no matter what the risk. Raves are merely an easy scapegoat and promoters and police are powerless to stop it.

Among the collection of drugs that find their way to raves (not to mention numerous other facets of society) is the infamous Ecstasy, or E as it is more affectionately referred to. This drug is a relatively new recreational drug, but has taken strong root in the last few decades. It is composed of Methylenedioxyamphetamine (MDMA), and among other things, is known for the euphoric feeling it gives its consumers. It is also known for the surge of positive energy, making it some-

what of a custom fitted drug for the positive energy of raves.

There can be the problem of people not being responsible at raves occasionally. Drugs can be dangerous, but that is not a deterrent. Instead of opposing something that is inevitable, concentration should be put on educating people so they can make their own educated choices without criticism.

This is the culture, and the culture is dying, thrown headlong into a downward spiral by people who don't really care about the music or the scene. Lately there has been a surge of imposters, like the Palace spillover who heard that they could find young girls at raves who, of course, would want to go home with them.

The media condemns us due to one or two incidents, which, while unfortunate, do not define the actions of a group. While, inevitably, raving will go the way of grunge, disco, and everything else that the media and the corporations decide should be turned into a "fad" and used as a tool to make money, we don't have to speed the process. If the true ravers start practicing the tenants that we preach, we can make a difference. Peace. Love. Unity. Respect. It's not that hard.

With files from Patrick Blackie

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Some rave and rave-related websites

<http://cherrybomb.dynip.com/>
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