

Thickness of faith

by Marcus Garnet, Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship

This common idea of faith sees it as a fight against the mind to overcome circumstances. Faith becomes a feeling that relies upon nothing but itself. Yet if I rely on such "faith" to venture out on a frozen lake when the ice is melting, the cold water will remind me that I ignore reality at my peril.

Far from denying reality, true faith is dedicated to it. Real faith is open to the truth and willing to submit to it, whatever it might be. It involves the mind and the will more than the emotions, and searches for the truth even when that truth threatens to be inconvenient. It requires an open-mindedness to the possibility that ultimate truth might be more relevant and specific than anticipated. It is open to God.

Because it is dedicated to the reality beyond itself, true faith is marked by humility. It submits to the precepts of reason, yet it acknowledges that the finite mind cannot reach an exhaustive understanding of the infinite. It extends beyond the realm of reason without contravening it, and rises above circumstances

without ignoring them. It can do this because reason points to a Mind infinitely greater than our own.

I have come to appreciate that saying "yes" to reality eventually requires saying "yes" to God: "yes" to the proposition that I am a hopeless rebel without God, "yes" to the reconciliation offered to me by Christ, and "yes" to God's trustworthiness. This is a faith of quality rather than quantity: Christ compared it to a small mustard seed. It stands or falls not on its own strength but on the strength of the object. My faith might be small, but the ice on the lake is a mile thick.

Love never fails

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The speaker finally made his appeal: Help us free Kang Jong-Hon. The response: 25 letters to President Roh Tae-Woo, calling for Kang's immediate and unconditional release. IVCF then offered to pay for the postage! This action spoke more eloquently than anything said during "Christian Awareness Week".

Christians are called upon to care. The members of IVCF acted as true Christians. They demonstrated why their movement still deserves to be called the first "conspiracy of hope".

Peer Counselling

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teers who will then go through a training period which will acquaint them with all the services offered at Dalhousie. "One idea being discussed is having representatives from all the services come and give talks to the volunteers," says Zayid.

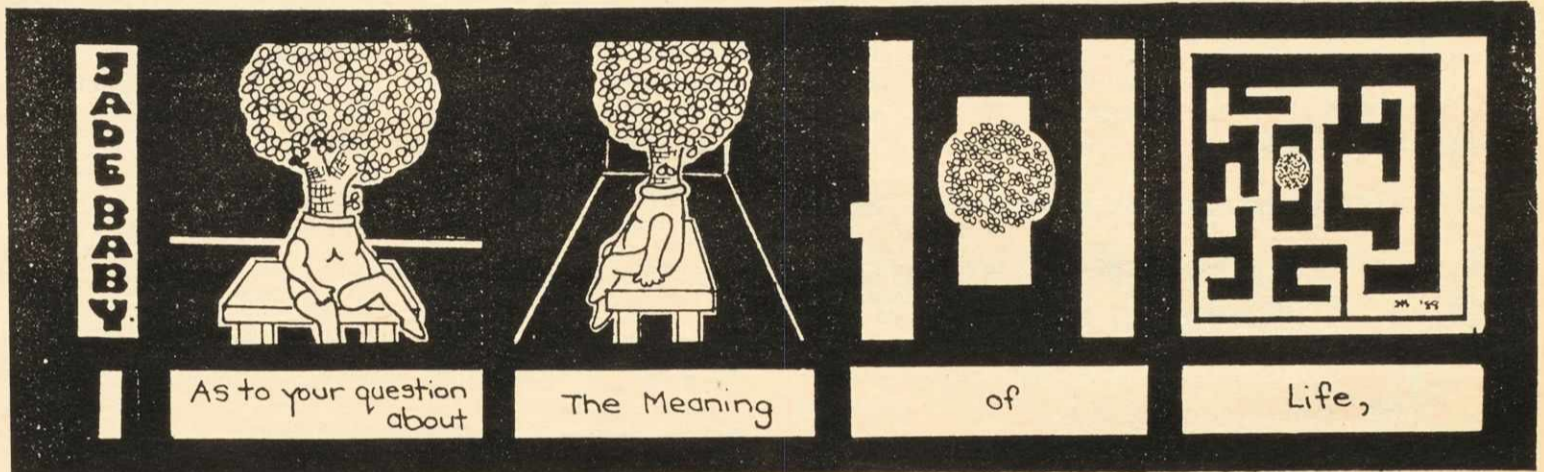
During the year the peer counsellor will make contact with first-year students; if the freshmen are having any problems counsellors will either be able to help them or refer them to someone who can. "The one-to-one relationship between the peer counsellor and the student, we

hope, will encourage the student to speak up if they are having any problems," says Zayid.

The program will be on a strictly voluntary basis. The DSU is considering putting a letter in registration kits asking students if they want a counsellor. It would then be up to them to reply to student council.

Council discussed the idea of providing a half-day workshop on counselling. Judy Hiyashi, director of counselling services, says the DSU has not contacted her yet, but she supports the idea of peer counselling. "When a student hears another student tell them about university services it carries a lot of weight. They are more likely to go seek help if they hear about it from another student."

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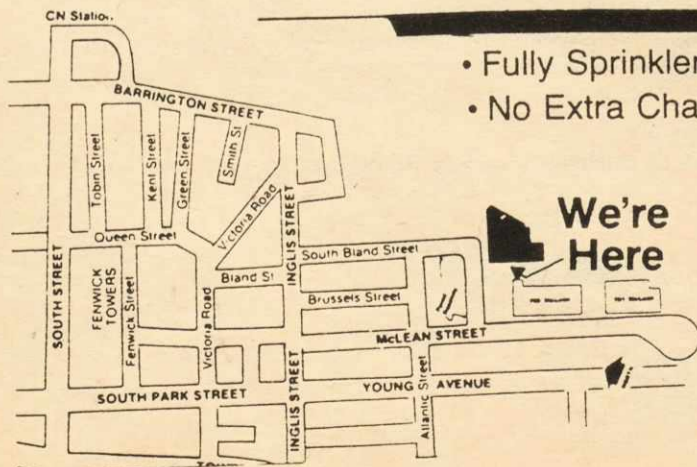
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