

Cappon feels homosexuality "is not a right"

"... To hear them talk (and they talk a lot because this is a feature of homosexuality, especially in a physically deprived, fearful or cowardly male) you'd think that this disorder is a valuable asset."
 "... What do they really want? They want to legitimize sodomy and fellatio between members of the same sex — and whatever equivalent manoeuvrings that women can do with each other."
 "... Let's stop this homophile bamboozling. Let's put an end to their tiresome whining, aided and abetted by the media. One may say, with scientific backing, that militant predatory male homosexuality is no more than the behaviour of overcrowded rats."
 "... It is part of the Fall. After debauchery and decadence, there is decimation and infertility, then revival and revitalization, both for rats and men."
 "... It is not possible to suffer from such a deviance (in terms of sexual object) of such magnitude without every other mental function becoming skewed, at the same time. Especially does the function of morality, the conscience, get twisted."

— Daniel Cappon, York professor of environmental studies; psychiatrist. *The Toronto Star*, Jan. 10.

"One may say, with scientific backing, that militant predatory male homosexuality is no more than the behaviour of overcrowded rats."

The term militant is an important clue. Homosexuals who stand up for their personal dignity and civil rights, he warns us, are really plotting to take over. "In fact," he writes, "they wouldn't mind converting the whole world to their way of life." This line of argument sounds too clearly like the similar charges that led to the persecution of minority groups; i.e., the invention of the "Zionist Plot". But what harm could consenting adults engaging in a particular kind of sex possibly do to society? Cappon knows the answer: they corrupt the young. Homosexuals, he is sure, "would draw them in, subvert and damage those who merely fear homosexuality." According to this reasoning there might also be a case for outlawing heterosexuality since not only seduction but rape of minors by members of the opposite sex is a daily occurrence.

When he states his value judgements in absolute terms, Cappon uses an especially dangerous demagogic technique. "No one, but absolutely no one chooses to become a homosexual person," he assures us. That many homosexuals testify to the opposite has no bearing on his judgement. Since all their mental functions are perverted they cannot be trusted, anyway.

Cappon cannot conceive of a homosexual relationship with emotional value. "They (the homosexuals) want to legitimize sodomy and fellatio — and whatever manoeuvring that women can do with each other," he states. In other words, homosexual love-making is necessarily base and lustful maneuvering devoid of mutual respect or tenderness. Dehumanizing the enemy, real or imagined, is always a feature of propaganda written to appeal to the masses.

But Cappon's conclusions surpass even this slander. His tone becomes positively hysterical when he charges, "If he (the homosexual) were allowed to act out and promote homosexuality, then why not rape or murder?" This statement would be merely ridiculous if it didn't carry such frightening implications. This kind of paranoia, when widespread, has in the past been exploited by totalitarian governments to commit all sorts of atrocities against minority groups.

Cappon wants to see homosexuals "cured" — if necessary, against their own will. "If the victim will not or says he cannot acknowledge his abnormality . . . , then society must step in and limit the damage he causes to others, if not the damage he causes to himself," he advocates, although he fails to make concrete propositions as to how this should be done. Should we force homosexuals into mental hospitals, for instance, and sterilize or lobotomize "hopeless" cases? That would be one possible solution, almost a final one. Cappon

sees a more liberal attitude towards homosexuality as a sign of decadence and even evokes the Downfall of our Civilization to make his threats and insinuations credible. That the oppression and persecution of minority groups is a rather barbaric notion never occurs to him.



Graphic by Aubrey Beardsley

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By CLAUDIA WUPPERMANN

A university education tends to destroy the illusion that intelligence and formalized learning are proper safeguards against irrationality. Yet what York professor Daniel Cappon recently poured out in the prestigious "opinion" column of the Toronto Star is strong enough stuff to take one by surprise.

Under a headline "The homosexual hoax: This aberration is not a right" Cappon concocted a portrayal of the homosexual as a social menace and placed him next to murderers and rapists. That he pretends to have done so with scientific backing is especially grotesque in looking at his emotionally charged language.

Although the nature and cause of homosexuality is a widely debated issue and may never be settled, Cappon authoritatively asserts that it is a sickness, a disease of more than sexual proportions. "It is not possible to suffer from a deviance of such magnitude," he writes, "without every other mental function becoming skewed at the same time."

In confusing the abnormal with perversion, Cappon makes a common mistake. This is, however, a poor excuse for labelling as degenerate all behaviour that does not conform to majority standards. Even people who accept his premise that homosexuality is a psychosexual disorder tend to regard it as a more complex phenomenon than Cappon. He writes;

Letters to the Editor

York homophiles disagree with prof

Daniel Cappon's article in the January 10 Toronto Star appears to have been composed in the light of emotionalism rather than with the rationality that the topic deserves. As a professor at York University, and a man who sits on various councils, Cappon should make use of the same analytic qualities which he would expect of his students. Instead, the article is composed of generalizations, drawing only on selected sources to build a case. The purpose of education is to open the mind of the student, to allow him to question the world around him, and to maintain a liberal attitude towards the opinions of others.

What the homophile asks is that he or she be given an equal opportunity socially, professionally, and, in toto, as a human being, with an individual of a different sexual orientation. Charges of child seduction and parallels with rapists and murderers, now accepted as highly inaccurate by many experts in the field, simply play upon the hysteria of a generally uninformed public.

We at York publically wish to register an opinion contrary to Cappon's, to demonstrate that his views are not those of the York community as a whole. We urge anyone, before passing judgment on the matter, to investigate the readily available material on the subject.

CLIFFORD COLLIER
York University Homophile Association.

Review critic says nothing new

In the Jan. 11 edition of Excalibur a letter to

the editor was printed about my review of Emily Dickinson. I feel that I must respond to it.

As Clare MacCulloch states the review does not bring up new points, but then again neither does MacCulloch. Anyone who takes the trouble to read the introduction will find all of the history that he cites. Neither Todd nor Bingham could understand either Emily's writing or punctuation, and tried as best they could with her writing, but gave up on her punctuation. This is stated in the preface to the book, *Bolts of Melody*.

I am not a fan of Dickinson's poetry, as I previously stated in the review. MacCulloch seems determined to take away my right not to like Dickinson. I appreciate good poetry when I see it, I don't feel that *Bolts of Melody* fits the bill.

MacCulloch, with the zeal of all people trying to win converts to a belief, refuses to see any other side but his own.

ROBERT FISHER

The chapel has been figured out

I was surprised to find out about the chapel. It's just what this place needs. My big question is, when do we get the cemetery? Do you know that once they put the lake in we can have burials at sea, and of course, a York Undertaking Club. Then the Osgoode students can spend some time on last will and testaments instead of alimonies. But let's not stop here York.

As a conscientious student, I'd like to know what denomination the chapel will be? Now, this is my plan, if we let the Jewish Student Federation amalgamate with the Christian

Fun Club we can save on taxes, use matzoh wafers, and use Mogen David wine for holy communion. We can fit the Hare Krishnas in the B'nai Br'ith lodge as long as they leave Saturdays free for Bar Mitzvahs and the Rosicrucians can share the east wall with the Egyptian Aton club. We can fit the fine arts film department in the Ingman Bergman room in the basement with the Sarah Bernhardt Memorial Society For Isadora Duncan for dance.

Let's not stop this monumental growth with only a chapel. How about a museum and planetarium. Then there's the aquarium, amusement park, torture chamber, delicatessen . . .

FRED POTTS

Money ill-spent, don't penalize us

I wonder whether or not the fee strike represents the sentiment of the majority of York students. I know several souls who believe they are still getting their money's worth at the new, inflated price. However, my opinion is straightforward.

Having not much, I for one am rather tight with my money. For my investment I want three things: professors, a library, and classrooms. Should there be any of my money left, then I will condescend to allow a tunnel, an international restaurant, a Multi-coloured Whatever outside the library, a pink intestine named George, a man-made lake, etc., etc. If not, my three necessary demands will be fine, thank you. If those who take charge of my money spend it foolishly, I see no logical reason why they should penalize me for it.

R. DOLMAN

Senate committee has no students

Let us no longer be naive enough to accept the platitudes expounded by the faculty as individuals or the senate as a collective body at York.

In the senate meeting of Dec. 13, 1972, Senate was preoccupied in specifying the representation on a special committee to continue the work of the Joint Committee on Alternatives. The committee is charged with the responsibility of eliminating our budget deficit and to save faculty jobs. It appears that this is being done at the expense of the students. There are only five members of this committee; a further two shall be presidential appointees and the remaining three will be senators. Senate was not prepared to set aside a seat for a student senator on this committee. No students will be members of the committee.

While I sympathize with the faculty, I am disturbed by their closed-shop attitude. Students are not being given an effective voice in the decision-making at York and are not being considered on an equal merit, equal opportunity basis. If the quality of education and life in the university community at York is not good now, it will be worse.

Faculty, if you see enrolment decrease again, it is because students are concerned with the quality of their education not with whether or not you keep your job. Students may be more powerful than you think. You can't have a university or jobs without them.

JAMIE LAWS
Chairman Student Senators' Caucus