

# Fear and Ignorance on the campaign trail

Fred wasn't gay. It must have been drugs, Mark says, stunned to hear that his friend has died of AIDS. His eyes go dead. We once went to a shooting gallery. We shared a needle. That's how AIDS comes to Pine Valley, **All My Children's** (Monday-Friday, 1 p.m., Channel 7) suburbtopia. Eighty-seven per cent of soap watchers answering a poll in **Soap Opera Digest** said they wanted to see AIDS treated on the shows. **Children** is the first to run one - **Another World** has a major AIDS plot in the works too. On **Children**, Fred's infected wife arrives with her six-year-old son in tow, and everybody in town has to decide whether to support or abandon her. She's going to have a romance, and then she's going to die.

—VILLAGE VOICE

A family of five lost thier home to fire when local towns people decided they no longer wanted the family in thier town. The three teen-aged boys, all hemophiliacs, were diagnosed as carrying the AIDS virus. —NEW YORK TIMES

At times it appears inevitable that we will all be touched in some all-too-personal way by the AIDS virus and yet we all want to believe this will not happen to us.

\* Estimated number of Canadians diagnosed with the AIDS virus : 7,000

We will not come within closer contact of this virus than the advertisements and

the news developments and those all too real soap operas. Afterall, this type of disease is only found in large urban centres. And besides, nobody we know is a junkie. We certainly don't have to worry about our sexual practises.

\* Rank of AIDS as the cause of death among white women aged 25 to 29 in New York City : 1

Death is not a thought we choose to entertain. If we don't think about it than it will never happen...to us. Besides, isn't the government doing something about it

\* Amount Canadian Public Health Association spent on four thirty-second AIDS commercials : \$250,000

\* Amount (US) Burger King will spend on advertising in the United States alone this year : \$2,000,000,000

And we can assure ourselves that with enough research a cure will be found soon. But we won,t have to worry about that. Not us.

\* Estimated amount Americans will spend on bogus AIDS treatment this year : \$1,000,000,000

\* Percentage who say they believe AIDS can be contracted from handling money : 10

We just have to ignore this issue and it will go away. Or maybe something more nefarious will come along and catch the media's spotlight. Life just has to go on. There are classes to attend.

—STEPHEN SHAY



## BANG. YOU'RE DEAD!

That's how serious AIDS is.

Anyone can get the AIDS virus by having sex with an infected person. And you just can't be sure who's infected. The carrier often doesn't know, and can have the virus years before the symptoms start showing up.

And once you get AIDS, you'll likely die. No ifs, ands or cures.

Not having sex is one sure way to avoid AIDS. But if you have sex, use a condom.

**AIDS** Because the one thing you don't want to hear is "You've got AIDS."

If you think you can't get it, you're dead wrong.

# N.S. Royal Commission does not add up

By Dr. Guy Chauvin  
President, N.S. Confederation of University Faculty Associations

The Nova Scotia Royal Commission on post-Secondary Education recommended that those who seek post-secondary education should bear a larger proportion of the financial burden of such an education. Other recommendations of a similar nature have been made elsewhere. Those who thus advocate higher tuition fees seem to ignore the income that students forego in

order to attend university. In Economics 100 this is called "opportunity cost". If opportunity cost is not ignored, the burden of attending university is shown to be far more onerous, and students can be seen to bear some 75 per cent of the cost of providing themselves with a post-secondary education. The financial burden on students also increases substantially if accomodation costs have to be met.

The often-voiced argument that it would be more equitable to shift the costs of post-

secondary education away from government and towards students because high- and middle-income families gain more from current financing than lower-income families is counter-productive. The answer to this perceived inequity cannot be to increase the onus on students so that a university education becomes less accessible to all but those from high-income families. The solution is to institute programmes to boost participation rates by bringing in those with lower incomes. Raising tuition fees only imposes further

barriers and disincentives to pursuing higher education.

The Nova Scotia Royal Commission recommended using tuition fees to recover 50 per cent of instructional costs, i.e. 30 per cent of total university costs vs. the current 17.5 per cent. This was consistent with recommendations of Ontario's Bovey Commission, which would have brought fees in that province to 25 per cent of total university costs. Of course, Nova Scotia was already asking students to bear more of the cost than the national average, having earned

a reputation for having the highest tuition fees in the country in the process. The comparison with the United States demonstrates that these recommendations are out of step with the Free Trade environment. Public universities in the United States rely upon tuition for 14 per cent of their total costs.

It is unfortunate that when comparisons are made with United States universities, the institutions that come to mind are often the elite private institu-

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Dalhousie Gazette Publishing Society

All Dal students welcome  
Free coffee and doughnuts

## GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, Oct. 8  
12:30 p.m., Room 100, Dal SUB

Order of business: Constitutional changes to the Publications Society. Election of the Publishing Board student representatives.