

See Sherry speak

Freedom: To know the alternative

CREATIVITY/ *Alternative music is an acquired taste, it is experimental and not molded.*

by Sherry A. Morin

See three friends. See three friends coloring. See the friends color trees. See Jill color her tree green. See me color my tree red. See you color your tree blue. Jill's tree is nice. My tree is nice. Your tree is yucky. Your tree is blue.

The fabric of Western society is often so tautly and carefully interwoven that any "irregularities" in the weave or movements against the grain are regarded as snags - as flaws to be removed. If Western society is a swatch of fabric on a rack, then its weavers are the management of corporate empires. Craftfully spinning together their corporate economics with pliable governmental policy, industrial giants manipulate our private and political lives with skilled hands, determining our places in the weave. Conformism, the philosophy that most of us stupidly and smilingly live under, is a dangerous thing. Unfortunately, it is, like a virus that takes hold, self-multiplying. Sometimes we must make holes in the weave - sometimes it is necessary to demand a hand in the making of the design of which we are a part. Call it revolt, call it activism, call it awareness... you're free to name it whatever you want; that's an illustration of individuality, which is what we're about to discuss. For me, anti-conformism and activism are summed up in one word - "Alternative".

To me, "Alternative" means any expression of revolt, from individuality in styles of dress to radical feminist movements. Ideally, most people would find at least a comfortable medium between the two extremes in their daily lives. "Alternative" philosophy advocates individuality and freedom of expression, especially for neglected groups which too often gather dust in dark attic-corners of society.

When people hear "alternative", they often think, "illegal drugs", "tattoos and combat boots", "weird music", "strange sex", or "social deviance". Examining alternative philosophies, however, is fundamental to our happiness as social creatures. If none of us ever rebelled to any degree, then we would all be clones.

The courage of the individual to be true to his or her own self is most often behind socio-moral and technological progress. That is how the call for change came to be known as *progressivism*. All or most of our national heroes, our visionaries - Emily Stowe, Norman Bethune, Nellie McClung, Frederick Banting, John A. Macdonald and Moses Znamer - are rebels, guided by their alternative views. Most of us will never become national heroes; however, it is still in our best interests to rebel now and then against the mainstream.

A good argument given by psychologists is that of self-actualization. Self-actualization, according to Maslow, is the fulfillment of an inborn need within ourselves to be unique individuals. Living by our likes and dislikes, developing our talents, realizing our potentials, we are self-actualized. Apparently, this process makes us more independent in thought and action, because our view of the world becomes less clouded by internal preoccupation with our own unsatisfied needs.

People deprived of self-actualization, in contrast, tend to be more anxiety-ridden, more conformist and less creatively independent (Maslow, 1954). This self-actualization theory illustrates one reason why we should encourage freedom of thought, speech and expression.

Free speech is vital to the citizen, especially in a province such as ours, where most or all of the news media is dominated by a single corporate interest. Because of this, we must obviously be critical of our media, especially with reports on environmental issues. We must engage our governments in investigations, to try to find the real truth by actively probing below the surface.

We tend to over-develop our environment. The mountains, the rivers, the fields and tundras, have all too often fallen victim. We overdevelop and over-process everything else, too, from bureaucracies and social norms to foods and children's toys. Unfortunately, we also over-develop music. Most of the mainstream music is produced along the lines of a formula, colorless. This is where another vital element of alternative culture comes

in-campus radio. Ours is called C.H.S.R.

Alternative music is alternative culture in one of its most wild, passionate and freely-creative forms. It hasn't been chopped up by big record executives looking for a piece of the profits. Alternative music is an acquired taste, beautiful in its crudity. It is experimental, avant-garde, and not over-developed. It is not molded, like most mainstream material. It is the voice of youth. If you would like to listen, I recommend "Subterranean Homesick Blues", a wacky phone-in show famous not only for its alternative music but also for its liberal discussions. Call in (live, unbridled, and on-air) to voice your opinions!

If you'd like to ease into alternative thought through a good read, I would

recommend an absolutely fascinating book called *The New Ambidextrous Universe* by Martin Gardner. It's an investigation into the unusual side of science, quirks in the regular running of the universe that you've often wondered about but never dared to question.

Not yet sold on alternative thought? Just remember that you wouldn't have a vacation toward the end of December if it hadn't been for those "heretics" who caused such a stir in Rome, around the first century, A.D. They called themselves "Christians", and were at the time lumped in with "Magicians and Jews" as "Enemies of the State."

I'd like to leave you with part of an Old English poem from a book called *The Medieval Age*, edited by Angel

Flores. It's meant to make you swell with pride as you read, as you share in the sweet plight of your new role as the "lone rebel" in society. *The solitary man lives still in hope! Of his Maker's mercy, though with grieving mind! Over the ocean-roads he has long to go, / Rowing his boat on the rime-cold sea, / Voyaging out his exile while fate is fulfilled.* As you'll notice, it was pocked with language bound to offend both atheists and advocates of non-sexist language. If this does offend and I'm criticized, writers to "Blood and Thunder" will only enforce the point pushed by this article: examine all sides. Express yourselves.

That's it for now, kiddies. Take care, and see me speak again after the Break.

Mentanaia

The university as mentoring community

OPINION/ *Students have needs that are not being met.*

by John Valk

The university, by its very nature, is an institution of higher learning, scholarship and research. It is the environment in which students have the opportunity to learn from the experience, scholarship and research of faculty in a wide variety of areas. Through this interaction and exchange, a new generation of people are prepared for active and responsible engagement in the wider society.

A key question here is "what constitutes preparation?" In light of what appear to be ever increasing budget reductions, the stress is laid more and more on the word *adequate* preparation. And, adequate preparation so often implies short-term planning and narrowly focused strategies.

What is the mandate of the university? It is becoming very clear that business and industry expects the university to produce students who can competently respond to the demands and challenges of their jobs. But, is that the only mandate of the university?

Students no doubt are well prepared by the university to meet the demands of the *working* world. That is, the university ensures that students have the proper skills, facts and information needed for the *job*. But, is that sufficient, and has adequate attention been given to educating the *whole* person.

There is indication that an increasing number of students have needs that are not being met by a narrowed focus on skills development, facts and information. Furthermore, the more these needs are neglected, the more students are unable (because of personal trauma)

to take full advantage of the learning, scholarship and research possible at the university. This is becoming painfully obvious at the elementary and secondary levels, where family upheaval or breakdown so traumatizes children that they come to school unprepared for learning.

The university as an "information mill" may serve certain short-term needs. In that sense it responds to a society which covets information, and has short-term game plans. But the university is also to provide leadership; it is to point out the better, not the easier route to follow.

The university clearly cannot be all things to all people. But if its mandate is to bring a new generation into active and responsible cultural participation, even leadership, then its focus ought to be broad rather than narrow. For example, how much time and energy, emotional or otherwise, is not lost on the job, let alone in the classroom, because the personal lives of individuals are in such turmoil. Abuse (physical, emotional, sexual), distraught relationships, marriage and family breakdown, spiritual turmoil, eating disorders are statistically on the increase. Any of these impacts negatively on a person's ability to function, let alone provide leadership, on the job or in the classroom.

The university as a "mentoring community" may go a long way in coming to grips with some of these concerns. Interaction between faculty, staff and students in contexts in addition to that of the formal classroom may provide opportunities for "mentoring".

Mentoring has to do with challenging, encouraging, guiding. It has to do with bringing the most and best out of students. It entails leading where leadership is required; modeling where modeling is needed; healing where pain is obvious; reconciling where animosity prevails. Of course, a trust relationship is essential here. Students must feel that the mentoring community is sincere, has the best interests of the students at heart, and is capable of guiding.

That places a great responsibility on faculty and staff, the guardians and trustees of the educational enterprise. It means that education must be broadly, not narrowly, defined. Most importantly, it entails that education involve the whole person: mind, body and soul; that the academic, physical and spiritual needs of the person be addressed.

The first two emphases have preoccupied the university in the last decades. That the university has drifted away from the third has become painfully obvious. But if the soul does not receive proper guidance, or healing, the individual is less able to realize his or her full potential. That has a direct impact on the whole of life. Canada's aboriginal communities, for one, are clearly aware of this. So are many in traditional religious communities.

The university has invited business and industry to be active partners in the educational enterprise. And, the effect of that partnership is surfacing. But why such a narrow focus? It is the *whole* person that is to grow, develop and become educated. The more we realize that, the more we can distance ourselves from our materialistic, exploitative and consumer driven society, and the more we can heal its negative impact.

Shades Of Light

"A shining light in the dark cold. Images of love and happiness all waiting for you to share and enjoy at New Brunswick's oldest craft shop



288 Regent St.
455-1318

SAM MOON POWER UNIT

Maritime Legends

Sam Moon and Richie Oakley

Rock the House Down-
On the stage and on the tables

OAK ROOM PUB

OROMOCTO MALL

Friday and Saturday Dec. 4th & 5th

Advance tickets: \$6.00

Door: \$8.00

CALL FOR RESERVATIONS

357-3136

Real men don't drink coolers

Continued from page 8

a white ball which is trying to control all the balls of color into oblivion, a black hole. The final successful outcome being that the white ball reigns supreme over a green land unencumbered by any other. This could take some time.

How are things at table three? Looks like they're having fun. "Five ball in one of the pockets. Hey, that's not a legitimate call. Who cares. Go for it man. Oh, was that one of yours? Sorry, man. Look, I just sunk the eight ball. Can we use the four instead. Sure, no sweat. I'll be right back. I've got to go

drain the lizard. Sure, man, bring me a brew on your way back, eh?"

Around and around she goes and where she stops nobody knows. But, Mr. Harris, I would like to request this before "she" decides to "go" someplace else where they do not divest me of my coat and bag and there are many in this town. (Coolers are the same price all over and for the price of two coolers I can buy a litre.) Could you please have a waiver at the door that I could sign not holding you responsible for lost personal items and says that I have been searched and have not brought my own drinks, because if somebody needs a tampon that bad I would't really mind. I would't even mind if someone looks through my things, pockets included, in search of contraband liquor, but do try and be decent about it.

Having raised three sons to full blown maturity I can handle the testosterone zone but the divesting and disrobing (and paying you to have me strip) is really pissing me off.

P.S. Don't you think little checkered table cloths in the pool room would add to the ambiance, and while you're at it would you mind awfully changing the channel on the TV from boxing and hockey to Murphy Brown on "Ladies Night."

Treat A Friend

At

99 Noodles

95 Regent st.



Sat. Nov. 28

Buy one regularly priced
entree
& get the 2nd FREE

Hours: Mon - Wed. 11am - 9pm
Thurs & Fri. 11am - 11pm
Sat. 11am - 9pm