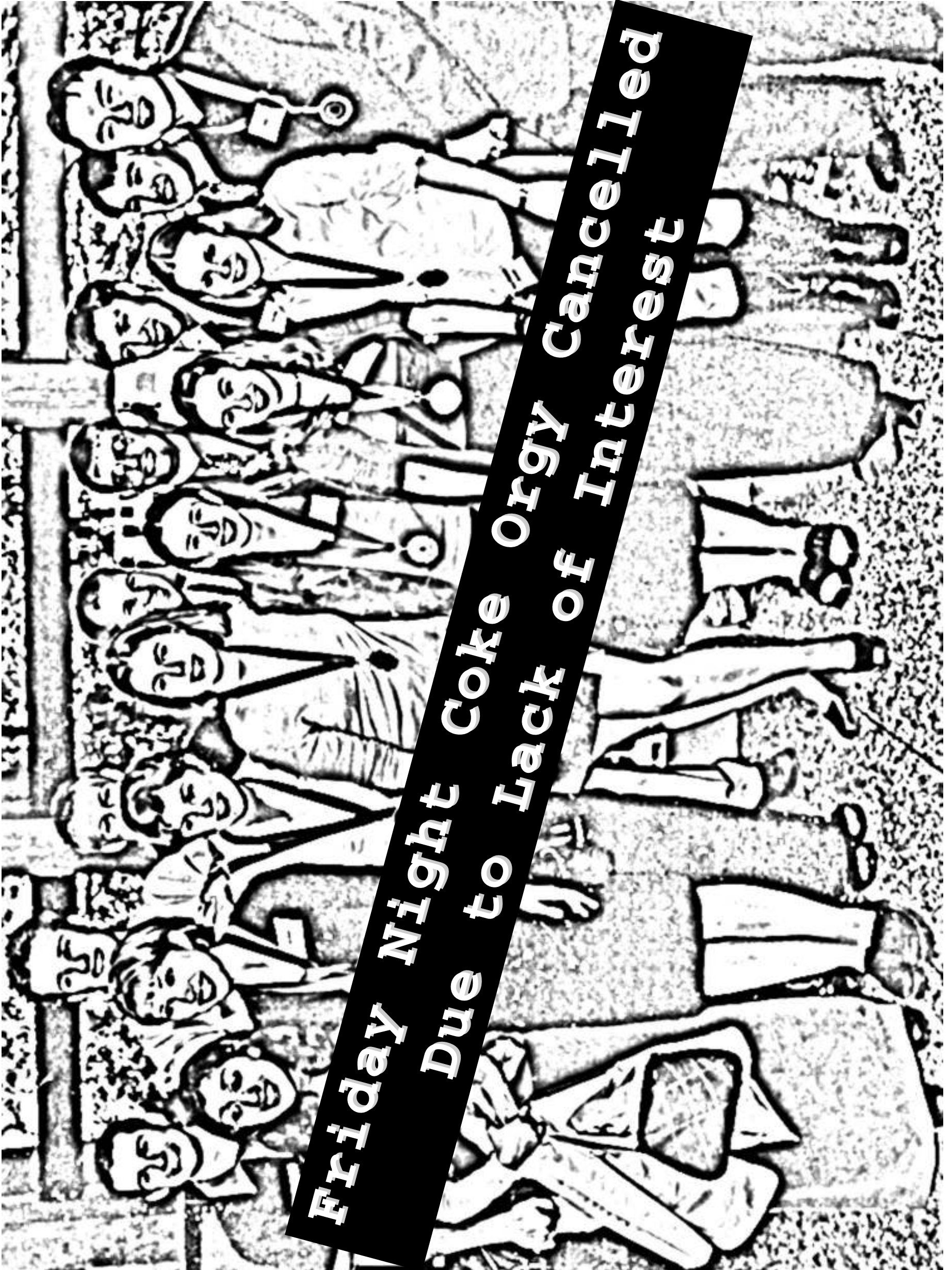


# DIATRIBE

Volume 4, Issue 1

November 2004



## EDITORIAL

## DIATRIBE

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## DIATRIBE

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November, 2004

*Marmoream relinquo, quam latericium accepi*

AUGUSTUS

**W**hat massive collective delusion is it that sustains the United States' continued support of the single worst administration of the 20th century? Probably the same massive collective delusion which keeps most of the Queen's student body silent in the face of a continuing series of slaps in our face from an increasingly unfavourable university administration. Yes, that's right: we are sheep too.

Look: right now your Teaching Fellow (that means the MA or PhD student they hired to teach your class because they don't hire enough actual professors) is likely getting paid less than your Teaching Assistant (the one doing most of your marking, and little else).

How did this happen? Simple.

Last year, the Queen's University Administration, in an effort to stave off defeat in a union drive that looked like it was going to go through, offered its TAs a raise. This proposed raise might not have affected the outcome of the vote (remember? they destroyed all of the ballots in the name of democracy?), but it did have one bizarre effect. As a result of this bad faith raise, Teaching Assistants who generally do not have to teach, do not have to do the readings, do not even have to attend class, are getting paid far more than their much harder working teaching colleagues. In straight terms, a PhD stu-

dent who is teaching a 4th-year class on Plato is getting paid roughly \$2000 less than an MA student who is marking for two 1st-year classes this year.

This is happening here. At the great Queen's University. Home of the Gaels.

Your teachers are the ones getting screwed out of money, but you the students are the ones who really lose. Under this current system, a PhD student will make less money than they should, which is a shame, and it shouldn't be happening. But you folks sitting there in that classroom are being taught by someone who is overworked and underpaid - and being treated like a fool for accepting the more challenging job of trying to learn how to teach university students. How many of these Teaching Fellows do you think are feeling encouraged to do their best job here? How many will go on to become good professors?

People vote for Bush because, even in the face of all the facts, they just can't admit that they've been wrong, that their nation has made a mess of this, that they are part of a machine that is failing, is broken. During the big Queen's Homecoming Love-in, I hope some of you took some time to look your school in its eye. Being true to your school is about making it the best university it can be.

-- Karen Synsynhyn

## It's a Matter of Perspective



Look at that picture - what do you see? Perhaps you see an elegant young lady who looks as though she's heading out for a night of high society. Or perhaps you see just the opposite - an old lady with a deteriorated appearance who would be shunned society. Or perhaps you can see both, and if you can't you need to take another look.

In such a fast-paced society, it's so easy to just take one glance, draw conclusions, walk away, and not dig a little deeper. We are all guilty of this. We walk by each other on the street and say "Hi, how are you?" and don't slow down to hear a response. We stereotype faculties and campus groups as snobs, raging capitalists,

socialists, or slackers to name a few. However, the cookie-cutter assumption usually doesn't hold true.

The challenge for you today is, talk to your perceived exact opposite and challenge your own opinions of them. Go beyond the "Know thy enemy" fact-finding expedition and attempt to see things from their perspective. You may be surprised at what you find out about them and yourself.

I hope you enjoy the perspective that Diatribe brings to you. You may not agree and we'd love to hear your perspective.

ALL comments welcome at  
[diatribe@ams.queensu.ca](mailto:diatribe@ams.queensu.ca)

C. Shea

# POLITICS

## THIS THURSDAY IS REMEMBRANCE DAY. SO LET US REMEMBER A FEW THINGS.

■■■ Some thoughts by K. Nejatian

**A**fter World War II, Canada had the third largest navy, the fourth largest air force in the world, and the largest all-volunteer army ever fielded at that time. During the founding of the United Nations there was serious talk that Canada, as a major power in the world, ought to permanently sit on the Security Council. Some say that more Canadians went to the United States to enlist for the war in Vietnam than cowardly draft-dodging Americans that crossed the border to Canada.

This is all important- especially in light of the events of the past month. At a time when we are supposed to celebrate and honour the sacrifice of so many thousands of young soldiers and veterans, Canada has had a fleet of helicopters grounded because of cracks, and one of its seamen killed, not in battle, but in peace by a fire on board a used, hand-me-down submarine.

Today, Canada is a nation that has forgotten its proud military past. It has forgotten two World Wars, Korea, Cyprus and decades of successful peacekeeping. Canada is no longer the world's premier peacekeeper. Once the first protector of freedom and human rights, our country now ranks 37th on the list of world's peacekeepers. In fact, our military is in such disarray that various government and private reports have publicly called for its cessation. Others have said that Canada needs to consider cutting its losses and resign either its air force, its navy, or its army because at current funding levels it cannot afford all three or even two.



Photo courtesy of Canadian War Museum

### 1931: Going home

Our Armed Forces is the second worst funded in the NATO and the worst funded amongst US Allies with the exception of Japan, whose military spending and activity is capped by the WWII peace treaty. Today with the repeated threats to North America, Canada -in the context of international terrorism- is clearly much more of a military target than most of the world's smaller countries, yet it ranks 153rd in defence spending out of 192 countries based on percentage of GDP.

Forget defending the world's victims or promoting some noble ideology of peace across the globe, soon Canada may not be able to protect itself from the now unemployed group of Russian hockey players swinging their hockey sticks, throwing their false teeth, and receiving air coverage from their tennis-playing girlfriends. Even France, a country whose defens-

es have been penetrated more often than the infamous Paris Hilton has a superior army. Our country's international influence is no longer supported by its superior arm power and respect. It is only flaccidly kept up by our government's constant nagging of the mighty United States of America.

And this is not all the Liberal's fault. It's our fault, as Canadians. Somehow, we have forgotten that this country was founded on the principles that called for national security and global freedom. Somehow, we have forgotten why most of us, including this writer, got here-through immigration fleeing a dictatorship. We forgot that our country only exists because someone stood up somewhere in Canada a few generations ago and said "screw the Nazis, let's fight." This is a war worth fighting. Soon afterwards, someone stood up and said "not in our

world", picked up a gun and made sure that peace was maintained in Asia.

We, as a nation, have turned our army into a property security force. We have turned our Corporals into Stucons. We have forgotten that in order to bring peace to Europe, we needed an actual army and in order to keep the peace in Asia we needed actual guns. An army and guns have become taboo.

No, it is not the governments, Liberal or Conservative, that ought to be blamed. It is the electorate that equates the words army with bad and war with evil. After all, except for ending slavery, fascism, nazism, and communism what has a war ever solved?

Let's remember that.

# NOT WITH A BANG BUT A WHIMPER

■■■ Canada is losing its place in the world - but will anyone notice?  
**C. Green**

Canada is a nation in decline. So say a growing number of academics and pundits who are becoming more vocal in their concerns over the direction our country is taking. From the incessant whiff of scandal in the Corridors of Power to our shameful treatment of our armed forces, some Canadians are starting to feel that we are suffering from a national "malaise". They are beginning to ask themselves "why do we exist as a country - and where are we going?"

A profile of several members of this school of thought, among them preeminent Canadian historians David Bercuson, Jack Granatstein, and Michael Bliss appeared in a recent edition of the New York Times. The Times summarized their position as this: "For these thinkers, Canada is adrift at home and wilting as a player on the world stage. It is dogged by not only uninspired leaders but also by a lack of national purpose, stunted imagination and befuddled priorities even as its economy prospers." Critics of this theory have been quick to dismiss its proponents as disenchanting right-wingers, upset at the failure of the Conservative Party to make further gains here at home and at the reluctance of Canadians to embrace the Bush administration even in the aftermath of 9-11. These critics charge that the Liberal dominance of the last decade illustrates a firm rejection of conservative policies and an affirmation of traditional Canadian "values", and that those disappointed with the current political climate are simply frustrated that their beliefs do not represent mainstream Canadians. Linda McQuaig in a recent Toronto Star op-ed went so far as to declare their position "anti-Canadianism," and

accused them of trying to "disparage Canada, or at least to disparage the pride many Canadians take in the way we do things.

While this is a strange attitude that seems to suggest that questioning accepted socialist orthodoxy is not welcome political debate in Canada, it is also a striking departure from the more obvious anti-Americanism that seemed to permeate Leftist attitudes in Canada in recent years, epitomized by the now infamous "I hate the bastards" remark by Liberal MP Carolyn Parrish. It became more apparent during the recent federal election, when Prime Minister Martin attempted to portray Stephen Harper and the Conservatives as wannabe Americans, dedicated to destroying Canadian values and towing the Republican Party line. Martin remarked that "You can have a country like Canada. You can have a country like the United States. That's a choice you can make." But when did these become the only two options? And since when did questioning the status quo make one less of a Canadian, or a puppet of the United States of America?

Take health care, for example. In order to illustrate the importance she attaches to our current state-run health system, McQuaig writes that "how a country organizes something as important as its health system reveals a lot about what kind of country it is." Quite true - so what kind of country are we? Despite constant increases in health funding in all parts of the country, the World Health Organization ranks Canada 30th globally in terms of "Overall Health System Performance", a dismal rating for a country used to touting its health system as



the world's best. At the same time, we rank sixth in overall health spending amongst our OECD peers, highlighting an even more distressing point-how is it that we spend so much yet end up with such a pathetic result? More importantly what does this reveal about "what kind of country" we are?

Given the dismal state of our health system, one would think that questioning the wisdom of maintaining the status quo is simply common sense, but in today's political climate, one who dares to question the scared cows of the Left risks being branded "anti-Canadian." Quoting a recent study by the Canadian Taxpayers Federation saying: "the Americans have baseball, mom and apple pie, while we in Canada settle for unbelievably high taxes, the CBC and so it seems, the Canada Health Act."

When did it become unpatriotic to believe one's country is capable of more? Canada has a tremendous history of achievement; Canadian scientists, diplomats, politicians, business leaders, and our military have been responsible for incredible accomplishments. We've proven that we can compete with the best. Why then are we today content to wallow in mediocrity? How did the country whose brave soldiers stormed Vimy Ridge, become the country that so disrespects their men and

women in uniform that we risk their lives by settling for outdated an inferior equipment? When did we become the country that tolerates being thirtieth in the world in terms of quality of health care? How are we no longer infuriated by leaders who force the average Canadian to work over half the year to pay their tax bill and the uses the resulting windfall to pay off their political friends and cronies? Have we really fallen so far as to not only tolerate this, but to dismiss those who demand change as "anti-Canadian?"

History has shown that we are a great country capable of accomplishing great things, and questioning why we've stopped demanding better and begun to accept mediocrity does not make one any less of a Canadian. In fact, it is the true patriots who stand up and question the direction their country is taking when they see it following the wrong path. To dismiss any who fail to worship what those on the Left have decided are "Canadian values" is not only ridiculous, but dangerous to the future of this country.

No one has all of the answers, and that is exactly why open debate over the future of our country is so essential. Sadly, if challenging the status quo now means that one is "anti-Canadian", we truly are a nation in decline.



# OPINIONS

## FALSE ADVERTISING

■■■ Where is all this "diversity" at Queen's? Are we coming to Queen's on a false pretense? Fooled like the rest of us, **C. Shea**

**T**his fall you might have noticed the broad array of colours across the Queen's campus. Unfortunately, we're talking about the leaves changing colours on the trees, not the student body. Despite great efforts to increase diversity, Queen's still maintains its WASP (White Anglo-Saxon Protestant) and socially elite reputation.

This reputation was confirmed in The Globe and Mail's University Report Card 2004, where Queen's ranked 18th and last place on the cultural diversity scale amongst mid-sized Canadian universities. This also ties Queen's for last place out of all 38 Canadian universities in the study, along with Dalhousie and Nipissing.

Queen's itself realizes that it has a very homogenous population, consisting primarily of white, upper-middle class stu-

dents, drawn mostly from Ontario. Attempts to change this fact have spurred aggressive marketing campaigns aimed at minorities and underprivileged groups, leading to carefully contrived photo shoots where multiculturalism is constructed. Try to think of it this way - when was the last time at Queen's you saw an Asian, a black, an Indian person, an Aboriginal, and a stunning blonde standing around talking to each other? It was probably the last time you were on the Queen's website or flipping through a faculty prospectus.

If the majority of your perceptions about the Queen's student body were shaped by the promotional materials, you have been completely misled. You were probably expecting a fairly diverse student body since there is at least one visible minority in every picture. However, a quick scan of an average

class would bring you to a different conclusion - the Queen's marketing campaign does not reflect reality.

Is this false advertising? I think it is. The claims of diversity in these materials are not backed up by demographic statistics and thus render them inaccurate. If one were so concerned, a complaint could be filed to the Advertising Standards Council of Canada under Code 1: Accuracy and Clarity. Do achieving diversity goals have to take the vehicle of misrepresentation? Maybe this tactic only leads to the ostracism some minorities feel once they get to Queen's, thus adding fuel to the homogenous fire.

In the quest to build a great academic institution, Queen's has brought this diversity problem onto itself, stressing elitism and feeding out of exclusive schools. Ironically, until the mid-

1950s, Queen's was known as "The Poor Man's University" and had made great strides in attracting various marginalized groups such as immigrants and Jews. However, over the last 5 decades as university enrollment has substantially increased domestically, the perception of Queen's has shifted dramatically.

The homogenous elitism has more than likely caused high potential students to seek out other universities where they will benefit from a truly diverse student body, instead of them coming here to enhance ours. At the end of the day, Queen's degrees are less valuable as students are missing out on the multicultural perspectives and experiences.

Lack of diversity means lack of thought. More diversity, however, should not involve misrepresentation.

## Queer Issues Column

## IN DEFENSE OF ONLINE DATING

■■■ by **Anonymous**

**L**ike many other Queen's students I recently spent homecoming weekend drinking lots of alcohol, hanging out with friends, and of course, interacting with the alumni. Of course the combination of alcohol and alumni brings to many lots of jokes about old, dirty men trying to pick up young university students. So I had to ask myself, as a gay male where do I go to get hit on by old, dirty men? Of course there are enough of those in Kingston's gay community but there's just something about a Queen's alumnus that makes this time honoured tradition almost acceptable, maybe even a tiny little bit flattering. Although you might not like to admit it, could you really imagine the Monday after homecoming without a drunken story about a sketchy old guy hitting on you to share with your friends? But I digress; the issue I am really trying to get at is the question of where has Kingston's gay scene gone?

In the four years that I have been at Queen's I have already seen Kingston's

gay bar close twice. I know bar scenes are fickle, but even places like My Bar can last more than a few years. When I first came to Queen's I was still young, deeply closeted, and convinced that I would one day end up marrying someone of the opposite sex. Now I am writing a queer issues column in a campus wide newspaper. Obviously a lot has changed since then. Although I still choose to write my gay column anonymously I have learned to accept my sexuality and surround myself with those who have no problem doing the same.

So how have I managed this amazing transformation without a local gaybourhood? Gay-friendly friends are always a huge bonus, but there's also something I like to call the Internet. Gay porn jokes aside, this is the best gay networking resource in Kingston. And I use the term networking quite literally. I was told once that at Queen's that you only need three degrees of separation instead of the usual six. Well in the gay community it takes

only one degree. Whenever I meet a new gay person it always ends up that we have at least one mutual acquaintance. There may not be a large gay profile on campus but if you are even remotely active in the queer community you quickly realize that everybody knows everyone's business, for better or worse. And how do we all know each other? Gay.com. In fact it's so widespread that if I ask who someone is at a gay event, I'm more likely to find out their online name than their real one. Now before you start making comments about desperate singles posting profiles on LavaLife while keeping your fingers crossed that you never 'sink that low,' let me defend my gay online chat room.

Kingston's token gay bar is not located in the Hub (which is equivalent to being located in a different city for a Queen's student), the music does not have mass appeal, and the patrons leave something to be desired after years of false expectations built up by the usual young and attractive Queen's students that we see at

Stages. But even with an amazing gay scene lots of Queen's students would still resort to the Internet. University is a difficult time without the added pressure of struggling with your sexuality. So the coming out process is often long and tedious, during which some gay interaction can be a lifesaver. Since we, as students, are in front of computers all the time anyway, it's only natural that we turn to the Internet to explore. It allows us to get a feel for the gay community, maintain whatever level of anonymity we desire, and maybe even meet a gay mentor to 'guide' us through a gay life's obstacles. It's definitely not without its risks and annoyances - on a serious note, all the warnings about meeting people from online do have some merit - but it is all the community has got and that doesn't look like that is going to change anytime soon. So the next time you make a joke about online dating, just remember that that could be the only available resource for your token gay friend that everyone seems to have these days.

# ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

## COMPLICATED AVRIL

■■■ The ethics of female musicians,  
by **S. Ogden**

Living as we do in Canada in the Western world, we are surrounded for good or ill, by pop culture. I have a thirteen year old sister and often I agonize over the amount of exposure she has to the negative aspects of this culture, such as those present in popular music. While she is not as immersed in the ideals of this culture as much as some young girls may be, she is undoubtedly aware of such figures like Christina Aguilera and Britney Spears.

A 1998 study by P.G. Christenson and D.F. Roberts, entitled *It's Not Only Rock & Roll: Popular Music in the Lives of Adolescents* illustrated how prominent music is in adolescent lives: they spend between 4 and 5 hours a day listening to music and watching music videos and cite music listening as their preferred non-school activity (my sister is an outlier here because she does not watch music videos as often as the average adolescent because my family does not subscribe to music video stations). My concern is not so much that my sister looks up to "entertainers" such as Aguilera and Spears because I don't believe she does -- but that they have an unconscious effect on certain areas of her life, like how she dresses, acts, etc. Looking at the bigger picture, I worry that pop culture icons such as Spears and Aguilera are having an adverse effect on women in general. In some ways this is obvious: for one, through their actions they give merit to the age old idea that women are sex objects and not much else. Most of the music of youth pop culture contains messages encouraging exploitative sexual behaviour, see Aguilera's "Dirrty," and Christina Milian's "Dip It Low" among many others. Even songs that are not overtly sexually-centred in lyrical content can have sexually themed music videos, such as Maroon 5's "This Love."

Given this overabundance of exploitative offerings in pop music, I was somewhat relieved when Avril Lavigne appeared on the scene. Although I wasn't overly taken with her "bad girl image," I felt that the overall message of her music - songs such as "Don't Tell Me" which depicts a girl who won't "give it all away" to a guy - were a nice counter balance to songs by Spears and Aguilera and others which overtly encourage the "giving of it all away." If anything else, her music seemed to offer a different message to an audience that had grown used to being encouraged by pop singers to be sexually promiscuous to the point of outright exploitation.

That is why when I was walking by the magazine rack at the drug store the other day, I was shocked beyond belief when I noticed Lavigne on the cover of Maxim magazine. Although she was by no means posing with nothing on, the fact that she even agreed to be in an issue of the magazine was mind-boggling. Granted Maxim is not as exploitative as Playboy or others, but the magazine has the same overall theme: women are sex objects. I could honestly not comprehend the fact that she had made this choice, a choice which flew in the face of the message of her music. I had truly believed (now I see naively) that Lavigne was one of the first of a new breed of young female pop musicians who would stay away from exploitation in promoting themselves, and thus offer a better alternative to pop music-loving teenagers and the public in general. Lavigne, who once was reported in an April 19, 2002 issue of Chart Attack magazine as calling Britney Spears a "ho" for "dressing like a showgirl" was pictured dressed if not as revealingly, definitely similarly and posing for a magazine that Spear's counterparts such as Aguilera had also posed for. It would be interesting to hear what Lavigne has to say now that she has seemingly joined the ranks of those she viewed as "ho's" and how she explains her choice. I also noticed that displayed near the Maxim magazine was Hilary Duff on the cover of Blender. Blender again, is not as exploitative as Playboy, but often depicts women as sexual objects. I was less shocked at Duff's appearance in such a magazine than I was with Lavigne's, but I was still disappointed because Duff's (previously) rather clean image was a healthy counterbalance to the majority of female pop culture entertainers.

Overall, when I arrived home from my trip to the drug store I was a little depressed. But instead of wallowing in depression at the continually sordid state of pop culture, I want to challenge the choices of Lavigne and Duff to pose for these magazines. What do they want their images to be? They are sending very conflicting messages to the young girls who are a huge part of their fan bases. It is understood that they probably want to expand their fan base to include adults but this can be done in many other ways besides posing and objectifying oneself for a magazine, which really only attracts a select part of the public anyway. I am sure there are those who will feel that Lavigne and Duff should be excused and that they were merely "exploring their sexy sides" when they posed for these magazines and that "sex sells," but I feel



photo from Official Fan Website

**OH AVRIL,** *why'd you have to go and make things so complicated?*

that is a reductive and weak argument, and that it ignores the real issue. There is nothing wrong with looking good and feeling confident, but there is a definite line between that and sexually exploiting oneself. The fact is that Lavigne and Duff "sold out" and became part of a growing number of female pop culture icons who feel the need to exploit themselves sexually in order to... what? Appeal to a different audience? If they want to attract the type of people who subscribe to magazines like Maxim then sure, but WHY do they want to attract such people when they already have such a huge fan base? Would it be so hard to avoid exploitation and instead succeed by being different and NOT selling out, such as what Lavigne had been doing? By standing out from the crowd and rejecting the path taken by Spears, Aguilera and so many others instead of following in their footsteps? Is it because the push to sexually exploit oneself is so strong in the industry that young female entertainers are now at the point where they feel obliged to do it? Has it become a prerequisite to ensure stardom? What is wrong with a culture where young female entertainers feel compelled to objectify themselves in order

to ensure their continued success in the entertainment industry? As a member of a society that is so immersed in pop culture, I would like answers to these questions. I want to trouble the seeming assumption that young female entertainers MUST sexually exploit themselves in order to ensure a successful career. I can think of examples of women in the entertainment industry who avoid exploitation and are tremendously successful based on their actual talent- Sarah McLachlan, Chantal Kreviazuk - but they are a minority. This has been and is increasingly becoming more of a problem every day.

I want to call to attention the hypocrisy of Lavigne and Duff, and I am writing them both and demanding explanations - in the hopes they don't ignore my reply or I receive a form letter back or an invitation to join their fan club. I encourage everyone concerned with the image of women in pop culture and the media in general to do the same. Lavigne and Duff affect the image of women cast out into society, and I am a woman in this society. And my little sister along with lots of other young women are fans of Lavigne and Duff. I think they deserve answers too.

# SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

## REEF AND RAINFOREST DECLINE

■■■ BE PROACTIVE, NOT REACTIVE!  
by **Monique Dufault, Fatima Nathoo and Celeste Dempster (QUIRRC)**

**W**hen you take your Spring Break vacation, you want to go somewhere warm such as the Caribbean, to snorkel, scuba dive, and perhaps walk on the beach. You don't think, however, about the negative environmental repercussions that your every day and vacation choices might have. The white, sandy beaches, and crystal-clear, blue-green water could soon lose their pristine and secluded charm, and transform into something much like Lake Ontario beaches have since industri-



photo courtesy California Academy of Sciences

al development. Sound attractive?

The reality of the situation is that at the rate we are heading, the rainforest ecosystem may be gone by 2030 and the reef ecosystem may be gone by 2040. Without reefs acting as the ocean's protective barrier and filter, the world's exotic vacation spots will disappear and your children and grand-children may end up spending their Spring break relaxing on the pristine shores of Lake Ontario.

The issue of greenhouse gases leading to global warming is constantly in the media rhetoric, with no one really understanding and realizing their threats. Greenhouse gases harm the ozone layer, disrupting the climate by affecting weather patterns through precipitation, and cloud circulation. This leads to global warming which also leads to devastating effects on the reef ecosystems.

In the oceans, global warming is causing a rise in sea level as well as ocean temperature. The rising sea level causes coral to lose their symbiotic algae (a primary producer), resulting directly in coral starvation and death. Obviously, the loss of coral leads to death of any dependent predators. A domino effect occurs due to raising of ocean temperature which brings ambient temperatures beyond the optimal range for reef organisms, causing coral death known as bleaching. As global mean sea-surface temperatures are projected to increase by about 1-2°C in the next century, the prospects of the reef organisms look pretty grim.

However, studies suggest it is possible for coral to recover from bleaching if the temperature anomalies persist for less than a month, but the irreversible

physiological damage occurring from sustained high temperatures cannot. Therefore, human stresses such as pollution, overfishing, soil erosion, and physical damage recreational activities (i.e. tourism!!) will also prevent coral recovery. Therefore, saving the reef should not be left up to some sort of divine intervention.

In 1987, Rainforest Action Network (RAN) led a national boycott against Burger King for their contractual use of cattle grown in clear-cut rainforest

regions. In 1989, Burger King cancelled \$35 million in beef contracts in Central America. This highly publicized event raised not only awareness of issues surrounding rainforest clear-cutting for the meat industry, but it let consumers know that they could wield their buying power to affect company policies.

In 1994, British Columbia's Premier made highly publicized claims that the BC logging practices had been reformed. A Greenpeace report in 1997 suggested that this was untrue. In fact, 92% of BC logging was done by clear-cutting with no replanting policies. 95% of logging in the province continued to focus on old growth forests. Statistics such as these demonstrate not only the lack of sustainable logging practices here at home, but that without the public education policies of environmental organizations such as Greenpeace, governments would be free to prey on the ignorance of the public.

Thus the balance of powers is held in the hands of the educated leaders of tomorrow. Exercising boycotts through buying power and holding governments responsible can help avoid a massive environmental, economic, and political disaster in the case of reef ecosystem. On a smaller scale, think about blue sparkly water and long walks on the beach before you throw out a piece of paper, drive your car to the corner store, or throw away your recycling.

On Saturday, November 13th, come to Alfie's Pub to "Get Leid...and Save the Reefs!" Visit [www.myams.org/quirrc](http://www.myams.org/quirrc)

## MACINTOSH VS. THE COMMIE MENTALITY

■■■ Observed by **A. Dunn**

**S**itting in my classroom looking at the rows upon rows of PCs - the dull black machines no commie can do without - their existence symbolizes the capitalist arrogance filling Goodes Hall. The presence of Macintosh computers - the only viable alternative to a PC - are far and few between among the homogeneous business students coming to classes in their matching sweater sets and all-black business suits. The great majority of business students own PCs versus Macs, but one has to wonder with the rave reviews Macs have received and the cult-like followings of loyal Mac users across the world, why aren't more commerce students switching?

Macs are considered highly superior in their multi-media applications including iPhoto, iTunes, iMovie, iDVD and iCal - PCs don't have most of these applications built-in and the applications you can purchase are embarrassingly stone-age compared to the Mac. I guess commies don't want a Mac because they don't have time to use these applications with a new 'must-attend best conference ever in the whole wide world' popping up every week for them.

Macintosh designs everything including the monitor, keyboard, mouse and operating system (MAC OS X) which allows for optimal ergonomics for desk work and allows their computers to be virtually virus free - a welcome relief to those of us accustomed to the 'blue screen of death!' Fortunately commies have their own free-of-charge computer specialists on call so no need to actually



*Mackintosh user and Comm '05 student, Jonathan Suter, is a rare find*

understand the functioning of their computer.

Macs are praised for their simplicity so users are easily able to operate, maintain and update their Macs. The peripheral plug-and-play devices by Macintosh are well-liked such as the tremendously successful iPod, which lucky for commies is PC-compatible. Macs, although the alternative to PCs,

have now incorporated Microsoft Office into their offering as well so there's no excuse about unfamiliar software applications anymore to avoid switching.

Macintosh computers are touted as the 'intuitive' and logical computer that is very simplistic. I guess this causes problems for commies who are used to arguing everything according to some ancient framework or business model found in a text instead of using logical deductive reasoning - i.e. their brain - gasp! So I guess going to the 'Start' menu to shut down their computer makes sense according to some past model?

Macs also stand out from the crowd because of their sleek design and various colours to express individual personalities - a feature irrelevant to uniform business students. A key selling point of Macs is promoted in their 'Think Different' campaigns; this falls upon deaf ears when obviously different is wrong when everyone in the program is already using the dominant PC.

Macs have a power over people that make them fall in love with their computers and create fierce loyalty among owners. As the saying goes, 'Macintosh users love their computer and PC users use their computer.' So why aren't more commerce students, accustomed to superiority and displaying this fact proudly, whose computers become closer to them than their pets, switching to the obviously superior Macintosh brand?

Well, it could be because they are clustered together and moulded into a capitalist mind-set, regarding dominance as the only winner and co-opetition as the road to failure. With the focus on money and superiority shoved so far down their throats it's coming out the other end no wonder that in recommending laptops to the frosh the dominant PC is the only one mentioned by the School of Business. Another possibility is that their matching presentation styles and black suits have acculturated them so that they are unable to think 'out-

side-the-box' and instead attend class daily as a homogeneous group of black-clad sheep continuing to support the monopolized PC industry.

Being a commie myself, I have to hope that why commies don't buy Macs is a lot more simplistic than that. It must be that the few that believe they are actually not assimilated with the rest aren't able to colour-coordinate.

# POINT / COUNTER-POINT

## THE BIRTH CONTROL PILL

■■■ Help or Hindrance to the Women's Movement?  
by **C. Shea**

### THE INVENTION OF THE BIRTH CONTROL PILL MARKED THE START OF WOMEN'S LIBERATION

The invention of the birth control pill empowered women to take control of their sexuality. Since sexual empowerment is a key goal of the women's movement, the invention of the birth control pill marked a new form of independence and enabled the women's movement to make great strides.

Free from the worries of unwanted pregnancy, women now had the power to exercise their sexual freedom and create a fulfilling sexual life. Thus, it can be said that the birth control pill leveled the playing field with men who have enjoyed consequence-free sex (with the expectation of sexually transmitted infections) since the beginning of time...

This allowed women to pursue a satisfying sexual life independently without confines of marriage or the risk social ostracism in the case of pregnancy. With the increased use of the birth control pill and more women engaging in sexual relations independently, the social stigma associated with pre-marital sex and unwed motherhood changed. Although a case of the chicken or the egg arises, the birth control pill and the sexual revolution mutually reinforced each other

With higher levels of sexual activity, no longer can the terms 'slut' or 'whore' be applied to all sexually active women as they once were. If this were still the case, these terms would be applied to over 80% of fourth year university students. This means that more constructive alternatives, such as intelligence and work ethic, are used to evaluate others, as opposed to labeling someone based solely on their sexual experience. It also means that higher quality relationships can be established since comparison and experimentation is now the status quo.

The change in social stigmas has also led to the changes of social policies. For

example, in Scandinavian countries where children are viewed as public goods, social programs such as daycare, flexible maternity leaves, and effective equal pay for equal work policies makes the task of single motherhood more manageable. In the



photo by C. Shea & L. Grigorov

North American Welfare systems, a larger burden of responsibility is placed on fathers in order to eliminate "dead beat Dads" and ensure responsibility sharing.

Thus, the invention of the birth control pill has not only allowed women to explore their sexual freedom, but it has also helped eliminate systemic discrimination in social policies. More pro-women legislation is being passed in Parliament, and that legislation is trickling down into the work place where employment equity, equitable pay, and standardized human resource policies are enabling women to also advance in the work place.

All combined, the invention of the birth control pill along with its positive externalities has helped in freeing women from the mercy of men and given women an elevated status in society.

### THE BIRTH CONTROL PILL WAS A STEP IN THE WRONG DIRECTION

The invention of the birth control took away significant bargaining power from women and made women and women's movement comparatively worse off. In the absence of the birth control pill, women had significant bargaining power

attributed to the fact that when there are less women in the market for pre- or extra-marital sex, men's options are limited.

Besides the decreased bargaining power that has arisen, the social threads of society are also being torn apart. The quality of relationships has decreased due to the predominantly short-term focus of participants and the need for instant gratification. Those who choose not to become sexually active are dubbed frigid, weird or prude, instead of being depicted as positive role models. This makes self-confidence hinge sexual activity, which makes sexual activity that "cool thing to do", which begins to create a viscous cycle that women are currently becoming trapped in.

with regards securing a marriage future by withholding sex until marriage. This choice was made to avoid the social stigmatism that would result in the case of an unwanted pregnancy.

The invention of the birth control increased the available supply of pre-marital sex, making sex and women commodities. Males exploited this opportunity to increase their power of attaining sex. Instead of patiently waiting for marriage, males could now seek out the supply of pre-marital sex as a substitute for a committed relationship.

Although this assumes that the end goal for all women is marriage and for men is sex, in times where men outnumber women in the marriage market, the age of marriage is younger, the average number of children per family increases, and divorce rates decrease. This can be

Contrary to what would be expected, unwed pregnancies have substantially increased since the inception of the birth control pill, causing more children to be raised in single-parent homes. These situations tend to put the majority of the strain on the women and statistically produce worse outcomes for the children. Single mothers tend to have lower levels of education and lower paying jobs. Although they take on the mighty task of raising children independently, the work of motherhood is not valued in the same manner that a working person is, thus portraying single mothers negatively and limiting the number of positive female role models in a child's life.

The sexual revolution has gone as far as equating having sex with shaking someone's hand. Although this is not the case for all women or a call for more born-again virgins, a few bad apples ruin the bushel allowing the terms 'slut' and 'whore' to persist and flourish. Despite the fact that equality gains have been made in some sectors of society, a double standard is still thriving, and sexualized women, all other things being held equal, will not command the same respect and equality of men. The invention of the birth control, due to all of its negative behavioural spin-offs, has commoditized women and caused the women's movement to digress.

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