

# THE

# GEM

To err is human... to submit is divine.

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We reserve the right to edit submissions due to space or taste limitations.

We reserve the right not to print submissions that are submitted after Monday at 3:00pm.

## Letter to the Editor

This letter is in response to a letter in this column that commented on the article in *Aloud Thought about Bias and Prejudice*.

I recall that nowhere in the article did I say that personal responsibility equates with selfishness. The main thrust of the article is: if a person understands her/his motivations and attempts to know oneself, then she/he are on the road the growth. One might call that maturity but as that term has many different connotations I prefer not to use it.

I wonder about your definition of maturity being to serve the community. What constitutes serve? I could help out at the next community fair and still maintain a racial prejudice.

Perhaps you will recall that over the Delphi Temple were the words, "Know Thyself". It is in this sense that I use the term personal responsibility. It is not justification of an action to oneself in isolation. It is not saying an action is fine as long as I understand why I am doing it. It is, however, knowing why you do or think an action and using that knowledge in a responsible manner. It may be that in some circumstances the responsibility encompasses the community. But alas, I think you simplify too much.

If one helps one section of the community, you are not helping another section. For example, perhaps one believes that a dump should not be put in one's community area. One could serve the community by stopping the dump from being located there. Lets as-

sume one succeeds. No dump in one's area! Wait a minute, is not the earth in one's area? Where is one's garbage going? A dump in another community? Are one's actions mature?

We all live on the earth and we need to treat her with a responsible attitude. Your comment in the last paragraph about serving the community and becoming aware of bias and prejudice and serving those types would hardly be maturity. In fact, it would be a lack of personal responsibility in allowing oneself to be so led. I think that defining maturity in terms of serving the community is an indication that one does not yet understand the complexities of life and the responsibility which accompanies that understanding.

To benefit readers who may not recall: you asked a question about the value of personal responsibility if it is not directed to the social welfare of the group and how may a person judge or determine whether they have been responsible with out the benefit of social interaction.

In reply to the first question: A social being we might be, yet we are individuals. We need to come to terms with ourselves so we can properly come to terms with others. This learning process is not as simple as a lot of people would seem to imply. Things are not just black and white with no grey between them. Different persons in the same situation need act different by their very nature. This is where personal responsibility allows us to develop and us that knowledge, not for selfish reasons but to en-

hance the universe, including this earth, of which humans are only a minority.

The second question implies that if our neighbours do not tell us if we are responsible, we would not know that fact. As one develops personal responsibility one should become aware of how to determine this responsibility. One should serve the life force, not just a community. Serving the life force means preserving the variety of life in the universe and responding with integrity, in one's actions, during the days activities. One is responsible for the consequences of one's actions.

It is not idle imaging about oneself nor deeds that solve all problems, although such a simplistic reasoning could be comfortable. Personal responsibility is not a game whereby you play out "comfortable" justifications for one's actions. It is a continuing, well-thought out and researched blueprint to actively understanding oneself.

It is to find out why one does the things one does and how one lives within a social fabric without bias and prejudice and without hate. Somehow you - the unsigned writer of the letter to the editor - misunderstand the all encompassing nature of the term personal responsibility. Your prejudice sees only the word "personal" and you react.

I trust the foregoing explanations, albeit short, has given you a new understanding of why you reacted as you did to the article on bias and prejudice and I know the world is a better place because of your new found knowledge.

Oliver Pinion

Anyone can contribute to The GEM. Submissions can be dropped off at the Barn, sent through VAX MAIL to GEM, or stuck on our door down in the basement of the Main building. Our phone number is 566-0629 or 566-0530.

We cherish typed and double spaced submissions and submissions on computer disk or through VAX mail. For legal reasons, all submissions must include the author's name and phone number. However, names will be withheld from publication on request.

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## Sports Editorial

As sports editor of the Gem this year I have tried as best as possible to provide all sports teams here at UPEI with equal coverage. Despite my efforts this does not always happen. In last week's issue of the Gem somebody saw fit to voice their displeasure over the way I covered the CIAU Basketball championships. I feel I should clear the air in regards to this.

First off the title that appeared on the cover of the Gem was intended to refer to both basketball teams not just the Men's. The person who wrote in also described their displeasure in the lack of pictures accorded to the Lady Panthers. Their is a very good reason for this. There were none. I went to the Guardian to try to get some and they did not receive any from Sudbury so there was little I could do about that.

I did however make a mistake in the order in which I wrote the stories. I should have wrote

about the Lady Panthers first since they did finish higher than the men, however the reason why I wrote about the men first was not because I think men are better athletes or that their game are more exciting than the women's, it was because I was in Halifax and was able to see first hand what went on and that made it much easier to write about the men. The only knowledge I had about the Women's games was what I read in the paper and heard from other people. I did not want to write my story on the Women straight out of the Guardian as I felt that would not have been right.

This past basketball season I worked in the Athletic department as their sport's information officer which is a job that involves sending out information regarding sports teams to all of the media on the Island so they are informed as to what is happening with our Athletic teams.

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