

Dykes To Watch Out For

By Alison Bechdel

When Enough People Die

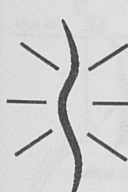
Liza Kuney



"When enough people die" are the words and sentiment that inspired one student to take action on the St. Michael's campus. After hearing these words uttered, Jim Gallagher and his peers decided that the time had come for the alternative student newspaper, *The Devil's Advocate* to spark conversations about AIDS and student sex across the campus. Realizing that the Catholic Church and St. Michael's College ignore the fact that young people are having sex, and often unsafe sex, this small journalistic staff deposited condoms in every third issue of their publication to generate talk and raise awareness. And generate talk they did.

Jim explained that something had to be done since the AIDS issue had been bypassed for several years by the campus community, but that the true intention of *The Devil's Advocate* was blurred and confused: "We sent condoms as a symbol, a means of inspiring conversation, not as valid forms of AIDS prevention for use on Saturday night." Five hundred of these symbols were acquired from Planned Parenthood, and even though *The Devil's Advocate* staff was scolded by the media board and the administration for a breach of the College's distribution policy, no heavy personal sanctions were issued.

Since the time of the condom distribution readership and response to *The Devil's Advocate* have increased. Jim feels that incorporating the condoms as part of their message helped them reach their goal. Jim's sentiments remain as a strong incentive for future action of this nature: "I am incredibly glad that I did it. We really made a difference." ▼



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