

# HUMAN TRIBALISM

by Pete Moulds

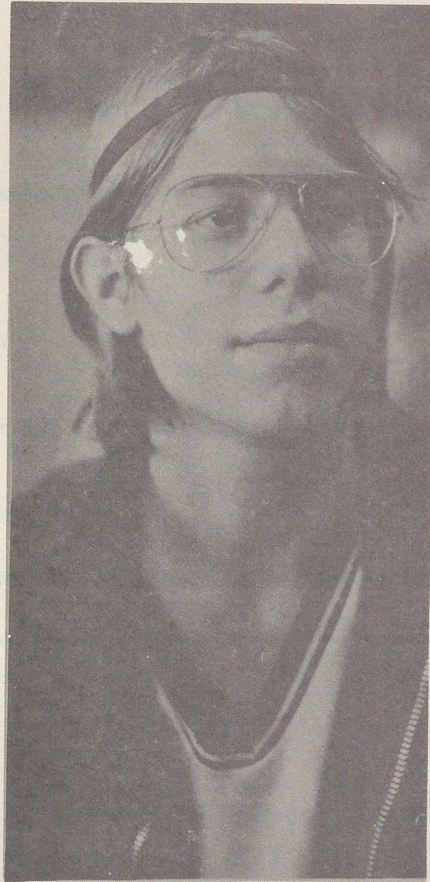
The world cultures, from all apparent observations, appear to be concoctions of special interest groups that could safely be called tribes. Tribalism is so prevalent today that ignoring its presence would be comparable to an ostrich sticking its head in the sand.

The magnitude of cultural tribalism in the world can best be illustrated by simply naming some of the tribes that we in America are most familiar with. A few of the more publicized groups are the John Birch Society, the National Guard, the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Panther parties, the SDS, and today's youth culture.

All of the above groups qualify as tribes in that they are social groups containing persons who possess similar interests, views and character. Most tribes, including those previously mentioned, pride themselves on their individual peculiarities and strive to identify themselves as being different from every other tribe. Identity with ones group is usually achieved by various forms of visible, external symbols displayed by tribal members. The Masons, for instance, have special rings; the National Guard has its uniforms; the Panther parties have their sunglasses and arm patches, and the youth culture has its buckskin, beads, boots and blue denim.

Though appearance is of some significance, the important question is why tribes exist. What causes them? What compels individuals to affiliate themselves with tribal groups? These questions cannot be answered completely. However, some insight as to why men join tribes can be reached by studying his past and speculating on how man's history may be effecting him today.

Throughout the ages man appears to have been a tribal creature. In fact, striking similarities exist between the tribes of Paleolithic man and today's tribal cultures. Both were designed to provide protection for tribal members. The ancient tribes grouped



photos by John Murphy

*"Tribal members exhibit external peculiarities that identify them with their group".*

together for protection from wild animals and today's tribes desire protection from the social evils of our modern world. Both ancient and modern man gathered together to resist threatening foes. And both tribal eras designed basically the same goals: Acceptance, security, and protection from oppressing forces.

Since he was a wandering hunter man has been an insecure creature. He has been compelled to shun individuality in favor of group security and acceptance. This attribute may also have its origin in man's earliest tribes. According to Desmond Morris, author of The Naked Ape, early man

needed the tribal organization to insure his very survival in a hostile world.

Modern man's desire to identify with tribes and his seeming inability to cope with his world on an individual basis may very well be due to the fact that his early ancestors gathered together for survival against nature. We may simply be the victims of an instinct that has been bred into us from past ages when tribalism was a necessity.

## Ohio College

### Trys Democracy

Westerville, Ohio - (I.P.) - A new governance plan for Otterbein College provides for student representation on all campus governing bodies and committees and reorganizes the entire campus governance system.

Students will now have a voice, along with faculty and administration, in every phase of college policy making, from social regulations to the selection of new faculty and curriculum.

The governance plan calls for a College Senate, with the college president as presiding officer and student representation equal to that of the faculty. Students will be elected from each major department as well as on an at-large basis. All full-time upper-class students are eligible for the Senate and its committees.

All but first year full-time faculty members, the vice-presidents, and administrators will sit in the Senate. The Senate will determine all final policy which then must be sent to the Board of Trustees for approval before it becomes College policy.

Students will also serve on all committees and councils, including the Administrative Council, which will operate in a general leadership function. This committee will have subcommittees on student aid and admissions and budget control.

One student and one faculty member of the Budget Control Committee will sit with a similar committee on the Board of Trustees while a student and a faculty member of the Council will sit with the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees.

Four students will serve on the Judicial Council which will have original jurisdiction to deal with infractions of College regulations for which the penalty may be suspension or dismissal from the College. In addition, three different students will sit on the Appeals Council which will hear appeals of Judicial Council decisions.

Other committees are the Academic Council, the Curriculum Committee, the Personnel Committee, Teacher Education Committee, Campus Affairs Committee, Campus Services Committee and the Campus Regulations Committee.

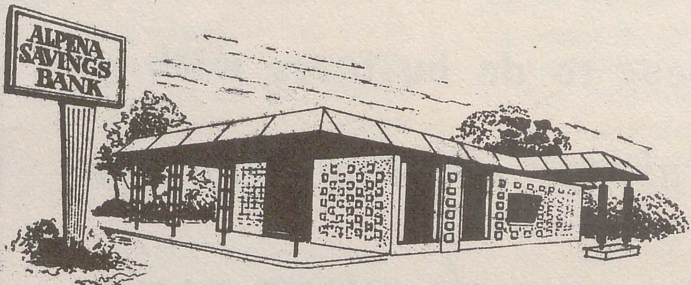
Dr. William Amy, chairman of the Department of Religion and Philosophy and chairman of the Student-Faculty Governance Committee presented the general feeling of the faculty, that of enthusiasm.

"The most important point is that this is not an issue of student power, but an attempt to open communications with all the campus community. This is not a representative thing. The student does not represent a constituency of other students, but represents himself in a manner that is best for the whole college community."

Student Opinion: "... the fact that the president is head of the Senate should provide a better opportunity for serious dialogue between the administration and students. The whole face of the college will have to change. Students will have to show more responsibility than they have in the past or the whole plan will collapse."

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