

Equality as a dangerous byproduct

As a newly arrived student from the other coast, I have firsthand experience of the New Right's attempts to turn the institutions of higher learning into academic wastelands. The thrust of their attack on the academic community is not directed solely at students, professors or universities. No, their agenda runs far deeper, and is more sinister than that. They wish to return us to the good old days of democracy when the direction of government, and society, was the domain of the privileged few.

Mass education may have

fueled the capitalist engine but it also opened a Pandora's box of ideas. The New Right has been trying to close the lid ever since. To the New Right ideas such as universality and the equality of all are dangerous by products of an educated society. The environmental movement would never have gained acceptance if the general populace could not read and digest the warnings of the scientists. In the good old days the elites would have called these scientists heretics or witches and had them burned at the stake. Ah, for the good old days!

After decades of losing ground through court decisions and popular movements, the New Right has emerged with a rallying cry for the masses, "deficit reduction!" Under the holy banner of cutting deficits (something that we all agree must happen) the New Right is now in a position to dismantle the institutions of democracy, of which education is a cornerstone. With buzz words such as "streamlining," "efficiency" and "global reality" in their arsenal, the small trickle of budget cuts quickly become a torrent set to wash away modern

democracy.

Since the courts have told the New Right that they may not censor the books in our university libraries they have now taken to eliminating these offending books by cutting budgets so that libraries can not purchase books, offensive or not.

The raising of tuitions and cutting of student aid is a method of returning higher education to the privileged few, thus allowing for greater control of thoughts and ideas.

Deficit reduction in its present form is only a facade for the imposition on society of the hidden agenda of the New Right. If

you need proof of this agenda at work you need not look any further than south of the border. Eight years of "deficit reduction" has turned the US into the nation with the largest deficit in the history of the world, all the while laying waste to education and a host of other social programs.

The idea of trimming our deficit is an idea whose time has come. In implementing this idea we must be forever on guard that a good idea is not used as a tool for implementing a sinister and backward ideology. Lest we forget that fifty years ago another party and its leader used economic reconstruction as a veil for their hideous and secret agenda.

Don Manson

A new lexicon for students...

We in the media business love to use jargon — buzzwords commonly understood by those familiar with the concepts involved, but vague and nebulous to everyone else. For example, "accessibility" is used often and can mean a multitude of things depending on the context.

Newspeak is alive and well, so, to make things a little easier, here's a short list of terms that you may see over and over again. Memorize this list. It is more important to your understanding of how this university works than anything else you may encounter.

"Accessibility": From access, meaning to get at, the action of going to or reaching to. In Newspeak, "accessibility" is used to refer to many things. For example, if you have high marks and lots of money, a post-secondary education is accessible to you. If you have low marks and

lots of money, the same applies. However, if you have high marks and not so much money, or if you happen to belong to the part of the population that has been guided in the direction of the loading dock since grade one, then you have poor accessibility to a post-secondary education.

The term also applies to the ease with which you can get information about your marks or the status of your student loan, or the ease (or difficulty) with which a handicapped person can get into a building.

"Tuition Fee Agreement": This is an agreement that was made a few years ago between the Student Union and Administration. It basically stated that tuition fees would rise at the same rate as inflation, not more. This agreement runs out in September of 1991.

"Strategic Plan": This is what the DSU is currently working on, with the Financial Strategy Committee. When the Tuition Fee Agreement runs out, it will have to be replaced by another similar sort of agreement. The DSU is looking towards the future, and in light of the threatened "deficit reductions", we had all better be aware of the state of the Strategic Plan, or our tuition fees will go through the roof.

"Mission Statement": The Mission Statement is a document that was released by the President's Office. It is a warm and friendly piece about Dalhousie's philosophy and goals. An excerpt:

"Service to Atlantic Canadians will continue to be our primary concern. While our principal functions are teaching,

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GLAD to be back

GLAD (Gays and Lesbians at Dalhousie) is back again for another busy and fun-filled year. GLAD is composed not only of students from Dalhousie but from the various other institutes in the city and welcomes non-students as well. GLAD is an opportunity to meet and socialize with others in a setting where coffee, conversation, munchies, movies, etc. provide a background for meeting new people and renewing old friendships. There is no age limit — we run the gamut from 18 to 40.

Last year GLAD undertook several projects. One of these was to organize a fund-raiser with the People With Aids Coalition. Each year a Gay and Lesbian supplement is printed by the *Gazette* for which we are responsible. GLAD also produces the only Gay and Lesbian radio program in Atlantic Canada, *The Word is Out*, which is heard every Tuesday evening at 5:30 pm on CKDU 97.5 FM for 30 minutes. We also organized a petition that was presented to the provincial government in support of sexual orientation in the revised Human Rights Act. Many members also

volunteered to work on the Names Project. GLAD also made a quilt panel.

GLAD has short meetings lasting 30 to 40 minutes, during which information about community and GLAD events are discussed. The rest of the evening is devoted to socializing, watching a film or listening to a speaker. Parties were planned for every six weeks last year.

For people who are just coming out of the closet, that is, starting to accept their homosexuality but are still confused as to what that means (society really puts a guilt trip on us with its misconceptions and myths) GLAD is a good place to start to come out. Some of us are available to talk to quietly about coming out and a time can either be arranged at a meeting or by placing a message at the Inquiry Desk, Dal SUB, where we have a mail box. We also have information regarding safe sex practices and other gay and lesbian info.

Our first meeting is Thursday, September at 6:30 pm in Room 314 of the Dal SUB. We meet every two weeks. Check us out.

Alex Stone

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