

## Comment

# University Profs evade important issues

by Jamie Ferguson

Important issues were evaded Saturday during a public forum held to discuss the topic "what is the good of a university education".

The panel for the discussion, which was part of the lineup for IntroDal 77, included Dr. S.S. Sodhi, Dr. Graham Meyers, Dr. Edgar Friedenberg, and graduate student Linda Hubley. John Shuh chaired the encounter.

The planned basis of the discussion was that of determining the purpose of a university education. Besides the poor turnout for the event, a mere thirty-odd people, the main issue was not discussed.

The fact is, when it gets down to the "nitty gritty" regarding discussions concerning the university, it is the university's good name that must be upheld. Probably it is for the simple reason that each department gets a certain number of dollars for the number of students enrolled.

One observer asked, "Is it true professors are hired for their research work and not for their ability as teachers? Further, is it

true that the university is geared to the graduate student who fits into a given professor's line of research, and not for the undergraduate?"

Upon which Friedenberg answered, "I don't think you would want to attend a university that did not engage in research."

One good point was brought up by Linda Hubley and Dr. Sodhi who suggested that a university must be external, that is, in order to survive the university must involve itself more with the community. Sodhi also said that "the best education should go to those who need it the most". Hubley pointed out that a university education is beneficial in helping those engaged in volunteer work, which is probably the only useful work one can get with a general degree.

It would seem that from the approximately 7000 students attending Dalhousie and the 500 invitations Sodhi sent out to faculty of local area schools, one would expect that more than 30 people would have attended. In attendance was an indicator, the "interested public" did not appear convinced of the good of a university education.

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was surprised to discover a double standard not in keeping with the righteous protestations made by the Gazette.

Since September, there have been over a dozen articles and letters published about the gay problem, in addition to the 8 full pages in the issue of September 23. Yet, as Graham Alynnot pointed out, the Birthright organization faces the same discrimination. This group has had an information table and an open lecture on the Dal campus this year, and the article covering the lecture was the only publicity given the group, and no mention was made as to the discrimination they face. Birthright, unlike G.A.E., has been evident on campus.

Unborn babies cannot raise their own voices and fight for their own rights. Surely to ignore this far more worthwhile campaign (literally a matter of life and death) in favor of a crusade for a group that is alive, active, and able to fight, constitutes a grave misdemeanor, and suggests questionable motives on your part. Get your priorities straight!

Another case in question is your reluctance to print any material of a religious nature — clearly unjustified, and tantamount to prejudice on your part. The shoe is on the other foot. Bob Petite was given space to voice his sympathy for your Gay Crusade—is that to be the criterion for printing, agreement with your position? Let's see some of that "equality" demonstrated.

Your heroic crusade has been, and will continue to be, a disappointment, until your championing and lofty ideals become all-embracing in scope—a small but not insignificant matter of practising what you preach.

Yours sincerely,  
Eric Hominick

## IntroDal defends itself

RE: Story & Letter of Eric Lawson concerning IntroDal '77 (Farce)

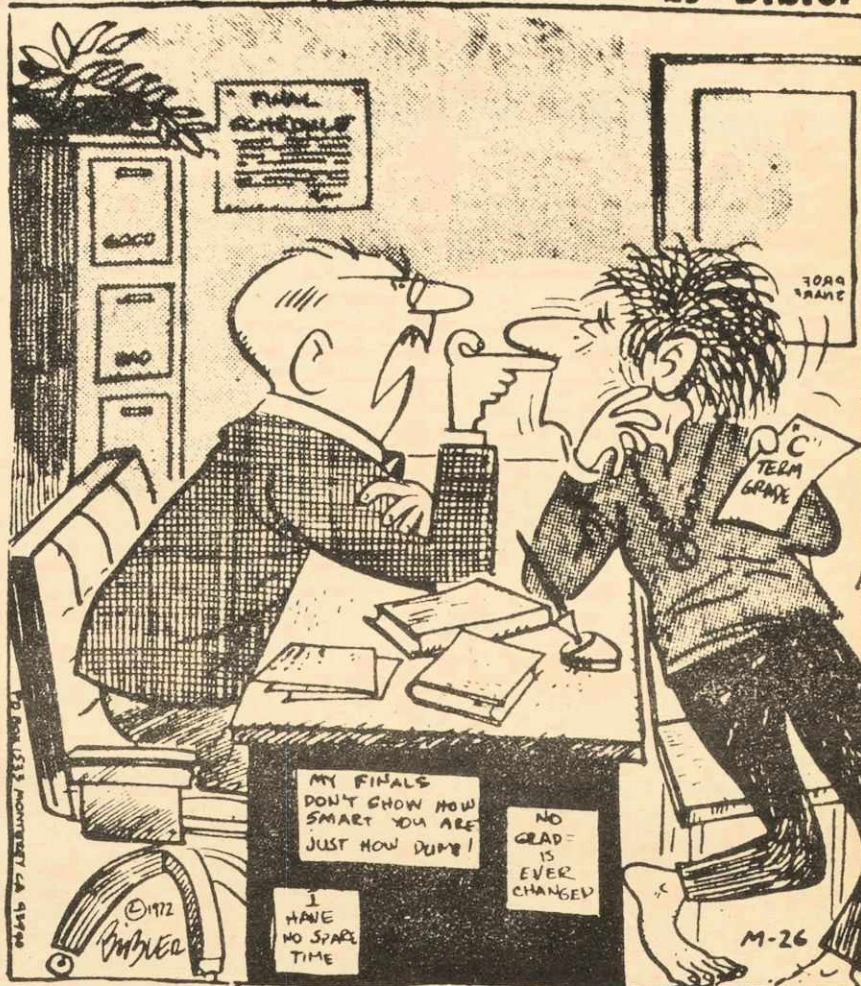
We will not stoop to the low egotistical, idiotic, assinine way in which the one Eric Lawson covered the opening ceremonies of IntroDal,

but what I would like to point out is the following:

- (1) the people who were in attendance at the opening ceremonies were not members of S.U.B. staff, they were members of the organizing committee of IntroDal as well as other members of the community who were invited by invitation.
  - (2) The opening ceremonies is not a closed event, it was advertised in the supplement of the University News as open to the public.
  - (3) The reception following was a closed invitation affair and not open to the public due to certain constraints.
  - (4) Those invited to the reception were not members of S.U.B. staff but members of the community, the administration of the University as well as the organizing committee and guests.
  - (5) As far as the dress goes, it was not a fashion show and those people who attended the reception were appropriately dressed.
- In closing, we being so called "well-dressed, well-behaved, bland and working for the SUB-Staff" fail to comprehend how one Eric Lawson can with the right hand write an article about the opening ceremonies "praising it" and with the same mind, matter and breath (also the same hand) turn around and put himself on such a high pedestal as to criticize an affair organized by his so-called fellow students.

Signed  
Organizing Committee Intro Dal

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