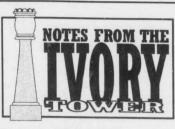
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The Graduate School Myth by Daniel Goodwin

Myth (mith), n. an unproved collective belief that is accepted uncritically and is used to justify a social institution. I'm not trying to be patronizing, sticking that definition up there where you can all see it. Of course I realize that you all know what a myth is. That was just my little way of satirizing academia's deep-seated need to define everything.

Also a nice segue into today's theme which is the myth of graduate school. I'm sure there are many myths, but I only have time here to puncture one. To that end, I'm going to ask you a question. What comes to mind when you think of graduate school? A bunch of overeducated keeners, perchance, who wear corduroy jackets with pockets on the elbows and call their professors by their first names while engaging in witty banter and repartee in the cozy and refined atmosphere of the seminar room? Perhaps.

But the most prevalent myth floating around out there is that graduate school is difficult. Like, really grueling. That's why so many ostensibly intelligent people study their youth away in order to become that greatly misunderstood and vastly overrated creature: the graduate student. Well, let me let you in on a little secret.

a graduate student is actually easier than being an undergraduate. Before you stop reading this and rush

off to apply to graduate school, I have to throw in a small caveat. Courses in graduate school are easier than those at the undergraduate level. A Master's thesis, on the other hand, is not easy. From personal experience, writing a Master's thesis makes Dante's inferno seem like Club Med. But that's a whole other column. What's under discussion here are courses. And they are easier in graduate school, for two main reasons.

First, the workload is a lot lighter. In the average graduate course (Arts), you come to each class, do a little reading beforehand, talk about it, and then hand in a paper at the end of the semester.



prove to Beaver that they can trust these same employees as much as we do.

Thank you for your time Michael Ryan

STU über alles und du bist ein dumkopf

Dear Editor

I've seen some completely idiotic things lately but I think last week's editorial "St. Thomas is like six fingers..." just about tops it all. Your suggestion that STU should amalgamate itself with UNB is Graduate school is E-A-S-Y. In fact, being completely ludicrous and insulting to



The Graduate School myth

That's it. Everybody usually gets A's anyway because your professors assume you must be smart if , you're in graduate school. Compare that workload with the dizzying barrage of busywork they throw at you in those desperate undergrad years,

are appreciated and trustworthy, and to every student, professor, staff member, and administrator at St. Thomas

University. St. Thomas may be the "smaller fish" (to use your analogy) but I'd argue that

in this case school size doesn't matter because STU seems better off than UNB, the so-called "bigger fish" Statistically, STU is less dependent on

government funding than UNB. STU operates on the interest off its investments, having the lowest university tuition rate in the Atlantic region. Our scholarship program is one of the best in the country and our Tommies recently proved that they were capable of kicking the asses of the Varsity Reds hockey team any day. I'm sure any STU student could provide you with other examples if you'd like more

I agree, Mark, that frugality is important

when it comes to the money of students but I also think there's a place to draw the line. Distinctness is important. The idea of sacrificing the character of STU as a small, Catholic, liberal arts university to save a few bucks and make UNB happy appalls me. Personally, I'd rather pay a couple hundred dollars more in tuition myself than see that happen. I chose to go to STU, not UNB, and I'm proud of my school. I'm not sure if you feel the same way about UNB because you seem to think that the "bigger fish" is hungry and needs something to eat. Maybe you should be asking yourself who this proposed amalgamation would really benefit?

when you expend hours and hours of

your life which you'll never get back

dutifully connecting the dots on those

little assignments that each count for 2.5%

The second reason why graduate

of your grade

of the two Student Unions. I'm sure the UNB SU would love the idea though. It

In closing, I would like to say that I would really object to the amalgamation

If STU wants to waive the SUB expansion fee, fine. If they want to continue to use the SUB facilities, tell them to get their own SUB. In my mind St. Thomas has been riding the back of UNB for too long and it is time for STU to face the reality of being a 'REAL' school. Why should I, as a UNB student, foot the bill for something that STU is going to use. Hell, I'm not even going to use because I'll only be here for 1 more year. Maybe Jeff Price is right. Maybe it is time for us to butt out AND flick STU off our backs. Rouse added that he "hoped that STU wouldn't lose its place on the SUB Expansion Committee, and that STU students would still be welcome." Wrong! STU voted not to pay for the SUB expansion, so their seat should be gone! I don't get to vote on what happens to IBM because I don't own share of the company, exact same idea!

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school is easier is because you get to study what you want. Sure, you have to do a little prescribed reading here and there (but then it wouldn't be school if someone didn't tell you what to read) but your papers can be on whatever you want. Nobody tells you what to write about, nobody tells you what to study for the exam (no exams). The assumption underlying this rather radical program is that after doing what professors have told you to do for four years you are finally smart enough to work on your own.

Believe me, it's a lot more fun deciding what you want to study and how you want to study it. The relaxed schedule also gives you a lot more time to think. And thinking, after all, is one of my pet activities.

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would be a grand way for them to force STU students to pay for SUB expansion without yet another referendum attempt. Plus, they could cease their " about banning STU students from expanded parts of the SUB and kicking them out of the Cellar completely and devote all their time and bullying efforts towards CHSR, who seems to be another current target.

Seriously appalled by your editorial Sally Cogswell

Dear Editor

If STU doesn't want SUB Expansion we don't want them



University Bookstore NNFI 730

Intel Pentium 60, 8 MB RAM.

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areas on

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