

Bullshit, Learning, and Power

So everyone's back to S.D.U. for another year of, of what? For most, a year of a hell of a lot of nothing. Another year

- of academic bullshit
- of meaningless notes
- of anxious memorization
- of plagiarized term papers
- of stupid exams
- of glorious marks
- of divine averages
- of sitting bored
- of wanting to quit
- of being a hypocrite
- of jam sessions
- of talking a lot
- of doing little
- of waiting for the end
- of talking about people
- of forming cliques
- of being bright young things
- of going to church
- of hating it
- of being a Christian
- of being a virgin
- of being unsatisfied
- of being narrow
- of seeing narrow
- of acting narrow
- of forgetting what the hell it's all for
- of rose-colored glasses
- of getting drunk
- of being one of the boys
- of going to the Rollaway
- of calling people wanks
- of threatening punches in the mouth
- of dumb profs
- of dumb students
- of being formed
- of being framed
- of receiving a lousy piece of paper
- of being a graduate
- of teaching school in the same lousy rural high
- of being formed

Yeah, it's another year. Welcome back to all those who survived. And a special welcome to all our bright young, intelligent freshmen. Welcome all to this university, and its exciting, throbbing life.

Doesn't that life sound great? Doesn't it sound like the only way to spend four years? A lot of SDU students apparently think so. One need only listen to coffee shoppe talk to confirm this. Yup, a lot of us seem to be quite satisfied with things as they are, quite content with SDU's own particular mode of campus life. Neither this editorial nor this paper is written for them. No — all is written for those who realize the urgent need for change, and are willing to effect it.

The question for most of these students is how — How the hell do you change such a mass? How do you get "people" to become "persons"? How do you change a collection of cliques into a community of persons, an atmosphere of hate into one of trust? How do you break down the old divisions? How do you change SDU (or whatever it may become) into community of co-learning, of co-development? How do you change this supplier of the establishments' needs into a remedier of society's ills? How do you change a place into a university?

Well, a categorical answer is impossible. But there are certain directions to be taken. The first and foremost is to realize how damn bad the situation here is, to shun it, to refuse to be caught up in it. Just say — to hell with it. This is not what I want, and I will not accept it. I will not accept all the artificial, phony cliques. I will not become a part. I'll meet people, not types.

I will not accept ridiculous assignments. I will not be treated as a corporal in a tin-god's army. I will not close my ears and quietly consume his charismatic academic bullshit. I will not memorize his verbal diarrhea. I will not regurgitate his mindless notes. I will not become a faceless, mindless, "yes man" to a MA carrying supper nigger. No, I will demand what is rightly mine — an education, a true learning, a real experience.

I will not accept an impersonal authoritative administration.

No — I will demand what is mine. I will educate myself with the help of other people. I will meet people. I will talk with them. I will exchange ideas. I will read, I will discuss. I will participate . . . And I will learn.

This is what we must do. We must reject the assembly line education of the past. We must demand what is ours. We must refuse anything but it. We must be prepared to buck the university establishment with its faculty clubs and quaint decadence. We must transcend a middle class materialistic society. We must make recourse to power to effect a change. We must be prepared to fight for what we want.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir:

I wish to extend my most sincere thanks to the UPPER-CLASSMEN without whose guidance, I'm sure I would never have been oriented to whatever it is I'm now oriented toward. I want to thank them for having cradled this poor babe, and having been so kind as to have omitted the branding after I had been herded to do whatever I was supposed to have done.

Also, I extend thanks to the UPPER-CLASSMEN for having been a true beacon radiating intellectualism and illuminating all the ignorant recesses of my impoverished mind. It is truly gratifying to have had the opportunity to discuss matters of some intellectual content with scholastics, and to have seen plagiarized pedantry presented as a goal to be attained.

Further, I wish to express my exuberance, in having had an opportunity to express with my fellow classmates, and others of the S.D.U. community, certain aspects of political, religious, and sociological questions that are of importance as we sojourn onto the road leading to an education.

I remain yours, sir, a grateful and humble FROSH

Dear Editor:

Your past Red and White papers have sadly destroyed my faith in the decent human goodness of students. Your paper with its emphasis on immorality, radicalism, and the slanderous remarks on well-respected individuals and the society at large, has shattered the very essence and spirit of St. Dunstan's University. It used to be an institution which stressed honorable role of government officials — their belief that democracy is the best way of life for all of us. Furthermore look how many graduates that were produced who have risen to great heights in the business world through sacrificing themselves, their times and energies, bringing honors to St. Dunstan's by making a success of themselves. I doubt if any graduate subject to the type of ideas you hold will ever follow the roads of these great men.

Instead, you have aligned yourselves with Communists and Facists, shocked us with scandalous pictures and filthy literature, and corrupted our children. You have falsely accused the administration for any faults that you seem to find in the well-balanced curriculum of studies at St. Dunstan's. You want power solely to feed lecherous minds of a few perverted individuals, to run the institution and destroy the values and decency of the students and their community at large.

You will have to eventually to conform, to see reality and to get down and do an honest days work. And you will have the Senate to thank for the wisdom of the university policies and their restrained attitudes to your radical ideas.

An Educated Person
Sincerely

Dear Sir:

Student participation on this campus has taken on an altogether new meaning since last March, it is my hope that this most important aspect of our university life does not take a relapse into the apathetic state it was in prior to this so very important event.

It is my experience in dealing with the class of 72 that this frosh class has the sound basis and good spirit that is needed in order to supplement this movement with new and fresh blood. The most important thing to do is to get involved, for, in not being involved one misses out on a fabulous experience, so don't sit idly by.

One who is not sitting.

Dear Sir:

On behalf of the senior class, I would like to welcome the freshman students to St. Dunstan's and to four years of absolute boredom, frustration, and meaninglessness.

I am

One who just can't wait for May.

Dear Sirs:

Here comes another year without student power. Oh, I don't mean the few modest reforms that we got. Some of them have already been abused, butchered or just plain prostituted. All in the name of responsible government. In

order for the students to have any effect in the government of this institution they must resort to student power to implement resolutions affecting the curriculum of studies as well as the other activities of this university. This power must not rely solely on class boycotts — the results may be good only for a temporary solution—but between the table and demonstration line, considerable time and bullshit trespasses. Rather an intermediate solution such as a new senate composition — one-third faculty, one-third students, one-third administration (both academic and service personnel) — is a much more powerful objective.

It is necessary to realize that progress comes only through criticism and dissatisfaction with the status quo, so one can expect a long, long fight to establish the integrated role of the student. Now is the time to arm ourselves with a sound basis for student power — knowledge, affiliations with other universities, i.e. CUS, literally minded professors and outside sympathizers, and invariably, student strikes and demonstrations. For there will come a time when the chains of slavery and the degree of privation that our economic and social machine provides, perpetuated by the universities, is challenged, blown up, and obliterated.

Signed: A Pragmatist



RED AND WHITE

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