

The Importance of Lowering Tuition Fees

By Brad DIEGHAN

Tuition fees are destroying the ability for the educational advancement of mass society, and it is precisely this mass of educational advancement that must be achieved. This advancement is crucial for the creation of a society which is aware of its inherent problems and is also better able to deal with them. As the government's ignorance towards this phenomena continues to exist, so too does the problem of an under-educated mass majority, which consequently results in social dependence upon such an ignorant and centralized hierarchy.

Furthermore, in creating such a thoroughly educated populace, not only does the capacity for social advancement improve, but the ability to further future economic business also improves - the very issue our government finds as an excuse *not* to fund the coming new generation of leaders; with the higher number of individuals possessing a higher education, sustained economic growth is produced due to the consequent creation of more jobs. In the long run, however you look at it - be it socially, economically, or otherwise - education is going to act as a progressive lubricant in social and cultural matters, and most importantly, in independent thought, which is an important aspect of democracy.

What happens when lubricant runs out? Grind! Halt! Seize! The government makes all the decisions while the populace is without the proper analytical skills necessary to effectively criticize. Does our government rely on some sort of Platonic idea about the nature of education and ignorance?

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Another important effect of the lowering of tuition fees is that of poverty. When the lower classes of society are barred from the education - which, supposedly, everyone is equally entitled to - the result is the upholding of the status quo. This means that those living in poverty remain in poverty, while those in power

get to hold on to that power. Not only does this occur, but as the rates of tuition fees continue their deadly rise, the gap

between the rich and the poor, the powerless and the powerful, continues to grow.

As we look at this phenomena, a very interesting question arises, though not a new one; is the government, in reality, ignorant to all of this, or are those in power simply trying to climb higher (or at least hold on to their coveted positions)? Perhaps we can look at the situation(s) abroad as an example of the way that the more powerful and self-interested governments hold on to the status quo of their own economies and countries - or is *this* all just a big myth? Think about it: what happens when these two last phenomena occur simultaneously?

An interesting and perhaps enlightening little piece of information lies within votes and the political system itself. As the majority of the population is not at one time enrolled in secondary education, there are no immediate benefits to be gained by the majority of the populace as a result of spending on higher education, and it is

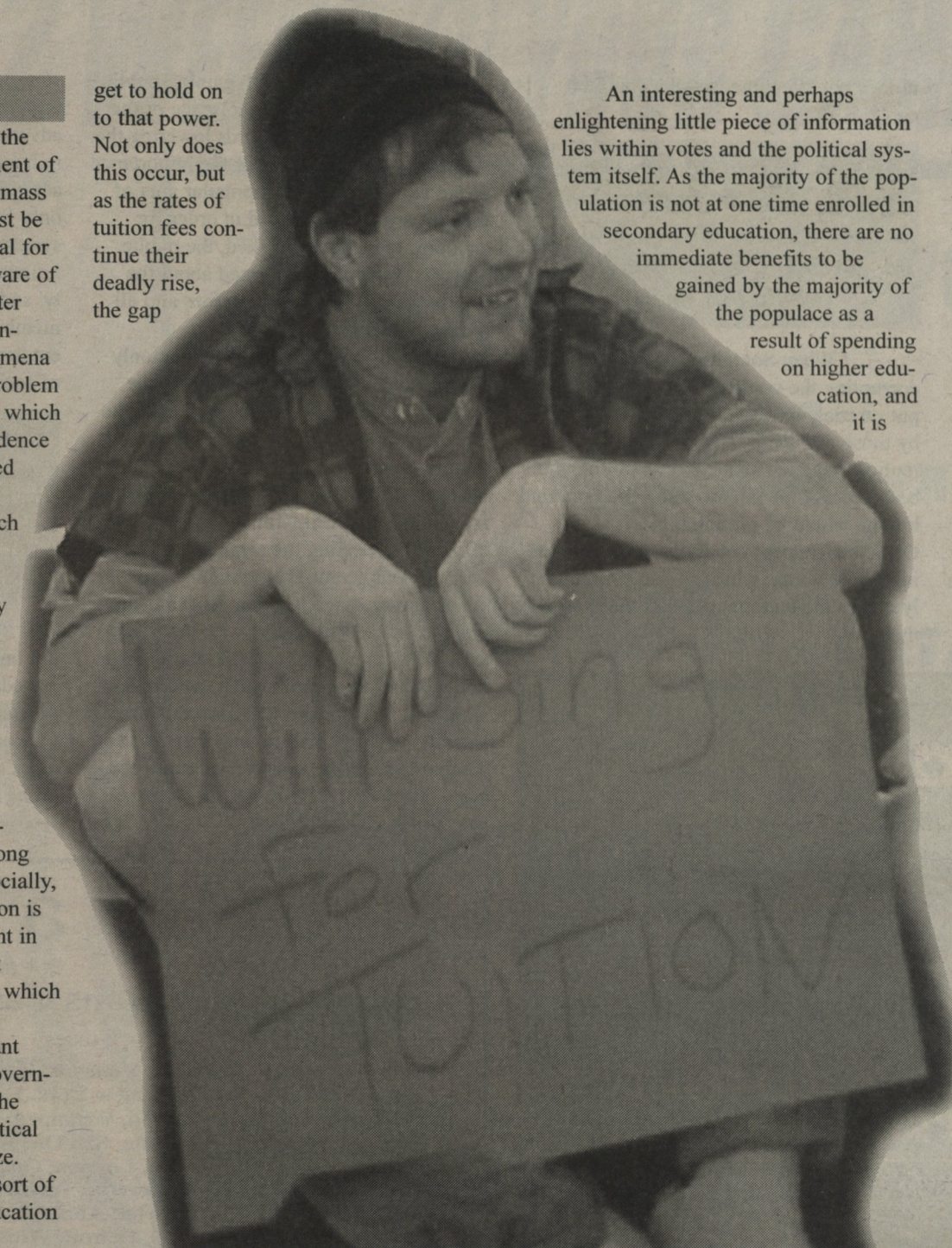
As our politicians are in need of votes in order to further their career, education is not an area deemed worthy of spending, and this is a phenomena that has been repeated over and over again throughout the years. As spending on education takes a prolonged amount of time to produce a noticeable amount of social beneficence, and as the majority of the populace is not involved in secondary education, such spending by government looks like a waste of money to the public; now this money cannot be spent on something from which the public might immediately benefit and therefore take note.

When Socrates was accused of corrupting the youth around him, he was put on trial, and was to be sent to his death by those in power.

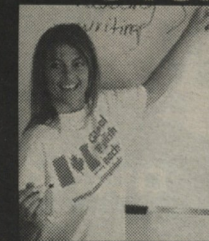
To show just one example of such immediately beneficial- and much more noticeable- spending might be found in looking at the reparation of Island roadways. In the end, if the public notices no immediate benefits, the politician or party involved may lose votes, and this is exactly what the politicians involved do not want. It may be helpful to add that by the time the rest of the community notices the important benefits from this spending on education, the politicians involved will most likely be replaced by others, which results in not benefiting that politician's career who had spent the money in the first place. In short, much of the prob-

important to recognize the specific use of the word 'immediate' in this last statement.

The primary reason secondary education shows no immediate benefit to society as a whole is due to the amount of time it takes for such an education to be completed and applied. This is no short period of time, but rather, a period of time in which the benefits become more noticeable over the years. This occurrence would create a strengthening of the capabilities of each individual within our society, rather than a select few who end as the elite governors for those who haven't had the same opportunities. As we have seen above, the concept of democracy is thus effected.



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