

My Deree Balance Sheet

by Yvette Nahmia, psychology

Just as at the end of each year we pause to think about what we have accomplished in the period that has elapsed, I must stop for a while to review my Deree experience of these last few years now that I am about to graduate.

I take for granted that I am not leaving the school the same person that I entered. It would have been a waste if I were. During the course of my studies here, as well as in my private life, many things happened which had an impact on me and changed me.

I will not describe here the study skills and knowledge I have gained during this time. I would rather emphasize the personal contacts I have made and the effect these have had on me. I met a number of wonderful people. A few inspired me. These were students as well as professors from different disciplines, cultures and backgrounds. These people challenged me. They also provided me with new ways to perceive life, and helped me realize the many different directions I could take.

Not everything was wonderful, however. There were times when I felt that, compared to other university and college environments abroad, ours was not adequately stimulating. Despite the appeal from the clubs and societies to contribute to the culture and spirit of our school, the majority of us did not participate in extracurricular activities.

It seems to me that we were constantly preoccupied with midterms, presentations, papers and finals. For most of us college was a grade and a deadline. Those who strove primarily for grades got them. But are grades really what we came here for?

I believe that students who only wanted to attend and pass, or to excel in courses, missed a great deal. Not only did the school lose out because of student apathy, but those who were personally idle helped to create an indifferent community.

Our school did not lack imaginative projects and activities, but the policy of the Student Union was one that stressed entertainment to the hilt, and was short on cultural, artistic and mentally stimulating pursuits.

One of the most important aspects of higher education is being exposed to a diversity of people and ideas. Deree offers us a multicultural experience, with educators and students coming from many different corners of the world. The diversity of the community is



not confined to the origin of its members, but extends to the views, outlooks and different schools of thought adhered to. The multiplicity of approaches was highly valued by us. Personally, it was usually the case that I became engrossed in a particular school of thought, that is, until the next semester came and I switched to some other. The most common condition I found myself in was one of conflict, trying to find out which perspective suited me best. And it was this conflict that I enjoyed the most.

What I particularly cherished was the intellectual freedom I was given. A freedom that consisted of the ability to choose for myself. I found the College's liberal atmosphere very healthy and positive.

And I ask, what would help further improve our school? I think that human resources would. Educators', students', and employees' active participation would. They are, in my opinion, what a school's quality is measured by.

Deree can become a better institution of learning if each one of us would contribute his or her share. Towards the materialization of this goal, we graduates could do our share by being a credit to our school.