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Fed Up Mushroom

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Dr. Thomas, here is

A contribution for the mushroom patch from a fed up mushroom.



Once upon a time not so many years ago in a place called present, two administrators met in the section of the Citadel called Haven to discuss the merit future. Neither of them noticed the little old mushroom sitting in the corner but he heard it all and this is the story he told me.

There wuz these two guys, see. To me they looked like devils, but I guess they wuz angles, administrative angles. (Everything's strange and turned around on that side of the glass curtain). Anyways, they wuz walkin up and down, talking. The big guy, the one called Verbal Diabrea, says to the little guy they calls Improbable Probity that it's all a matter of daffy nition. If you just talk enough and use enough useless words that don't mean nuffin, the other side'll get all bumfoozled and tired out and then you win. He told the little guy to smile a lot, cuz everybody thinks you're a good guy if you smile, and if that don't work, to smile some more and talk about new worlds like maybe somepun wuz gonna change, and then they'd change a few words or their meanings and everybody'd think things really wuz different. He said teachers wuz the easiest critters in the world to fool cuz they wanted to believe in good guys.

Every idea this guy had, he recapitulated, regurgitated and ran it around again. He said they could order up goals and objectives, then if there wuz any protest they'd just change it to merit and if anybody fussed they'd drop that and talk about performance quotas or identity crisis or some such bull shit and if people complained, they'd talk about their mission in career planning or faculty purpose till the faculty wuz plum evaluated out.

Every so often those two'd stop and talk about bored approval, and I could see why it would be bored, cuz I wuz.

The big guy said after merit wuz all buttoned up and redefined this year, then they'd be all ready to work on tenure next year - though it might take some fast talking to convince the faculty that to be tenured you wuz eligible to be let go. Still it wuz just a matter of redefining the term. The little guy had trouble gettin a word in edgewise. He said a lot of "Yes, Buddy." and "I agree Buddy" and "If you think so, Buddy." I kept wonderin why he didn't call the other guy Mr. Diabrea, but maybe he didn't like the sound of that. Then I wondered why he didn't call him by his uh-nich-uls, but I guess he didn't know him well enough to do that. They had a good laugh over what they'd done to the word satisfactory and they thought maybe next year they'd

they'd tell the teachers that A's mean average - just to shake em up a bit. They talked about ignoring somebody named Perb or Herb, but I couldn't make head nor tail of that, particularly after the big guy ran it around again. So I just took a nap and don't know what they plan to do next, do you?