

Continued from the previous page ...

be unthinkable because there would be no words for it. The word "honour" had been done away with; its meaning was included in the word "crimethink". Political terms were always abbreviated, following the example of such terms as "Gestapo", "Comintern", or "DREE".

"Comintern is a word that can be uttered almost without taking thought, whereas 'Communist International' is a phrase over which one is obliged to linger at least momentarily," explains Orwell.

Euphemisms reached a new height: The Ministry of Truth ran the propaganda machine; The Ministry of Peace was in charge of war and the arms race; The Ministry of Plenty controlled the economy; The Ministry of Love operated prisons where people were tortured, and it vaporized people as required.

Our language today is in constant danger of destruction. The euphemism is overly common. A "Rehabilitation Center"

where inmates undergo the insane treatment of solitary confinement, become drug addicts, and endure abuse by other inmates is no more of a contradiction in terms than Orwell's "Ministry of Love". Whether abbreviations like "DREE" are used by our government in order to reduce thought or not, they succeed in doing so; the pros and cons of Regional Economic Expansion do not even enter the mind when you say "DREE". "Canada Post" is so short, snappy, and patriotic that it is difficult not to believe that the organization is as efficient and patriotic as the name.

As far as I know, there is no government department systematically destroying words, as there was in Orwell's 1984. Yet the language is in danger. With the language in danger, thought is in danger. With thought in danger, all the values of our civilization are in danger, for clear thought is the greatest weapon that can be used against totalitarianism.

Undermining of Human Relationships

Winston, the hero of 1984, dreamed of a time "when men are different from one another and do not live alone". In his world, conformity was so essential that no one dared express their individual thoughts and feelings, and so no one could ever have friends. In his world, children were taken from their parents for most of the day and educated by the State, thus destroying the unity of the family. In his world, sex was not permitted to accompany love, so romance and fidelity were meaningless words.

In the real 1984, how often do we fear to express our individuality? How many of us were taken from our parents for most of the day and educated by the State? Will we be able to assume over the education of our children? To what extent do love and sex coincide in our world? Why do we sing sad songs about love that can be expected to last?

The Differences

I do not mean to suggest that our world is as terrible as that of Orwell's 1984. We do not have a secret police, we are not spied on in our bedrooms. We are not awakened by the State and forced to do our morning exercises on the grounds of execution. Our brothers and sisters do not denounce the authorities if we believe in God. No one has rewritten Shakespeare's works in an effort to remove references to love, honour, or individuality.

Yet our 1984 is too much like Orwell's 1984 for comfort. Perhaps it is just as well that we listen to his prophetic warnings again. Perhaps once more we should read his book as a warning that says, "Don't let this happen."



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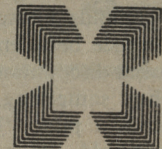
Rules and Regulations

- Must be 18 years of age or older.
- Min. of 3 and max. of 6 per team.
- Points awarded to top 4 teams each Saturday.
- Top 8 teams will play off May 12 and May 19 for prizes.
- Teams must be registered before 2pm on each Saturday.
- Prizes for top team each Saturday.

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