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These search terms have been highlighted: **thinking devil**

## THINKING= the Devil

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### awake:

Been **thinking** about this thread for awhile. My opinion is this. CEDU identified cognitive dissonance as "**thinking**".

Cognitive dissonance is a psychological state that describes the uncomfortable feeling when a person begins to understand that something the person believes to be true is, in fact, not true.

That "uncomfortable feeling" is due to a lack of balance between your beliefs and behavior. (Obviously we all experienced this at some level). The tendency is to rationalize your situation so that your behavior and beliefs coincide. Once you begin "**thinking**" you are questioning the program and since the program is infallible **thinking** is the **devil**. CEDU recognized that "**thinking**" was a sign that a student was experiencing cognitive dissonance and that threatened the students belief in the program. Therefore **thinking** had to be destroyed. This essentially kept us all in a prolonged state of cognitive dissonance.

Furthermore I believe the idea of the "chrome ball" and "swinging pendulum" at some level are just a gauge for how much cognitive dissonance we were experiencing. We were taught to simply identify it as emotion that needs to be dealt with. So we scream at the floor until were exhausted and that "uncomfortable feeling" goes away.

### stina:

Quote from: awake on May 08, 2008, 10:24:57 AM

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i think this is incredibly well put and insightful. and while yeah, everyone has some issue or other that makes us feel uncomfortable, it's a different kind of uncomfortable i think. it's like a smoke and mirrors circus act. i was extremely uncomfortable for the first year and a half that i was there, and while i, and every other student, knew that it was because i had been yanked out of my life and had landed in oz on crack, the staff drilled it into our heads that we were essentially the ones who felt/were weak, angry, victimy, slutty, lonely, desperate, addicts, and a whole lot more...this was drilled into us daily. maybe a lot of us felt these things, but it's like they had secret meetings and decided what label would be given to which kid, and then that label was hammered on consistently. and it worked. i knew i hated it there, but i never ever put this together till now, after reading this thread. i knew kids at rma that had no business being there, and by their i want to live had accepted and were trying to work through some issue that didn't exist.

what pisses me off more than anything...if this theory is really true, they created issues for us just so they could continue perpetuating the money making lie. and these issues reside with most of us to this day. wow. i just got really fucking angry.

### dishdutyfugitive:

1. Yes, they had routine 'strategy' meetings during which they evaluated, discussed and agreed upon courses of action for all issues big and small.

"How's the upper school doing"?

"Where are the new kid's at? Is that peer group formed - the truth prophet should be scheduled for 2 weeks from Friday"

"Who are the top 5:

- look goods
- dirtbags
- wallflowers

that need to be dealt with"?

Before every rap they did this. Each family must have had at least 1 or 2 official meetings about this a week and several impromptu discussions addressing this.

Before every prophet staff went to great efforts to determine each student's experience. All the while we thought it was a magical, healling, once in a lifetime experience. Propheets were obviously an integral part of the 'program'. And, due to our inherent flaws, which they reminded us of on a daily basis, vis a vis culty strategy, that "not successfully completing the program or 'going for broke' in every rap/propheet/workshop (and contrived, cockamane, bullshit paul bunyon day event for that matter)" effectively rendered us as good as deadinsaneorinjail.

Cognitive dissonance

From what I remember CD is the conflict/discomfort one experiences due to simultaneously 'holding' opposing or contradicting beliefs/opinions/facts.

In true cult fashion, they manipulated the shit out of this inherent cognitive mechanism/phenomenon and did us a considerable disservice.

Fear/Love  
**thinking**/feeling

For the love of god....teenagers aren't supposed to immerse themselves in such heavy shit 24/7.

"Why did you do this, why did you think that, how did you feel then, how is that just like the time you had a 3 way romp with an Icelandic man goat and a Ukranian pygmie?"

"how much does this control you every day"

When in reality none of the banter mentioned above was appropriate, therapeutic, or sane. What was real was the culty methodology that convinced us we were sick and that they were the cure that would save us from ourselves.

Where are they now?

Mel Wasserman - Kindly fuck off.

**stina:**

Quote from: dishdutyfugitive on May 08, 2008, 04:45:03 PM

"Why did you do this, why did you think that, how did you feel then, how is that just like the time you had a 3 way romp with an Icelandic man goat and a Ukranian pygmie?"

and you told me i knew every story about you...hmmmm. never heard about the 3 way with the goat and pygmie. layers upon layers upon layers. you are the onion.

**shanlea:**

Two things:

1. Cognitive Dissonance is something we experience everyday. Think about how often it is used to rationalize unhealthy relationship factors, corrupt political machinations, and even some of the exigencies of daily life. At CEDU, it shot up to hyper-real levels.

2. It's not just money that drives these places. For CEDU, I sincerely believe that it was power. The power that "Power staff" could not enjoy at any other place in the "real world." (Scary to realize I put the real world in quotations, as if I'm not sure it's really real. Crap, I've been watching too much Lost.) The power staff at CEDU were invested in the cult; they were believers; they needed the role of CEDU guru like the rest of us need air and water. The minions, emerging staff, were often lost, weak souls who were trying to work out their own issues through us. They, too, were moving through the levels of the program... some of them direct from LifeSpring. They either became robots, power staff, or disenchanting. In any event, I truly believe this was a cult, not primarily money driven, but power driven. It fulfilled some sick need in those who presided over us, dangling us like puppets. Think about the type of person who would get off playing savior to "sick" kids while students and their rich overly entitled parents hung on their every word. After they get a taste of this power, and their power quota increases, they begin to believe their own infallibility. So much so that they become even more distanced from the individual needs and psyche of the students in an effort to fill up that power vat.

It never was about the student. It was about their own quest to satiate an insatiable ego.

We know this is true because it permeated to every level. Think about the student who got a taste of power...and loved it... you dreaded being called in a

rap with them for fear they will turn on you... they started out just like the rest of us, scared... but after awhile, they developed a real taste for instilling fear in others.

I'm ashamed to admit it...I was never one to ream others... but I clearly remember the one time (and it was only one time) that I excoriated someone to unfair extent... I remember exactly what I said, knowing it would be applauded in a rap... and I also remember that power surge as I was doing it, winning the Rap Bitch Seal of Approval.

I felt dirty afterward though--not CEDU dirty, the gut level untrue to yourself dirty. It's one of the major factors I split. I knew that to level up, I would have to keep up performances that made me feel dirty inside. I couldn't square that with myself. I also knew beyond a shadow of a doubt that if I got caught I would have no choice but to play The Game.

Cognitive dissonance.

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