

UAL MARXIST SOCIETY

"from each according to their ability; to each according to their need"

Education cuts: the socialist alternative

Speakers: Daniel Morley (Unison, private capacity)

Nicholas Baldion (Chelsea College)

NO CUTS

NO FEES

6 pm

**Tuesday 24th
November**

Rm 209, Student Hub
65 Davies Street
Tube: Bond
Street

COMMERCIAL INTERESTS OUT OF EDUCATION

The situation at UAL is part of the bigger picture of course cuts, redundancies and deficits across the whole of the education sector in Britain. Many universities are struggling with steep budget deficits as a result of reduced government funding and the withdrawal of commercial sponsorship.

But even more devastating cuts are in the pipeline for the coming years. There will be wholesale closures of colleges (as already suggested at UAL). "Non-commercial" courses will be slashed. "Back door privatisation" will continue - private company sponsorship, with state funding becoming just a government subsidy to private companies.

As for student fees, they will be set at commercial rates - far, far, higher than at present. To be a student you will need either rich parents or company sponsorship. If you have neither - forget it.

To stop the cuts we need to wage a campaign not college by college, and not through individual stunts, but nationwide. We need to whip up a whirlwind. Country wide action will be needed - a national joint strike by staff and students under the slogan of no cuts, no fees, commercial interests out of education.

Why should students and staff pay for the economic crisis with their jobs and education? This is a classic capitalist crisis of overproduction, described by Marx more than a 100 years ago - goods stockpiled at the docks and no-one able to buy them. A long and deep recession, even a depression comparable to the 1930's, is possible.

The economy is crying out for a democratic plan, for the ending of private ownership of the means of production and production for profit, which stand in the way of all progress. Through a plan of the economy it would be possible to raise living standards, not cut them. That is the socialist and the only long-term solution to education cuts.