

Gov't shortsighted

by Winston Pei

The University of Alberta is now making decisions designed to secure our long term future. It would be ironic that these "long term" plans be so shortsighted, if only that failing wasn't so typical of the university administration and the Government of Alberta.

Of particular concern is the planned downsizing of the University's undergraduate population. The University's goal, as stated in "the Next Decade and Beyond", is to boost the graduate student population from the current level of 3,000 students to 5,000 while reducing our total population to 25,000 students. While I fully support upgrading graduate programs and research at the U of A, what will be the cost?

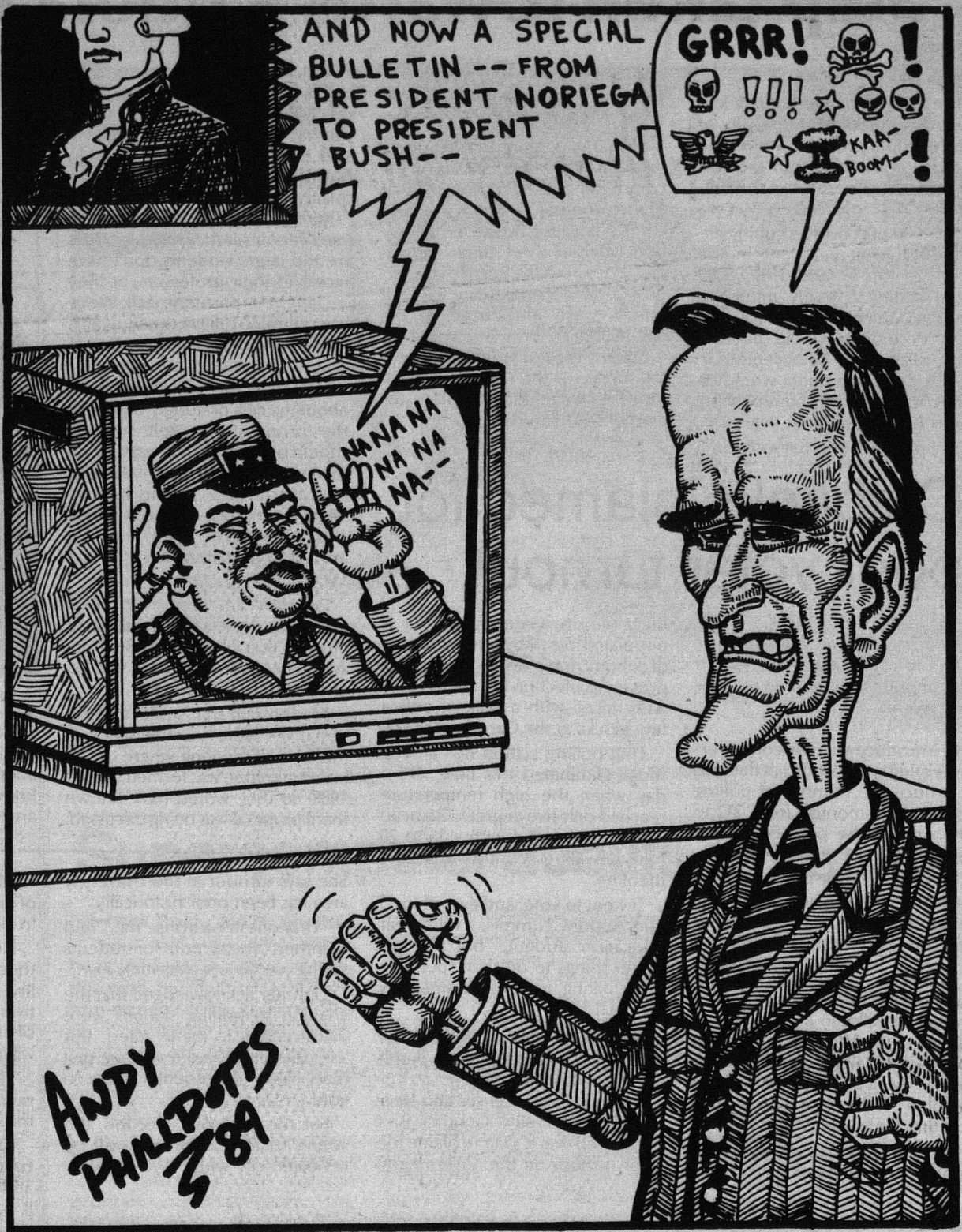
One result is that the faculty of Arts has been forced to consider an arts quota possibility. While that would cut numbers, the plan is fundamentally wrong in that it runs directly counter to the whole philosophy of liberal arts studies. The faculty of Arts is not intended to provide a career degree program and should therefore not have the exclusivity inherent to a quota program. Rather, as a general studies program, it is designed to give a broader and better perspective of the world we're in and is fundamental to an "educated" society. The University must keep entry-level undergrad programs like Arts open to any and all qualified applicants. Downsizing may well cost us, and future students, that option.

In fact, no matter how it is implemented, the University's current "solution" will result in seven thousand of the undergraduate openings currently occupied just disappearing once vacated. Imagine none of the current first- and second-year students being allowed into the U of A and you have a conservative idea of what to expect. That many qualified prospective students will not receive the kind and quality of education the University of Alberta provides, to the future detriment of not only the University but our society as well.

And it all comes down to the bottom line.

The provincial government, with its typically misplaced "fiscal responsibility", is in the process of starving this great and potentially still expanding university into one of the second-rate many. And even worse, the University is just letting it happen.

The administration's decision to downsize is reasonable if and only if we choose to stay within the limits of mediocrity that the Alberta government has so ably set down. The newest University of Alberta publicity brochure says that we are "an internationally recognised university" that "can be best described by the two words — energy and growth." Cutting 7,000 undergrad openings because of inadequate government funding does not strike me as being a sign of "growth." If we are to lay claim to an international standing, we had better start breaking out of these limits and demanding the resources we need and deserve.



LETTERS

Artsie fartsies should shut up

Re: Hub it is a changin' (Oct. 19, 1989)

Paul Adams should be living in East Germany if he desires stagnation. If Paul and his supporters do not like the look of HUB Mall, they should vacate the building permanently. HUB Mall would be much better off with the more desirable fast food outlets and less artsies who freeload off society.

I have to agree with one of Paul's statements to some extent. HUB Mall administrators are making the mall ordinary and are destroying the unique qualities that once existed. Administrators are turning the mall into a profitable venture, which is quite ordinary for modern business. Administrators are also destroying the mall's uniqueness of being dull, boring, artsy looking, and unprofitable. As you can tell, this breaks my heart.

As for the food outlets that have entered HUB Mall in the last year or so, they are enthusiastically welcomed. We could use a few more good shops to finally destroy the disgusting artsy appearance that remains with a select few stores (you know the ones I mean).

It is time that Paul Adams, and those like him, realize that business can only operate on profits, not on bleeding heart idealistic values. I commend the HUB Mall administration for turning the mall into a more profitable venture and not a financial drain. I am sure that Paul Adams can see the need to earn profits in order to keep subsidizing costs to the mall at a minimum, or can he? I am not sure if this level of intellect is beyond an arts student. One must not forget the concept of consumer preference, or consumer demand.

As for HUB Mall lovers, I hear East Germany is looking for unemployed artsy, fartsy idealists to replace those people who have recently left. Bon voyage!

Greg Yarema
Business IV

Gateway is tasteless drivel

We are writing concerning the Gateway's continuous printing of inappropriate material. For example, the poems on page thirteen of the October 12 edition of the Gateway are extremely offensive and insulting. Yes, it's art to some, but we find that there is just too much emphasis on sex and perversity in these poems. Why not print just one of these? Why an entire page?

While we're at it, clean up the three lines for free! Some of the filth we read from this section is absolutely vile. If someone has something incredibly disgusting and vulgar

to say to someone else, don't share it with us, tell them on your own time. It's an insult to our university to have such smut printed in our paper, a paper that should appeal to visitors on our campus. Such trash is dragging out reputation as a decent university through the dirt.

If you want to print that sort of filth, print it in something more deserving, like *Playboy* or *The Inquirer*, not in our paper. Editors: do your job!

Melanie Rust, Arts I
Melissa Maduro, Arts I

Nothing is sacred anymore

Re: Pirate Strip Not Humorous

I am not the author of the Ray-5 strip, but as a sometime reader, I felt I had to comment on a letter that appeared in the Gateway Thursday Oct. 18.

The answer to your question, "Next time

will you joke about the molestation of children?" should be yes! The author should joke about it, if it's funny. Why not?

Some people are too easily offended.

James Lain
Business III

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