

Former Jamaican Prime Minister Michael Manley demonstrates the difference between parallel and intersecting lines.

by Mark Roppel

T.S. Eliot was an idiot. February is a much crueler month than April - especially for university students.

February mid-terms are the worst exams of the year. The first term always breezes by because all the enthusiastic young students - fresh from a summer of unemployment - are filled with the thirst for knowledge.

April final exams are bearable because students can taste the end.

February mid-terms come in the bleakest part of winter after six months of seemingly futile study.

But February does have Reading Week and this year there was an added bonus. While students were busily waxing their skis, University President Myer Horowitz announced there would be a quota placed on the number of first year Arts and Science students admitted to the U of A.

About 1500 high school students who otherwise would have been qualified won't be accepted next year.

Now all those pre-pubescent monsters who clutter up HUB Mall will need a 72 per cent average to get in. We only needed a 60 - har, har, har.

It is really quite funny when you think about it.

Actually President Horowitz had a lot of fun in February. A scant three weeks before announcing quotas, he got to announce layoffs.

Due to a 3.5 million cumulative deficit, the faculties of Arts and Sciences had to cut 1.5 per cent from their budgets. All other faculties cut three per cent.

Through attrition and lay-offs thirty three academic and non-academic positions were eliminated.

It was also a real zoo at the Students' Union, with elections and all. 15.5 per cent voted in the February 10 elections, but those 15 per cent were obviously upset.

VP External and former Gateway editor Andrew Watts was trounced by first year education student Floyd Hodgins in the race to be next year's SU President.

Floyd polled sixty-eight per cent of the popular vote and won by the largest margin since 1971.

"The main thing I hoped to accomplish was to get over my shyness of speaking in public," says Floyd.

VP Academic Barb Donaldson lost to Jim Shinkaruk in her bid to become next year's representative to the Board of Governor's, and black sheep Gord Stamp will be next year's VP Internal.

But the best part of the campaign was Richard Stedman. Stedman ran a no-campaign against Paul Alpern, the only candidate for the position of VP External.

Clad in hiking boots, aviators cap and goggles, and a trench coat, Stedman managed to convince 55 per cent of the people who voted that it would be better to leave the VP External position empty temporarily than to elect Alpern.

It was the first no-campaign in SU history and hopefully there will be many more.

There is a certain romantic appeal associated with anything as completely negative and unconstructive as a no-campaign.

In what will undoubtedly stand as one of the major improvements in the quality of student life, Music Television (MTV) came to RATT.

Now students can watch Michael Jackson or Weird Al Jankovich and get drunk without even leaving the campus.

On February 14, former Jamaican Prime Minister Michael Manley explained to adoring audiences in SUB Theatre, Dinwoodie, and RATT why he didn't bother to contest the latest Jamaican elections.

Speaking of famous people, Michael Pitfield didn't show up for the Canada, the World, and the Future conference held at the university during reading week.

Nevertheless, academics, labour leaders, and businessmen from across the civilized world - and even some people from Ottawa - managed to grapple with issues ranging from the effects of technological change on man and society to "what is death?"

To think all this happened in the same month as the twentieth anniversary of the Beatles coming to America.

And how about those hockey Golden Bears?

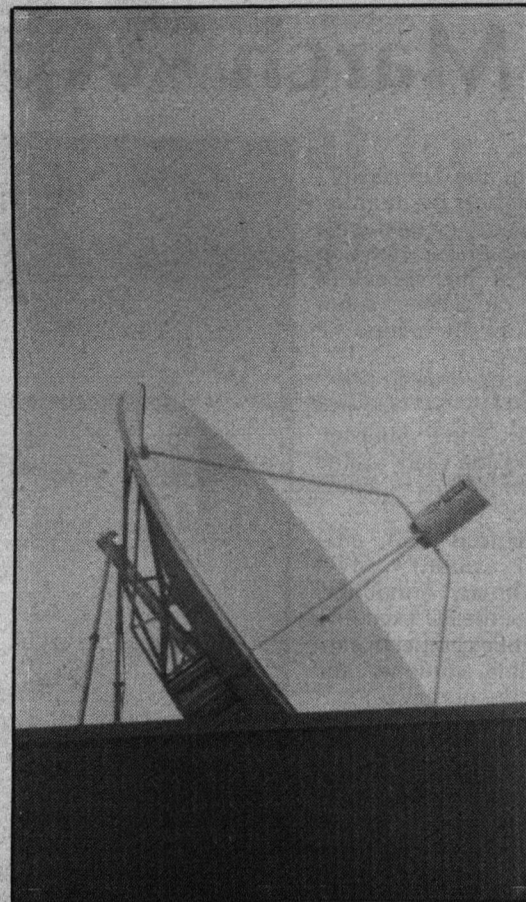
They clinched first place in Western Canada with their second best season ever and were ranked number two in the country. Too bad when the Bears went to the Canadian finals in Trois Rivieres. They lost to the fourth ranked Concordia Stingers - but now we are getting into March.

The Panda gymnasts weren't quite as lucky as the Bears. Led by Heidi Ross, the injury plagued Pandas finished fourth out of four teams in a meet in Denver.

Genesis and the late Stan Rodger's brother, Garnet, came to Edmonton in February. NeoA4 put on the most entertaining Dinwoodie, but over all it wasn't a very entertaining month.

# February

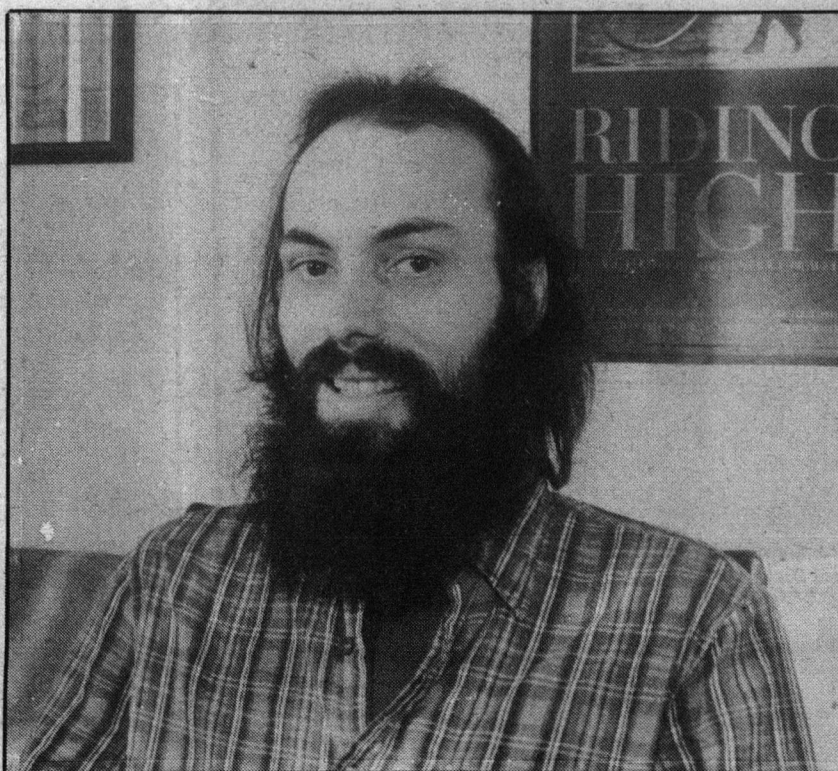
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The satellite dish perched high atop the Students' Union Building diligently tracks Soviet submarines in the North Saskatchewan.



This man is not having a great week



This is not Floyd Hodgins. It is, however, someone who looks very much like Floyd