

New quotas ignorant of society's needs

by Lisa Hall

The situation in the faculties of Arts and Science has boiled down to a case of quality versus quantity. The overflowing faculties can no longer handle the demand of students wanting to enrol in their faculties, and have begun plans to impose quotas.

Turning away students may have a good side; we don't want underqualified students taking up space in classes, and using government funding. But when a university has to turn away qualified students, something is wrong.

In a day and age when you need a university education to survive, it is unfair to limit students who have the ability to succeed, but need the ever-elusive degree to do so.

By forcing faculties to slash enrolment, the university is building a wall between would-be students and a better future. The provincial government is reinforcing this short-sighted attitude by not providing proper funding.

Registrar Brian Silzer admits that the University officials did not predict the U of A would be in the high demand that it is. "We thought enrolment would naturally go down after the baby-boom generation had gone through university, but this was wishful thinking."

More and more students who are qualified to attend university apply every year, but soon they may be denied a post-secondary education because of university officials who lacked the foresight to plan for the 21st century.

The University officials' prediction was wrong, but rather than finding ways to compensate for their error, potential students may be forced to pay for the mistake. As stated in *The Next Decade and Beyond*, the University's document of policy planning for the future, the U of A plans to decrease the number of undergraduate students, while promoting provisions for graduate students.

However, the blame does not lay at the University's doorstep alone. Enrolment quotas will be the direct result of the government's belt-tightening attitude. In 1987, elected officials hacked 3% off education funding, and post-secondary institutions are still receiving less funding than in 1986.

Government funding cuts have led to the University budget cuts, and faculties have had to deal with fewer and fewer resources.

Inadequate government funding - combined with the University's refusal to seek other solutions to enrolment demands - shows the inability of both parties to maintain a link with the needs of society.



LETTERS

Keep peasants out of RATT

Re: RATT

Alas, it has become apparent that RATT has become the "in" watering hole for non-University students. Some daring Johnnies even go so far as to wear their current high school football jackets. I can't think of any justifiable reason for the presence of non-University students in RATT. Whatever happened to checking University I.D.'s and all that? Why should I and others like me stand in infuriating line ups while unworthy peasants down beer after Students' Union subsidized beer? Enough already, keep the peasants out.

James Lain
Business III

Congratulations Gateway

I would like to say congratulations to the new staff at *The Gateway* for what I think is the best "opening issue" of *The Gateway* that I have seen in the five years that I have been familiar with the paper. This years first issue was educational as well as informative while maintaining a standard format. In a university setting where so much is so new to so many, and changes confuse and inconvenience even the returning students, a mandate to educate and

Thank you for your interest in serving the students I hope that this will continue.

Karen L. Hudson
Recreation IV

The Gateway welcomes letters to the editor.

If you have a comment which would be of interest to the students of the University, please do not hesitate to send it in. Letters may be dropped off, or mailed to our office (Room 282 SUB), or may be dropped off at the HUB or SUB info booths. The writer's name, faculty, and year of study must be included. Addresses and phone numbers are required but will not be printed.

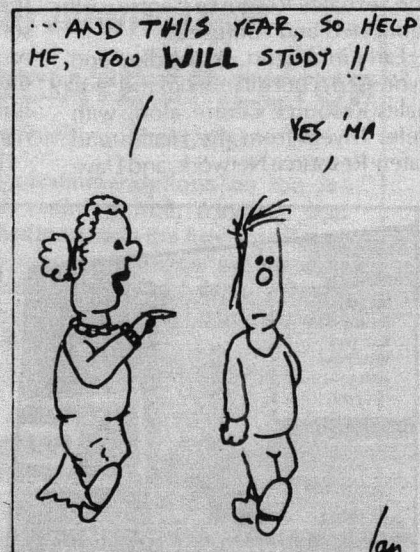
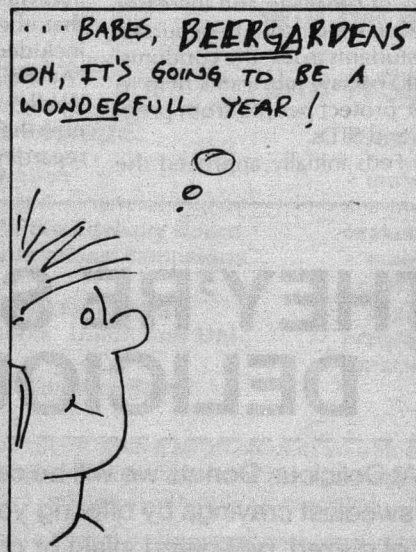
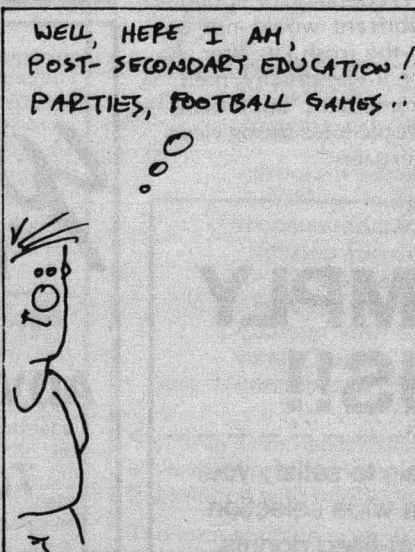
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General staff meeting at 4 pm this Thursday. All current Gateway volunteers and anyone wishing to join our merry band are invited. Come out and meet the perpetrators. ROOM 282 SUB: just five floors from RATT.