

## EDITORIAL

## The student who fell from grace with the cutbacks

The "accessibility for all" policy has fallen from grace. Before, all the student activist had to do was yell "accessible education" and students would understand the battle cry.

Welcome to the economics of the 1980's, where the government does not realize the value of an educated society and therefore underfunds education. Alberta universities are facing, for the first time, a choice between quality education and mass education due to the massive budgetary constraints set by the Tories.

The U of A decided to impose quotas on first-year students in 1984-85, meaning it opted to give the semblance of offering a quality education.

At Carleton in Ottawa, University President Bill Beckel hit a nerve when he said he would prefer a "lower quality university system open to all who qualify... over one that is elitist." It was not a popular stance as faculty, staff, and students complained that the benefits of an accessible education were not worth the cost of lower academic standards.

Beckel, who has always supported the liberal arts, gave a more detailed explanation of his comments after the *Ottawa Citizen* wrote an editorial that begged to differ with Beckel's views.

What Beckel foresees at Carleton are events that the U of A has already been through: the Pre-Quota Pains.

As the *Gateway* has reported, the U of A is splitting at the seams: there has been a hiring freeze on professors, classes are overcrowded, libraries can not order enough materials, incidental fees are commonplace, and services have been cut.

Soon Carleton, even being in recession-proof Ottawa, will experience the same problems.

Universities are not safe from a government ideology that calls for a more streamlined education system.

Here at the "brain center" known as the U of A, groups like the Education Coalition and the SU are doing their best to draw attention to the Quota Era.

The provincial government budget will be handed down on March 27th, and chances are Treasurer Lou Hyndman will allot only token (5 per cent) increases in post-secondary operating expenditures. In the last fiscal year, the U of A had an operating budget of about \$220 million and less than half that amount for capital costs.

In BC, the situation is so severe, it has spawned special (I mean really special) interest groups including Students Against the Budget, to protest government cutbacks in BC education (talk about ad hoc demonstrations!).

If the "accessibility for all" ammunition is losing its firepower, perhaps we should look more closely at the question of whether universities want an intellectual elite, or a pseudo-educated horde.

Enrollment restrictions are necessary to make education accessible to the better qualified students. Quotas are part of that strategy and serve as a useful mechanism from the standpoint of trying to maintain high standards.

Good points, every one of them.

Unfortunately, underfunding and its off-shoot, quotas, lead to internal university bickering where department heads are forced to play the game of cut-throat "quest for funds."

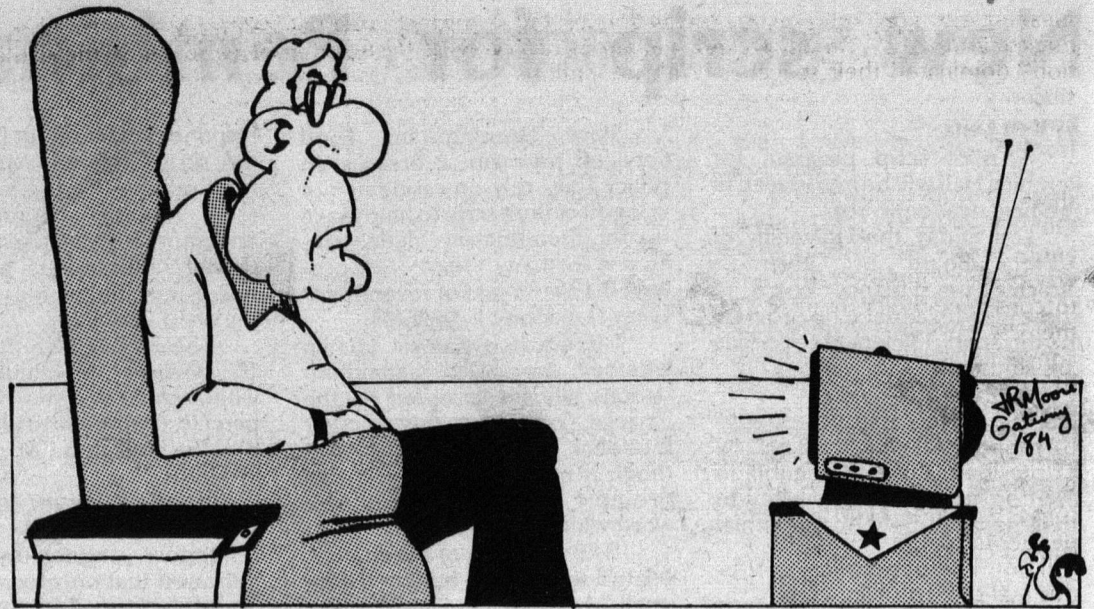
The government fails to see the less tangible effects of underfunding. Society will be deprived of valuable graduates, who are thoughtful and well-adjusted members of Canadian society.

It's true that universities can not survive unless it has high standards. It's more important, though, that a prosperous society have an educated public.

The Tory government seems to think these trade offs are some kind of high-wire balancing act.

Unless Provincial Treasurer Lou Hyndman gives the U of A more funds, we'll just be another sideshow.

Brent Jang



After laying half of Alberta waste, a smiling President Reagan announces the success of the first Cruise Missile test. Says Reagan, "Works like a hot damn, doesn't it." Trudeau couldn't stop laughing long enough to comment.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### You elected this man!

I can't believe how stupid University students are. You fools actually believe that the United States is testing the cruise to protect us from the Communists. HAI!

They claim that they are just going to check the navigational systems on terrain that is similar to the Siberian terrain.

I don't believe them.

If the Yanks wanted to be sure that the commies won't take over the world, they would fly the Cruise over Russian territory.

We know that the US will need our water within 20 years. They don't want the polluted water from Ontario; they want Alberta. What a coincidence it will be when they find that they have navigational plans (and test flights) to aim at any point in Alberta and not miss by more than 3 meters.

To protect Alberta, my friends and I are going to pick up a licence to hunt for the elusive Cruise. If we bag one, we will cook it in Quad during the first week of classes in September.

JOIN US!!

This may be your only chance to get your picture taken with a freshly slaughtered Cruise. Don't miss this unique opportunity.

With any luck, the Cruise will be extinct by next hunting season.

Gordon Stamp  
V. P. Internal elect

### For the health of it

In reference to your call for material on the University Health Services.

First of all, everyone knows that it's a cheap form of quick, relatively hassle-free medical service. What does quickness, cheapness, and hassle-free mean in terms of quality? In my experience, this has meant long waiting periods, for appointments and hurried staff who are not able to give any in-depth analysis or treatment due to time and overwork.

However; you might say that that is the role a clinic plays. Anyone who requires more care than it can give should go to a private practitioner. As a student, I can only reply that I simply cannot afford the services of a "real" doctor. To this, I might add that I also cannot afford the time it would take to get to one (my doctor operates in the extreme west-end,

only during regular office hours).

OK, fine, I've been putting up with Health Services. But what about the proposed Provincial health care cutbacks? Where does that affect the U of A Health Services, and don't tell me it won't. How will that affect an entire community of students depending on its services, regardless of its present standards? How will cutbacks affect the number of people who presently use the clinic? My guess is, the number will go up, the standards will go down, and we'll undoubtedly be faced with an eventual bill for services. Tell me I'm wrong, I don't mind having it proved to me. These sorts of things do not just affect me, they affect the general medical maintenance of 25,000 students, not to mention the University community.

Helen Schuld  
Anthropology III

### Music to my ears

Re: March 2 Entertainment page.

Alas, my anger has been incited by the *Gateway's* own self-proclaimed "music-critic".

Pray tell Patrice, what are the reasons for your harsh criticism of Jack Green?

Do Green's record-breaking sales of the album "Humanesque" substantiate your claim, or is it the "unending applause" that you base your opinion on? Had you but taken the time to read the label on "Mystique," you would have seen that "Television" is not on the album.

The purpose of touring is not only to provide the audience with excellent entertainment (which Green did), but also to test audience response to new ideas. In the future, Patrice, I suggest you spend less time looking through beer bottles at sticky bodies and more time listening to the quality music which surrounds you.

Douglas Barber  
Business I

P.S. I sure as hell wouldn't pay money for your musical critique, either.

### Nuke the bums I

As the missiles flew over Alberta, Canadian anti-cruise protestors displayed their naivete and childish ignorance. They continued to wail and sing their cliché-ridden songs. Even their rhetoric was

**gateway**  
Mar. 8, 1984, Vol. 74, No. 41

Editor in Chief: Brent Jang  
News Editors: Mark Roppel, Ken Lenz  
Managing Editor: Gilbert Bouchard  
Entertainment Editor: Greg Harris  
Sports Editor: Kent Blinston  
Photo Editors: Bill Inglee, Angela Wheelock  
CLUP Editor: Jens Andersen  
Production: Barbara Eyles, Anne Stephen  
Advertising: Tom Wright  
Media Supervisor: Margriet Tilroe-West  
Circulation: Tom Wilson

Staff this issue

The *Gateway* is the newspaper of University of Alberta students. Contents are the responsibility of the Editor-in-Chief. All opinions are signed by the writer and do not necessarily reflect the views of the *Gateway*. News copy deadlines are 12 noon Mondays and Wednesdays. Newsroom: Rm 282 (ph. 432-5168). Advertising: Rm. 256D (Ph. 432-4241), Students Union Building, U of A, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2G7. Readership is 25,000. The *Gateway* is a member of Canadian University Press.

It was the war to end all wars: Gilbertologists against human beings. Gilbertologists Bonnie Zimmerman and Terry Lindberg suffocated on their own feet. Humans Gunnar Blodgett and Amanda LeRougetel challenged Gilbertologists Ninette Gironella and Ian Ferguson to jump over a matchbox. Both failed and were summarily executed. Nate LeRoi and Anna Borowiecki (humans) stymied Patrice Struyk and Jim Moore by asking them to name their own parents. Failure sent them off the seventh floor. Shane Berg and Zane Harker's shoe laces were tied together, and Kent Cochrane and Ann Grever pushed them over on their noses. Both suffocated. Another victory for humanity. Brad Karpinka was dispatched by a sharp blow on the head. Neal and Dan Watson, laughing hysterically over their loss, were hosed down with a champagne bottle - drowned by Algard. The chains of humanity fall once again!