

## Democracy the Canadian way

by Winston Pei

"We will not forget Tiananmen Square!"

Right.

For a while it was front page news: "Brave Chinese students struggle for democracy!" What a boost for our collective democratic ego. Then came the massacre, and it burned in our democratic hearts and souls. To injury, they added insult: an outright denial outraged our sense of truth, justice and the democratic way. Democracy must prevail!

Ahhh, but that was three months ago. Now the Tiananmen Massacre is a fading memory. The Chinese government has drowned the democratic movement in a flood of propaganda. Foreign media has in turn moved its coverage on to fresher, more gratifying fights for freedom. Tiananmen has been relegated to the ranks of abandoned bandwagons.

Let's be reasonable. Things in China have not changed. Things here have. Life goes on. I have my courses, my labs, my degree to worry about. We're talking about my future. I can't worry about the Chinese students or their cause. What could I do to help democracy anyways? So why should I worry about something I can't change?

It's a very simple, comfortable rationalization. How ironic that underneath it is actually democracy, Canadian style.

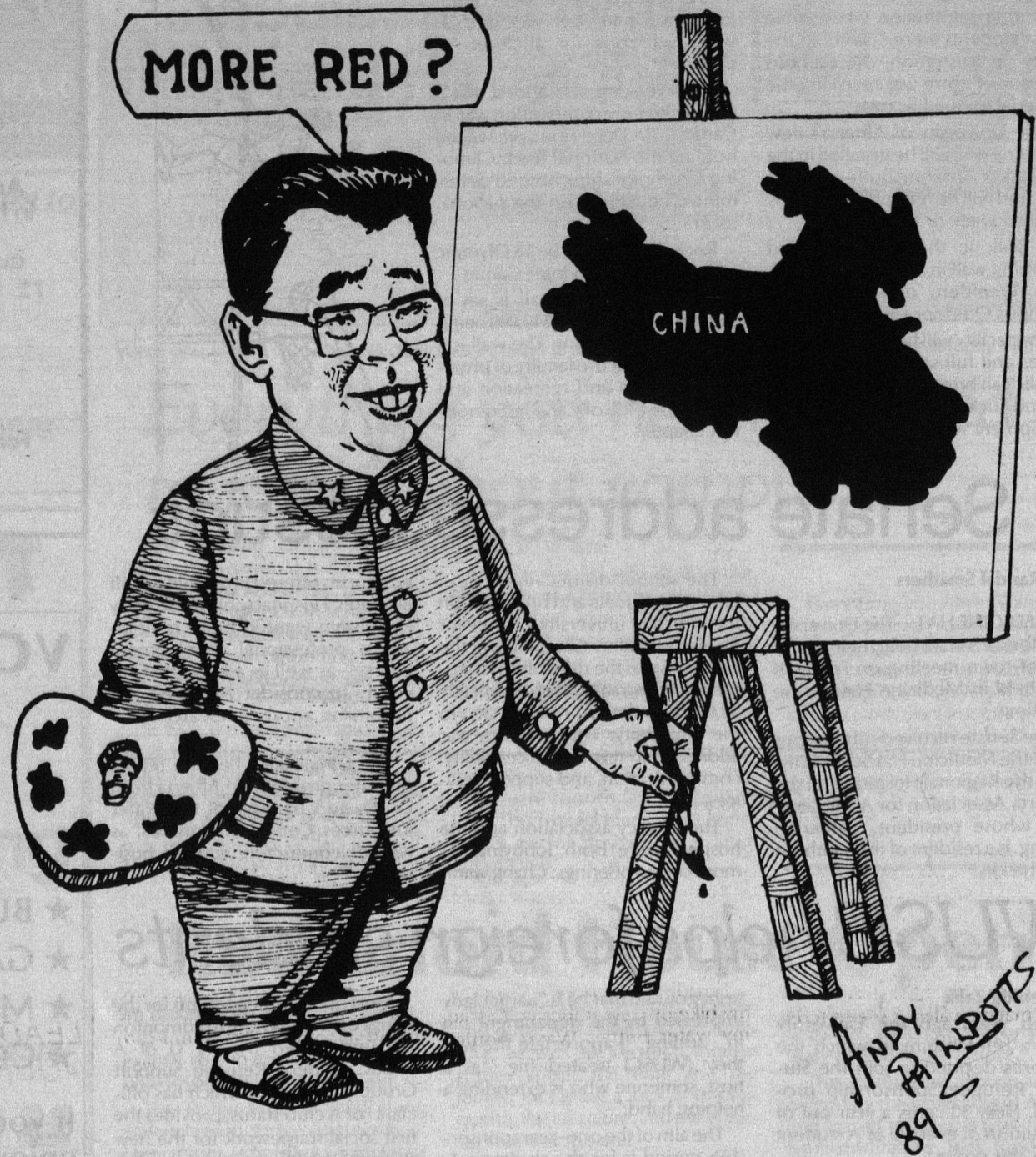
Democracy is government by the people. I decide who I want to have as my elected official and they are accountable to me. Well, no, I didn't actually vote at last year's federal election. I was really busy. The Students' Union election? No, no, never got around to that either. I really enjoyed that forum thing though.

Democracy is freedom of speech. I can say what I think and what I believe is right because it is my right. Listen to the other side? Well, they don't agree with me. Why should I pay attention while they ramble on with redundant rhetoric. Besides, they're probably wrong anyways.

Democracy is also freedom of the press. Here, the media is not just another source of government propaganda. It's a watchdog for me so that I know what my government is up to. Yeah, Bloom County was a really funny strip. Too bad about it ending and all...

Yes indeed, Canada has democracy. As Bernard Shaw once observed, democracy is "a device that insures that we shall be governed no better than we deserve." God help our fellow students in China. They deserve democracy. God help us. We already have it and it's working fine.

## "CHINA" by PREMIER LI PENG



## LETTERS

### Student's sordid plight

RE: Student Battles Registrar

I read about Laurel Houg's plight and I was prompted to write about my sordid plight.

I'm one of the last of the 3-year Generals, and I applied to convocate last June fully believing that I had all the courses I needed. O Foolish One was I!! Three weeks before my grad I was suddenly and bluntly informed by the Science Faculty that they were not allowing me to graduate.

It would seem that the Psych courses in Arts that I took to help satisfy my minor were not applicable to a degree in the Science Faculty. After I peeled my jaw off the floor I fired a letter off to the Faculty stating that a program advisor in the Math Department (my major) AND the Science Faculty office both informed me that it didn't matter if the Psych courses I took were in Science or Arts (I've taken several in both). The reply to my letter tersely informed me that if I'd read the calendar and understood it "like I was supposed to," I would've read the one sentence which states that the major and the minor for a 3-year General program must be in Science.

Since the 3-year General program is no longer offered, the last calendar which has

information for it is the '85-'86 calendar. I went to a program advisor because I couldn't find the calendar, and besides, I figured if two different knowledgeable people were saying the same thing it must be right, right? WRONG!!!

Well, I appealed to the Faculty Appeals Board, and after waiting two months to get a hearing my appeal was quashed. "It's right in the calendar, and you should have read it," they said. Pretty hard to do when you can't find it, right? No apology for being misinformed, just a blunt statement saying I need four Science Psych courses to get my degree.

So here I am, giving away more money for books and tuition, with my degree being held ransom by a Faculty who can't properly inform their own advisors — then refuses to be accountable.

Bill Simpson  
Science III

### Thanks for beer, horses

To The Gateway

I would first like to congratulate S.U. on a job well done for putting on this year's Beer Gardens. It is a great way to start the year off. I would also like to say that I thoroughly enjoyed the equestrian event on Friday afternoon.

Kevin Nichiporik  
Engineering II

### Orgasmo Adulto review cowardly

If Dragos Ruiu is not a sexist, then he needn't be afraid of expressing his opinion on the feminist themes in *Orgasmo Adulto* ("No Orgasmo for Adulto," Sept. 12).

Any feminist will admit that a feminist play may be poorly written, and Ruiu's job is then to say so.

Instead he includes a disclaimer clause, reneging on his right to an opinion: a male's point of view is supposedly unwarranted in a feminist context.

Ruiu's defensiveness makes me wonder what he is trying to hide. Perhaps he is fixated on his "male genitalia," which he finds necessary to mention. He does use the expression "penned by" to indicate the play's authors, an unfortunate choice of words in the context of an Italian play like *Orgasmo*, because the word "pen" is related to "pene," the Italian word for penis.

Everyone has the right to an opinion. As a critic, Ruiu should make his explicit and avoid confusing his readers.

Sarah Evans  
Arts III

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