

Get out of NORAD

BACK IN THE DAYS OF DR. Strangelove, the United States made Canada an offer we couldn't refuse.

"Mutual defense," said Uncle Sam. "You let us use your high Arctic to set up our radar systems, and when them Russki bombers come over the pole to nuke us, we'll send up our planes and shoot 'em down."

"Fair enough," said Johnny Canuck. And NORAD, the North American Air Defense system, was born. Uncle Sam built the Distant Early Warning line and sat waiting for the Russki bombers that never came.

The NORAD agreement is now up for renewal for the first time in five years. Now is the time to give serious thought to putting this cold war remnant to rest.

For one thing, the basic premise of the agreement is no longer operable. Bomber aircraft no longer form a major part of the Soviet nuclear strike force; today, nearly all nuclear arms are missile-launched. Planes can't shoot down missiles. If the high Arctic radar sends Uncle Sam the news that the Soviet missiles are on their way, all he'll be able to do is adopt the basic civil defense manoeuvre: place your head between your knees and kiss your

ass goodbye.

Of course, the warning would allow Uncle Sam the time to launch his own missiles, thus completing the cycle of destruction. Like all other "defensive" military systems, NORAD is not based on the ability to defend oneself, but rather on the ability to hit back. The Soviet system operates on the same theory.

Faced with this situation there are two options. The first is mutual nuclear disarmament. This is the sane option. The second is to build a new system to destroy all, or at least most, of the incoming enemy missiles. This is the insane option. It is called "Star Wars."

Until 1981, the NORAD agreement contained a clause saying Canada would not participate if the U.S. developed an anti-ballistic missile (ABM) system in contravention to the international Anti Ballistic Missile treaty. That year, prime minister Trudeau had the clause dropped, saying he was confident the U.S. would not break the treaty, and therefore the clause was redundant.

Four years later, the U.S. is beginning to develop "Star Wars." So much for treaties; so much for Trudeau.

At the very least, Canada must

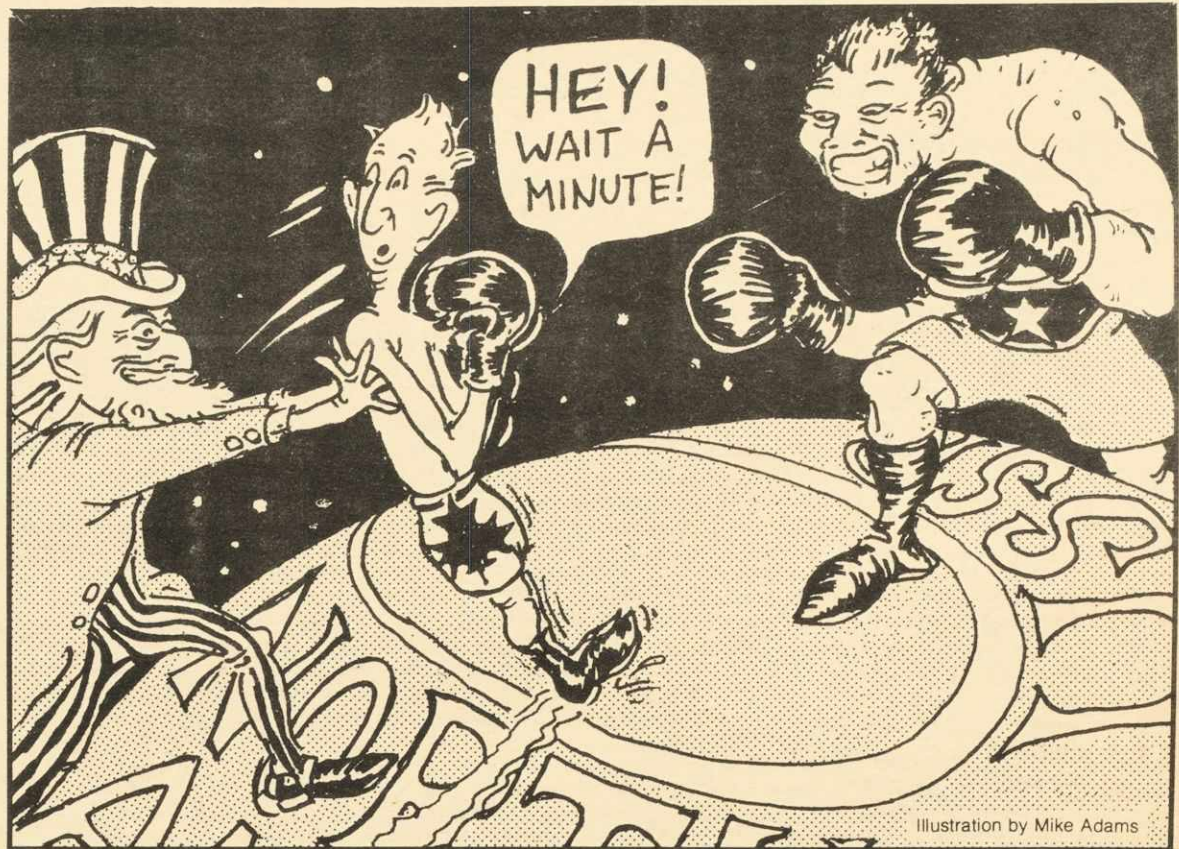


Illustration by Mike Adams

get this clause reinserted when the NORAD agreement is renewed.

At best, Canada will not renew it at all, though this seems unlikely, considering who's in the prime minister's office.

NORAD will inevitably draw Canada into the "Star Wars" scheme. The scheme won't work

anyway, but even the U.S. military will have to admit it won't work if they don't have access to the Canadian north. Our territory is needed as the buffer between the Soviet arctic and the U.S. If Canada says no to NORAD, or even *threatens* to say no, the U.S. will be forced to give up on their eye-in-the-sky "Star Wars" plan,

and get down to serious negotiations on disarmament with the USSR.

For 28 years NORAD has helped preserve the myth that deterrence can save us from nuclear destruction. It's time to bring that myth to its knees. Let's get out of NORAD.

OPINION

Letters

Office Economics

To the editors,

I enjoyed Richard Reagh's timely piece on "Office Politics" (*Gazette*, 26 September 1985) but want to correct the claim that the "tri-semester system" is more efficient and more economical than our present system.

There was a time when I too thought that was the case, and the Faculty of Arts and Science sent me to Simon Fraser University and the University of Guelph to check it out. SFU and Guelph have been operating tri-semester programs for nearly two decades, and they are the only universities in Canada which do so.

I learned that faculty members like the arrangement, using it to gain increased flexibility — they can take a winter term off to do research instead of cramming all their research into the summer period when there are few classes. I learned that students like the arrangement because it means that they can start a program in January and in April, not just in September. But I also learned that in practice the overwhelming majority of students at SFU and Guelph do not take advantage of this possibility. Apparently they just like to know that it is there.

Finally I learned that government do not like the tri-semester system because it always costs 20-30% more to operate, even when it is running at its most efficient level. When the campus runs classes year-round, it means that registration must be carried out three times more frequently, that every basic class (say, Psychology 1000) must be offered three times annually instead of just once, and that maintenance which might have been easily scheduled for the quiet summer months is much more difficult to carry out.

Ever since SFU started the tri-semester system, the government of British Columbia has provided a generous additional *per capita* grant to keep it running. Ontario did the same for Guelph for its first decade of operation but then cut Guelph off. Guelph survived in large part because of savings achieved through massive computerization of registration and advising, but it still feels the pinch. In particular its summer semester is drastically reduced.

The irony of all this is that the call for "tri-semester" systems to cut costs at university started in the late 1960s when a Montreal businessman told chambers of commerce that the "tri-semester" system is cheaper to run than the traditional September-April system. Because he was a businessman with a reputation for efficiency, nobody bothered to check out the facts. Mr. William Davis, then Minister of University Affairs in Ontario, pressured the University of Guelph into switching to the tri-semester system, and gave it an

extra subsidy to help with start-up costs.

In the event the tri-semester system proved consistently more costly than the present one, today its primary justification in B.C. and Ontario is social, not economic. Professors like the flexibility; foreign students (but rarely Canadian students) like to start a program in January and April. I wish that anyone promoting the "tri-semester" system (including Mr. Ken Rowe who urged it on the Halifax Chamber of Commerce last February) would check the facts first. We can't afford to be that "efficient".

Tom Sinclair-Faulkner
Associate Professor

Clean sex

To the editors,

Re: "Dalhousie Gentlemen"
Although the producers of this calendar define their motives as "spice" and commerce, I cannot help but feel that they have completely ignored, either by choice or naivety, the implications of such an endeavour.

The "possibility of exploitation" is a reality, Ms. Meacher and Ms. Hunt. The danger you don't see lies in its lack of detection by the majority you point to.

Let us examine the project more closely:

- 1) What is the target market of this product? — Young women.
- 2) Why? — Because young women like pictures of attractive

young men. Fine.

BUT is it really a "far stretch of the imagination" to describe such photographs as exploitive or sexual?

Sex is not just nudity and intercourse. This is "clean sex", but sex nonetheless.

Are bare-breasted women in Calvin Klein ads sex objects? — Of course. Are fully clothed women in Texaco garage calendars sex objects? — Certainly. Are gentlemen in a university calendar sex objects? — Yup.

Rosemary Power

Acadia replies

To the editors,

With regards to your editorial of September 19, 1985 commenting on Acadia's decision to pull out of SUNS, it seems your readers are not being adequately informed. You frankly stated, "The decision stinks. Stinks on ice. And should be reversed as soon as possible."

Allow me to clarify Acadia's position. The points which were discussed were not centered around finances. These points were:

1. SUNS' duplication of services and representation,
2. SUNS' poor representation with government officials and member institutions,
3. The lack of direction and mandate SUNS holds,
4. SUNS' poor financial accountability to member institutions,
5. The ineffectiveness of the lobbying with government

bodies, and

6. The poor track record SUNS has.

These points were thoroughly discussed by our SRC and the SUNS representatives present at the meeting. It is my hope the SUNS members do not take our position as personal, we are seeking a better way to represent Acadia students specifically, and generally Nova Scotia students.

The review which was conducted was under the instruction of our SRC and it has been an ongoing process for three years. Finally this review has come to a close with strong support from the SRC (75% voting in favour of the motion).

Much to SUNS representatives' surprise, and perhaps yours, our council is aware of SUNS and its performance. When Barney Savage of Dalhousie states, "At this stage, now in September, I don't think his (Publicover's) council knows what's going on (in SUNS)." I ask the question "does he?" Mr. Savage is definitely uneducated on the competencies of the Acadia Students' Union council.

Acadia joins the ranks of Non-SUNS members (TUNS, University of Sainte Anne, UCCB, NSAC and N.S. Teachers' College). As you can see we are not alone and perhaps more will be joining us.

In closing, Acadia is not striking against the concept of unity of unions but how the concept is implemented.

Keith Publicover
SRC President
Acadia Students' Union