

the Gateway

EDITORIAL

Playing games

The university is playing games while our education falters.

No ordinary games these, the 1983 World University Games. They are even bigger and even more sophisticated than the Commonwealth Games. They are, in fact, second in size only to the vaunted Olympics (which after the 1980 boycott are no longer so vaunted). World records will fall. Edmontonians will see the cream of the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics fully a year before the Californians. These Games, we are supposed to think, are very significant.

These Games are especially significant however, for during the next two years as the campus comes more and more to resemble a glorified sandbox, U of A president Myer Horowitz's dream of this university as a Harvard or Stanford of the North will become more and more of an illusion.

The issue is money. The issue specifically is \$32 million dollars the province of Alberta has been so kind to give the university for Games' capital spending. And the big question is: what did the university have to give up in academic priorities to support playground priorities?

Some people think the university gave up a much needed new Business and Commerce building. Business and Commerce dean Roger Smith has said he's reasonably sure the government's refusal to find a new building is tied to the government's Games funding.

Myer Horowitz says emphatically no, there are no such ties. The university would never have agreed to sacrifice academic priorities, Horowitz says, to Games funding. Thus, minister of Advanced Education and Manpower Jim Horsman assured the university, Horowitz says, that Games funding would be provided on top of regular funding.

Jim Horsman in fact provides a slightly less optimistic perspective. In June Horsman told the *Edmonton Journal* that the university originally requested Games facilities be considered separately from normal capital needs (such as a Business and Commerce building).

"They made a pitch to have these regarded separately from other priorities," Horsman told the *Journal*. But he also said the provincial government turned down that request.

"They tried very valiantly to get everything... but nobody gets everything they ask for," Horsman said. "Right from the beginning we advised the university we would consider any capital requirements for the Games as part of the normal budgetting process."

Down but not out, president Horowitz suggests the following: that even if the Games' capital needs are included in the total capital budget, each budget item is considered separately on its own merits. Thus, he says, there is no conflict. Ignore the fact that if this were so, the university need not have requested Games' funding be considered separately in the first place. Ignore also that if each item were considered on its own merits, there would be no reason for the university to maintain a set of capital priorities, as it does. The important thing, we should believe, is the fact that it is purely coincidental that the Games were funded and the academic priority was not.

I'm not sure what to believe, or who to believe. Myer Horowitz insists university priorities were not skewed. "We have been assured that there is no relationship" between academics and Games funding, he told the *Gateway*.

He was assured this by Jim Horsman, who has minced words on the matter of priorities but who on capital funding in general says, "nobody gets everything they ask for."

At least one thing is clear: as concerns the 1983 World University Games, the university certainly has asked for it. What remains to be seen is how well it bears the costs.

Peter Michalyszyn

A note

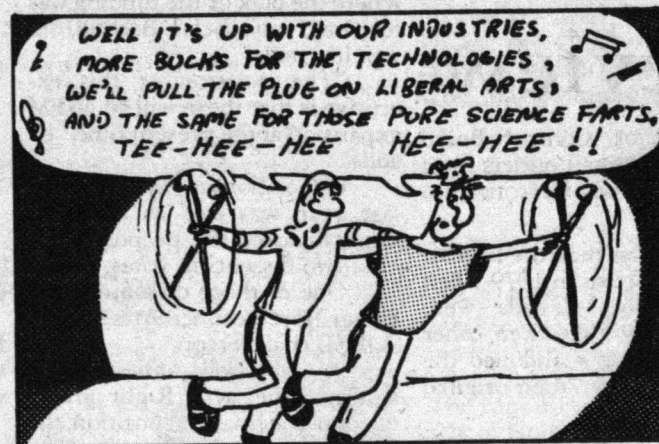
...on the arms race, from William F. Buckley Jr.

"At the reception after the speech someone threw a pie at my face and in the ensuing commotion escaped, unnoticed. The episode was worth it because the next night, at dinner with the law school people, a huge pie was brought in and placed ceremoniously in front of me. On it was inscribed: 'The right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.'

I now have a counterforce capability."

P.M.

CUTBACKS COMICS



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

East Germany not so bad

Dear Sir:

I certainly sympathize with Mr. Michalyszyn's hope that we in Canada can continue to live quietly and peacefully. However, I believe the path to peaceful and quiet existence hinges on keeping an accurate and unbiased picture of international events, rather than grafting preconceived notions of barbed-wire, jack-boots, and killer guard dogs onto a whirlwind tour of East Berlin.

Unlike Mr. Michalyszyn, I am a former resident of West Berlin (1978-79) and although I have no desire to give a rose-coloured view of life on the other side, I would like to clarify some of the statements and inferences made in his recent editorial.

Access to what Mr. Michalyszyn ironically calls a "Soviet paradise" is hardly a problem. Mr. Michalyszyn needn't have taken a hermetically-sealed, guide-escorted tour of the East. One gets the impression his views were partially shaped by the restrictive conditions under which he chose to travel. He simply could have, as I did 20 odd times in the course of my residence, taken the subway from West Berlin to East, bought his visa without pre-arrangement at the control gate, and after a minor 20-minute check procedure, been free to inspect the city at his leisure.

Unfortunately, it is evident the Mr. Michalyszyn doesn't speak the language of the natives (otherwise he would have known

that "Volkspolizei" simply means "police" and is not a make of automobile).

He might also have discovered that, except at a number of special "Intershops" where East Germans are also required to pay in Western currency, it is elsewhere not demanded and frequently rejected — as is American currency here.

In addition to Mr. Michalyszyn's statistics, I would like to add a few more. According to a relatively recent study by West German journalist Guenther Wallraff, about 40% of all "Obdachlose" (transients and winos) in West Germany are former refugees from the East. Presumably "in pursuit of cars, girls, money, and holidays in the sun" which according to Mr. Michalyszyn are the equivalent of freedom, they ultimately found adjustment in a competitive society more than they could cope with.

Incidentally, I rather doubt they were after cars. Statistically, most East German families own their own car, and in my own experience the streets of East Berlin were full of Wartburgs and Skodas. Finally, the standard of living in East Germany, while not comparable to that of West Germany (neither is Canada's, for that matter), is quite comfortable and in addition higher than that of free England or Italy.

Clearly Mr. Michalyszyn does not want to live in East

Berlin. However, if he had adequately prepared himself to view the city he wouldn't have had to rely on what I suspect were plagiarized quotes from Time magazine to complete his impressions.

Percy Toop
Special Student
Part Time

Student lost in the shuffle

Dear Gateway,

I have enjoyed reading your paper through the years, but find myself lost in the change of organization.

Please put footnotes back on the last page and the editorials on page 4.

Thank you for listening to my vote.

Laurel Borisenko
Education 4

Masters in observation

Dear Gateway,

Observation after second week of university: briefcases and men's designer jeans — surely the scourge of the earth.

Kevin Dardis
Commerce II

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The Gateway is the newspaper of the students of the University of Alberta. With a readership of more than 25,000 the Gateway is published by its proprietor, the Students' Union, Tuesdays and Thursdays during the winter session. Contents are the responsibility of the editor; editorials are written by an editorial board or signed. All other opinions are signed by the party expression them. Copy deadlines are noon Mondays and Wednesdays. The Gateway, a member of Canadian University Press and of CUP Media Services, is located in Room 282 Students' Union Building, Edmonton, Alberta, T6G 2J7. Newsroom — 432-5168; advertising — 432-3423.

Staff this issue: Ah yes, 'T WAS THE JOY AND WONDROUS BEAUTY OF THE EARLY PRESS NIGHT THAT WAS SAVORED BY ALL. "It makes me want to live!" cried Mike Walker. "Oh but isn't it so," chimed in Geoffrey Jackson and Pat Just. "And since we're done so early..." began Brad Dreschlar, waiting for Kent Linton and Dave Cox to join in the cheer, "we can all chugga chugga go and drink chugga chugga till we all chugga fall chugga down." Garnet DuGray and Russ Sampson were misty eyed and overcome by the special joy of the moment. Diana Taschuk confided that she'd never had such a rare emotional experience. And Peter Melnychuk and Don Millar were simply gloriously awed that the Gateway could play such a stupendous role in everyone's life.