

EDITORIAL

Tories down on education

Though last week's release of the Symons and Page report on Canadian studies did make it to the front page of Thursday's *Globe and Mail*, the report has created considerably less controversy than a 1975 report by the same authors.

Both reports were commissioned by the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC). The 1975 study, *To Know Ourselves*, supposedly startled the academic community. The report charged that Canadian studies programmes were suffering.

More generally, governments were not paying attention to the concept of higher education and the university as "a distinctive institution."

The 1984 report, *Some Questions of Balance*, points the finger directly at the provincial and federal governments. All this and more in a mere 268 pages.

In order to keep Canadian scholars in the academic community, the government will have to commit funds so that a strategy can be developed to create faculty positions, says the report.

For every three doctorates granted in Canada, there is one academic position up for grabs.

As well, undergraduate female enrollment escalated 50 per cent from 1972 to 1982, but women represent only 15.5 per cent of fulltime professors.

The report shows the problems with university curricula and points out unwieldy academic frameworks.

University administrators have failed to "rectify the iniquities" which lead to problems, such as a lack of female professors.

U of A president Myer Horowitz says it is the government's lack of funding that is causing the internal university battles.

The Minister of Advanced Education, Dick Johnston, says that it is only in exceptional cases that he can arrange special funding.

The U of A's operating budget in 1982-83 was \$209 million and its capital budget was \$46 million for land, buildings, and plants, and another \$53 million for furnishings and equipment.

The provincial budget projected \$9.6 billion in expenditures for 1983-84 on the operating side. This is a fourteen per cent increase in the Provincial government's operating budget since the previous year.

The Tories increased post-secondary institutions' operating budgets by only 5 per cent.

Priorities, some may call it; others would say (and more accurately) that universities are being ignored in a time of crisis.

The Alberta Tory mentality seems to be that we're just in another one of those cycles and it's really no big deal - enrollment will eventually drop.

Well, enrollment hasn't dropped.

There are 23,286 full-time students on campus. That's a 9 per cent jump from January 1983.

There are over 4000 part time students - an increase of 11 per cent over last year.

Deans and Department heads are struggling to stay within budget.

"Our governments are setting the stage for social unrest by shutting off all options to our unemployed youth," says federal NDP post-secondary critic Pauline Jewett. "Our governments must not be allowed to abandon the goal of universal accessibility to post-secondary education."

Besides the Symons and Page report, a brief presented in December to the Royal Commission on the Economic Union and Development prospects for Canada wants the commission to put the heat on the government.

The Established Programs Funding (EPF) Act of 1977 needs to be amended to give greater federal support to universities.

The EPF deal expired in the spring of 1982 but when Finance Minister Marc Lalonde renewed the agreement, he cut back the Federal transfer payments. Lalonde does not dismiss the idea of an emergency fund to alleviate some of the problems caused by overcrowding. However, he is putting the onus on the provincial government, saying the feds won't hand out the bucks until the Alberta Tories make a move.

The two levels of government can't agree on energy, constitutional issues, or medicare. Can anyone really expect Loughheed's Advanced Education troupe to initiate talks on new funding or new formulas for emergency funds?

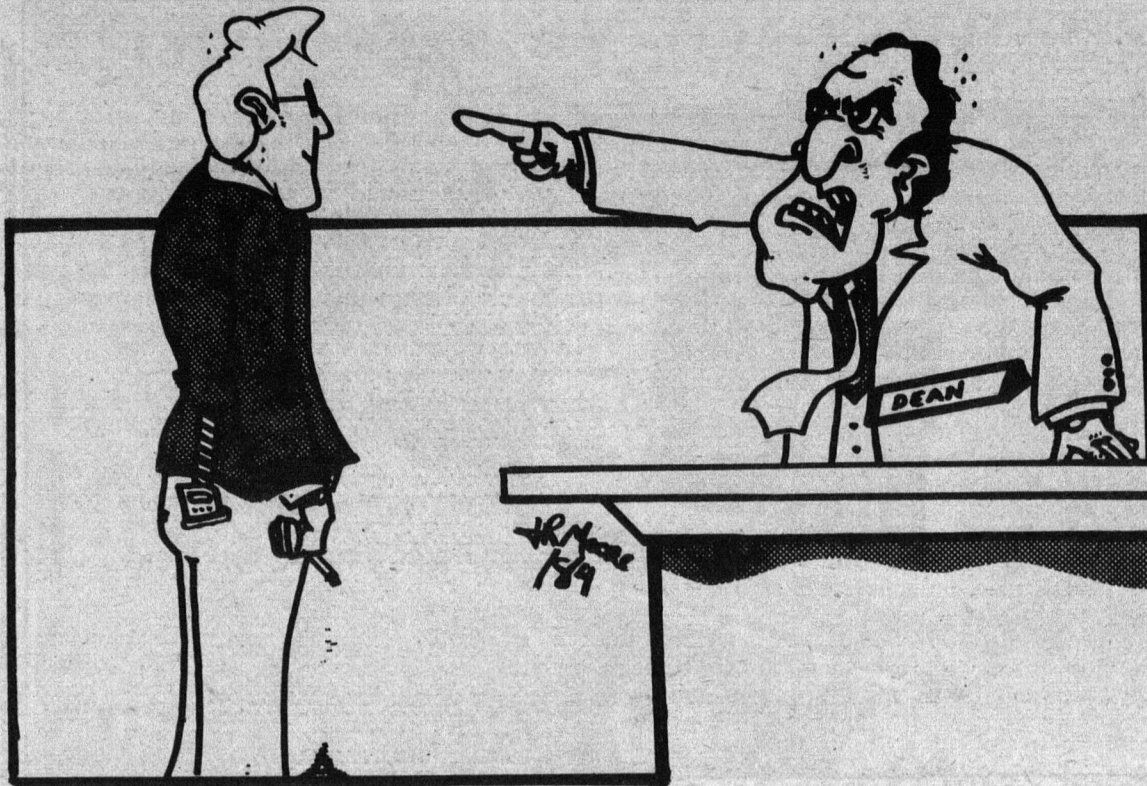
A sad situation.

The governments fight externally, the university fights internally, and the students suffer exponentially.

Canada's academic community is not being well served. Federal and Provincial governments need to look at the Symons and Page report, and for once not dismiss the criticisms as "ivory tower bitching". There is a serious decay in Canadian studies - and thus Canadian identity.

Government "has an obligation to give substantially more support" to universities. While Symons and Page reveal the problems Canadian scholars will have in landing jobs as professors, the undergraduate students worry about making it through a low quality university.

Brent Jang



I don't care if it is Engineering Week! Where did you hide the Humanities Building?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Frustrated VP speaks out

My comments on Student Council debate as reported January 12th have unfortunately been misinterpreted by a number of students. I, in no way, intended to offend councilors valuable input or suggest that council should be a rubber stamp for executive motions.

Frustration has run rampant for all concerned with the status of the CFS referendum. Now that this has been settled I hope all members of council, myself included, will forget past differences and work cooperatively for all students.

Barb Donaldson
VP Academic

Other genocides of concern

I should like to thank the Gateway for their exciting *Edmonton Journal* reprint service which they now offer to their readers (see Hungry Ukrainians Fail to Leave the Soviet Union - article; Gateway January 12, 1984). I think it is very interesting, but perhaps if we are all so concerned *Lest We Forget* perhaps I might anticipate coverage, in the Gateway of the genocide in East Timor, or Eritrea, both of which are occurring within the lifespan of the editor; and not fifty years earlier where it can not be prevented or stopped.

Kevan Warner
Arts

To L with the U

That's it.

We're pissed off.

Those back wrenched days of agony in Tory are numbered.

No longer will they have to sit all by themselves in CAB; alone, surrounded by a sea of Righties Nuke V. Wing.

We have the technology.

We can make desks better than they were. Better?

Stronger....Faster....and Leftier.

We have Lefts too, Mr. and Mrs. Administration.
The Left Stuff

And she's off (to see the wizard?)

I cannot thank you enough for the press I received on the front page of the Gateway (January 12, 1984). No doubt it will prove to be invaluable to me and my slate in the February Students' Union election. Thank you again.

Yours very truly,
Lisa Schnell

Let them eat hockey pucks

Well, you dug it up again, didn't you? The annual "you guys out there aren't good sports because you don't support your varsity football basketball and hockey teams" editorial. I'm sure that you keep it in a time-lock vault that opens automatically at this time of year. The byline changes from year to year, but the ideas don't. I used to read the editorial, hang my head in guilt for fifteen seconds, chuck it in the nearest receptacle and feel pretty good for the rest of the year. This year however, I hope to convince you to put it away permanently and save me that fifteen seconds of guilt.

First, let's stop lamenting the fact that we don't pack the fans in like they do in the good old U.S. of A. This is Canada and we are Canadians. Americans invade little islands, support repressive dictatorships, boo Wayne Gretzky and spend a lot of time watching sporting events; Canadians don't, and that's o.k. with me. The hyperactivity that takes place in America on game day is part of their culture, but it isn't part of ours and I don't see why it should be.

It should be obvious to just about anybody, that

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A priest, a rabbi, and a shrieking horde of Gilbertologists walk into a bar. Richard Watts, the priest, orders a whiskey from the bartender, Denise Workum. Zane Harker, the rabbi, asks for a glass of Mogen David from another bartender, Kent Cochrane. The Gilbertologists screech for beer, beer, and more beer, until waiters Bonnie Zimmerman, Ian Ferguson, Shane Berg, and George Scott come in from the Back Room. Neal Watson, and Jim Watson, seeing no way out of this stupid schtick, ask Cheryl Parsons what she is doing here. She says she stopped to rest because her knee hurt. Stuart Lemaire asks what a joint like that is doing in a nice girl like her. Patrice Struyk douses his lights with an ashtray and asks Jordan Peterson if he really is Wayne Gretzky. And life gets no respect.