



STUDENT  
UNION FORUMS

on the

## UNITED NATIONS

Thursday, Feb. 19  
12:30 p.m.  
SUB Theatre

### BARBARA WHITE

Deputy United States Ambassador to the UN for special Political Affairs speaking on

## THE POLITICS OF INTERDEPENDENCE

the United States and International Organizations

with a 3-member  
'Under Attack' panel:

Mohammad Deeb,  
Bill Donaghue, and  
Ian Kerr

Friday, Feb. 20  
12 p.m.  
SUB Theatre

### DR. MARION GALLIS



Economist with the UN conference on Trade and Development and author of the book, "Trade for Justice, Myth or Mandate," on tour for the Ten Days for World Development programme, speaking on

## A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER

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food service

9 AM till 11 PM

"refreshments"

3 PM till 11 PM

(fri & sat till 12)

7th floor SUB There's Room at the Top

# What education

Many people think that trends in Canadian education merely repeat American educational experiments of two or three years previous. But apparently that's not true, at least not in regards to post-secondary educational trends.

For example, a while back we received a press release from the States and in it we found many of the same trends in education that our own post-secondary educators are concerned with. Such things as centralized decision-making (witness the recent hue and cry over the proposed Adult Education Act), declining academic standards (witness Dr. Gunning's talk of a 'Bill of Institutional Rights') and so on.

So we've taken the liberty of reprinting the release (in modified form) along with comments from three important officials on campus. The three U of A officials made comments either about the American statements about concerns similar to the ones he expressed, so it would be a good idea to read the Michigan blurb first, to give you a perspective for the other three.

Ann Arbor, Mich. (I.P.) - In his annual State of the University address, University of Michigan President Robben W. Fleming comments on a number of problems; some of which are duplicated at the University of Alberta.

drumfire of articles and books questioning the need for a college education has raised doubts in the minds of many potential students; their parents, and taxpayers."

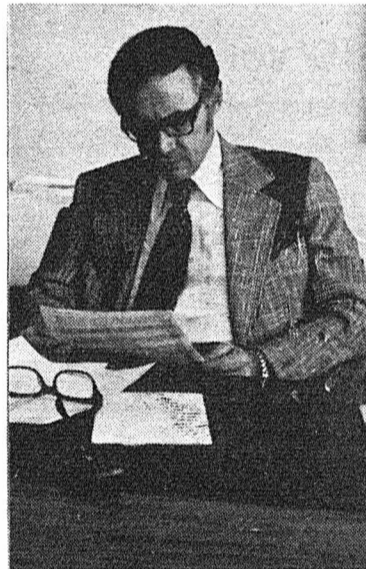
### Educational trends:

"There are several trends in education which are depressing. One is the number of badly conceived plans for centralizing decision-making in one or another central apparatus. This development has been sold to legislators on the theory that it would save money and improve quality, though there is little or no evidence that it does either. There is impressive evidence that it stultifies decision-making, transfers the decision to those with the least experience in the administration of institutions, bureaucratizes the system, and, ironically enough, increases costs for unnecessary functions.

"A second trend, at least as serious as the first, is the great pressure which is being exerted toward the homogenization of all higher education ... where universities are being asked to assume expenses which would otherwise accrue to the government.

"Third among the significant trends is the current disillusionment as to whether going to university contributes to finding a job. The steady

### R.G. Baldwin, Dean of Arts



"Arts graduates are mostly unemployable," says Dean Baldwin. "Certain skills and methodologies - language, writing, etc. are taught. The purpose of Arts is to teach people to think. Arts appropriates or frees a man by teaching him what questions to ask."

### Undergrad education:

"The first criticism, which comes most frequently from employers of college graduates is that students write badly. (Our people) believe that the writing of today's students is neither noticeably better nor worse than it was in years past.

"The second criticism is our heavy reliance on assistants in our underclass programs. Nothing we could do would match in importance in the public's eye the insertion of more professors into the undergraduate program.

"The third undergraduate problem is whether we can afford to sustain all the great diversity of programs which we now offer."

### Professional and graduate training.

Enrolment in expensive professional and graduate work has increased, President Fleming pointed out. "Behind the

"Arts, he says, is not succeeding in this purpose due to budgetary cuts. Some areas of Arts are known for their excellence but, he says, research is respectable, and undergraduate teaching is not good. Unfortunately, there are few in Arts who actually find fun. The solution, he says, is "more staff, smaller classes. The government should provide alternative facilities, Athabasca University, for example, but even it has now been dumped.

Quotas, he feels are forthcoming. Performance in high schools then will measure acceptability into university programs.

"Decentralized decision-making is a precious notion on this campus," says Baldwin. "Money handed out to the faculties is not earmarked. They don't specify what the money is for. The faculty then hands it out. Although it looks flexible, there is little movement of large sums of money around the university. The different faculties have maintained their historical share of the money.

The problem with this, says Baldwin, is that there is no major modification of response to a change of emphasis. There is a response to student enrolment. There was a dispute between arts and Business Administration and Commerce over the hiring of unnecessary economists. In a case such as this, he says, centralized decision-making might have resulted in more careful screening of staff appointments.

"There are virtues in centralizing, but decentralization cuts down on long distance decision-making. I wish there were some way of getting the best out of centralized decision-making without damaging flexibility."

Individual faculty decisions, feels Baldwin, have far reaching implications on others. "As dean I do not want others messing unduly in my affairs, but we are too big to act as Balkan states."

### Bishops University Scholarship Exchange Program

- an english liberal arts university in lennoxville, quebec
- scholarship includes remission of tuition and fees at bishops

#### qualifications:

- must have completed one year of a 3 or 4 year degree
- must return to u of a for final year
- be a full time undergraduate student
- a canadian student or landed immigrant

applications are available - the student awards office

application deadline - March 1, 1976