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Academic Decision-Making

On balance, although I support the University of Maryland in its efforts to survive under horrendous fiscal mandates, I would like to take issue with J. R. Dorfman's revisionist view of events (Letters, 3 Dec., p. 1499). In particular, Dorfman asserts that "The process used to accomplish [monetary savings] involved faculty, staff, and students in every stage of the decision-making." As president of the Physics Graduate Student Association (PGSA) at the University of Maryland during the period in question (1991–1992), I have to say that I know of no efforts to involve either students or staff in the decision-making. On the contrary, I was present at several meetings about, and protests against, administration decisions.

Had I been consulted, I most certainly would have communicated the view of the majority of my fellow students and co-workers. That view is that a university serves two primary functions, research and teaching. And before a university takes any role interfering with either of these functions, it should make reductions in functions *not* related to research or teaching.

Administration is one example; large building projects is another. The University of Maryland is one of several universities at which a visitor will observe a truly extraordinary phenomenon: research and teaching support is trimmed to the bone at the same time that enormous resources are poured into several simultaneous construction enterprises. During the year that I served on the PGSA, the Science and Engineering library was forced to cancel subscriptions to

more than 600 periodicals, professors in the mathematics department took turns working in the mailroom, seven entire academic departments were slated for elimination, and as many new buildings were constructed. What was the first of these buildings to be completed? The administrative annex. At the same time that academic cuts were planned, the administration was actually expanding.

The administration's role was never to actively involve faculty, staff, or students in these decisions. Its role was not to vigorously protest the budget cuts, to lambast its congressional foes, to sponsor alternative initiatives, or to expose the financial fictions that permitted frenetic construction at the same time as Draconian cuts in research and teaching. Its role was to manage the reductions. It played that role expertly. And the university is poorer as a result.

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For the Record

In connection with our Research Article "Guanidinium chloride induction of partial unfolding in amide proton exchange in RNase A" (5 Nov., p. 873), Clare Woodward asks that, for the record, we point out her early paper [C. Woodward and B. D. Hilton, *Biophys. J.* 32, 561 (1980)] which proposes two different processes leading to hydrogen exchange in native proteins, on the basis of exchange rate data for individual peptide NH protons in bovine pancreatic trypsin inhibitor. We are glad to do this. References to later work on this problem by Woodward and her coworkers are given in a review by C. Woodward, I. Simon, and E. Tüchsen [*Mol. Cell. Biochem.* 48, 135 (1982)].

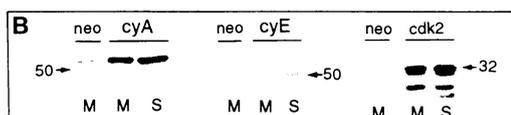
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Corrections and Clarifications

In the report "A link between cyclin A expression and adhesion-dependent cell cycle progression" by T. M. Guadagno *et al.* (3 Dec., p. 1572), figure 2B on page 1573 was incorrectly printed. The correct figure appears below.



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