

Oscar Wilde...

the Gateway

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...was a pain in the ass.

Tuition increase on the way

by Portia Prieger

Tuition fees will increase this year at Alberta universities, said Minister of Advanced Education and Manpower Jim Horsman last week.

However, "the levels and percentages of the increases have not yet been determined...and will depend on our discussions with student associations and boards of governors," he said Monday in an interview with the *Gateway*.

Horsman said he is also reviewing the student aid program and the Grantham and Hunka reports on student contributions to post-secondary education. He said he may make the official announcement on

tuition fee increases and student aid program next spring.

Students' Union president Dean Olmstead expressed concern over the proposed tuition fee increase.

He said although some students will be able to afford the increase, many people will be denied a post-secondary education for financial reasons.

"If we had a perfect student loan plan, the situation would be different," he said. "Under the present circumstances I must argue against increases."

He said the Students' Union hopes to present a brief on tuition fees and student aid to Horsman.

Olmstead said Horsman may announce tuition increase and changes to the student aid program at the same time to reduce the negative reaction to the tuition increases.

Acting executive officer of the Federation of Alberta Students (FAS) Punam Khosla said changes to the student aid plan would not necessarily offset the effects of a tuition increase.

She also said FAS is concerned because there was no consultation with students before the announcement.

She said she hopes the minister will delay any major decision until after FAS meets with him on November 19.

U of A president Myer Horowitz refused to comment, saying Horsman has not yet contacted him about the proposed increases.

Horsman's original announcement of tuition increases was made at a meeting of the University of Calgary's Progressive Conservative Club last week.

The increase would be the third in four years. Tuition fees at the U of A were raised by 25 per cent three years ago and by 10 per cent the year after.



Jim Horsman

Standards needed

by Lucinda Chodan

Province-wide high school standards and better communication between universities and high schools were the recommendations of a university group to the Minister's Advisory Committee on Student Achievement (MACOSA) Friday.

Three members of the university's Chairmen's Council told Minister's representative Dr. Gordon Mowat that current lack of co-ordination between universities and high schools is "wasteful, expensive and a frustrating experience for all concerned."

Drs. Campbell, Creore and McDonald appeared before the representative to present a university response to the committee's findings.

The committee was created in 1976 to review the quality and standards of achievement in Alberta's basic educational system and to assess the

withdrawal of grade 12 departmental examinations.

One of MACOSA's recommendations was that compulsory grade 12 departmental exams not be re-instituted.

While the lack of grade 12 departmentals allows student flexibility and high school autonomy, Campbell said, problems arise when the university tries to place "a non-standard product into a standard program."

"The result is a poor fit. And the sufferers are the students," said Campbell.

Problems are particularly acute in quota faculties, said Campbell. High schools are graduating students "whose qualifications on paper have no real basis for comparison with their colleagues."

In a quota faculty, "if I were turned down, my reaction would be 'I demand to be compared

against my peers,' " Campbell said.

"I'm surprised that more students don't do that."

Problems are also created when students are admitted to first-year programs, said McDonald. He said some departments give students diagnostic tests and the Mathematics department has instituted remedial courses for students unable to handle first-year courses.

The lack of consistent course content is also a problem. In biology courses, said McDonald, "students are either bored or floored," depending upon which high school they attended.

Poor ability to communicate was also cited as a major problem in all faculties.

Departmental examinations "are not a universal

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CTV backtracks

OTTAWA (CUP) — CTV has made a policy flip-flop on its controversial W5 program on international students in Canada, refusing requests for transcripts of the show after earlier saying they would be available.

Jeff Parr, researcher for the National Union of Students (NUS), and Dan O'Connor, a member of NDP MP Lorne Nystrom's staff, both say they were told by CTV that the W5 transcripts were available at a cost of \$10. But they were later told that no transcripts of the program, which has been called highly inaccurate by many government and education officials, were available.

Don Cameron, vice-president of news, features, information and programming at CTV, denies charges that CTV is trying to suppress distribution of the transcripts. He said Oct. 31 that a lack of staff and facilities were the reasons for refusing to distribute the transcripts.

Cameron said if only a few requests had been received CTV

would have been able to accommodate them, but the network received so many requests it decided not to distribute any copies.

"We are not the CBC you know. We do not have all the people to do all that paperwork," he said. "If we give copies to one we will have to give copies to them all."

But Parr says he thinks CTV is trying to suppress distribution of the transcripts because complaints have been made to the Canadian Radio Television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) about the accuracy of the CTV program by the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) and the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC).

According to one CTV employee, who was told not to release the transcripts, "when they say you can't release it I don't question their reasoning."

Cameron claimed it was a question of CTV's inability to reproduce enough of the

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McGill worried about possible PCB leakage

MONTREAL (CUP) McGill University has recently posted signs around the campus to warn of possible dangerous chemical leaks of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB).

The signs have been posted wherever PCB, an extremely carcinogenic chemical, is in use.

The chemical is currently being used as a transformer coolant in the McGill electrical system.

The notices further state that anyone who notices a leak

should immediately call the nearest office of the Ministry of the Environment. The Ministry recently required that building managers post notices wherever PCBs are stored.

But electrical department foreman Ernest Lancaster said the chemical is only dangerous if it leaks out of the transformer house. He said the transformers are enclosed so that the deadly chemical would be contained in the event a transformer casing ruptured. Lancaster says there have, to his knowledge, never been any PCB leaks at McGill.

GFC arts rep election

Three candidates will contest the vacant Arts seat in General Faculties Council (GFC) Friday.

Paul Evoy, in his fourth year, Norbert Lorenz, a first-year Economics major, and Scott Thorkelson, a third-year Political Science major will contest the GFC seat left open by the resignation of Kevan Warner.

The election has been officially scheduled with other Students' Union and GFC by-elections October 19, but it was postponed when Students' Council ruled the vacancy had been inadequately advertised.

Returning officer Sue Savage said since she had been unaware of the vacancy, she was unable to inform interested students about the position. "I didn't know the vacancy existed until it was too late," she said.

Polls will be open in the main foyers of Fine Arts and Tory and in the Pedway between HUB and Humanities between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Friday.



One step and 14 floors to go. This photographer looks ready for one giant step, but he's just taking pictures of workmen replacing the limestone bricks on the west wall of the Tory Building.