

Tories delay on student aid

by Lucinda Chodan

Despite pressure from Opposition members, the Tories are still waffling on revisions to the province's student aid program. Minister of Advanced Education Jim Horsman dodged questions about aid changes from Socred Dr. Walter Buck last week in the Legislature. The student aid revisions were promised after 5,000 students marched on the Legislature in 1977 demanding government action.

Last Thursday, Horsman said he was waiting to receive recommendations from all the boards of governors in the province before he announced any changes in the aid program.

Socred leader Bob Clark reminded Horsman that in last year's Throne Speech he promised to make student aid a priority.

"Last year on June 18 the minister said: My number one priority will be changes in the student finance program... Has the minister arrived at a decision in that area since June 18?"

Horsman promised an announcement some time during the spring session of the legislature.

"We tried to get the point across that students would be

leaving soon and that they should announce any changes," said Buck later.

"But he (Horsman) wouldn't make any promises.

"It's not adequate — they promised to do something 18 months ago," Buck added. "All we can do is just keep badgering them to get an answer from them."

Bob Clark also reacted negatively to the Tories' inaction.

"It clearly indicates this government is not interested in student aid: all they're interested in is fighting the federal government about oil," he said.

He added, "I think it's a shocking example of the low priority of post-secondary education in the province.

"We will continue to raise the issue," Clark concluded.

But Jim Horsman defended his stance on student aid yesterday.

"I'm trying to get that done as quickly as I can," he said, "but I haven't yet received all the reports of the boards of governors."

Horsman said he was "putting together a package" of student aid to present to Cabinet during this sitting of the legislature.

He also said the controversy over the age of independence — the age at which a student is eligible for student aid — is out of his hands.

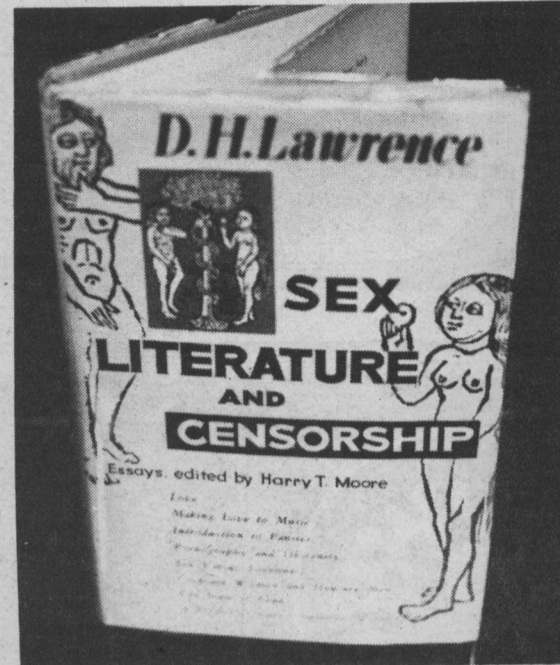
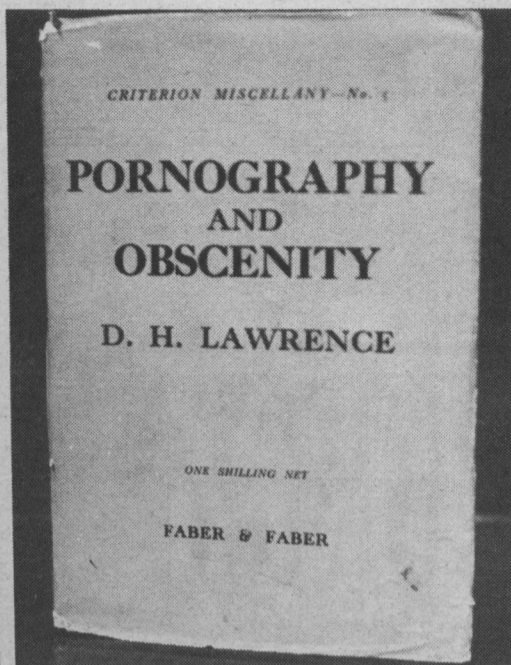
"That issue has been obscured... by the federal-

provincial task force on student aid," he said. Age of independence is now being reviewed in connection with changes to the federal student aid program, he said.

Horsman also hedged on

when the student aid revisions would be announced.

"I can't guarantee it, but I'm certainly aiming for an announcement before the end of the month," he said.



Special Collections' exhibit "The Illustrated D. H. Lawrence," on display in B37, Cameron Library.

photo Russ Sampson

What's the difference between a pregnant woman and a light bulb?

the Gateway

THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 1980

You can unscrew a lightbulb.



The Gateway's answer to Sunshine Girls... our photographer caught these women basking in the SUB courtyard yesterday afternoon. With temperatures hitting plus 10 degrees, can final exams be far behind?

photo Russ Sampson

More Phys Ed woes as staff position cut

Men's, women's and co-rec intramural programs will suffer next year as a result of a recent decision to eliminate a position in the Phys Ed faculty.

Wendy Carson, women's field hockey coach and co-ordinator of women's and co-rec intramurals, reports that she has not been rehired for 1980-81.

And next year those activities, now co-ordinated by two people, will all be co-ordinated by wrestling coach John Barry. The women's field hockey team may be disbanded next fall.

"That man can't do it," she said, referring to Barry's new position. Men's volleyball coach Hugh Hoyles, who co-ordinated men's intramurals this year, was "run off his feet" by only those two responsibilities, she said.

There will probably be fewer intramural assistants next year too, Carson said. "I hired people for next year, the same number as this year, but (men's athletic co-ordinator) Ed Zemrau said I shouldn't have done that," she reported. "If we cut back on assistants, the program will be cut back."

"I don't know who made the decision" not to fill her position as co-ordinator next year, she said. "I just heard from Ed Zemrau when I inquired about next year."

Carson said interest in intramurals was high this year. "There was a fifty per cent increase in participation," she said, and there were many compliments and positive feedback.

Carson refused comment

when asked if she thought Athletic Services realized that intramural programs will be hurt by the change.

"I don't know who made the

decision," she said. "I just heard from Ed Zemrau (that her position would not be filled) when I inquired about next year."

You only get it once next week

The Gateway, that is
Next week's Gateway will appear Wednesday

Nolan's Cookin' already

New Students' Union president Nolan Astley has made an early mark on the Alberta legislature.

Astley's reporting of his meeting with MLA Rollie Cook (See April 1 Gateway) led to some embarrassing questions being asked of Minister of Advanced Education Jim Horsman during the legislature's question period yesterday.

Cook told Astley last week that the U of A is "a fourth-rate institution with fourth-rate professors," and that no improvements would be made in university funding until we "clean up" our act.

Responding to questions, Horsman said that the U of A is "funded as generously or more generously than any other institution in Canada and as far as I can observe, they run a pretty good ship."

Horsman added that he can't take responsibility for all views of all government

members.

NDP leader Grant Notley asked if the minister had any documentation to substantiate Cook's claim that U of A professors are of secondary quality. Horsman replied by saying, "I am not responsible for the views of every disgruntled university student."

Horsman reiterated his remarks in an interview later.

"I indicated in question period that I was not responsible for the views of every member of the Legislature. It was clear that he (Cook) was expressing his own views."

But a dressing-down may be in the works for the rookie MLA. Horsman said he had not had a chance to follow up Cook's charges. "But I intend to discuss it with him."

The score: Astley 1, Cook 0.