

the Gateway

EDITORIAL

Who's to blame

We got a letter from the Minister the other day. It seems he took exception to an editorial that said the province isn't paying its fair share into post-secondary education.

The Minister of Advanced Education and Manpower Mr. Horsman, says we don't know a "recovery" from a "tax credit" when we see one.

Pretty big words for the Minister, especially when it's just a lot of bunk.

The real difference between a cash recovery (a euphemism for a straight cash grant from the federal government to the provincial government) and a tax credit is Alberta Progressive-Conservative posturing.

Mr. Horsman maintains the federal contribution to post-secondary education in Alberta equals a "constant" 21 per cent of the total post-secondary bill of over \$109 million last year.

He arrives at that conclusion by counting only unconditional cash grant portion of the 1977 Established Programs Financing (EPF) agreement.

We, along with many others concerned about government funding abuses, have reason to believe Mr. Horsman's conclusions are inaccurate, or deceiving, or both.

We believe part of the other portion of EPF funds — the unconditional tax credits which amount to more than half the total financial transfer under the 1977 agreement, should count towards the federal percentage contribution to post-secondary education.

Put that way, the federal share goes up to 63.6 per cent of the total post-secondary bill; thus, since 1977 the provincial share has decreased — they've actually been spending less and relying more on federal cash grants and "tax credits" — from about 41 per cent in 1977 to 23 per cent in 1980.

These are the figures which so annoy the Minister.

In fact, not only won't Mr. Horsman admit the contribution of the federal government is a significant transfer, he won't even admit it is federal.

"It is important to emphasize that cash transfers to Alberta through Established Programs Financing are not federal monies; rather, the funds return to Albertans a portion of the monies taxed from them by the federal government," the minister writes.

In other words, Mr. Horsman thinks taxes Albertans pay to the federal government should belong naturally to the Alberta government. The Minister is ignorant perhaps of the constitutional tax jurisdictions involved.

It is quite beyond us to estimate what and what not the Minister knows, but one thing is sure: this March the five-year old EPF agreement comes up for renewal. If Alberta and the other provinces stand on their record of misappropriating federal money with not so much as a thank you by way of acknowledgement, who will blame Ottawa for pulling back? We will know just who to blame.

Peter Michalyszyn

Communication gap

The truth is, when the university and the government talk about financing, they really aren't communicating very well.

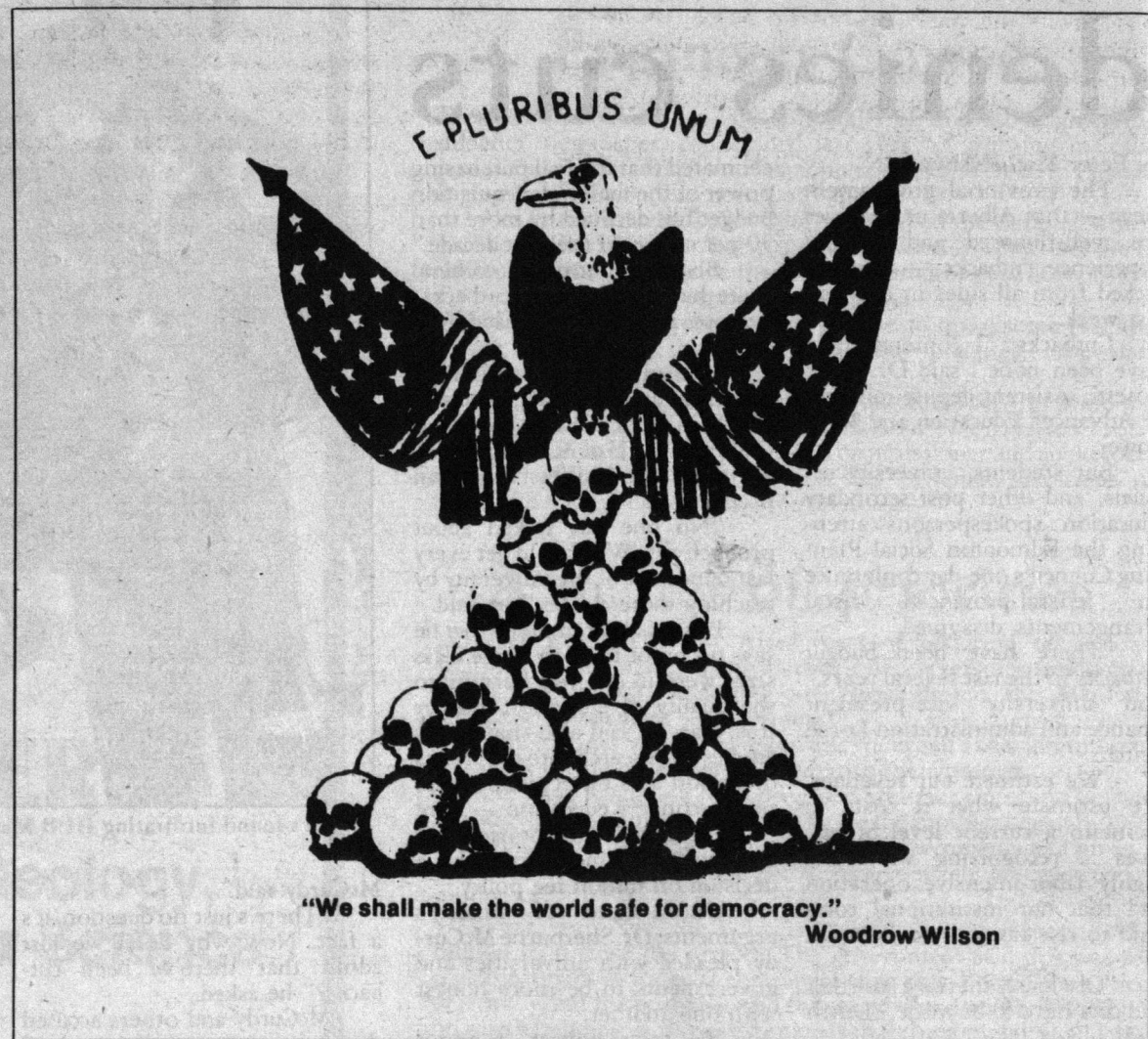
This blinding insight comes from university vice-president finance and administration Lorne Leitch, speaking at the Edmonton Social Planning Council's EPF forum last Wednesday.

Leitch said problems arise when government civil servants (like assistant deputy minister of Advanced Education and Manpower Reno Bosetti, who was present), and university officials can't agree on the existence of cutbacks in post-secondary education funding.

"We couldn't be here saying entirely different things if we were being understood by one another," Leitch said.

That sort of confirms a lot of the things we've been saying about the effectiveness of the university's lobby for some time now.

P.M.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Horsman sets the figures straight

Editor, The Gateway:

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to correct a factual error contained in your editorial, Tuesday, September 15, 1981 concerning Established Programs Financing.

Your editorial incorrectly states that "since 1977, the Alberta share of total post-secondary education funding has decreased from about 41 percent to 23 percent, with the EPF transfers making up an increasingly greater percentage of the total money spent in this province on higher education — to date 63.6 percent."

In fact, the cash contributions through Established Programs Financing Recoveries to post-secondary education in Alberta have remained constant at just under 21 percent of total expenditures. In 1977/78, the recoveries

applicable amounted to \$68.8 million while total expenditures were \$342.2 million (20.0 percent) and in 1980/81, recoveries were \$109.2 million with total expenditures of \$520.9 million (20.9 percent).

It is also important to emphasize that cash transfers to Alberta through Established Programs Financing are not federal monies, rather, the funds return to Albertans a portion of the monies taxed from them by the federal government.

Finally, I would strongly encourage students to work together on this issue with their Provincial Government in presenting a strong united position against Established Programs Financing cuts or we may face the serious difficulties as a result of

federal strategy and decision.

Yours very truly,
James D. Horsman
Minister
Advanced Education

ARTS class

Excuse me, uh, Professor Anderson?...

Yeah, I, uh, don't mean to presume here but I'm, uh, getting a little worried about the midterm. I mean, it is next week and, uh, so far you've only lectured on Bruce's autobiog....

Oh yeah, I realize his great importance. Of course, sir....

No, no, I didn't mean to insinuate that. It's just that we haven't even touched *The Complete Works of Elvis Costello*, and *Selected Writings of David Byrne* isn't even in the bookstore yet....

Yes, we know that they're only minor figures of the period, but won't they be on the exam just the same?....

One true/false question each?...

Oh, between the two. Great....

Oh no, no problem. I was just a little worried, needing this course for my degree and all....

Yeah, I should be done this year....

Right, thanks. Sorry to bother you. I'll see you in class.

Okay, thanks again. 'Bye-bye'.

Jim Weir
Arts 27

Registry needs help

The idiocy of it all left me stunned. The exam registry could not have developed a better system for keeping exams out of students hands if they had worked at it (or maybe they did).

The exam registry is open for only two hours a day and these hours are when most people have classes. It has only one person on staff so when you do manage to get in, it takes forever.

The exam registry is closed during midterm week! when most people want exams. Even if you were fortunate enough to order an exam before the registry closed

down, you won't receive it until AFTER exams.

Sound stupid enough, but wait there is more. Most professors are under the misguided impression that students are able to get exams from the registry, and so they don't make exams available anywhere else.

The exam registry should be closed down and the exams moved to the library, where students could have access to them. Personally I'd rather pay my money to a photocopying machine, then I'd get results.

Catharine Richardson

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Staff this issue: ...and every fan is standing at this point ladies and gentlemen... 2-1 Dodgers at the bottom of the ninth, two men on, two outs, the count at 3 and 2. Pitcher Luis Pena is off the mound talking to manager Michael Skeet. Relievers Monica Taylor, Geoffrey Jackson and Brent Jeffery are waiting in the bullpen. Expos manager Jordan Peterson is giving signals to speedster Allison Annesley on second base, Umpire Bob Kilgannon is chatting with first base coach Peter Jarvis and runner Tom Freeland. And... it looks as though we're ready... and here comes the pitch... slugger Dave Chan looks it over... he's going for it... and Oh! he hits it a mile... that ball might be out of here... yes... it's going... going... gone and the Expos are finally in a world series. Sigh.