

"There are more important things in the world..."

# the Gateway

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1981

...than peace."  
- Alexander Haig

Jim heckles Pierre

## Students heckle Horsman

About 1,000 U of A students booed and heckled Advanced Education Minister Jim Horsman last Thursday as he tried to defend his government's education funding policy.

Horsman spoke at a rally at Rutherford Library as part of the Anti-Cutbacks Team (ACT) / Federation of Alberta Students (FAS) Day of Action. A similar event in Calgary the same day drew about 500 students.

The minister came under fire from representatives of the Students' Union, the Federation of Alberta Students (FAS), the Non-Academic Staff Association (NASA), the Association of Academic Staff (AASUA), and the Alberta Federation of Labor (AFL).

Jim Russell of the academic staff outlined the continuing cutbacks facing the U of A. The university is losing first-class professors, he said, with 20 positions disappearing this year alone.

George Walker, of NASA said cuts in the number of support staff — "the invisible staff on campus" — harm both teaching and research. But even for those who keep their jobs, he said, wages are eroding.

Bill 41, which prohibits strikes in the Alberta public sector, leaves NASA without bargaining power, Walker said. So when the annual cutback in funding comes along, the university passes it along to the support staff. The result: pay for the support staff is continually lagging behind inflation, he said.

AFL president Harry Kostiuik delivered a message of support to FAS and students.

"We have to support each other's concerns," he said. He asked students to support organized labor's campaigns against high interest rates, "people services" cutbacks, and extra billing under medicare. Labor supports the fight against cuts to education and healthcare because they are "basic rights for every Canadian," he said.

To loud applause, Kostiuik said, "The future of this country is based on the kind of education we can give our young people... We (unions) are prepared to assist you in any way possible."

SU vice-president and FAS representative Lisa Walter accused both provincial and federal governments of plundering education to save money. Not only is the province continuing to cut its support, she said, but the federal government has announced it intends to save \$5.7 billion on social services (including education) over the next five years.

This cutback, added to the provincial cutbacks, will seriously damage the U of A and other institutions, she said.

"Only a little decrease in support is a big cutback in services," she said.

Horsman tried to deflect the attack onto the federal government. He was interrupted repeatedly by hecklers while reading a prepared speech.

Students and the Alberta government have a "common goal," he said, in fighting Ottawa's



Jim Horsman: Here is one Tory who is definitely not in the running for the P.C. leadership.

He said the federal government has no right to cut its support of education.

"The federal government is giving money to the province. In actual fact this is money taken in taxes from the people of the province," he said.

The minister defended his own cutbacks by saying that educational institutions should be less dependent on the government for money. To cries of "Synchrude U!" he suggested the private sector should be approached for more support. This would benefit education in the long run, he said.

The government opposes "state-run institutions," on principle, Horsman said. Nonetheless, he claimed that programs to encourage private funding of education were not a substitute for government funding, but a supplement.

Kris Farkas, student rep on the U of A Board of Governors, said cutbacks affect more than just the quality of education.

"Cutbacks mean an education that is less accessible, especially for low-income people," she said. "But I've found no evidence to show that the higher your income, the more deserving you are of a post-secondary education." Loud applause followed.

The U of A Board wants fees to rise by 18 per cent next fall, she reported. And the federal government has suggested tuition double

or triple to make up for the federal cuts.

The existing student loan system cannot cope with already rising costs of housing, books, and general living, Farkas said, let alone tripled tuition.

"Doubling or tripling tuition will just put students a few thousand dollars deeper in debt," she said. "A loan based program discriminates against those it is supposedly designed to help."

For an Albertan from a family with an income of \$12,000, she said, a \$10,000 debt load is a real barrier.

The only issue Horsman and the student audience agreed on was Ottawa's proposed "voucher system" of student aid, under which the federal government would give direct grants, but only to students in certain programs or faculties.

Amanda LeRougetel, chairperson of the Anti-Cutbacks Team (ACT) which organized the rally, said, "It was a remarkable success, not only in the number of students, but in the way they participated in the rally."

But she was disappointed with Horsman's speech and his response to questions from students, she said.

"He had nothing new to say, and he didn't even bother to answer the questions," she said afterward. "He didn't answer any of them directly."

Almost all of the questions were hostile, as were the hecklers.

ACT plans an information campaign during the Students' Union elections in February, LeRougetel said. "We hope to make them a lot more political than they have been," she said, "to force the candidates to address these issues."

"We're sorry" is not enough

The Students' Union has filed a formal complaint with the Edmonton Police Commission following the seizure of over 12,000 *Gateway* newspapers November 18.

In the complaint, SU president Phillip Soper says:

"I urge the Police Commission to investigate this incident (the *Gateway* seizure) fully. Such unjustified actions by experienced individuals, using the authority given them under the law, cannot go unanswered."

However, Edmonton Police Chief Robert Lunney says his department had already conducted an internal inquiry.

In a letter received Monday by the *Gateway*, Lunney wrote:

"An internal police inquiry has determined that the original seizure was not justified on the grounds available, although the officer responsible maintains that he acted in good faith in exercising his judgement."

At the end of the letter, Lunney said, "Corrective action has been taken internally."

University president Myer Horowitz also said Monday that corrective action had been taken with the Campus Security force to ensure an incident like the *Gateway* seizure would never re-occur.

Horowitz told General Facilities Council (GFC) that Director of Campus Security Gordon Perry had "taken the necessary steps" to try to avoid similar incidents in the future.

"The Director has made it explicit the kinds of matters that might occur that require a decision by the Director or his designate..." Horowitz said.

He also said the seizure was "offensive ... to the university" and that, "The Director of Campus Security was not involved in any way."

Though an employee of Campus Security clearly 'assisted' in the removal of the newspaper, the employee involved "made the best decision she felt she could." Horowitz said if Perry or a senior designate had been involved personally, the police action might have gone off differently.

However, on Monday, November 23, senior Security officer R.J. Oliver told the *Gateway* that he had been notified of the confiscation shortly after the papers had been taken some time after midnight Thursday, November 18.

## World ends at midnight

...Not quite, but there are only two more weekly issues of the *Gateway*, and only 22 shopping days till Christmas, and only two more days of classes and only inanities were muttered at Geneva so the world really could end at midnight.

*Kurisumasu o medetō gozaimasu.*