

The song remains the same

Jim Horsman's appearance in SUB Theatre yesterday was neither informative or invigorating. With the honorable minister's favorite tactic for dodging real concerns being a simple "the matter is currently under investigation" or "we are reviewing the situation", Horsman proved that even new troops in the Loughheed cavalry will not change the tiring old line of Tory policies.

Horsman's syrupy speaking style does justice to his lack of commitment or concern. Horsman answered a question from the audience dealing with differential fees by outlining England's two-tiered system, which recently saw a 20 per cent increase in tuition fees for foreign students. What the minister failed to note is that what goes on in England or anywhere else had little to do with the rights or wrongs of differential fees in Alberta, and that is what concerns us here.

The barely-concealed self-satisfaction that Horsman feels about the current research being done into the findings of the Grantham Report is hardly a comforting attitude to watch. Hundreds of potential students are currently unable to attend university because of high fees and inaccessibility of student grants and loans, and many of us who have found it possible to attend may regret the decision by Christmas. Yet we are supposed to be comforted by our provincial government's lengthy and time-wasting reviews and investigations.

The poor turnout at Horsman's forum is also depressing only for the fact that without a strong show of interest, the provincial government has no reason to take into consideration the sympathetic support students have been receiving from FAS and various students' councils throughout the province.

I don't care how well rich or middle-class students do at university and I don't care how they pay their tuition fees. But I have seen several friends leave school because they could not afford it, and all of them were as intelligent and as worthy of higher education as any of the students who populate this campus. When we talk of quotas, we should look at the most serious one the financial quota. It's not official but it's the one that hurts the most.

And whether it's Jim Horsman or Bert Hohol or Peter Loughheed does not really matter. What does matter is a provincial government that continues to smile and spoof its way around the concerns that students and other groups in society are vocally concerned about.

Gordon Turtle

the Gateway

VOL. LXX NO. 4
TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 18, 1979.
TWENTY PAGES

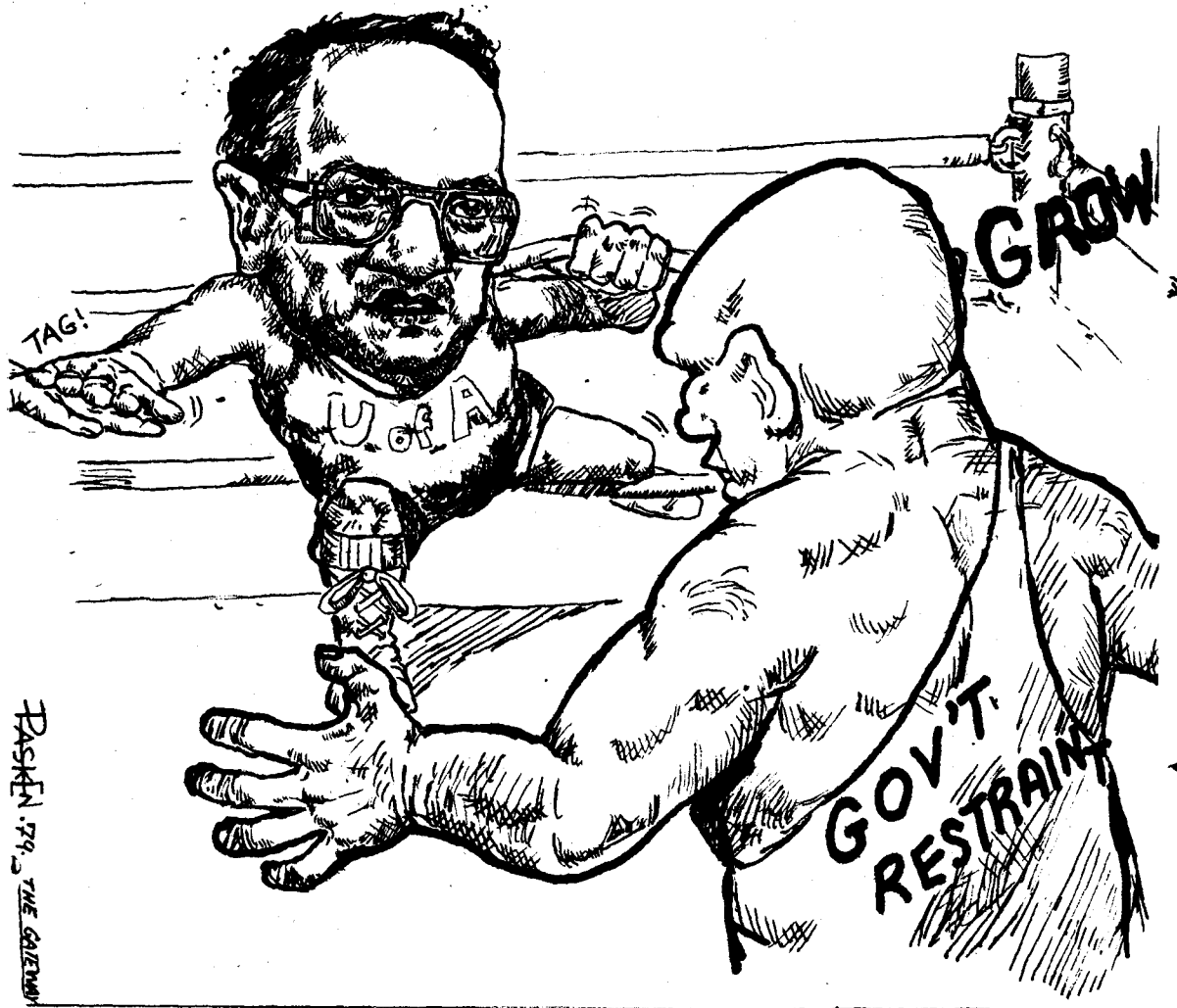
If it happens on campus...it's news to us.

THE GATEWAY is the newspaper of the students of the University of Alberta. With a circulation of 18,500, the Gateway is published by its proprietor, the Students' Union, Tuesdays and Thursdays during the winter session. Contents are the responsibility of the editor; editorials are written by the editorial board or signed. All other opinions are signed by the party expressing them. Copy deadlines are 12 noon Mondays and Wednesdays. The Gateway, a member of Canadian University Press and the Youthstream Network, is located at room 282 SUB, Edmonton, Alberta, T6G 2J7.

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INTO THE RING.

Bad year for brutish bosses

* Consider the following recent developments:

Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi of Iran: diverted billions of dollars in oil wealth to his family and friends, used the notorious SAVAK to muzzle opposition and to terrorize,

torture, and kill thousands. *Deposed January 1979.*

General Anastasio Somoza of Nicaragua: grabbed control of nearly a quarter of the land for himself, resisted change and suppressed dissent through the brutality of the dreaded National

Guard, ordered thousands slaughtered. *Deposed July 1979.*

President-for-Life Francisco Macias of Equatorial Guinea: killed perhaps 90,000 of the 300,000 population, precipitated near-total economic collapse, forced his subjects to acclaim him as a divinity, reported to have reinstated slavery. *Deposed August 1979.*

President-for-Life Idi Amin of Uganda: deported most of the Asian minority, attempted to eliminate other minorities, oversaw the butchering of hundreds of thousands, rumoured to have drunk the blood of some of his victims. *Deposed April 1979.*

President Pol Pot of Kampuchea (formerly Cambodia): attempted to destroy all signs that the twentieth century ever existed, ordered the total destruction of the cities and the forced march of millions to the countryside, tried to eliminate any intellectuals and even those fluent in foreign languages, responsible for the extermination of perhaps one million of the eight million people. *Deposed January 1979.*

An impressive list, to say the least. And you didn't think 1979 would be a good year!

Jim McElgunn
Arts III

Catholics cause of Ireland's troubles

Although David Marples' "Reader Comment" on the troubles in Ulster seems very full, there is one significant omission.

Twice in the piece there is a reference to a "minority," and here we have the root of the problem — the Catholics are in a minority in Ulster. The majority of the people have voted time and time again to stay part of Britain, and not to unite with the Republic. It is an oversimplification merely to go back ten years, one must go further back and understand that when the British government wished to give the whole of Ireland home rule, the Ulster Unionists declared that they would resist this to the end. There are two distinct nations in Ireland. The boundary, far from artificial, is real, although on both sides there are areas which would probably be happier on the other side.

The issue of "one-party rule" in Ulster (there are several Unionist parties) is phony. The Republicans, whether by bullet or ballot, have simply not managed to convince enough people to vote for them, like the NDP in Alberta or the Conservatives in Quebec. There are other parts of Britain, such as Glasgow or South Wales, where one party (the Labour Party) has ruled for the same length of time because the opposition could not convince people that they should be got rid of. In the British

electoral system today, Ulster is the only area where proportional representation is used (it was used for the European elections), to make sure the Catholic minority has some sort of voice. If Britain were to force Ulster into the Republic against its will, the violence would escalate rapidly, up to and including full scale civil war. To say that a united Ireland is the only solution is breathtakingly naive.

The IRA seem to have a disproportionate share of the world stage. The Soviet Union has been supplying them with arms (another instance of the worthlessness of the present detente agreements), while money flows in from North America. Tip O'Neill, Speaker of the House in the USA has called for economic sanctions against Britain (though I have my doubts as to whether the United States would cede Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California to Mexico, which would be an apt parallel). It does not appear to be pointed out enough, by contrast, that Northern Ireland has voted to remain part of Britain. As an aside, it is very odd how those who clamour for majority rule in Southern Africa are often the very ones who would deny the same right to the people of Northern Ireland. Why?

Robert Orr
Grad Studies 2

Mountbatten in bad taste

In the Tuesday, September 11th issue, the editors saw fit to publish a remark of the late Earl Mountbatten, vis. 'Nothing in life is more exhilarating... as to be shot at without result.'

His remark has proved to be ironic. Nevertheless, to publish it at such a time betrays, by any standard, a remarkable lack of tact. A decent person would retract it and apologize.

E.D. Blodgett