

# Horsman concedes EPF

by Wes Oginski

The provincial government announced at Thursday's march on Legislature that federal cuts to the Established Programs Financing (EPF) will not be passed on to the post-secondary institutions.

James Horsman, Alberta's minister of Advanced Education and Manpower made the announcement, both to students outside the Legislature and to his fellow MLAs in the House.

"We will not pass on to the institutions in Alberta the federal cutbacks," he told the Legislative assembly. Horsman estimated the cuts will reflect \$26 million of next year's budget.

He also announced that the budget for next year "will reflect the commitment of this government for post-secondary education."

EPF represents the federal input into provincial duties of funding social assistance, health care and post-secondary education. The last federal/provincial agreement was made in 1976 and expires this April. It used a formula based on a percentage of the Gross National Product, an equalization factor, cash entitlements, and tax point transfers. After the current program expires, the federal government plans to cutback these transfers to help trim the federal budget.

Horsman is concerned with information circulated before the march which said the EPF expenditures reflected up to 60 per cent of the provincial budget for post-secondary spending. He refuted this claim by stating the EPF program represented only 20 per cent of post-secondary spending.

"I am very concerned that we keep hearing figures that says the figures (for EPF contributions to

the budget) are 50 to 60 per cent," Horsman told Legislature.

Some MLAs then asked about the long term tuition policy Horsman is to form.

The minister has asked the Alberta institutions and other student groups for input on a long term tuition policy. Horsman told the House that a policy will be formed in the "very near future." He added that from seven possible policies, he has narrowed them down to three.

A member of Legislature finally asked Horsman how he thought the students reacted to his announcements.

"It's fair to say that those who listened were impressed," he replied, but he stressed on the whole the students appeared not to be interested in what he had to say. "There are none so deaf as those who will not listen, and none so blind as those who won't see."



photo Ray Giguere

James Horsman, Alberta's Minister of Advanced Education and Manpower, pulls the old deaf and dumb trick.

# Students throttle governments across Canada

Thousands of students across Canada demonstrated against government underfunding of colleges and universities during last week's National Week of Action.

Joining the 3500 students from across Alberta were protesters in Victoria, Winnipeg, Toronto, Montreal, and Halifax.

\*600 students in Victoria booed and heckled B.C. universities minister Pat McGeer, sparked by recently announced tuition fee increases that range up to 32 per cent at UBC.

\*only 80 students in Winnipeg huddled in chill mid-morning winds on the steps of the University of Winnipeg's Wesley Hall.

Student governments at the University of Manitoba and Rev River Community College balked at endorsing the march, labelling it an "ineffective confrontationalist tactic."

Instead, the three post-secondary institutions in Winnipeg will co-sponsor a "Crisis in Education" conference at the end of March.

The Winnipeg demonstrators came down hard on the federal government.

"(Employment and Immigration minister) Lloyd Ax-

worthy's policy of gutting the arts and social science programs and forcing people into the federal government's own priorities is inexcusable. Mr. Axworthy's vision of post-secondary education is as narrow as the Liberal's own representation in Canada," wrote Canadian Federation of Students (CFS).

The provincial universities minister Maureen Hemphill, who had earlier announced a generous 15.7 per cent education budget increase, joined in the fed bashing.

"I am keenly aware of the threat to post-secondary education posed by the proposed cutbacks to Established Programs Financing of the federal government," she wrote.

\*3,000 angry students in the Toronto area marched on Queen's Park, the provincial legislature.

They were told by conservative minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs Frank Drea to save their breath for the federal government.

Only about 750 of the protesters came from the massive University of Toronto; many of the rest of the crowd were workers from such organizations as the Canadian Union of Educational Workers (CUEW).

"We will fight for our educa-

tion, we are about to fight for our jobs, and we're going to tell you, Mr. Davis, that we are angered by your politics," said CUEW local steward Seymour Kanowitch.

"We are here to talk about the people. Do you remember who they are, Mr. Davis?"

\*another 3000 people demonstrated in Montreal last week, stomping and yelling as they closed in on the doors of a provincial government building.

"We want justice. We're pissed off!" they cried.

For half an hour, around the

tightly guarded, locked doors of the city's Palais du Justice, the crowd shouted its opposition to restraint programs in provincial universities and colleges. Their boos were directed both at Ottawa and Quebec City.

\*Halifax students hoped that city winds would take their message to provincial legislators last week.

Students at colleges and universities in the provincial capital held an outdoor "make noise" session for one minute, protesting government underfun-

ding and the threat of spiralling tuition costs.

They are pushing for the Nova Scotia government to endorse the recommendations of the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission, a three province group, which urges a 16 per cent increase in government support for post-secondary education.

The Nova Scotia government joined other provinces in blaming the federal government for educational cutbacks.

# Universiade '83 gets boost

by Wes Oginski

Universiade '83 has received its first concrete support from the government for operating and capital costs of the World University Games.

Last week, Alberta's Recreation and Parks Minister Peter Trynchy signed a contract with the Universiade '83 Corporation guaranteeing the provincial government will give \$10.7 million in support. Trynchy also handed Universiade '83 chairperson Alex Fallow a cheque for \$1.6 million.

The Games is currently working with a capital budget of about \$33 million. The province

and the City of Edmonton have agreed to supply one-third of those costs; \$7.2 million for operating expenditures and \$3.5 million for capital costs.

As yet the City has not signed a contract but has conditionally approved the Games budget. The condition lies on the financial commitment by the three levels of government (federal, provincial, and civic). Another point of contention was clarification of who would be responsible for budget over-runs.

Trynchy confirms that the provincial contract stipulates that the government of Alberta will not be responsible for any excess

of the \$33 million budget.

The Games' third financial partner, the federal government, has agreed to supply only \$5.2 million. This is its one-third share of the first preliminary capital budget the Games submitted. This budget, however, was later changed to reflect increasing costs.

Peter Lasaux, assistant deputy minister of Fitness and Amateur Sport, has said earlier that he doubts the government will change its first figure.

This leaves Universiade '83 with a \$1.98 million shortfall. Games personnel say there are some contingency plans in the wings.



# Olivia Butti's Diary

March 15

Dear Diary:

Your Worship, Mayor; Mayor Olivia Butti, Oh, it sounds so good. Ladies and Gentlemen may I present her worship, the mayor of the City of Edmonton, Olivia Butti.

I just wish they'd hurry up with this trial nonsense and fire Cec. We all know he's guilty, diary. Frankly, I'm amazed he hasn't been caught a dozen times before. We wouldn't need a new city hall if we could just clear all his relatives out of the building. This land deal is nothing compared to what his family makes on one advertising campaign or two months towing for the city.

Oh well, at least he was in court today. It gave Corrine and I a chance to get into his office. Not that I won't be grateful when I get out of that little hole in the wall I have now, but really diary, it's going to take a lot of work to get the mayor's office into shape. It's all that food! We could hardly even take measurements for carpeting and drapes. You know how those Mormons always store food in their basements in case the end of the world comes and God wants a snack? Well when Cec put in that

bumper pool table he moved his larder into his office. You can't turn around without bumping into a sack of flour or a case of canned corn. How can anyone be expected to colour coordinate a room like that? I told Cec's secretary to store it in an unused office. I think it was Ron Hayter's.

The office is going to have to look dignified but I also want it to have a feminine touch. Right now I'm thinking of a pastel blue with a hot pink trim. I want to do for City Hall what Nancy Reagan did for the White House.

By the by diary, the strangest thing happened while I was in my (well soon anyway) new office. Cec's phone rang, the private line and I thought I should introduce myself to the people I'll be dealing with as mayor. But I don't think it was an important business man at all. It was some man with funny accent, I think he was an Arab. He said if Triple Five won this one it would pay him double. And I didn't think Mormons played the horses.

Anyway, I think it will take a good two weeks to get the office the way I want. I certainly hope they can convict Cec and appoint me mayor by then. Sometimes this city is so inefficient.