

We're generous: Horsman

by Greg Harris

Advanced education and manpower minister Jim Horsman faced a largely hostile audience of about 100 people in SUB Theatre yesterday at noon, as he tried to defend his government's track record in education.

"Within the overall context of university funding, funding for the U of A is the most generous in Canada," he said.

Asked why the quality of education is falling in such a wealthy province as Alberta, Horsman replied that if every request for funds for social programs were granted, there wouldn't be any money for the Heritage Trust Fund.

"The government will match income from endowments provided by the private sector," Horsman said. The government has endowed a fund of \$80 million over ten years for this purpose.

"It is a long term commitment... and it has been greeted with approval by educational institutions." He said that universities shouldn't be dependent on government grants and tuition fees for their operation.

Horsman was criticized sharply by members of the audience for this proposal, since some students felt the scheme would impinge on university autonomy by allowing large corporations to influence what is being taught.

"The government is and will remain committed to preserving and strengthening the autonomy of the university... we don't dictate to the university," Horsman replied.

He added that universities shouldn't be solely dependent on tuition fees and government funding.

Another student asked if the government had lost sight of the importance of education as an end in itself, as found in the arts faculty rather than the more job oriented faculties. Horsman replied that it would be contrary to the government's role to "direct funding into particular faculties."

The assistance to rural students in the form of the Alberta Educational Opportunity Equalization Grants is a significant development for student funding, Horsman said.

Earlier this year, the minister approved a \$500 increase in the ceiling for equalization grants, and an increase from \$1400 to \$1800 in the maximum amount of individual grants allocated.

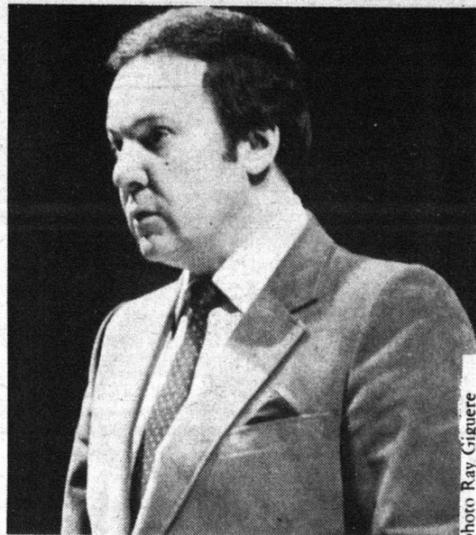
"Studies and experience have shown a lower participation rate from rural areas," he said, explaining that the equalization grants help to redress this imbalance.

Horsman responded to a question about the delays in the allocation of student loans by citing a dramatic increase in the numbers of students requesting loans, a delay in the printing of loan material, and an illegal strike at the Student Finance Board.

Horsman assured students that it is "not his intention to recommend or approve tuition increases for the fall of 1981."

He is meeting with student leaders in February, "to review the options for a long term policy for tuition fees."

Horsman also told students the Tory government has "made a specific allocation of \$810 thousand with a specific



Jim Horsman on campus Monday.

request to expand and enhance quotas" currently applied in some faculties.

Horsman's visit to the university was part of the Future of Education Week sponsored by the Students' Union.

Under capitalism man exploits man...

the Gateway

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...under socialism, the reverse is true.



The hockey Bears had UBC looking away from their net some of the time last weekend, managing a win and a loss against the T'Birds. last weekend.

To maintain services U requests more money

by Keith Krause

The university is asking the provincial government for a 15 percent increase in operating grants for the next fiscal year, according to vice president finance and administration Lorne Leitch.

And that increase is necessary only to maintain the present level of services.

"What we've been doing is classifying the various sub-units of the university and looking at what effect inflation has on them," said Leitch.

"Our estimates (of the amount needed to maintain services) are as accurate as we can make them," he said.

Last year the university asked the government for a 13 percent increase; it received only nine and a half percent. That meant cutbacks in staff positions and services.

The same situation may

occur again this year, if the government doesn't come through with the extra money.

"We're simply going to have to do what we've done in the past and tax the various sub-units to make up the difference," said Leitch.

The university also asks the government for special grants to cover programs over and above present offerings. Last year Business and Commerce and Nursing both received special funding for expansion.

And the Commerce faculty may be in for additional funds this year as well. In addition, the Engineering faculty is asking for money to fund a special work experience program.

But there may be problems with the university's estimation of its cost increases. Staff salaries (academic and non-academic) comprise over 80 percent of the total operating budget, and the Non-Academic Staff Association (NASA) is asking for a 20 percent wage increase.

"We've had sub-par settlements for the last few years," said George Walker, manager of NASA. "I don't think it's in line with what's been happening in other government departments."

Walker also thought the university was "pre-judging the issue" in asking for 15 percent "in the absence of a settlement."

Leitch also agreed the 15 percent would mean the university was "going to have a difficult time negotiating with staff."

"We're definitely not going to go back to them (the staff) with 20 percent," he said.

The announcement of the budget submission follows the release of a report showing the university having a total economic impact of \$230 million on the local economy.

SU election preparations begin New power seekers line up

by Peter Michalyshyn and Mike Walker

It may have escaped all but about three dozen students on campus that nominations for next year's SU Executive close this Thursday.

Of course, none of the prospective candidates will file their nominations until this Thursday's deadline. But for most of them, that will only be a formality.

Everyone knows, for instance, that Bob Kirk (a sometime science rep on Students' Council) is running for SU President. So probably is Phil Soper (presently a commerce rep), although it appears he doesn't quite have a full slate yet.

Filling in the holes on Kirk's slate are Cheryl Donnelly in finance, Joanne Styles

(third year Commerce) in external, Dariel Dent (second year education) in internal, Tim Marriot (from the Arts Students' Association) in academic, and Ken Lawson-Williams (presently an engineering rep) for Board of Governors.

Soper's slate still has a few unknowns in it; Liz Lunney, president of the Commerce Society (BACUS), will fill the academic slot, but the rest of his people are well-kept secrets.

A third slate, that nobody seems to know anything about may be in the offing. Lisa Walter, current arts rep and last year's also-ran for vp external, picked up five nomination forms Monday (enough for a slate).

And, thank God, there seems to be a real joke slate forming: Get Laid and Stay Single (GLASS) is the name of presidential candidate

Lee-Anne Pitcairn's group; unlike Harvey Groberman and his Liberal Democrats of two years ago, Pitcairn intends to get elected, seriously.

No one we could quote wanted to talk about issues; speculation has it that sexism will be the number one emotional issue, followed by SU finances, the FAS and SU fee referenda, and the quality of food on campus, especially in Fridays.

And now for some candidates who never accepted: Mike Walker, sometime Gateway News Editor, for v.p. finance and for SU president (with different slates); Dawn Noyes of SORSE; Amanda Le Rougetel (considered for Kirk's slate); and Kate Orrell, presently an arts rep on council.