

Hohol gets the squeeze

On one side: FAS

by Bruce Rout

A storm is brewing over student
What could turn out to be a bitter

battle between the Federation of Alberta Students (FAS) and Dr. A.E. (Bert) Hohol, Alberta's minister of advanced education, is slated for the middle of February.

And the battleground will be selections for the Student Finance Board, the group responsible for handing out assistance to students in the form of grants and loans.

Nov. 1, Hohol and Brian Mason, FAS executive-secretary, agreed to add one student representative to the board. FAS was to be the only group to put forward nominations for the position, Mason told the *Gateway*.

Following the meeting, Mason asked Hohol to send a letter putting the recommendation in writing before nominations were submitted.

Mason said a letter arrived from Hohol saying the FAS recommendations should be submitted before Jan. 1 and that there were nominations from other people and groups for the student's chair which were being considered as well.

Mason said this statement took FAS

by surprise, as it was different than what had been stated by the minister originally.

"FAS is a political organization, and if it doesn't represent the students, then who does?" Mason demanded.

"Hohol told us he would only consider our recommendations and now he's saying something totally different."

Not only was FAS upset by the minister's change of position, the immediate deadline prevented FAS screening applicants and preparing a proper list of nominations.

"We just had to hold off and we're going to hold a meeting Jan. 15 to discuss what we're going to do."

A spokesperson for the minister who wished to remain anonymous, said a student will definitely be sitting on the board.

"We're just waiting for FAS's recommendation. It won't take long after that, it'll be done through ministerial order."

Hohol wants to open up the board more to the public, it was explained.

A newsletter from the department of advanced education, says there are

seven seats available on the board, "however it will sit with four members for the time being."

The four include three reappointments, two of which have been members of the board for five years, one who was with Alberta Treasury for 19 years and a new appointee.

The new member, Garry Rentz, has been with the department for 13 years.

It is assumed a member from the general public will be chosen sometime in the future.

"Dr. Hohol doesn't want to be in the situation where FAS recommends only one student to sit on the board and he has to choose that person," the spokesman said.

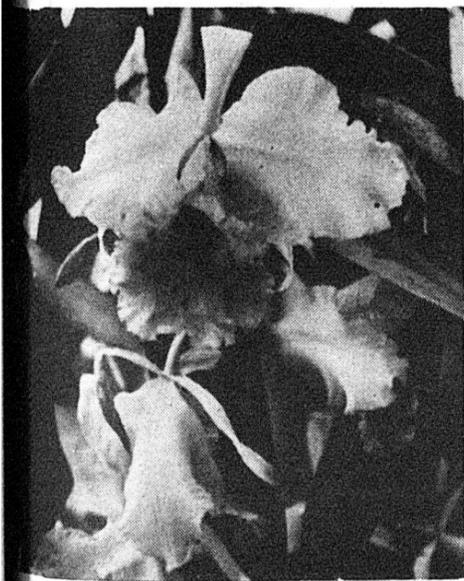
"He wants to have some elbow room."

"There definitely will be a student sitting on the board but anyone is allowed to recommend anybody. There are nominations from other MLA's and other groups have recommended students, but the nominations from FAS will be considered extremely important."

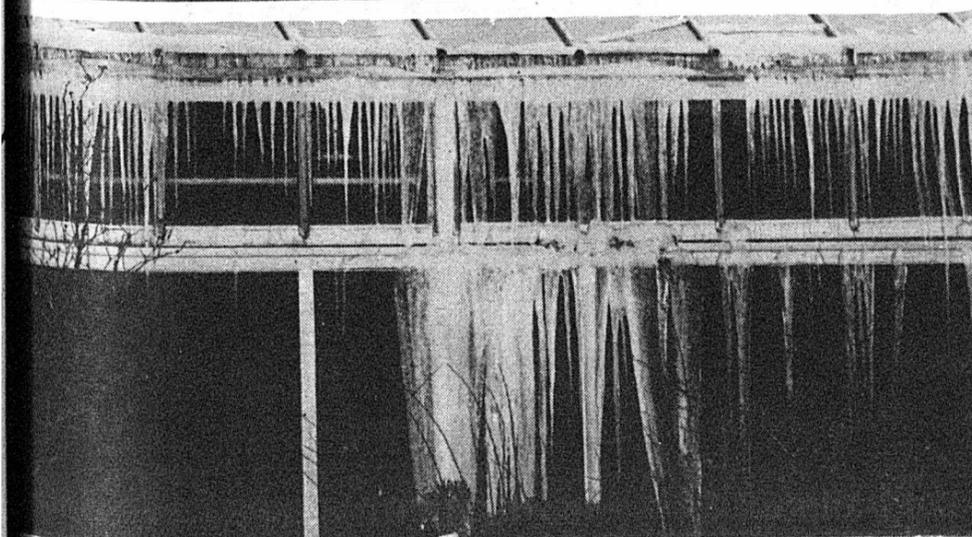
"He wants the best representative possible."

The Gateway

OL. LXVII, NO. 29. THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA, EDMONTON, CANADA.
THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 1977. SIXTEEN PAGES.



While it's cold outside, flowers are blooming within the U of A Greenhouse. Above: tropical foliage
Left: a late orchid
Below: reality's teeth



On the other: B of G

by Kevin Gillese

The provincial government and the university are squaring off for a battle this spring which threatens the autonomy of every academic institution in the province.

The university, whose governing body voted Dec. 3 to oppose a differential fee structure proposed by Alberta's minister of advanced education, Dr. Bert Hohol, has received notification from the minister that fee hikes will take place, regardless of the university's decision.

Dr. Hohol sent Board of Governors chairman Eric Geddes a letter Dec. 10 again asking for a Board recommendation to implement differential fees even though the Board had demanded further information from the minister before complying with his request.

Now Geddes has written back to the minister saying the government will have to forward a proposal to the Board before the Board will give further consideration to the idea of differential fees.

Dean airs comments

Gateway has obtained confidential remarks appended to the only report ever compiled on foreign students at the U of A.

The remarks, by retired Dean of Graduate Students A.G. McCulla, follow the public text of "Foreign Students at the University of Alberta," a 1973 report commissioned by General Faculties Council (GFC).

McCulla includes the results of an opinion poll conducted on foreign students:

"In the opinion of those who answered:

(a) Any substantial increase in tuition fees would eliminate most foreign students from developing countries whose fees are not paid as part of

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"The Minister seems very fixed in his point of view," Geddes said in a Wednesday telephone interview. "This is just speculation but I think they may exercise some over-riding power to make the university institute the fee system."

Geddes, in his Dec. 22 letter to Hohol, said there is "no rational process by which we (the B of G) can determine a fair or reasonable differential fee." He therefore asked Hohol to propose "the amount of differential...and the categories of students to whom it is to apply."

"In turn," Geddes continued, "I will be pleased to present your proposal to the Board for its consideration."

Dr. Hohol told the *Gateway*
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Nominations are now open for the position of *Gateway* editor 1977-78. Forms can be picked up in Room 282, SUB. Nominations close Feb. 4.