

# against fee hikes

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benefit from overseas education. The number will not change, only the backgrounds of students. Alberta will not be helping the less fortunate students."

A Pakistani student in first-year Arts said the increase is not democratic and that it won't generate much income. He argued the government should charge out-of-province students extra as well."

The education opportunities in Pakistan do not equal those in Canada, this student asserted. In certain courses, such as architecture, hotel management, science courses, engineering, there are not enough schools to accommodate all high school students. The Pakistani government refuses to let students come to Canada unless you can prove the course you wish to take is not available in Pakistan as well as being able to afford tuition, room and board, etc."

This student noted the Pakistani government is also concerned about the foreign exchange rate and doesn't want to trade its reserve of Canadian dollars for rupees when there is a chance that the student may not return.

According to this student, there is no difference in fees for Canadian students and he stated, "There are quotas for Canadian and American students and in some cases, special scholarships are available."

Publicity about differentials has had a "positive effect," he said, "but I don't think it will change the minds of any officials. I feel that the increases are just to keep the foreign students from coming."

Ellen, a second-year Education student from Hong Kong, said if there is an increase, whether one should not occur for several years. She said the increase won't be hard on her. "My family or relatives can maybe help me," she stated, "but for the average student it will be hard."

Education opportunities in Hong Kong are rare, according to her. "There is only one university plus some technical schools. Most matriculation students go to work or study abroad. It depends upon family expectations or finances. There is some limited government assistance or scholarships, but it is very hard to obtain."

Ellen also pointed out that fees in Hong Kong are applicable at every level of education including primary and secondary. Education is free unless classes are offered at government schools where education could be very poor. Private schools are where students who want to get to university go."

According to Ellen, if foreign students got out to meet Canadians, some of the prejudice would disappear. "If you have a positive approach, you'll want to meet other students. Since the university is so large, it's hard to get a sense of belonging and that's why people group together."

## Brush sin

SAN FRANCISCO (ZNS-AP) - A bill has been introduced by a Democrat member in the Oregon legislature to ban all electric toothbrushes except those prescribed by dentists, as of next January 1st.

Earl Blumenauer also plans to introduce a bill prohibiting the use of electric can openers, because, according to an aide, electric toothbrushes and electric can openers represent the worst of American industry." He said such appliances are "totally useless products that merely consume precious energy."

## African student describes situation

Opinion of African Student Concerning Foreign Student Fee Increase:

In my country only five per cent of the students who complete high school have the opportunity to go to university. Admission to the university is such a fantastically competitive affair that it is referred to jokingly as "A gift of God." Under such circumstances, 95 per cent of the students either do not have any chance for university education or seek opportunities in foreign countries to meet their life-long aspirations.

The fee increase for foreign students in Alberta is a slap in the face to an African student for the following immediate reactions. He realizes that the number of the foreign students as a whole will not change; what changes is the composition of the students. Obviously, students coming from the third world countries would be the victims of this decision and therefore would be systematically reduced. Thus the fee hike bears a tone of discrimination and racism.

It is not obvious why the fee increase is implemented now when the number of foreign students is less than five per cent of the entire student body. The economic gains by the Alberta

government is marginal (a drop in a "barrel" of water!). It should be pointed out that almost all the income might be spent in implementing the program itself. If it is not an economic issue then it must be a political decision with not-so-clear implications!!

Canada boasts with its contribution to third world development and particularly in education which is in great need by our countries. The fee increase is not in line with the proclaimed foreign policy of Canadian government. We feel Canada (or Alberta) could help us open the doors of educational opportunities as much as possible rather than putting harsh limitations on.

Foreign students to a certain limit do contribute to enrich the environment and culture of the university life. The more varied they are the better. They do also contribute, however small, financially to the province in terms of foreign exchange. Moreover, as consumers they do contribute to the provincial market.

In the final analysis Canadian educated graduates are of tremendous value to Canada as a whole in terms of bilateral relations and Canadian goods and equipment when they go home as top government officials.

Thursday, March 3  
An Evening with

# RY COODER



Guest Artist Paul Hann  
Two Performances  
7:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m.  
Tickets \$6.00

Available at the SU  
Box Office HUB Mall  
an SU Concert Presentation



STUDENT'S UNION SPECIAL EVENTS

## in dinwoodie

Saturday, Feb. 26 Cabaret

**Hickory**

Doors open 8 PM  
Drinking Dancing 9 PM  
\$2 in advance; \$2.50 at the door  
co-sponsored by Zeta Psi Fraternity

## at ratt

JAZZ Saturday, Feb. 26 9 p.m. JAZZ  
**Rob Marson & Co.**  
Admission \$1.00

## forums FORUMS ARE FREE

Wednesday, Feb. 23 12 noon

**DIFFERENTIAL FEES:**

*Economic Necessity or Political Expediency?*

**SUB Theatre**

Panelists: Ruth Groberman, David Leadbeater, Grant Notley, Nick Taylor

Thursday, Feb. 24, 8 PM

**The Liberated Man**

with Warren Farrell (See p.15)

**SUB Theatre**

Friday, Feb. 25 12 Noon

**Crash Go the Chariots**

DR. CLIFFORD WILSON, noted Australian archaeologist, speaks out on Von Daniken's **Chariots of the Gods**, and the accuracy of the Old Testament.

**SUB Theatre**

Co sponsored by One Way-

JOIN THE PICKET LINE AT THE  
OPENING OF THE LEGISLATURE

**Thurs. 2 p.m.**

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# DIFFERENTIAL FEES



STUDENTS' UNION  
UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

From the office of the

## Student Advocate

The Students' Union Student Advocate now has office hours every Monday, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. Wednesday 9 - 11 a.m. and Thursday, 2 - 4 p.m. in Room 259F of SUB.

Feel free to stop by to discuss in confidence any academic or non-academic problems and concerns you may have.

The Student Advocate, **Don Spandier** can also be contacted at 432-4236. Messages left at that number will be promptly answered.