

# Notley would abolish fees

by Len Thom

Alberta New Democratic leader Grant Notley promised an audience of about 100 students on Monday that an NDP government would move toward the abolition of tuition fees in post secondary education.

Notley also promised university funding that would at least equal the inflation rate plus compensate for four years of funding cutbacks.

These statements were made in response to a question from the floor after a twenty minute speech in which he asked the students assembled to "send them (the government) a Message" on advanced education policy.

The speech began with Notley relating the story of his near traffic accident on a section of Highway 16 near where telephones and Utilities Minister Len Weary was killed in 1973. Notley escaped collision with a huge oil tanker, a situation which is symbolically symbolic of this election campaign.

Advanced education was the theme throughout the NDP leader's address. He criticized the Conservative government for trying to misrepresent university funding as being the best in Canada when the province was actually fourth. However, Notley did not actually produce the statistics to back his argument.

Notley emphatically denounced the government's differential fees policy. "I believe strongly that the university has to be a cosmopolitan place," he added. Later he said that he favors the abolition of all fees because they discriminate against low income groups.

The audience warmly received Notley's contention that the Loughheed government had recently changed from "the bear's role of Ebenezer Crooge" to "born-again funders" in reference to recent announcements concerning government expenditure of the present budgetary surplus.

Notley predicted that after the election the Progressive Conservatives would return to more years of right wing

restraint and Tory cynicism.

Notley also took time out in his speech to call for expansion in the area of Health and Social Services. He questioned why a province as rich as Alberta doesn't have a Denticare plan. The government was commended for establishing a guaranteed income plan for the handicapped but the NDP leader wondered why the handicapped had to wait until an election year before getting the program.

The speech ended with a personal appeal to students. Notley suggested that students could send the government a message on education by defeating the Minister of Education Julian Koziak, Progressive Conservative candidate in Edmonton Strathcona.

Also speaking at the meeting were NDP candidates Gordon Wright (Edmonton Strathcona) and Dr. Jim Russell (Edmonton Parkallen). Wright gave a rather dry speech on government support for primary and secondary education, emphasizing that Alberta has fallen to fourth place in Canada in per capita funding. He did not provide statistics on per pupil funding, however. Dr. Russell, a university professor, was critical of government labor policy, accusing the Conservatives of despising anyone who works. He pointed out that university academic staff have no legal protection concerning employment.



Education Week is here and this group of future teachers is hamming it up. They've captured the Aggies' chuckwagon and are holding it for ransom. Stay tuned for further developments.

## the Gateway

TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 1979

# Senate opposes government's differential fee stance

by Nancy McGill

The Grantham Report, native students, amendments to the Universities Act and chamber music were featured at the February meeting of the U of A senate. But the task force on visiting international students received the majority of attention Feb. 23.

The task force, established in February 1977, presented 15 recommendations to the Senate. These recommendations included opposition to the government's

differential fees for visa students, establishment of scholarship funds for international students, attempts to attract a greater variety of non-Canadian students, enlarging the Emergency International Students Assistance fund and more attempts to integrate international students into the university community.

Senate adopted these recommendations and also moved a model for dealing with international students be developed and presented to the provincial government. In addition, members favored the establishment of a national task force to study visa students.

The follow-up committee of the task force on native students also reported to Senate. The committee was established to study action taken on the original 1976 task report, which had made recommendations to alleviate problems the university had attracting and keeping native staff and students.

The follow-up committee reported most of the recommendations had been acted upon. They suggested to Senate that the vp academic assume future responsibility for monitoring progress on the task force recommendations.

The senate also considered

proposed amendments to the Universities Act. The amendments, which would allow bachelor level degrees to be granted by other licensed Alberta post-secondary institutions and would change power of licensing from the Legislature to the Cabinet, were opposed by senate. Members decided to request the government to withdraw the proposed amendments until a full study of the implications of the changes are implemented.

The senate also received a report from the ad hoc committee reviewing the Grantham Report. The committee briefed senate members on the task force report and recommended a response prepared on its first eight points. The response will be presented at the April senate meeting.

The appointment of Mary Totman as executive officer of the senate was also announced. Totman, acting executive officer since February 1978, began her two-year term of office March 1.

The senate was also serenaded by a presentation which included a chamber music and a five man presentation on the nature of the faculty of arts.

The senate will next meet April 27. All interested parties are invited to attend.

# State ed policies says FAS

Lucinda Chodan

The Federation of Alberta Students (FAS) called today for post-secondary education to become an election issue. In a morning press conference, FAS president Blair Redlin said last year's serious problems at colleges and universities have not been solved.

"The problems of cutbacks and accessibility to higher education have intensified since the demonstration last year," he said. "Despite this fact, the political parties have not been addressing themselves to these issues."

Redlin criticized the government in particular for avoiding education and student issues. "Where president Blair Redlin said last year's serious problems at colleges and universities have not been solved.

"The problems of cutbacks and accessibility to higher education have intensified since the demonstration last year," he said. "Despite this fact, the political parties have not been addressing themselves to these issues."

Redlin criticized the government in particular for avoiding education and student issues. "Where is the new student aid plan that students were promised last year?" he asked.

"Why hasn't the government announced next year's grants to colleges and universities yet? Last year, the grants were announced in January."

Redlin also criticized the government for refusing to take a stand on the recommendations of the Grantham report on post-secondary education until May. By then, the election will be over and the government will not have had to articulate a position on tuition increases, said Redlin.

Redlin emphasized the positive recommendations of the Grantham report on student aid, housing and daycare. He stressed the need for government action on these recommendations, however.

The FAS president announced that a poll of party positions on issues relating to students had been conducted by FAS. The results will be provided to students through the FAS provincial newspaper.

Redlin urged students to study the parties' platforms regarding education, and to vote accordingly.

FAS also announced a province-wide student petition calling for government action in post-secondary education.

"The petition will show public support for student goals," said Redlin. The petition has been circulated in Calgary, Lethbridge and Grande Prairie, and will appear in Edmonton, Red Deer, Olds and Medicine Hat in the near future.

"We've got over six hundred signatures in just a few days at the University of Calgary alone," said Redlin. "The next week will be a period of intense activity for us."

## Panda gymnasts vault to national championship

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Varsity Guest Weekend is here! page 9

Gateway Women's Supplement appears Friday