

Opposition grows

by Richard Desjardins

During the past several months, controversy has been generated by Alberta's minister of advanced education, Dr. Bert Hohol, whose plan to impose a \$300 fee increase on visa students at Alberta Universities has met with severe opposition. In the midst of accusations of "racism" and counter charges of "freeloading," the students directly affected by the fee increases have kept a low profile.

A Gateway poll of foreign student reaction to this fee increase has revealed some interesting viewpoints, but many foreign students feel too intimidated to comment publicly for fear of having their student visas cancelled. One of the stipulations in obtaining a visa is that the holder not become involved in any "subversive political activity." Many students feel that by openly speaking out against the fee increase for visa students they may be jeopardizing their academic careers, and may face disciplinary action from their home governments.

Students interviewed, however, generally argued the increase is not justifiable and that it is purely a political move which will hold back poorer students while allowing students from more affluent backgrounds easy access to Alberta campuses.

Because of possible intimidation from other students, most foreign students interviewed did not want to publicly identify themselves. Some students, however, agreed to let the Gateway print their first name and their homeland in the followina interviews.

Karen, a third-year Educa-

tion student from Germany, said no increase in foreign student fees is justified. She argued the provincial government should pay more towards university education: "in Germany, all students who do well get a scholarship and the better your marks, t scholarship." the more the

The increase will not be a problem for Karen because her husband will pay for it, but she noted that if she was still single, she couldn't pay it.

Karen argued that Canadian students should be allowed to attend German universities for free, though they may be set back by German, the language of instruction.

"The publicity concerning

Discussion

A discussion of differential fees for foreign students, titled "Differential Fees: Economic Necessity or Political Expediency?", will be held Wednesday, Feb. 23 at 12 noon in SUB Theatre.

New Democratic Party Leader Grant Notley, Liberal party leader Nick Taylor, the university's foreign student advisor Ruth Groberman, and former SU president and current city alderman David Leadbeater will discuss the issue.

The Equal Access Committee will lead a rally to protest the Foreign Student Fee Increase on Thursday, Feb. 24. The meeting point is at the Legislative Grounds at 2 p.m. to coincide with the opening of the new session of the Legislature.

the hike has been good," acco ding to Karen. "The more hell raised, the better." Karen f strongly that Canadiansonly wa "their own people." As w Karen stated, "I don't see t much discrimination towar myself, but I do know that there discrimination against color people." Karen, however, feltth some discrimination towar especially Orient groups, students, is perhaps se inflicted. "When foreign studen cut themselves off from other they lose out. If they feel d criminated against, it's their fail They should be open and lovet people they come to."

An African graduate stude said the increase is "a polition decision and that it won't bring much income." This stude stated that the increase "wo affect me because I'm alrea here. It only affects those who incoming. If it affected the already here, we'd have scrounge a little. For some othe know, it would be an necessary stress."

According to this stude not everybody in his homela can get the sort of education th is available here. "You may capable, but there is no opp tunity. The facilities are therei quality sense, but not quantity

This student felt that publicity has been good and ba It has made people aware thing has happened, but so people see us as freeloadersa think that the campus swamped with foreign student This student added the pol will allow only richer fore students to come here. It hinder poor students who co continued to page 11

Call for Applications:

Projects to be Funded by the Emil Skarin Memorial Fund

The Committee

from the

Senate

of the University Senate is engaged in selecting a project or projects worthy of financial support through interest earned by the Emil Skarin Memorial Fund. The amoun available in any one year will not normally exceed \$5,000.00.

Following instructions by the donor, projects must

- * be of some value to the public as well as to the University
- * be consistent with the general aims and purposes of the University of Alberta

* not normally be funded by the University

Presently the Faculty of Science is the only faculty of campus without an undergraduate faculty association. Attempts are now being made to establish one and we need your help.

The association would among other things, coordinate the representation of Science students on faculty, students' union and general university policy-making bodies. It would also arrange for a counselling and information service, forums of interest to science students, certain social activities and so forth.

Please attend a meeting of all Science students on in Room 142 of SUB at 7:30 Friday, February 25 p.m. to discuss plans for the establishment of this association. With just a little input and assistance from you a good idea can become a reality. For more information contact the Students' Union offices at 432-4236.

Preference will be given to projects with an emphasis o the humanities and the arts, but there are no restrictions on the nature of eligible projects.

The Senate Committee is currently considering projects of activities which will commence prior to the end of 1977.

Proposals should be brief statements, including object tives, schedule, procedures for organization, and a means of evaluation. All persons and groups to be associated with the project must be listed. A complete budget, including any monies recieved to date from other sources, must be attached.

Application forms are available upon request from the Senate Office. Fully Completed applications should be sent before April 1, 1977 to:

> The Chairman, Emil Skarin Memorial Fund Committee The Senate 5-8T Mechanical Engineering **University of Alberta** Edmonton **T6G 2G8**