

# Notley introduces future stars

by Don Millar

The campus New Democrats put on a show Wednesday November 18. The stars: the self-proclaimed "challengers" of Alberta politics, otherwise known as the local NDP candidates.

Under posters featuring attacks on big oil, and the benevolent gaze of David Lewis, a handful of campus NDPers joined about 30 people from the senior party to drink white wine, eat blue cheese and chortle about the NDP victory that had occurred in Manitoba the night before.

In a short speech to the

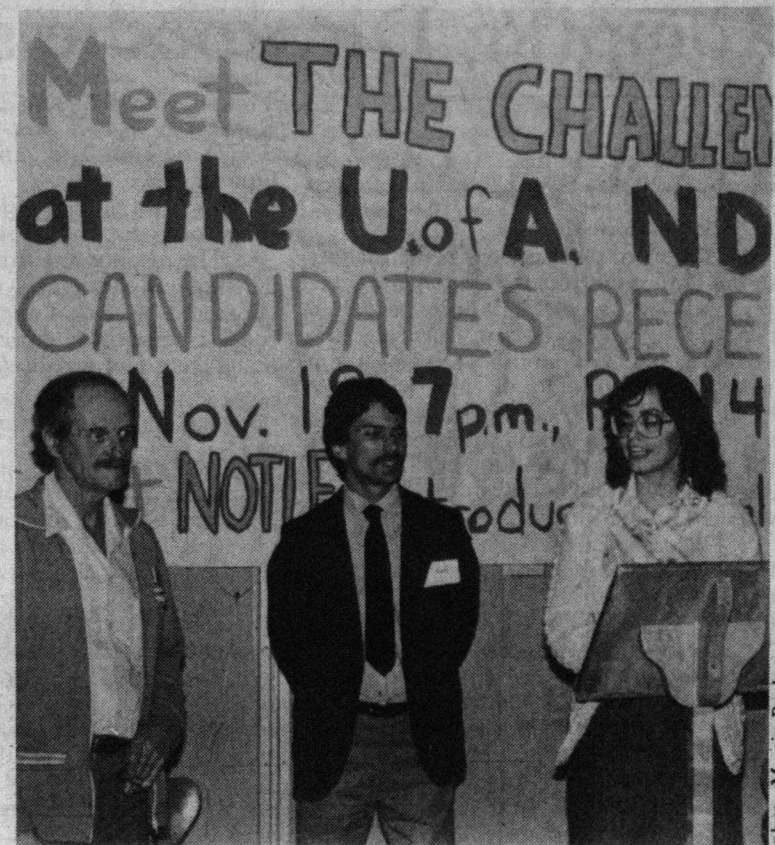
assembled faithful, NDP leader Grant Notley predicted the next election would be a showdown between his party and the Conservatives.

Following his speech Notley said he knew nothing of a resolution to help universities that had been passed by the Alberta NDP convention three days earlier. The resolution, which was sponsored by the U of A NDP club at the convention, called for the establishment of an endowment fund for universities and colleges from money in the Heritage Trust Fund.

Despite his lack of knowledge about his student related plank which had just been added to his party's platform, Notley found it "appalling that the university riding (Edmonton Strathcona) would elect just another Tory."

Notley said he hoped that the big issue in the election would be the NDP proposal to give Albertans loans from the Heritage Fund at 10 per cent interest.

He said he wants to make the Tories explain why the loans can't be offered.



NDP-types gathered last week to plan Peter Lougheed's downfall.

photo Martin Beales

## B.C. tuition skyrockets

VANCOUVER (CUP) — The federal government's new budget will force tuition fees to rise at least 60 per cent next year, British Columbia finance minister Hugh Curtis said November 12.

Each B.C. post-secondary student will have to pay \$370 more in tuition next year, in addition to already planned increases by the individual institutions, Curtis said.

"Post-secondary education and health care in B.C. and in the other provinces have been hard hit as a result of the federal budget," he said.

The federal government will remove \$5.7 billion of federal transfer payments to provinces for post-secondary education and health care over the next five years. The provinces were given additional taxation powers amounting to \$3.7 billion, but these funds are not necessarily earmarked for education.

UBC students already face a minimum 15 per cent increase for next year, to conform to the UBC board of governors' policy to have tuition fees represent at least 10 per cent of the university's operating budget.

The federal move will cost B.C. \$91 million during the next fiscal year, and \$600 million over the next five years, Curtis said.

Students for an Accessible Education spokesperson Paul Yaskowich said November 16 the tuition increase could go even higher if the Soerced provincial government decides to put a different spending priority on its new taxation ability.

"There's no indication the present government has changed its priorities," he said.

"The (potential) increase implies Curtis will make students pay for the federal shortfall," said Yaskowich. "The Soereds have a general user-pay attitude, and that's wrong."

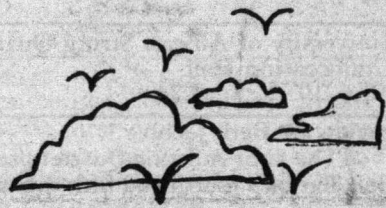
James Hollis, Alma Mater Society external affairs coordinator said, "The increase in next year's tuition boggles the imagination. The effects will be devastating."

"If the Soereds don't come up with extra funding (to match the federal shortfall), they would effectively be abandoning the system," he said.

AMS president Marlea Haugen said, "I find it absolutely amazing that a country that is worried about its technological future can withhold money from the only vehicle that allows them to maintain that technology."

Haugen charged the increase will make UBC an elitist institution.

"Perhaps when some worker realizes that his child can't attend university because of the elitist attitudes of the Liberal government, we may see a new governments."



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