

New Democrats speak

by Stephen Phillips

"The NDP needs people in Parliament who will uphold its most controversial policies," said Halyna Freeland, an Edmonton lawyer and one of two candidates seeking the NDP federal nomination for Edmonton Strathcona.

Speaking to campus New Democrats Monday in SUB, Freeland expressed her support for the NDP's pledge to withdraw from NATO and NORAD and for its policy to establish free-standing abortion clinics.

Rival candidate Randy Morse, an independent publisher, referred to recent opinion polls which indicate record-high levels of support for the NDP. He suggested that this development reflects both a rejection by many Canadians of the rightward shift of the Tories and Liberals, as well as an endorsement "of what New Democrats have been saying consistently for years, indeed for decades."

Morse dismissed the popular media view "that the Party must

move to the centre, which for us means to the right, in order to gain public support."

Freeland feels the rise in NDP fortunes are due in part to a reaction to a "crisis of capitalism" which has been exacerbated by the policies of the Mulroney government and those of conservative governments in the U.S., France, and Great Britain. "Conservative policies have widened the gulf between rich and poor," she said. She suggested that the NDP's prescription for this crisis include a commitment to full employment and the pursuit of disarmament.

Freeland also stressed the need to strengthen reproductive rights for women in view of recent court decisions enforcing surrogate motherhood contracts and condoning invasive surgical procedures during childbirth against the mother's will. Such decisions "deny a woman's right to control her own body," she said.

During a question and answer

session, the candidates fielded questions from the audience on subjects ranging from the Meech Lake Accord to the participation of women in the NDP.

Morse discounted one questioner's suggestion that an NDP victory might precipitate a flow of capital from the country. Citing the

healthy economic performance of the socialist countries of Scandinavia, Morse added that "Sweden, a country of only 8 million, has a larger entrepreneurial bourgeoisie than Canada, a country of over 20 million."

Freeland, in contrast, said that the economic pressure exerted on

Chile during the Allende years and on Nicaragua today "serve as a reminder of what can happen when a people choose socialist policies." She suggested that an NDP government would have to "harness the resources of the people" if faced with such "economic and political destabilization."

Higher entrance standards

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"The only reason they used entrance requirements to do it is because it's the only fair way to do it," Boston pointed out. "You could raise tuition, but that's applying a financial restriction instead of an academic one. The only legitimate restriction they should have is on an academic basis."

Boston also expressed concern that "if the 70 per cent doesn't cut down enrolment enough, they're going to have to do it again, and again, and again. You'll get the idea that it's an elite institution."

"But at this point in time they have no other choice. They have to raise the requirements."

Dr. D. Beatty, Associate Dean of Science, raised the possibility that students at the U of A might be at a disadvantage compared to those in two-year colleges with lower entrance requirements. Students of equal abilities might get 7's or 8's at colleges that have a wider academic spread, but only 5's and 6's in highly competitive university courses, he pointed out.

Silzer noted that the new entrance requirements are not unchangeable.

"If enrollment should diminish (because of other factors), we can go back to a lower standard."

SU withdrawal win

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one hundred. The professor knew everyone in their class. You could go up to your professor and get individual feedback. You can't do that now, with five hundred people in your class."

Dr. Peter Miller, Dean of Student Services, was the only non-student member to speak against the motion.

"I opposed it on purely pragmatic grounds," he said later. "Given the current learning situation on campus, we need to allow students a maximum of flexibility."

Miller also expressed concern that the new proposal would see an increase in academic appeals and instructor complaints, because students would be forced to remain in classes that they did not want to be in.

Students now "can essentially get out of a situation after they get the maximum amount of information" he noted.

Boston was "ecstatic" at the results of the vote.

"On this one, we got killed in every board we went to (i.e. RAC, GFC Executive)...you have no idea how close we were to losing this motion."

"I think after we spoke for a while the deans (on GFC) realized the reasons that we didn't want (the deadline) rolled back were legitimate."

Student opposition to the motion was apparent, said Boston. "We had a lot of students who took some time out of their class and

showed up and listened to the arguments. I think that really helped out, and it was appreciated."

The eventual vote was 58-26 against the first term deadlines, and 70-19 against the second term deadlines. Said Miller, "there was a large measure of support for keeping things as they are from the non-student members."

The problem of students abusing the system is still being investigated, noted Silzer.

"There are other ways of addressing the concern," he said. "The final vote indicated that the deadlines proposed were not reasonable. We will have to reflect on other ways of dealing with the problem."

HUB garbage stinks

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improved janitorial service in all of HUB.

Khan added that "many tenants feel that they are paying for more than one centralized location."

Some tenants of the mall seem to support Khan's perspective. One tenant, Michael, felt the situation was "unreasonable...considering the area and number of people involved."

Another, Lim, was unhappy that he had to "walk all that way, and then the room where you put the garbage stinks."

Others, who preferred to remain anonymous, admitted it was easier

to just leave the garbage on someone else's doorstep or else to use the small garbage cans in the mall — a practice which inevitably results in stinking up the concourse level, the stairwells, and the suites themselves.

One of the few positive comments was expressed by a tenant named John who felt that at least now the "stench" was localized, but that the compactor still needed to be emptied more frequently.

Anne Belik, operations manager for HUB Commercial, said that the merchants in the mall have not voiced too many objections.

"It's not a hardship for them. They have gotten used to it."

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