

The Gateway

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Forum slams Pete, Bert

by Richard Desjardins

Dr. Bert Hohol, advanced education minister is "taking the first step towards a national socialist state by implementing a differential fee structure for foreign students," charged Nick Taylor, leader of the Liberal Party of Alberta, at a noon hour forum at the SUB theatre Wednesday. "The first step in national socialism is racism," stated

Taylor, who brought the house down with his comment that "Hohol has all the tact of a Prussian General."

City alderman and former SU president, David Leadbeater, said "racism is at the base of this policy, not economics."

The forum was entitled "Differential Fees: Economic Necessity or Political Expediency" sponsored by the Alberta Committee for Equal Access to Education.

Leadbeater went on to state that "we are talking about a discriminatory fee, not a differential fee."

Grant Notley, provincial NDP leader, stated "Lougheed was directly behind the foreign student fee increase" and that Albertans had the "old depression mentality—if we haven't enough money to go round, cut foreign students."

However, he stated "Lougheed and Hohol are

not racists, they just don't understand the implications behind their move."

Notley went on to charge that "a province with over two billion dollars in a Heritage Fund is playing Ebenezer Scrooge to post-secondary education."

Ruth Groberman, U of A foreign student advisor, argued "the public is misinformed about the number of foreign students, the amount of their wealth and the common belief that they don't return home."

When I first heard about the increase proposal in April, 1976, I asked 'why,' " said Groberman, "and now that all the facts and figures have been bantered about, I'm still asking why."

The audience of about 150 responded strongly when Leadbeater commented "in this time of economic crisis, the provincial government is shifting the burden of education on

people getting a free ride, and they are generally not white."

He went on to charge that "the public who supports this policy of differential fees has not been identified."

Leadbeater reminisced on his student days during the late 60s at the U of A when foreign students were mostly Americans. "The concern started with the influx of yellow faces on campus," said Leadbeater, "because we now have a more visible type of foreign student."

Taylor pointed out "the 1 1/2 million dollars generated by the differential fees would only be about 1/2 of one per cent of the \$280 million dollar provincial '75-76 budget."

He added a university like Oxford sees a "20 per cent mix of foreign students before it feels it has a good cross pollination in the student body. In Alberta, we

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Comm. change angers students

The Gateway has received over 500 letters to the editor in the last two days protesting Commerce Council's decision last Tuesday to change the deadline for dropping courses to four weeks after the beginning of full and half terms.

The new regulation will take effect in fall of 1977 and will apply to Commerce students in all courses — not just Commerce Faculty courses.

The letters of petition assert that the newly-imposed guidelines will "seriously handicap all Commerce students" and urges the commerce council to reconsider this question "after further consultation."

The motion to change course withdrawal deadlines went to the Commerce Council from the Undergraduate Studies Policy Committee with the expressed purpose of "reducing the students' mobility" and "for administrative purposes."

The motion was strongly opposed by student representatives because "either more people will fail or the mark distribution will change lowering the standards of the course as a result," according to Council student rep Werner Nissen.

Brian Williams, chairman of SPC, was not available for comment Wednesday on the commerce protest.

General Faculties Council allows each faculty to set its own deadlines but urges "...Faculties and Schools to adopt withdrawal deadlines beyond the halfway point in the term." As well, fee funds may be given up to two months after the beginning of the term.

Commerce is the first faculty to change its deadlines.

New editor: Don McIntosh

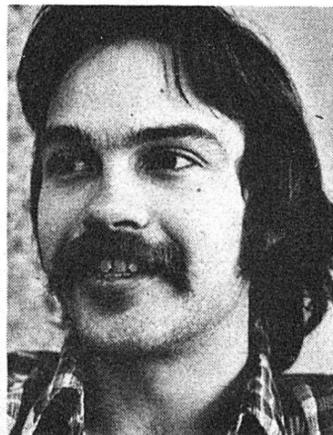
Don McIntosh, 21, a third-year Arts student majoring in English, was selected Gateway editor for 1977-78 by the Students' Union Publications Board on Tuesday.

McIntosh ran for editor against three other students - English graduate student Terry Butler, first-year Commerce student Leo Donlevy, and first-year Arts student Wayne Madden.

The Publications Board recommendation will go to Student's Council for ratification in two weeks.

In his application to the Publications Board, Grande Prairie native McIntosh said he felt the direction this year's Gateway has been headed "is not one I would wish to see diverted but rather pursued."

McIntosh said he thought the Gateway has been moving "towards the goal of presenting members of the university com-



munity with consistently high-quality pertinent news and, at the same time, the larger contemporary social issues which evolve concomitant with that news.

"This is a process I wholeheartedly endorse and will encourage."

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Durrant defends HUB fire-safety

HUB's concrete construction makes it as "safe or safer" than most high-rises, HUB manager Gerry Durrant said Wednesday, defending HUB against suggestions that is unsafe in event of fire.

However, Durrant admitted he and university fire marshal Cid Smith are considering placing smoke detectors in each of HUB's 452 suites to guard against fire. As well, he said, locked roof exits may be opened for use as emergency exits and nozzles on HUB's fire hoses will be changed to allow more water to pass through more quickly.

"Still, fire-wise this building is good," Durrant said in a Gateway interview. "Better than most high-rises - in fact, safer than most houses built these days."

Durrant said the concrete construction of the building makes it difficult for fires to spread and said although safety exits are perhaps not as good as they could be, design specifications are good enough to guard against most fire hazards.

But, Durrant said, some changes should perhaps be made to fire safety devices in HUB.

Durrant acknowledged he is considering replacing the locks on the 56 stairwell roof exits with alarm-sounding handles which could be opened in an emergency.

The roof exits are currently kept locked, Durrant said, to prevent tenants from possible danger while walking on the roof and to preserve HUB's domed mall covering, which has been damaged by people walking over it. Parties have also been held on the roof, he said, which increases the possibility of injury.

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See Nissen letter-to-the-editor page 4.