

# Federation opposes Hohol plan

by Gary Watson

The Federation of Alberta Students (FAS) decided this weekend to organize a province-wide campaign to oppose tuition fee hikes for foreign students.

FAS has opposed these increases since they were first announced last May. B

Because increasing foreign student fees would not offset cutbacks in government spending on post-secondary education, FAS also believes that in wealthy Alberta, education on an international basis should be promoted rather than restricted. The campaign would be designed to disseminate information about foreign students and encourage Boards of Governors, community groups and individuals to express their opposition to Minister of Advanced Education Bert Hohol's recommendations.

A major impetus for the campaign came from students at the University of Calgary and Mount Royal College who have

been involved in a Task Force to Oppose Differential Fee Hikes. Blair Redlin and Hugh Summerville from the U of C spoke about the task force, its campaign and the prospects for success.

Redlin explained how U of C students responded last year to a suggestion from their SU president that differential fees be instituted to alleviate financial pressures on education.

"About 2000 students turned out to a meeting to voice their opposition to these suggestions," explained Redlin. "And in the student union elections last spring, the winning slate campaigned against fee increases of any kind."

The task force was organized early this year and has received widespread support from many groups in the Calgary area. A major push in the campaign has been towards winning community support through petition drives and speaking engagements. Supporters of the task force now include the Calgary District Labour Council, the President of

the Calgary Chamber of Commerce and Grant Notley, leader of the Alberta NDP.

The U of C students' union authorized an expenditure of \$1500 to explain the situation in a full-page ad in the Calgary Herald. An overwhelming majority of those responding to the ad opposed the differential fee hike.

Summerville believes that increase fees, Hohol would have "This thing can be stopped." He

pointed out that differential fees cannot be instituted without the support of University and College Boards of Governors. "We have received encouraging response from the U of C Board. If we win their support in order to to change the University Act which grants all Boards complete autonomy in the assessment of fees. This would not go down with the Boards too well at all," he said.

Many of those attending conference saw great potential for the proposed campaign. A general consensus of opinion was enthusiastically expressed by one delegate who felt the campaign "could be the most important thing that FAS has done and it would help to much credibility for the federation." The provincial campaign expected to begin in mid-November.

## Women still men's property

MONTREAL (CUP) - Women are still the property of men under Canada's rape laws according to McGill University law professor R. Gray.

Speaking at a rape symposium held at McGill Gray said this aspect of the law is evident "in the legal definition of rape which is a male person having forced sexual intercourse with a woman who is not his wife."

But there have been some recent improvements to rape legislation, according to Gray.

He cited as an example a recent change allowing a rape victim's testimony to be considered as evidence by the jury, whether or not the evidence is corroborated by another source.

Joanie Vance, National Assistor of Rape Crisis Centres of Canada, noted that under revised legislation, the rape victim's sexual history can no longer be routinely entered as evidence.

The rationale behind the old law was, "When she said 'yes'

once, she lost the right every to say no again," said Vance.

Such testimony can only be allowed now if the defense attorney can show sufficient cause in a hearing before the judge, she said.

Other problems still exist said Vance, one of them being the

stiff penalties for rape offences. All aspects of rape laws should be brought into line with the law covering common assault, she said, noting that a rape conviction can result in life imprisonment while common assault carries a two year sentence.

## Higher fees allow foreign students to "stand tall"

LETHBRIDGE - Payment of higher tuition fees will allow foreign students to "stand tall," Alberta's advanced education minister said here Saturday.

The Alberta education system is as good as it is because of the toil of generations of Albertans, Dr. Bert Hohol told a small group of students at the University of Lethbridge Oct. 30.

By paying a higher tuition fee than Canadian students, Hohol said, foreign students will be paying for an educational system

they didn't help to establish. He suggested that higher fees foreign students be in a better position to have education in Alberta.

And he denied the allegation that the move was an attempt to appease the bigotry of some Albertans.

Before speaking to the students, Dr. Hohol spoke in a confidential portion of the Board of Governors' meeting, apparently on the subject of differential fees.

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by Michael Thomas

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