

# Controversy over foreign students

CALGARY (CUP) ---- A recommendation to the University of Calgary's Student's Legislative Council to increase tuition fees for foreign students has met with heavy criticism from International students on this campus.

The proposal, spearheaded by Academic Commission member Paul Wolf and his brother Student Union President Dave Wolf, called for an increase of \$2300 in tuition fees for international students.

The revenue expected to be gained would be channelled into a scholarship fund for university-qualified international students who would not otherwise have the means to finance their own education, said Paul Wolf.

Brother Dave said "very few, if any, international students of modest means are attending the University of Calgary. The cost of transportation, tuition, and living must certainly be prohibitive to all but the well-healed."

Vice-President of the International Students Association, Din Ladak,

feels that the brothers are "assuming too much" about the economic status of foreign students.

"We barely can afford to pay tuition and rents", he said.

According to Benita Catherasoo, past president of the ISA, "some students arrive barely able to pay their plane fare. If they live in a society with an extended family system, the admission fee is paid by a relative."

According to the Wolf brothers, groups that would be exempt from the increase would be landed immigrants (who are potential Canadians), students here on scholarships and possibly poor foreign students. A means test would be administered to determine the latter. According to the student newspaper, "to raise tuition fees for international students makes a mockery of the whole system."

It argued that setting up a scholarship fund for third world students is not a bad idea, but to count on the money coming from other international students is

rather ill-conceived. He said his personal contact with international students was limited and that he could be wrong about their financial status.

Wolf said the main reason for the proposal was to help underprivileged international students through the scholarship fund and thereby increase foreign student registrations.

Crowd reaction at the meeting indicated the opposite effect would occur in significant numbers.

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"Any student who could afford the \$9200 for the U of C's prestigious degree might find him/herself tempted by some bargain-rate degree. The funds for scholarships would soon dry up and the U of C would find itself depopulated of international students."

At an impromptu meeting with international students president Wolf changed his stand in mid-

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