

Ex-U of A student runs in Whitemud

# NDP MLA candidate Higgins says Tories don't care

by Tim Kihn

Tony Higgins, New Democrat candidate for the December 11th by-election in Whitemud, spoke last Thursday in Tory Building about a Conservative government that "doesn't care, doesn't listen, and doesn't know what people want".

Higgins cited 1.2 billion dollars in cost overruns on capital projects as evidence of "mismanagement by a government that says it is business-oriented".

"In six years the present government has averaged 200 million dollars a year in overruns on projects like the Kananaskis golf course and the University Health Sciences Center". He went on to say that one per cent of the yearly amount

could have gone instead to an after-school care program for children of working parents, avoiding cuts of university staff and programs, getting "good doctors in Northern Alberta", or settling labour disputes more equitably.

A former U of A student (and Gateway volunteer) in the late seventies, Tony Higgins says that he understands the problems of university students, like "existing on a daily diet of macaroni and cheese dinners".

Higgins says that if elected, he would press for the abolition of tuition fees at post-secondary institutions. He feels that "the government already pays for most of a student's education. Tuition fees

are a relatively small percentage of that amount". But Higgins conceded that those receiving free education would need to have acceptable "talent, ability, and academic background". He did not say whether this would mean higher admission standards.

"Grad students live below the poverty line", continued Higgins. "You should be paid according to the contribution you make to society". He acknowledged that grad students were making a sacrifice for a potentially lucrative academic career, but "there should be support programs along the way."

Other issues mentioned by Higgins during his 30 minute speech included the inequalities between

the wages of men and women for the same work, that lack of "good, accessible health care," and the poor state of tenants rights in Alberta.

On the topic of his Conservative opponent in Whitemud, Higgins said that "Don 'Rip Van' Getty has been asleep for six years and woke up with the same attitude as when he left office — that nothing needs to be changed." Higgins continued his attack saying that Getty is "like an ostrich with his head stuck in the sand . . . He (Getty) has yet to answer a question: in eight months he has yet to make a positive statement."

"He created a committee to look at the problem with Alberta's hog industry, but everyone knows that a committee is something with six or more legs and no brain", joked Higgins.

Higgins says that his campaign is going well and he has been out pounding the streets for up to six hours a day, spreading the gospel of the New Democrats throughout the Whitemud riding. But like his

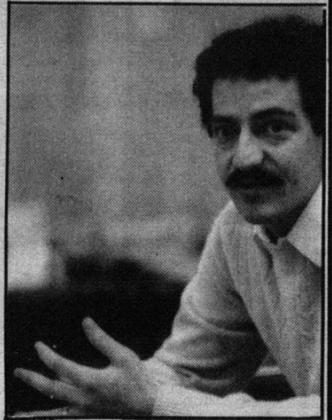


Photo Bill St. John

Candidate Higgins: 'Getty is like an ostrich'

Representative Party counterpart Dick Mather, Higgins has an uphill battle in front of him, trying to defeat the chosen one.

Tony Higgins, as introduced by New Democrat Club president Rita Kolpak, is a communications technician for the Edmonton Public School Board, and he also owns an independent graphics business.

## Prof appeals sexual harassment verdict

by Bill Doskoch

The professor who was found guilty on charges of sexual harassment will be appealing his conviction, says U of A spokesperson Sandra Halme.

The conviction was announced on Nov. 19 by Dr. Peter Meekison, the man who conducted the investigation and recommended the penalty of a six-month suspension without pay and a \$2,000 fine.

At that time, he said the professor had ten days to appeal.

"The appeal is an arbitration process. The university selects one

member, the complainant another, and then they both decide on a third," she said.

The length of time for a decision to be reached would depend entirely upon the time for the arbitration board to be formed and hear the case. However, "if the board decided before Jan. 1 that it could not uphold Dr. Meekison's decision, he would of course be able to return and teach," Halme said.

No matter what decision is reached by the arbitration board, the name of the professor involved

will not be released.

When asked why, Meekison said, "the basic reason is we work on disciplinary matters in confidence. The whole matter has been dealt with in that fashion and it will remain that way."

When asked for comment on the issue of the release of the professor's name, SU VP Academic Caroline Nevin said the executive had discussed the issue, but had not yet reached any conclusions on what course of action to take.

## English Can Save children

The University of Alberta English Department has begun its annual Christmas drive for the Canadian Save the Children Fund.

Cansave Christmas cards are avail-

able at the English Department office at 3-5 Humanities.

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