

The results and the resolutions

Tory minister heckled in debate

by K. Graham Bowers

The U of A Students' Union-sponsored three-party debate at the *True North Strong And Free?* conference got off to a rocky start for Tory Cabinet Minister Tom Hockin.

He received far less applause during the introductions than either Pauline Jewitt (New Democrats) and Lloyd Axworthy (Liberals). In fact, he was the only one to receive 'boos' during introductions.

Hockin and his government's policies and actions were resoundingly attacked by Axworthy, who insists that "we cannot choose an independent foreign policy, if at the same time we are . . . integrating ourselves into a (joint North American) system that takes away our freedom of choice."

Axworthy added that Canada must reverse this integration and say no to SDI and Free Trade.

Jewitt supported Axworthy's views and added to it a rejection of NATO and NORAD, and support for a nordic DMZ (de-militarized zone) non-aligned organization.

Jewitt also stated that she blames the United States as the driving force in the arms race in recent years.

Hockin insisted that Canada maintains an independent foreign policy and claimed that when the United States is wrong, Canada speaks out.

He noted that in 1986, Canada only voted with the United States on 22 out of 44 United Nations motions, and emphasized the difference in Canadian and American policies toward South Africa and Nicaragua.

Axworthy's response to this was that although the government speaks out, it "speaks out both sides of its mouth."

Axworthy then suggested, "let's get together with the other northern countries and let's have a nuclear freeze up north."

Jewitt's response to this was "I agree with everything Lloyd just said. My concern is that when the Liberals were in power they didn't do those sorts of things."

Neither the Liberals nor the Progressive Conservatives have the political will, she said, and they only pay lip service to those ideals.

Jewitt also attacked Hockin's suggestion that the Liberals and the New Democrats didn't "recognize the importance of NATO and NORAD to the defense of freedom."

She stated that before agreeing with Hockin one would "have to accept that the nuclear umbrella is part of the defense of freedom, and

I don't accept that. I think that nuclear weapons are the biggest threat to freedom and mankind."

She argued that Hockin's view was the sort of narrow "them and us" mentality that we had to rise above to find any answers to the nuclear threat. We haven't done that yet, according to Jewitt.

"In the House of Commons, if I

say that the United States has been the driving force in the arms race, I get called a commie. If I say that the Soviet Union, not the United States, is the one that declared a moratorium on testing — a universal act — I get called pro-Soviet."

Hockin stated that SDI did not violate the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty because it is only research,

which isn't covered by the treaty, and Jewitt attacked him on that as well. "Everything short of deployment, he (Reagan) calls research."

Clearly, the audience was more receptive toward Jewitt and Axworthy than toward Hockin.

Technology controlling us

by Juanita Spears

"We should decide right now that as a country we see that nuclear weapons are insane and we don't want to have anything to do with them," David Suzuki said Sunday.

"Technology is totally out of control, human control, and to speak as if we can control this by further technological devices simply perpetuates, I think, a myth that we are in command of this technology."

Suzuki warned that "today the most reliable source of technological breakdown is human error. One only has to look to the Challenger disaster, Chernobyl and Three Mile Island to attest to that."

"Science is an activity that is carried out by human beings with all of the foibles, idiosyncracies, and limitations of any other group of human beings."

He agreed with panel member, retired Major-General Leonard Johnson, that the risk of an accidental nuclear war is high.

"No technology today is fool-proof because no human being is not a fool at some time in their lives."

Suzuki went on to condemn the US Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI). "SDI will not and cannot work as expected, anymore than airplanes can be made crash proof. Even if you could design SDI you can't design perfect humans to run it."

To emphasize his point Suzuki told the audience that "100,000 people have direct access to nuclear missiles in the US. They are screened very, very carefully because you don't want some loopy

ney running around in there playing with a live missile."

"Yet every year over 4,000 of these people are drummed out for drinking on the job, for being stoned on marijuana, for taking heroin or psychological breakdown."

Suzuki claimed that part of the blame for technology being out of control is because most of our politicians are scientifically illiterate.

"80 to 90 per cent of most politicians are business people or lawyers. They are scientifically illiterate yet they are making major decisions about the future of fission vs. fusion reactors, about SDI, about acid rain, micro-electronics, biotechnology and so on," Suzuki said.

"We as a society are out of control of our own destiny because the people making decisions on our behalf cannot begin to assess the scientific issues involved in these dilemmas."

As an example he cites US President Ronald Reagan.

"Here is a man who grew up in a time long before there were any computers, televisions, jets, rockets, satellites, nuclear bombs or birth control pills," Suzuki claimed.

"He is making major commitments to SDI because he was nurtured on Buck Rogers comics, but he understands science and technology so little that he believes in biblical creation."

He also told the audience that he fears that the free trade initiative is aimed at making US military research monies more readily accessible to Canadian scientists.

"The pull of enormous defence dollars will prove irresistible to a

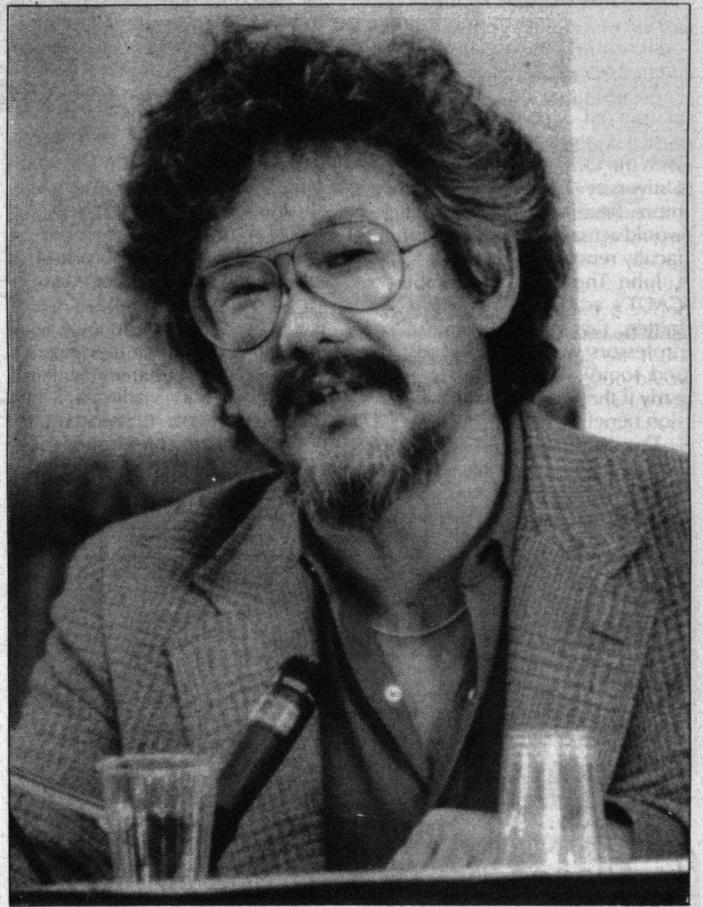
chronically under-funded community."

Suzuki did leave the group some hope to cling to however.

"Scientists have no codes or guidelines to direct their ethical and

moral conduct. So the public that controls the purse strings

has to impose ethical and moral standards. Therefore, it is audiences like this that has to put the heat on the scientific community."



Noted scientist David Suzuki

photo Bruce Gardave

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