

When choosing
between two evils...

the Gateway

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1981

...I always like to try
the one I've never tried
before.

Mae West

FAS demands more access

WHEREAS the Federal Government is giving serious consideration to forcing tuition to increase by 230% or more across Canada; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government is currently conducting a review of their long-term tuition policy; and

WHEREAS massive tuition increases can be expected as a result of Federal and Provincial cutbacks and could have a drastic impact on access to post-secondary education, including the burden of increased debt loads; and

WHEREAS the current Alberta Student Loan Program and the Canada Student Loan Program are ineffective in increasing accessibility;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the FAS/FEA make the issue of accessibility a major focus of the 1981/82 Anti-Cutbacks Campaign, in particular the problems of student aid and tuition; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT FAS/FEA continue its call for grants over student loans in the short term along with the call for a freeze on tuition, and in the long-term an all grant system for students with demonstrated need and eventually the removal of tuition fees as a financial barrier to post-secondary education.

by Greg Harris

The student movement is alive and well and living in Alberta.

More than forty delegates from eight post-secondary institutions across the province met last weekend at the U of A for the annual fall conference of the Federation of Alberta Students (FAS).

After three days of intense discussion the delegates resolved to make the issue of accessibility the major focus of their 1981/82 Anti-Cutbacks campaign.

They also presented a strong and united voice calling for the eventual removal of tuition fees as a financial barrier to post-secondary education.

"This is the most unified conference I've ever seen...we came together on the really important issues," said FAS president Lorraine Mitchell.

She said their united position will give FAS more credibility when they lobby Advanced Education and Manpower Minister Jim Horsman.

Member institutions voted overwhelmingly in favor that FAS, "...continue its call for grants over student loans in the short term along with the call for a freeze on tuition, and in the long-term an all grant system for students with demonstrated need and eventually the removal of tuition fees as a financial barrier to post-secondary education."

The final vote on the comprehensive motion (above) was seven in favor, none opposed, and one abstention coming from the U of A delegation. (See story, page 1).

Mitchell stressed that the FAS long-term tuition policy was just that — long term. No one, she said, expects Minister Jim Horsman to budge on the issue overnight.

Delegates also voted to form formal alliances with other interest groups. Alliances, they said, are, "an indispensable component of the campaign for quality, accessible education, both in terms of mutual support and benefit."

They resolved to establish ties with the Canadian Health Coalition and Friends of Medicare, since these groups could face similar cuts in funding from Established Programs Financing (EPF).

Labor and community organizations were also mentioned as allies since they "share

the same goals for education and social change as the student movement, and are directly affected by a non-accessible post secondary system."

Delegates expressed enthusiasm at the results of the conference.

"It was very informative and well worth our time even if we did miss classes," said Linda Plumer from the Medicine Hat College delegation.

Plumer said the conference was especially helpful in getting students "in tune" with the issues.

"We can take a lot of information back to our campus now," said Plumer.

"Our long-term tuition policy is essential if we're striving for accessibility — and we have to remember that it's long term," she said.

Peter Fleck of the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT) delegation was also pleased.

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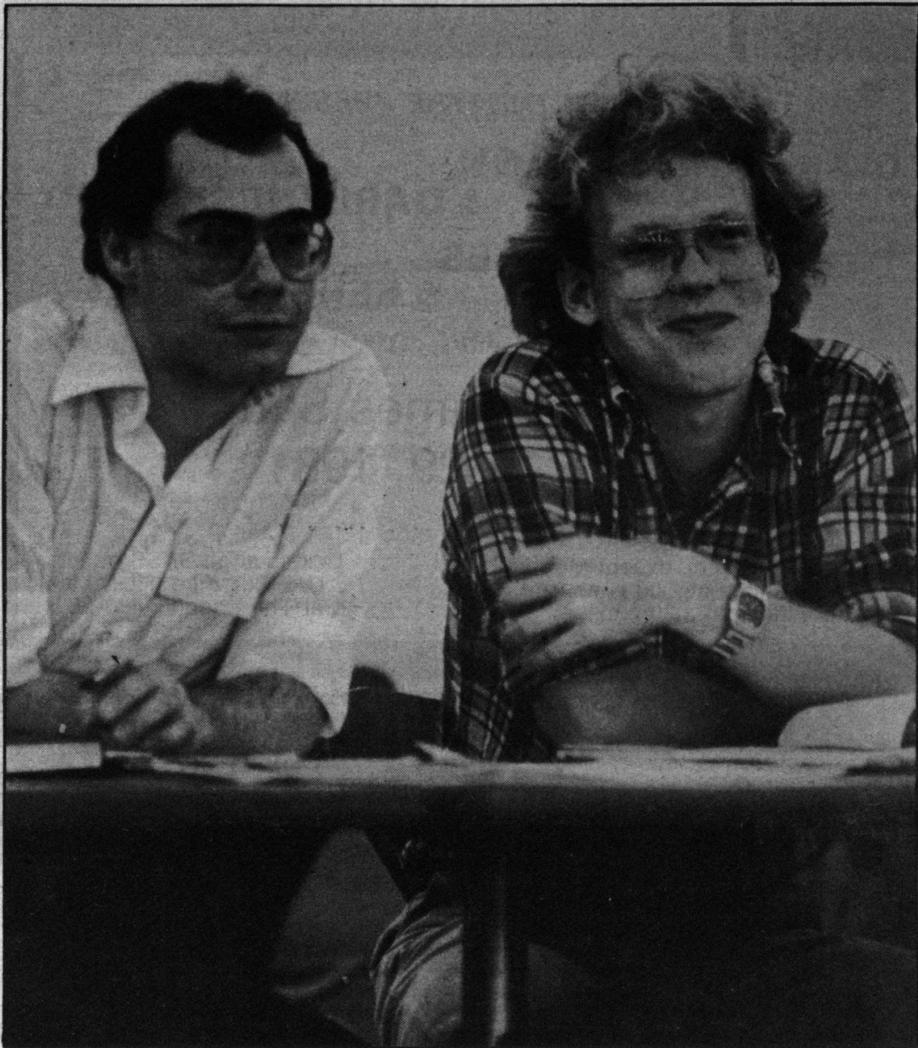


photo Ray Giguere

Agents of social change?

Gateway hacks turned Alberta student activists, Keith Krause and Mike Walker (L to R). The student movement is in good hands, despite rumours the two are closet conservatives.

U of A reps split on tuition issue

by Greg Harris

The University of Alberta caucus was divided on the important issue of tuition at this weekend's conference of the Federation of Alberta Students.

U of A delegates differed on the motion calling for the eventual removal of tuition fees as a barrier to post-secondary education. Alberta consequently abstained on the motion while the seven other institutions unanimously supported it.

While almost everyone agreed with the principle of free tuition some felt that strategically it would be an unwise decision.

"From a purely philosophical position I support the long term abolition of tuition fees in post-secondary education — specifically in the liberal arts," said delegate Phil Soper.

However, he voted against the motion in the Alberta caucus, saying that the Students' Unions of universities should be the voice of students and not FAS.

Delegate Dave Cox said, "My basic philosophical assumption is that education is a right and that there should be universal accessibility to it."

"I'd like to see some of my little sisters not having to pay any tuition," said Cox.

Delegate Dawn Noyes

emphasized that while tuition might not pose a barrier to post-secondary education for students on campus, it stops many students from attending at all.

"It's the people who aren't here that we're concerned about."

"It all boils down to the concept of post-secondary education as a right," said Noyes.

She added that the newly

adopted no tuition policy will give students more credibility.

Students can no longer be criticized for being without direction or foresight, said Noyes.

Delegate Paul Fitzgerald was strictly against the idea of free tuition.

"I'm against it because I like the principle that students should pay for something towards the cost of their education."

"FAS will blow their credibility with the government...unless they take a reasonable stand," said Fitzgerald.

November 26 will mark the province wide Day of Action. FAS members and anti-cutback teams will be canvassing campuses to heighten student awareness and involvement in post-secondary education issues.

...and over in this corner

...and they're in their corners.

It's another important card at Students' Council tonight.

Headlining is the infamous Bechtel/Kavanagh motion, which puts Lisa Walter and the EAB on the spot.

One of the interesting preliminary bouts is the discussion of the University Athletics Board budget. And what Students' Council will do if they pass the 1981/82 final budget is anyone's guess.

After the main event two good confrontations will occur.

First, the Building Services Board will recommend allocation of space in the Students' Union Building. Contingent on the ratification of the rejection of last

Council meeting's motion to save the curling rink, Bechtel's motion would see the construction of retail space in the rink area, and the transfer of the pool tables and coined operated machines to the east wall.

Another part of that motion is to lease the area now known as the Bear Pit to the Bank of Commerce, and lease the bookstore part of the area now designated Games Area.

The third floor, when returned to the SU in April, 1982 would be designated as club space.

On the main floor, the ex-Music Listening Area would become office space for Art Gallery and the Travel Office.

The Information Desk would

be converted into an Information Booth, Confectionary and Copy Centre. There are plans also for the creation of more office space on the main floor for clubs.

The sleeper of the evening will be the Fitzgerald/Koch motion to censure SU v.p. Finance and Administration Elise Gaudet. Specifically, they would censure Gaudet for the manner in which she presented the motion regarding the closure of the SU Music Store at the October 27 Council meeting.

A number of reasons are listed for this censure. Chief among them is the lack of notice for the motion.

Remember that's Students' Council, tonight at 7 p.m. Mountain; 6 p.m. Standard time.