

"How can you have a cutback when you have an increase?"

# Quotes from Chairman Lougheed

After four months of pestering the premier's secretary, CJSR's assistant director Nolan Astley obtained an interview with Premier Peter Lougheed.



CJSR: Last year and again this year the word 'cutback' has become almost a word in any discussion of your government's policy towards the universities. Could you briefly describe how your government views Alberta's universities and its responsibilities to fund them?

Lougheed: How can you have a cutback when you have an increase? We've increased it. We haven't increased it as much as some people would like us to and that's fair for debate. But we've increased university budgets in this province well ahead of what's been happening in other provinces.

I was just in Ontario last week and they were talking about very, very minimal increases in their university budgets down there and I think there's a question Alberta spends more by far than any province in Canada on a per capita basis for university and college education. I think we should and we will continue to.

CJSR: So basically there will be no significant changes in the policy towards universities in the next year or so?

Lougheed: Well, there are two important measures we took this year

In addition to the release of capital projects, such as the new Agriculture Building at the U of A. We moved by recognizing that there had been an unusual increase in utility costs and that was a factor in budgeting at the U of

We also brought in a new program which I was surprised didn't get a reaction or response from the universities because it was a very positive program of upgrading the libraries on a million dollar basis. We accept criticism, but I think people should be patient when we bring forward some

positive moves such as the library enrichment program.

CJSR: Last March, about 5000 students visited the legislature to protest policies of your government. Did that action have any effect on your government at that time?

Lougheed: Well, not the demonstration as such, because governments don't react to demonstrations. If we did, that means that laws are made in the streets, not in the legislatures. To me, it's the wrong principle. If there's going to be a debate in the legislature, or views are going to be expressed at party meetings, or views are expressed by meeting people who can make good arguments, then we're prepared to listen.

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What we did do was respond at that time to arguments that were made to us by two groups. First of all, by the university administration with regard to utility costs, and secondly, that the student union, who raised with us the need to review and assess the question of student loans. We've got a task force which I think will be reporting some time in the next two or three months.

CJSR: Differential fees have been a real sore spot on campus for a couple of years now. I wonder if you could just briefly outline why you implemented the policy.

Lougheed: Well, we think the universities are being financed to the tune of 85% of the costs by the Alberta taxpayer, and that certainly Albertans who are going to the university should be given some preference.

Those students who we want, and every university wants a number of them, to come from other parts of the world—that is, outside Canada, we welcome people to come from other provinces, which they do—but when they come here from other countries, we

**"Those that are going to university right now should be the strongest supporters of our saving in the Heritage Trust Fund..."**

think that they should pay a generally higher tuition fee, and I think that's generally accepted.

Certainly it's the case in Ontario. It's the case in many American universities. I think they should pay a somewhat higher fee. I think the vast bulk of Albertans, and I wouldn't be surprised if a significant number of students, agree with that.

CJSR: I think one of the hardest things for university students to understand is why in Alberta, where we've got billions of dollars in the Heritage Savings Trust Fund, do we still have to pay a tuition fee?

Lougheed: Yes we are. We think it's right in principle. Now, there's lots of room for discussion about what the differential should be and I think that question is perhaps better directed to Bert Hohol.

CJSR: Then you're planning to continue the program?

Lougheed: Well, you have to look at what the Heritage Savings Trust Fund is for. What we're really saying is that today we have the lowest tax system in Canada and the highest services. We're using 70% of our oil and gas revenues for our current needs. We're putting 30% away for the future. Now, what are we going to do with the future? The oil and gas revenues are going to start to decline.

Those that are going to university right now should be the strongest supporters of our saving in the Heritage Trust Fund, because if it is simply used as a slush fund to pay off current needs,

then what's going to happen to this province?

About 10 to 15 years from now the oil revenues are going to start to inevitably decline. I'll bet the services won't get cut back. So what's going to happen? The taxes are going to have to go up dramatically and the people who are going to have to pay those taxes are those at university right now. So it strikes me as strange. I would have thought that the strongest support we could get, in terms of preserving the Heritage Trust Fund, would be from students who are studying at the university today.

## ELECTION, SLATES from page one

### Words of wisdom from student leaders

"The State of Student Politics," is the title of a forum to be held today at 3:30. The forum is sponsored by the Political Science Undergraduate Association (PSUA), and will take place in Tory 14-9.

"The forum will be a kickoff to the Students' Union elections," said Maggie Coates, PSUA president, "but we don't want to make it into a campaign issue debate."

The list of speakers for the forum is impressive. Cheryl Hume, Loren Lennon, Harvey

Groberman, Alan Fenna, and Chanchal Battacharya are all confirmed, and the list may grow.

An informal discussion format will be followed at the forum. The discussion will center around current and past campus issues, and changes which have occurred in student politics. All speakers are experienced and knowledgeable campus politics watchers, and their observations may provide interesting and pertinent discussion material.

All students are welcome to attend the forum.

It will be extremely difficult for the upcoming elections to provide more entertainment than the pre-campaign politicking, which featured:

A candidate hopping from the presidency of one slate to another within 36 hours of the nomination deadline.

Candidates losing their nomination sheets or changing the position they were running for after having collected nearly all the necessary signatures.

No candidates at all for vice president of men's athletics, or either of the women's athletics positions.

An unprecedented lack of prior organization or preparation by all concerned, and

Some of the most desperate hard-sell candidate-scrounging

ever witnessed this side of Ottawa.

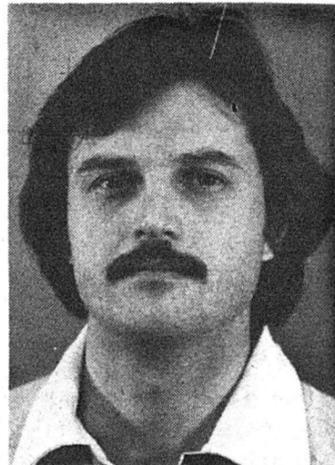
Incredibly, both the Olmstead and Fenna slates were organized within the last week.

It appears that Olmstead and his running mates did not really get started until last Friday afternoon (with some help from Kushner and vp academic Mike Ekelund). After that, things progressed smoothly until Kim Hay dropped out as vp finance and administration. He was not replaced.

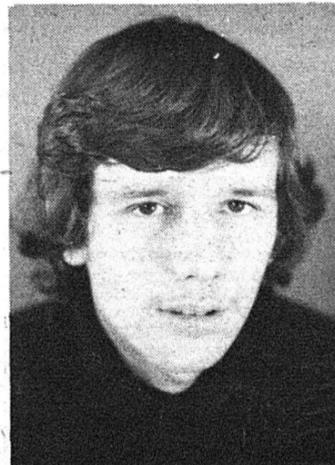
The story of the Fenna slate's construction virtually defies belief. Originally Robert Kirk was pencilled into Fenna's position with all the other slots remaining to be filled. When Kirk decided to throw in the towel on Monday, it looked like curtains for the slate, but organizers Cheryl Hume and Brian Mason didn't give up, and on Wednesday evening, Cheryl convinced Alan Fenna to jump from president of the joke slate to be president of the new one.

Then somewhere in the last hours Terry Hadford and Greg Michaud were rounded up to form an undeniably formidable unit.

All of the presidential and B of G rep candidates have been given specific questions to answer by the Gateway. The presidential responses will be printed in the Gateway's Tuesday edition and the B of G hopefuls' replies will appear next Friday.



O'Kurley



Thom

### Finance prof appointed

## Business gets a head

The Faculty of Business Administration and Commerce has a new department head.

Dr. Seha M. Tinic, professor of finance and quantitative methods, was appointed chairman of the department of finance and management science, effective July 1.

The new chairman has been on staff at the U of A since 1970. She holds a Bachelor of Arts

degree in industrial management from Bogazici University in Istanbul, a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Tulsa, and a PhD in managerial economics from Cornell University.

Tinic succeeds Dr. G.A. Mumey as chairman of the department. Dr. Mumey will return to teaching and research duties in the faculty.



Groberman