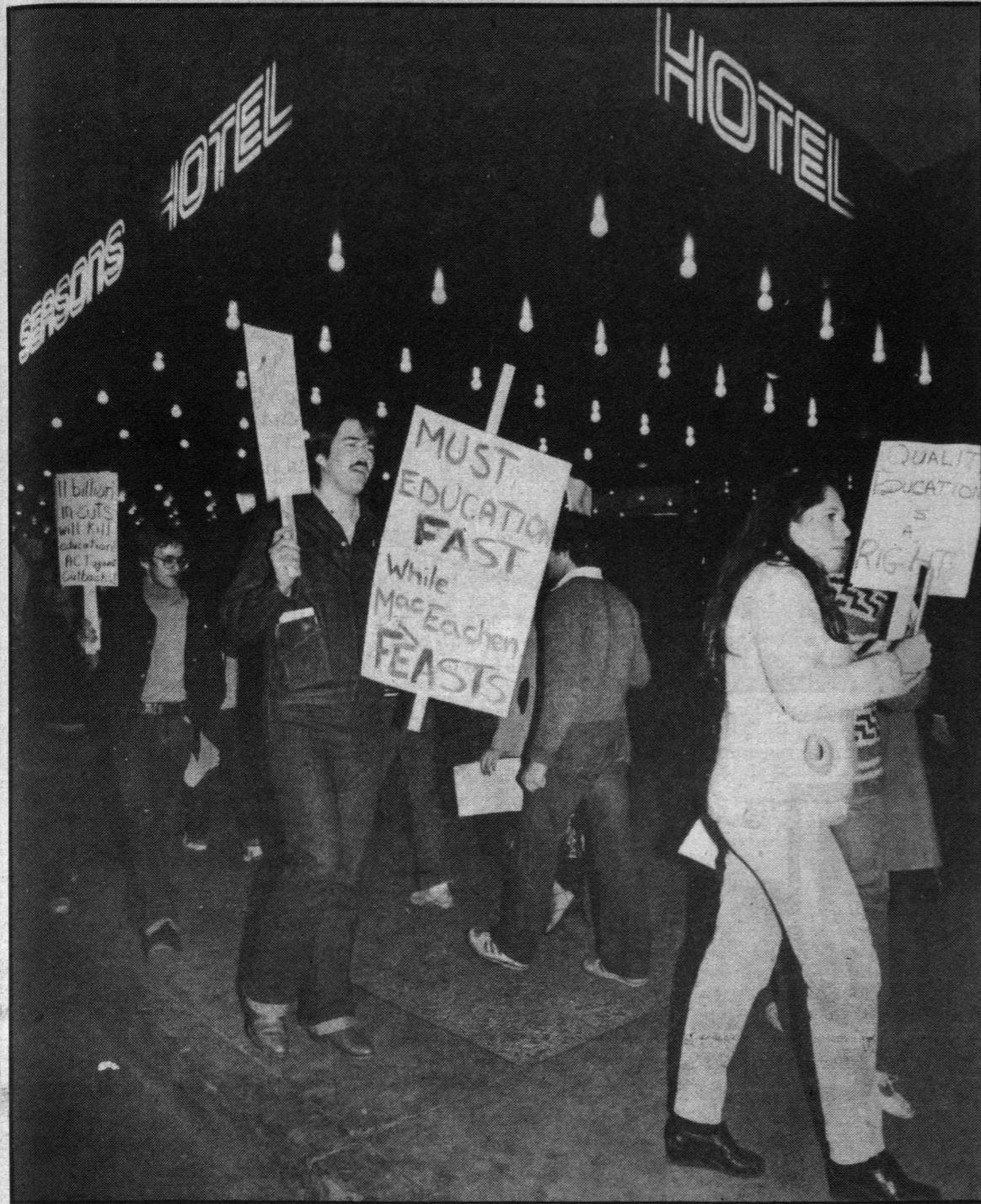


MacEachenomics: The only thing more useless than students...

the Gateway

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...is sick people



photos Ray Giguere

Friday Night: Alan MacEachen couldn't tear himself away from his \$150-a-plate dinner to address students' concerns about Liberal cuts in education funding.

Rich grits ignore students' protests

MacEachen admits EPF budget cuts

by Peter Michalyshyn

Allan MacEachen stood before some 300 Liberal party faithfuls Friday night and said, "Canadians need and deserve a strong educational system."

Earlier in the cool October 30 evening about 40 marching and placard waving students called for MacEachen to come out in front of Edmonton's Four Seasons Hotel and tell them in good faith the same thing. The federal minister of Finance declined the invitation.

Inside MacEachen told guests at the \$150-a-plate fund raising dinner, "...it will not be my intention to dismantle or undermine the achievements of...post-secondary education that were fought for by Liberal governments of the past."

Yet, he admitted his November 12 budget would include "a slowing of the increase in support" for post-secondary education, Medicare, and social welfare programs.

He predicted cuts of \$500 million to \$1 billion in the federal budget, substantiating earlier statements that over the next two years the government would cut some \$1.5 billion from areas covered by the Established Programs Financing agreement, or as MacEachen called it, the

"social envelope."

"20 per cent of total expenditures of the federal government go to the provinces by way of transfers (EPF)" MacEachen said.

"If I am to exercise restraint (in the upcoming budget) I cannot overlook the 20 per cent that flows to the provinces," he said.

MacEachen said the federal contribution to social and educational programs has grown in the last five years under the EPF agreement. EPF, which is up for renewal this April, is a system of unconditional tax credits and cash grants from the federal to

provincial governments. MacEachen said negotiations toward a new EPF agreement would start promptly after the budget announcement.

Foreshadowing the tone of federal negotiations, the minister of finance criticized provincial governments for not meeting their end of the EPF deal.

"Our proportion of that cost (EPF) can bear the most minute scrutiny."

"I'm not sure the record of most provinces would bear the same scrutiny."

Of students' concerns that

federal cuts in post-secondary education funding would triple tuition fees, MacEachen had little to say.

He had read the pamphlet passed out by students in front of the Four Seasons Hotel. It called on the federal government not to cut educational or social welfare programs.

"I certainly liked the color of the paper," MacEachen said of the shocking pink pamphlet.

On Saturday MacEachen was confronted face to face with about twenty University of Calgary students. It was the first time that

the Finance Minister has been confronted with the protests of angry university students.

The demonstrators were waiting on the main floor of the Calgary Convention Center. When MacEachen came downstairs from the reception, the security staff rolled out a metal barrier between the protesters and the Minister.

Meanwhile, in Ontario last Friday over 10,000 students in five cities protested federal and provincial cuts in post-secondary education.

The protest continues.

Farkas sweeps board by-election

With 73.2 per cent of votes cast last Friday, Kris Farkas is no longer the interim Board of Governors student representative, but has a permanent position on the B of G for the rest of the winter session.

John Reynolds, her only opponent in the race, received 25.5 per cent of the 667 votes cast. 1.3 per cent of the votes were spoiled.

Farkas was appointed interim student representative on

the Board by Students' Council last April. This was after the last representative, Ken Lawson-Williams, resigned due to a poor academic standing. He also dropped out of university.

At the same council meeting, it was decided that a by-election would be held in October for the position.

Students' Council decided later in September that executive positions could no longer be won by acclamation. They would have

to receive a mandate (50 per cent) from votes cast. If there was no mandate, the election would be run as if there were a tie or no candidate running. That is, nominations would open for a by-election.

The student representative's duties are to sit on the Board's monthly meetings, join a Board committee, be a member on General Faculties Council, keep office hours, keep contact with the SU, and sit on Students' Council.

Other results

Elections for Faculty of Science council representatives were held on Friday also.

Mike Hohmann, and Ken Gehman took the positions with 31.9 and 42.7 per cent respectively of the 144 votes cast. The third candidate, Tim Jellard, had 22.9 per cent of the vote.

The next Board of Governors meeting is this Friday. More in Thursday's *Gateway*.