

GOD HAVE MERCY!

General election shifts to top gear at Wed. zoo rally

by Kevin Gillese, Bruce Rout and Don Truckey

How the hell do you write an unbiased, straight news story on an election rally resembling a four-way hockey game between conservatives, moderates, radicals and animals? The gates of the zoo opened Wednesday in Tory Lecture Theatre 1-11 with SU returning officer Michael Amerongen apologizing for the present Students' Union executive because they had rented out SUB Theatre and forced the students into cramped classroom quarters for what is, ostensibly, the most important event in student politics each year.



Packed election rally listens attentively to presidential candidates expounding, confounding and promising, at animal-like forum yesterday. More election photos p. 12.

A wave of hissing from the crowd drowned out Amerongen's apology and independent presidential candidate Mike Ekelund took the stand to denounce the slate system which has been with the Students' Union since it was introduced by David Leadbeater (1969). Ekelund said the slate electing "is not the optimum way to utilize the talents of the people." He lamented the treatment of faculties as the same and was stamped with applause only once during the speech - when he promised the people no discos on campus. Katy Le Rougetel pushed the Young Socialists slate, rapping danced ed. minister Hohol for his differential fee hikes. Le Rougetel said Hohol's proposal

was not only discriminatory, it was (oh horrors for the oil-conscious Lougheed administration!) financially unsound. "It's just a drop in the bucket," Le Rougetel said of monies the fee would bring. The crowd of 500, packed into the lecture theatre, came to life with shouts of approval as Le Rougetel knocked the Alberta government for restricting higher education to the wealthy. And the crowd, livened by Le Rougetel, was in the mood for hi-jinks as CRAP slate presidential candidate Rene Le Lark stood behind the podium and told the people "what you really want to hear." Le Larke, wearing a mask of ridiculous proportions, was greeted with a thunderous ovation. And as he began his political satire, the crowd responded with outbursts of applause every few

sentences. Le Larke began his speech light-heartedly by introducing his slate candidates, arrayed in various costumes near the front of the audience. Le Larke attacked his opponents. Jay Spark he called "(SU pres.) Zoeteman's protégé" and he asked the crowd "why elect these people who have been around in student politics? You've seen what they can do already - do you want more of the same CRAP?" But he threw a change-up at

the audience by saying the heart of the election this year should be the question of university autonomy. "Bert Hohol is telling the people that differential fees will allow foreign students to stand tall," Le Larke told the audience. "Well, we're all paying higher tuition fees this year and I don't think we're standing any taller." Le Larke said his slate had reversed their initial stand in favor of a 500 per cent tuition increase for foreign students, saying the CRAP slate sees

fighting the hike as a rallying point for student power against encroachment on university autonomy. Le Larke literally took over the meeting with his outlandish behavior, masked countenance—and serious platform statements. When his time was up - five minutes per presidential candidate - the crowd angrily demanded he be given more time to speak. Amerongen called for a vote from the audience, saying

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Hike opposed

Both of the provincial opposition parties and the Alberta Federation of Labor (AFL) have condemned Monday's announcement by the provincial government that foreign students attending Alberta post-secondary institutions will pay higher tuition fees than Canadians.

Bob Clark, Social Credit Party leader, issued a press release Monday which called the government's move an "unenlightened hip-pocket policy"

and said Alberta's minister of advanced education, Dr. Bert Hohol has not provided "one iota of proof for the necessity of such a system."

Clark said Hohol "has not shown that Albertans have lost opportunities to attend educational institutions due to the presence of foreign students. In addition he does not seem to realize the fact that wealthy areas such as Alberta have an obligation to help out the students of developing nations."

Clark said the only result of Dr. Hohol's system of differential fees will be "needless penalization" of foreign students.

New Democratic Party president Howard Leeson said Tuesday the system of differential fees "has no administrative or monetary value."

Leeson called Hohol's move "an example of the worst kind of cowardice," and he noted that one of the things which concerned a 1973 NDP committee on education was the possibility that

a defenseless group of people might be unjustly attacked.

"The Minister's actions seem to confirm that fear.

"For the political gain in-

involved in appearing to defend the public purse, he (Dr. Hohol) has chosen a group who cannot fight back."

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Young PCs balk

A resolution opposing the provincial government's proposed tuition increases for foreign students has been passed by the U of A Progressive Conservative Youth Federation (PCYF).

The PCYF resolution will be on the agenda of the provincial PC meeting March 25, 26, 27, PCYF member and Board of Governors (B of G) rep. Joe McGhie said Tuesday.

Premier Lougheed has indicated that the foreign fee increase will be a major topic at the provincial party meeting, McGhie said.

Keeping foreign students in Canada — and out of communist countries — by retaining present

tuition levels, was one argument raised in discussing the PCYF motion, McGhie admitted.

Some people fear, he added, that foreign students can get free education in the Soviet Union and will be ideologically influenced in ways detrimental to Canadian foreign policy.

"In my opinion, it's a lesser argument, not supported in fact nor very substantial," McGhie said. He stressed he has never backed such an argument.

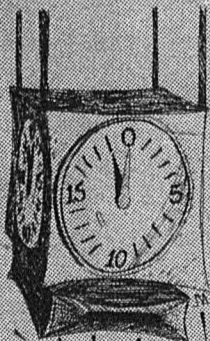
The PCYF resolution agrees with the B of G rejection Friday of advanced education minister Dr. Bert Hohol's proposal to raise

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Election schedule

Polling hours and locations have been announced for the Friday Students' Union election. "It would cost a bloody fortune to keep all the polls open on election day," SU returning officer Michael Amerongen said Monday as he announced that only five of the 24 polls will be open from nine to five Friday. The five all-day polls are: Education, CAB, SUB, Atholfield-HUB, and Phys. Ed. The following polls will be open from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.: Physical Sciences, Law, Fine Arts, Old Arts, Agriculture, Dentistry-Pharmacy, Humanities, Biological Sciences, Living, General Services, and College St. Jean. Polls open from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. will be Corbett Hall, House Ec, Mechanical Engineering and Chem-Min. Engineering. Special polls will be open at these times: Medical Sciences — noon to 5:00 p.m. Lister Hall — 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Nurses Residence — 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The advance poll will be conducted Thursday, Feb. 10 in Room 271 SUB from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.



One Day Left You Decide the Score VOTE FRIDAY