

All this can be yours if you can convince SSHRC.

Closing of Nominations:

/Tuesday, January 19, 1982

1700 Hr., Thursday, January 21st, 1982

Millions for needy grads

by Peter Michalyshyn

What do you think about getting in on a \$42 million chance to cash in.

jackpot?
You'll have to wait until you're in graduate studies or until you're up for a Ph.D., or even until after that, because this \$42 million isn't available to undergraduates. But, to be sure, there are people out there, like U of A political science associate professor Jim

representative on the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

He and 21 others from across Canada donate their time to the federal crown corporation so that academics in this great nation of ours have money with which to study the venerable bead and

Election Day:

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Friday, February 5th, 1982

people out *there* have ideas, and eligible applicants. that everybody should have a Other major areas include

grants goes toward independent

archeology, summers in Greece, and the like,"Lightbody says, there is money available. But first the Lightbody, who are just dying to give away that money.

Lightbody is the Alberta which determine application is screened vigorously by various painstaking methods which determine "academic

Money is also given directly call Canadian universities for general research via a formula (which works out to about \$55,000 for the U of A) and the universities use the money as it likes; abuse of that privilege is uncommon, Lightbody says.

publish the work of Erasmus, among other worthy things.

It is usually not a big problem disposing of the \$42 million if only because the SSHRC is one of worth about \$4 million. As well, the only research granting hodies. the only research granting bodies the Council spent some \$9 million

chance to cash in.

It obviously is not that nals" such as the Canadian Journal simple. The biggest percentage of Of Ukrainian Studies, and to sponsor conferences across ch. Canada. Some funds are available 'So, for example, if for international research grants, archeologists want support for and some money goes back into long-term projects such as the Dictionary of Canadian Biography, and others.

Then there are the Strategic

Grants. For the academic community that cherishes its autonomy, the Council may be seen as here an intruder. But Lightbody explains:

We cannot count on individual academics in the field initiating sufficient research.... he says, into one of the strategic

fields of 'population aging.'
Other strategic focuses are
Canadian Studies, the Family and Socialization of Children, the Human Context of Science and Technology. There are special programs funded here too, such as one for small, isolated universities that cannot support research libraries or visiting scholars.

Lightbody supports the idea of the academic community being accountable and responsive to public needs.

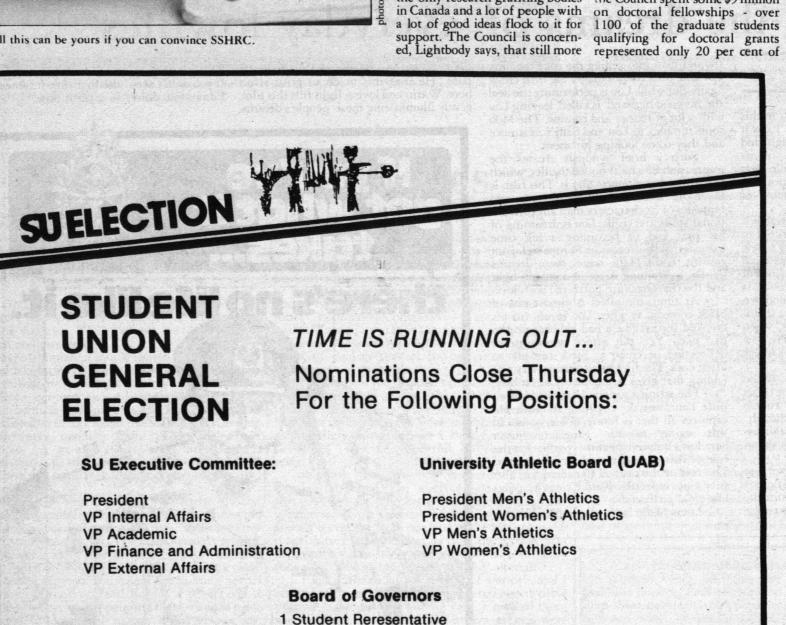
"The Council at this point is probably too biased toward the academic community. It is supposed to reflect the various kinds of interests in the country business, labor....In a sense the Council is to be a politically sensitive balance to the academic requests we get.

Is it political? Well, Lightbody points to legislation creating the Council; it says strategic grants should "encourage research in areas of national concern." The Council defines those areas of

"We don't just go off on benders," Lightbody says. "Moving into new strategic research areas we start off with workshops, then we invite proposals and we check these with an Academic Advisory Panel (a body of academics across Caanda) and their committees. It takes a long time before anything becomes operational. You're spending public money and you are accountable for it.

Still, the strategic grant portion of the SSHRC budget amounts only to about two million

Next: the Council's bold new plan to print academic journals in microform and intransigence in soon in the Gateway.



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