

# Students grill SU hopefuls

by Lucinda Chodan

Charges of mud-slinging and "planted" questioners dominated yesterday's Students' Union election forum in SUB Theatre.

The forum got off to a fast start with presidential candidate Nolan Astley.

"Some people are calling this election a non-campaign with no issues, contested by non-entities. We don't agree with that," he told the audience of about 400.

Astley stressed "revitalizing" the university with a balance of on- and off-campus concerns. "We will be able to provide a strong voice for students with the provincial government and . . . more awareness of the concerns of the 'average' student," he said.

The Astley slate would have an open-door policy for students, he added.

"In conclusion," he said, "there are some real concerns . . . which cannot be answered by a return to 1959."

"They cannot be answered by a yearbook filled with 19,000 faces you don't know, not by reviving an elitist Golden Key society, not by a parkade that will probably never be built," he said, referring to campaign promises made by the Thorkelson slate.

Scott Thorkelson, the other presidential candidate, said his slate was primarily concerned with the quality of education.

Citing rising cost and declining quality, he said there were inherent problems in the relationship between the university and the government.

The provincial government feels the university has not been allocating funds properly.

"The university should prove that they are," he said.

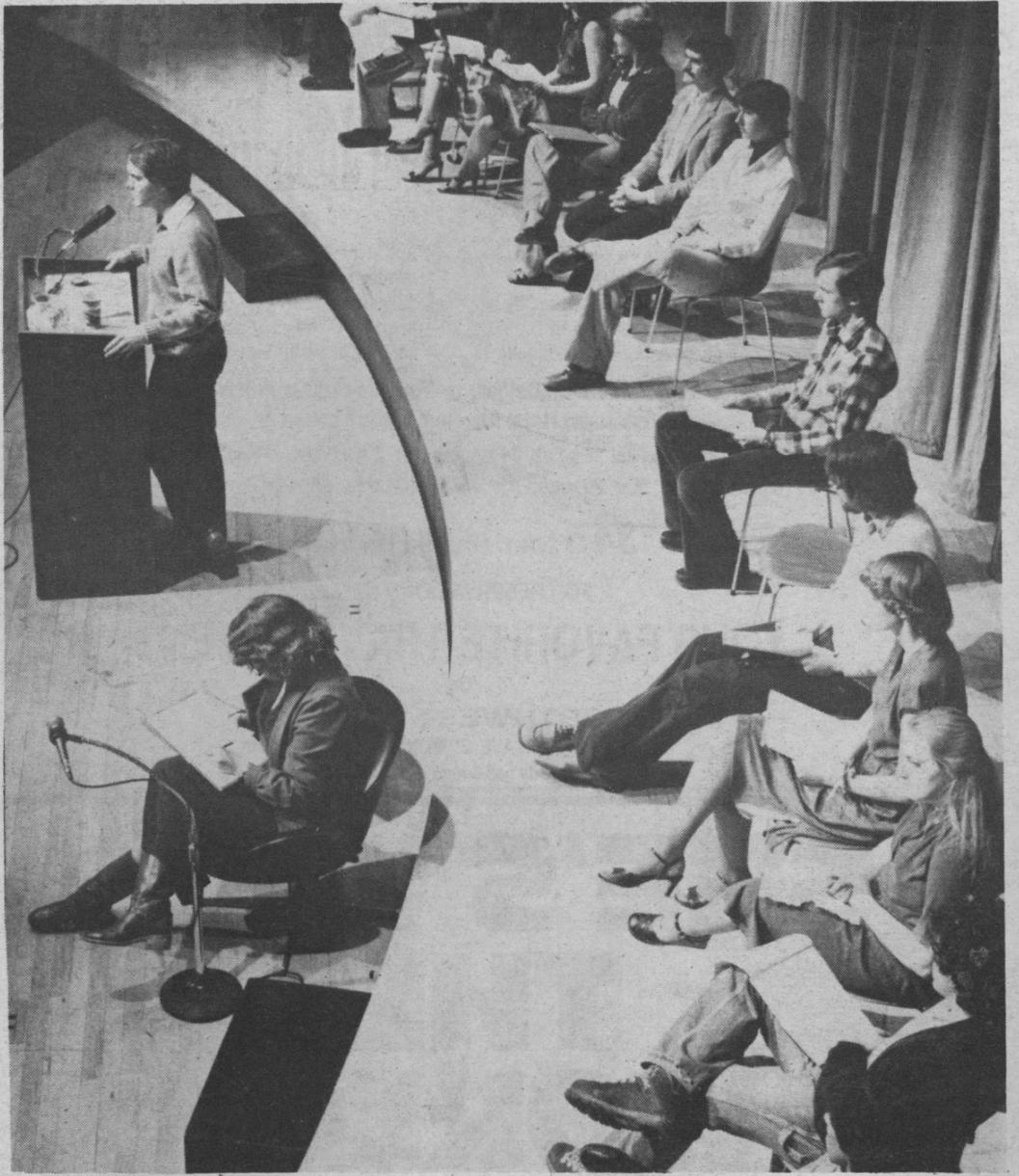
He also advocated phasing-out the tenure system and replacing it with five- and ten-year contracts for professors.

Responding to a heckler in the audience, he said academic freedom is an important issue, but other universities, "in the Ivy League and in Eastern Canada" used a system similar to the one he proposed.

"We're not going to promise a course guide," he said, charging that the Astley slate's promises to produce a course guide within nine days of being elected were "impractical." Thorkelson said his slate would work to make teacher evaluation forms available to students at the faculty level.

Referring to a section on the Astley slate election pamphlet which referred to his slate as "uninformed" and "confrontational," he asked the audience,

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Presidential candidate Scott Thorkelson addresses students at the SU election rally in SUB Theatre.

Don't organize...

## the Gateway

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 7, 1980

...agonize.

"Tories betraying West" says ex-P.M.

# Dump Clark now, says Trudeau

by Julie Green

Pierre Trudeau accused the Conservative government of betraying the West and urged voters to "get rid of them before more damage is done," during a speech to party workers yesterday.

The leader of the opposition centred his attack of the Conservatives on repercussions of the gas excise tax. Speaking to an enthusiastic luncheon crowd of 400 Liberals at the Four Season's Hotel, Trudeau said, "The Crosbie budget was the most unjust in Canadian history," and cited examples of the ill effects the tax would have on farming and transportation.

Trudeau called the budget a "fiasco" because "it is based on an agreement for a tax sharing formula between the provincial and federal governments which doesn't exist." He said it was necessary to defeat the government to "strike down the tax."

"By taking away the farmer's exemption from the fuel tax," Trudeau said, "their total fuel bill would cost \$2,000 more per year. If Diefenbaker was alive he would be against what Clark has done to his farmers," he said.

The gas tax, "used to pay for Tory election promises, such as the home mortgage deductibility program, has punished the West," he said. He added that the transportation industry would

be hard hit too, causing fares to go up not only for passengers but also for transporting grain and other commodities.

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# Pot party smoking

LETHBRIDGE (CUP) — A marijuana marketing board to insure a safe legal supply of the drug is what Peter Jones wants out of politics.

Jones is running in the federal election in southern Alberta on a one plank platform: legalize marijuana.

With a shaven head and a beard halfway down his chest the 37-year-old coalminer from the Crownst Pass is quite a contrast to other candidates in the Conservative stronghold riding. But Jones thinks he will do well. "I'm the choice for people turned

off by politics, for people who don't usually vote.

"We should grow it in Canada, for Canadian consumption," says Jones who believes one Canadian in eight regularly smokes marijuana. "It would make an ideal cash crop." However, that doesn't mean a Potrocan company, said Jones. He would prefer an independent growers' association.

The only victims of marijuana use are those who happen to run afoul of the law, says

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**Election Tomorrow!**  
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