

Moon 'n no-nukes: a howling success?

by Gilbert Bouchard

Two professors speaking on the upcoming German election Tuesday night, warned of a "Moon election, a crazy election."

As part of an informal lecture sponsored by the U of A German Club, Professors Engelmann and Diamant spoke about the fractured, confusing, German political scene.

Engelmann, a U of A political science professor, opened the forum with a brief outline of recent German political history, beginning with the breakdown of the coalition between the Freie Demokratische Partei (FDP) and Helmut Schmidt's Sozialdemokratische Partei (SDP). The FDP formed a new coalition with Helmut Kohl's Christlich Demokratische Union (CDU, the Christian Democrats).

But Franz Josef Strauss, leader

of the Christlich-Soziale Union (CSU Christian Socialists, a small Bavarian party controlling 50 of the 220 members of the German Parliament) whom Engelmann referred to as the "spoiler" used the influence of his party to force a new election in the hope that he would hold balance of power.

This new election, says Engelmann, presents "great chances for chaos." The main parties (SPU, CDU) will probably take "80-90 per cent of the vote" but the smaller parties with 10-20 per cent of the vote could decide the new government if the two biggies split their 80 per cent.

Hence the two smaller parties in question, the FCP and the Greens (Grüne Alternative Listen, an anti-nuclear pro-ecological party) are vying for the balance of power. Since any German party needs five per cent of the vote to get any seats "the five per cent

clause is terribly important for the Reds and the Greens, but the Greens have a better chance to get 5 per cent than the FDP (Reds)," concluded Engelmann.

The second speaker, Professor Diamant from Indiana University, placed great international importance on this election, saying that "the election has particular interest to Americans." If the present CDU/CSU/FDP coalition stays in power, Kohl's government will assure America a pro-nuke, pro-supply side ally.

But a Green (anti-nuke) and SPD (socialist, not so pro-

American) coalition could very well make Germany neutral, and remove the country from the nuclear scene, which could alter American/NATO defence plans. Diamant could not really predict what an SPD/Green coalition would do.

One thing for sure, according to Diamant, is that the Anti-nuke, pro-ecology Greens "will have a significant effect on German politics," and that the party is not a "flash party that suddenly appears, attracts everybody's attention, then vanishes." Because of the very real nuclear threat, the

Greens are picking up support across the board from the unemployed, restless youth of the both the right and the left.

The Greens, as radical as they seem, may wield the balance of power in the next German government and could very well affect the political situation in a tense cold war world.

A second informal lecture to discuss the outcome of the election will be held next Wednesday at eight p.m. in Tory 10-4.

Art students for independence

by Dave Cox

Friday, February 18, about 250 students from Calgary came to Edmonton, and they were mad.

The students attend the Alberta College of Art, and they came with a petition to circulate asking people to support their bid for independence from SAIT (the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology, which they are now a part of). The petition got a great deal of interest in HUB, particularly from fellow Art students.

The college has been in existence for fifty years. During that time it has been a department of SAIT. SAIT has control of access to the College's buildings; Studio Hours allowed to students; course content; non-academic functions, Gallery functions, exhibitions and guest lecturers in the building; administrative, instructional, and support staffing; and the

College's budget.

Student frustration with these controls finally erupted into a rally January 20 after which 434 of the College's 650 students signed a petition asking for the dismissal of the College's director, Richard Halliday, and 519 signed a second petition asking for autonomy for the College.

Restrictions have prompted instructors to work-to-rule. They are "upset by a demand they be on call even when they have no classes scheduled, ending 'update days' which allowed them to work on their own art," as Earl Fowler of the Calgary Herald put it.

In response, the administration has begun locking studios at lunch hour and at 5 p.m., the official closing hour. Students had previously been allowed to work round-the-clock.

The only way the students can

all use the equipment is to stay after hours, until all have had a turn. Locked studios mean some students simply won't get the training they need."

The school has won international acclaim for its students and staff in many fields, even given the problems of administrative structure.

The reasons presented by the students for autonomy are manifold. They feel it could better provide a professional art education curriculum, and would be the only professional art school between Vancouver and Toronto. It would cost the taxpayer no additional money, and might even save some. It could attract national and international artists as instructional staff, and become an art educational and cultural centre in Alberta.

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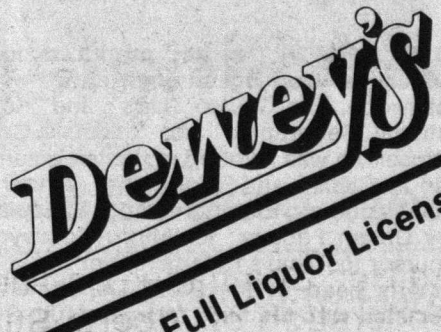
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