

Kissing a person who smokes...

The Gateway

is like licking an ashtray.

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FAS LOWERS BOOM...

ON 11% CEILING

Decreased quality/ restricted accessibility

by Kevin Gillese

A political campaign opposing the provincial government's 11% ceiling on grants to post-secondary educational institutions was begun today by the Federation of Alberta Students (FAS).

The main thrust of the campaign is poster and leaflet distribution on various college and university campuses throughout the province. The posters and leaflets express dissatisfaction with the conse-

quences of an 11% ceiling and urge individual students to write letters to Premier Peter Lougheed protesting the government move.

The culmination of the campaign will be in February, when the Executive members of FAS will present a brief to the Minister of Advanced Education, Dr. Bert Hohol. Summarized in the brief will be the various areas of concern and contention that FAS feels the government should be aware of but perhaps has not been in the past.

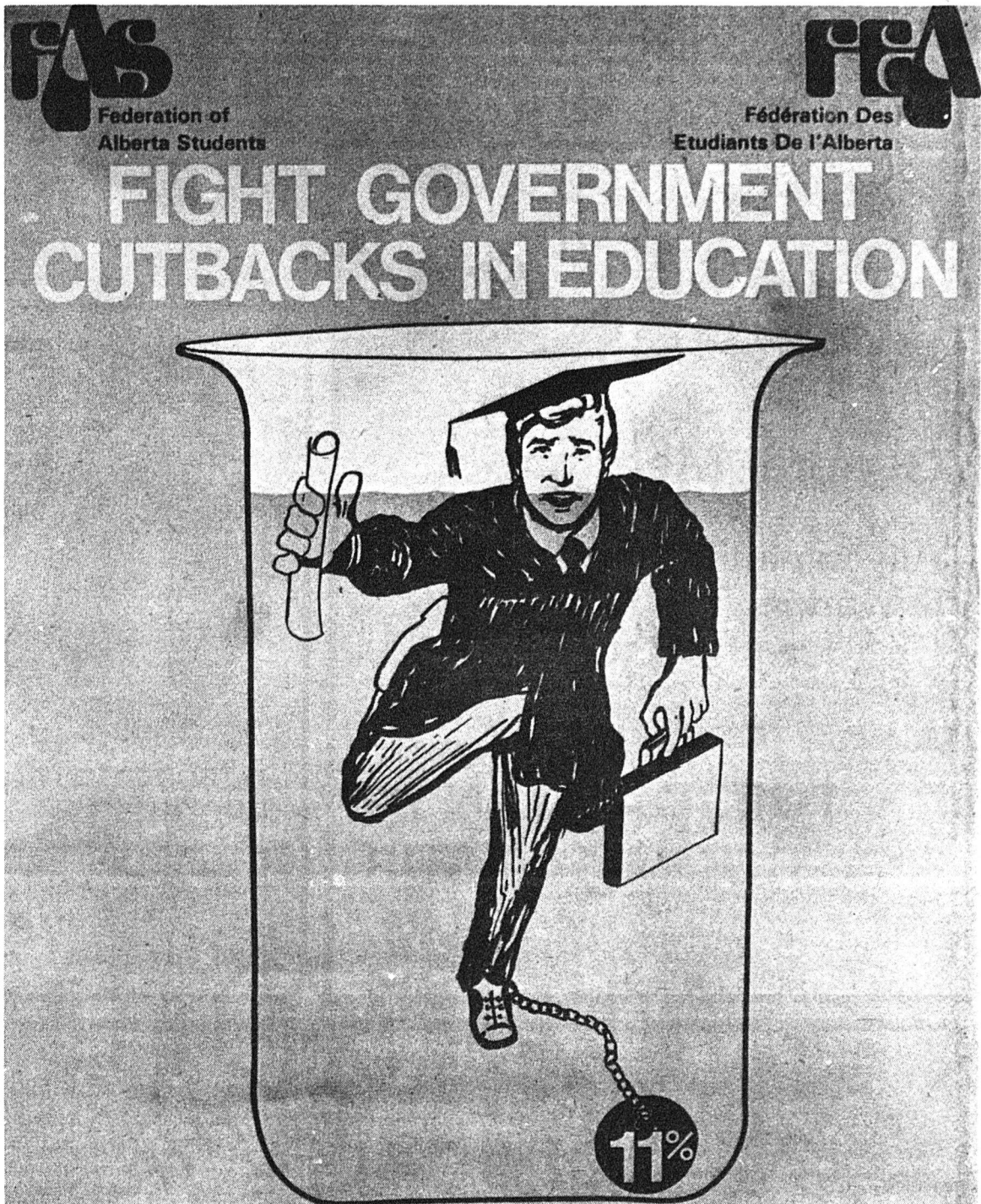
"Our actions," states FAS Executive member Terry Sharon, "merely follow the mandate set at the founding conference last fall which charged FAS with the responsibility of lobbying the provincial government in order to express student dissatisfaction.

"Of course, our actions must also be complemented by individual student protests, otherwise our political campaigning will be narrow and ineffective."

Sharon explained that FAS is opposed to an 11% ceiling for two reasons... "the first is that we believe it will decrease the quality of post-secondary education in the province. The second is that it will cause the student to bear more of the financial burden of post-secondary education, that is, we see tuition fee increases as a direct result of the 11% ceiling.

"Our disagreement in the second instance is because in that situation, the student must borrow more and more money in order to go to school and therefore accessibility to higher education is restricted."

Organizational meetings for local FAS committees are being held today and tomorrow on most campuses in Alberta.



Michener rent hikes imminent

Rent increases averaging 13.5% are on the way for Michener Park but only if the Rent Review Board approves them.

Guidelines established by the rent control legislation decree that rent increases cannot exceed 10% in 1976. However, applications for increases more than the allowable 10% may be made to the Rent Review Board providing the increase is justifiable.

The university's finance department will have to make an application before rent increases for Michener Park can take effect, but as of yet no application has been made. However, Lorne Leitch, VP Finance for U of A was fairly confident that their application will be approved.

Leitch feels that because Michener is run on a break-even basis, (like all university housing and food operations) their chances of having the increase approved are greater than those wishing to protect a profit margin.

"We obviously didn't go ahead and do this without informal discussion with the department," he said.

Each year the rents for all components of university housing are reviewed to ensure they operate on a break-even basis. In the past 2 or 3 years Michener Park has hovered close to operating at this level. This year the inflationary spiral, which raised such things as labour costs and utility rates, pushed Michener Park into the "red". Even with the proposed increase "13.5% will just give us the break-even" conceded Leitch.

The increase was endorsed by the Michener Park Resident's Association and as Mr. Leitch saw it, "It's not a very large increase."

Will Trust Fund be our heritage?

BY Tom Baker

Will surplus revenues from energy sales be used to help private enterprise or the people of Alberta?

This is the issue to be discussed during the Heritage Trust Fund Conference to be held at the university January 30 and 31. Sponsored by the campus club of the New Democratic Party, the conference will center debate around the control and management of the 1.5 billion dollar Heritage Trust Fund.

Featured at this two day conference will be political notables, academics, labour leaders and various political and social activists from Alberta. Through lectures and panels, NDP organizers hope to in-

vestigate social, economic and political needs of Albertans.

In a telephone interview with the Gateway, conference organizer, John MacInnis stated: "We want to bring people problems into the open, giving them the attention they deserve, in the framework of how the Heritage Trust Fund should be utilized.

"This fund was formed by the provincial government during the last election campaign to create a vehicle to invest surplus funds from the sale of oil and gas," explained MacInnis. He went on to detail, "The fund as of March 31 will consist of \$1.5 billion; by 1986, with current interest rates and levels of energy sales it could easily be \$15 billion."

The conference organizer said that in the legislation passed last fall by the Lougheed government there were no real clues as to priorities for this vast sum. "Although there were innuendoes about diversification of the economy, nothing very specific was outlined."

MacInnis cited three major divisions of this fund as mentioned in the legislation:

1. Investments in projects of long term social and economic benefit that have no real capital return, such as roads, hockey arenas and possibly schools. This portion, not to exceed 20% of the total sum is the only amount that is under legislature control.

2. Loans to other governments or authorized agencies of these governments. This can be a maximum of 15% and is controlled by the cabinet alone.

3. Investments that yield a reasonable return and serve to "strengthen or diversify the economy." This 65% is also under the sole control of the cabinet.

"Although it is difficult to know the actual destination of this money in the last category,

from previous experience with Conservative policies, we can guess that it will be used to purchase shares in companies (as it did with PWA) and to offer low interest loans, tax write-offs, and outright grants to private companies. According to the Conservative ideology, this creates a favourable climate for economic growth and we all benefit somewhere down the line... you know the story."

The conference will discuss the management of this fund and through investigating some of the vital needs people face in Alberta, offer possible alternative sources of investment for this capital. One of the purposes of this event from the organizers' point of view will be to "get in touch with various groups who have interest in this issue, familiarize them with the NDP, and provide an educational experience for the NDP and the public as a whole."

Party organizers feel that some of the ideas coming forward will be incorporated into policy that is to be formulated at the upcoming

TRUST FUND, continued on page 2

Engineering student caught in the act

On December 18, 1975 a tribunal met to hear charges of cheating brought by the Dean of Engineering against a student in his Faculty.

In the first charge the student alleged that he had submitted two examination booklets although only one was to be found. The tribunal found

that only one had been submitted.

In the second charge the student alleged that he had handed in one examination booklet and mistakenly taken away from the examination room a second booklet which he then put under the Professor's door the following

day. The tribunal found that the second booklet had been written after the examination was over and after the Professor had distributed an answer sheet to the examination questions.

The tribunal unanimously agreed that the student be suspended from the University for a period of eighteen months.