



National Student Day a flop - SUB Theatre empty.

Panelists and media reps outnumber spectators at two of three National Student Day forums Tuesday. The forum pictured above, on student aid and summer employment, had

only five spectators in SUB Theatre (two were Gateway reps) but five panelists on stage.

When the day had ended, the best-attended function - a noon-hour forum featuring Bert Hohol in his first appearance at the U of A since he took over as Alberta's advanced

education minister two years ago - had only 100 to 150 people in attendance.

The reaction of one observer to the day's proceedings? "They should have offered free beer - RATT has no attendance problems."

Photo Gary Van Overloop

What's the difference between ignorance and apathy?

The Gateway

I don't know and I don't care.

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Hohol knows what people want

A proposed system of differential fees for foreign students came under heavy attack Tuesday when Dr. Bert Hohol, minister of advanced education, attended a National Student Day forum in SUB Theatre.

In March of this year, Hohol proposed that foreign students at Alberta post-secondary educational institutions pay higher tuition fees beginning in fall, 1977.

Hohol said he "sensed the public mood" was to charge foreign students higher tuition fees, but audience and panel members questioned the rationale behind his interpretation of public mood.

Panelists argued that such public groups as district labour councils, Boards of Governors, university senates, and even the president of the Alberta Progressive Conservative Party

have spoken against Hohol's move.

But Hohol said the attitudes of the Alberta people "do not necessarily coincide with the attitudes of constituent groups on university campuses in the province."

Dr. Hohol was questioned by a four-member panel - Students' Union president Len Zoeteman, Federation of Alberta Students' (FAS) executive secretary Brian Mason, Foreign Student Advisor Ruth Groberman and Gateway editor Kevin Gillese.

Gillesse reminded Hohol that none of the media covering a spring Cabinet tour of central Alberta had reported adverse reaction to foreign students.

Hohol claimed the media had not covered the informal social functions where he spoke to people about the subject of foreign students at length.

Panelists asked Dr. Hohol if the

foreign student fee increase would substantially increase government revenue since foreign students compose less than six per cent of the student population in Alberta.

One audience member asked if the increase would not be "only a drop in the bucket?"

To that question, Dr. Hohol replied: "I think that your whole notion of proportion is accurate. But I think if you look at all the post-secondary institutions, then, altogether, the cumulative proportion is greater."

He announced that the figure of a 300 per cent increase in tuition for foreign students (recommended this summer by Mount Royal College's Board of Governors) is not necessarily the increase that should be implemented across the province, "although it may come out that way."

Hohol said, "I've never used any language other than that it (the foreign student fee hike) shouldn't be punitive, but it shouldn't be token either."

When asked if the differential fees will restrict people from the poorer nations and change the composition of the foreign student population in Alberta, Hohol replied: "I think there is a real challenge for those nations where the students come from, especially in the less-developed nations, for those nations to help select those students they want to come here."

"Even now, two members of my department are working in a third world country to help build a technical school," he stated, "so I don't think you can say we're neglecting our responsibility to those countries."

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BACUS officers held responsible

Two members from the Business Administration and Commerce Union of Students (BACUS) at the U of A must personally guarantee the \$4000 loan that was granted to them by the Students' Union in August, 1976.

This was ruled Friday by the Discipline, Interpretation and Enforcement Board (DIE).

The loan was granted to BACUS to cover outstanding debts of the organization incurred in the production of Mone Carlo '76 and to provide capital for fund raising activities.

The DIE Board was asked to rule on the question, "Is it within the power of the Students' Union Council to require a personal guarantee on a loan from the Students' Union to a registered Students' Union Club?"

The Board unanimously voted "yes" in answer to the question. In 1975 a personal guarantee was required in such circumstances but in 1964 it was not required. The Board maintained that it was not a question of what was done before but rather what could be done within the scope of the SU constitution.

The Board decided that the power to deal with money and to give a loan and require personal guarantors was found in several provisions of the constitution.

Meagre crowd greets SC

All of seventeen people (including one Gateway reporter) attended a general meeting of Students' Council in SUB theatre Tuesday afternoon to discuss student affairs.

"Doesn't anyone give a shit?" asked one questioner from the floor, "There's only half a dozen people here." Ben Verdam (ed. rep.) replied, "I really think that people don't give a shit."

Verdam added that Council meetings are open to all students, but invariably, they are attended by only councillors and the press.

Ken Reynolds (arts rep.) said "student apathy is the basic problem sapping the strength of Student unions," adding this is a problem affecting student bodies across Canada.

Reynolds criticized the SU

campaign advertising the forum, saying, "we are not doing our duty of advertising."

"Students are uninformed and it's our fault," he said. "We should have some banners and make some noise."

A few in attendance claimed that student apathy was the fault of Students' Council. Council was criticized for holding meetings in the "big, plush surroundings of University Hall."

One questioner told Council that they should find out what the students have to put up with. "Don't you think we're students, too?" Ben Verdam countered.

Kevan Warner (ed. rep.) told critics in the audience that, "I'm taking six courses and behind in all of them because of Council business." Other councillors ex-

pressed similar sentiments, adding they did not feel a responsibility to physically drag students to the Council chambers.

At times there were more representatives from the Students' Council than students in attendance at the meeting. Discussion was limited to: Young Socialists' pleas for organized protest; a beaming Jack Jung asking pres. Len Zoeteman for his reaction of Dale Janssen's (commerce rep.) challenge for a public debate (letters to Gateway, Nov. 9); and one student complaining that his name had been included in the student directory against his will.

For members of Council and the Students' Union Executive, Tuesday's turnout must have hurt.