

# referenda

## Referendum Questions

**1.** Whereas currently in the Student Union Building, smoking is permitted in the Grawood, Corner Pocket, and one designated section of the Union Market cafeteria; as well, smoking may be permitted in the McInnes Room for special events, Do you support having smoking continue to be permitted in one designated section of the Union Market cafeteria in the Student Union Building?

**2.** Whereas the DSU Officers have negotiated a mandatory Health Plan for all Full Time students at Dalhousie for \$55; Whereas this plan will give each full time student the option to opt out of this plan if the student can produce proof of private coverage from another Health Plan; Whereas the reimbursement will be \$50; Do you want to have a mandatory full time Dalhousie Student Union Health Plan?

**3.** Do you wish the DSU to continue its membership in the Canadian Alliance of Students' Associations (CASA)?

**4.** Do you support a football fee of \$10 per full time student and \$5 per part time student to be collected by the Dalhousie Student Union to support the commencement of a football programme at Dalhousie University by the 1998-1999 academic year, as long as it does not financially impact other varsity athletic programmes?

## NO smoking in SUB cafeteria

**1. Why should smoking be taken out of the SUB cafeteria?**

Smoking should be taken out of the SUB cafeteria because it is everyone's health concern.

No longer is smoking simply just a 'nuisance' to non-smokers.

Evidence proves the effects of secondhand smoke are severe enough to make it everyone's concern. Secondhand smoke has been identified as the THIRD leading cause of lung cancer after direct smoking and radon.

Having separate smoking and non-smoking areas within the same airspace DOES NOT eliminate secondhand smoke. The ventilation system in the SUB cafeteria only recirculates smoke-filled air into non-smoking parts. And the cost of renovating the cafeteria so that one designated section can be physically separated by walls, with its own ventilation

system, would cost well over \$40,000 of students' money.

**2. How would you respond to a smoker who said that there is nowhere in the SUB to just hang out and smoke?**

This is not an issue about who has what 'right.' Smokers do have the right to smoke. But when that 'right' infringes upon the rights of those around them, it is no longer a 'right' — smoking then becomes a privilege, a choice.

Smokers have the option of smoking or not smoking. Unfortunately, those sharing the same smoke-filled air just do not have the option of breathing or not breathing.

**3. What current celebrity would you bring to Dal? Why?**

Twisted Sister. This city hasn't had its knickers in such a knot since they came to town with Iron Maiden.



## NO to CASA membership

**1. Why are you encouraging students to vote 'NO'?**

CASA is an organization which does not have a politically assertive agenda, and, as such, cannot hope to further the rights and common interests of students across Canada.

CASA mistakenly believes that lobbying the government in small, polite forums is the only way to address the massive cutbacks to education that we are experiencing. Such a strategy, which *actively* limits the ability of students to organize themselves in a broad united movement against impending cuts, is naive at best. Time and time again, students have seen lobbying efforts such as CASA supports go unnoticed, and it is time for students to *take action into their own hands*. Like the example of the student strike of 80,000 or more on January 25, 1995, which resulted in the shelving of Axworthy's "Green Plan" (a proposal which would have put tuition fees through the roof and massively increased student debt loads), student demonstrations and use of united power has proven to be the only effective route to student control over student issues. CASA, as an organization, refuses to see this, and will do nothing effective to prevent the government's damaging agenda.

Furthermore, CASA has a very narrow vision of what student interests are. For example, issues of oppression are thought not to be student issues.

When at least half of the student body is female, this seems mighty peculiar. When black, native, and international students find it increasingly hard to gain access to post-secondary education, this seems ludicrous indeed.

Affiliating Dalhousie to CASA can do *nothing* but limit our ability to take control of the currently hostile political situation, and students are encouraged to think about this before they mark their ballot on election day.

**2. What other options are available for the DSU?**

The DSU must take a proactive, mass-mobilizing approach to fighting the potential doubling of tuition by the block funding scheme (CHST) to be implemented by the federal government. The DSU is in a position to pursue strong links with the other unions on campus to build a united fight-back campaign against the cuts to education and services.

**3. Where could CASA improve?**

CASA cannot improve without abandoning its entire approach to student politics.

**4. What current celebrity would you bring to Dal? Why?**

Noam Chomsky, political theorist and intellectual well known for his pro-action philosophies, would make an ideal "current celebrity" to bring to Dalhousie.

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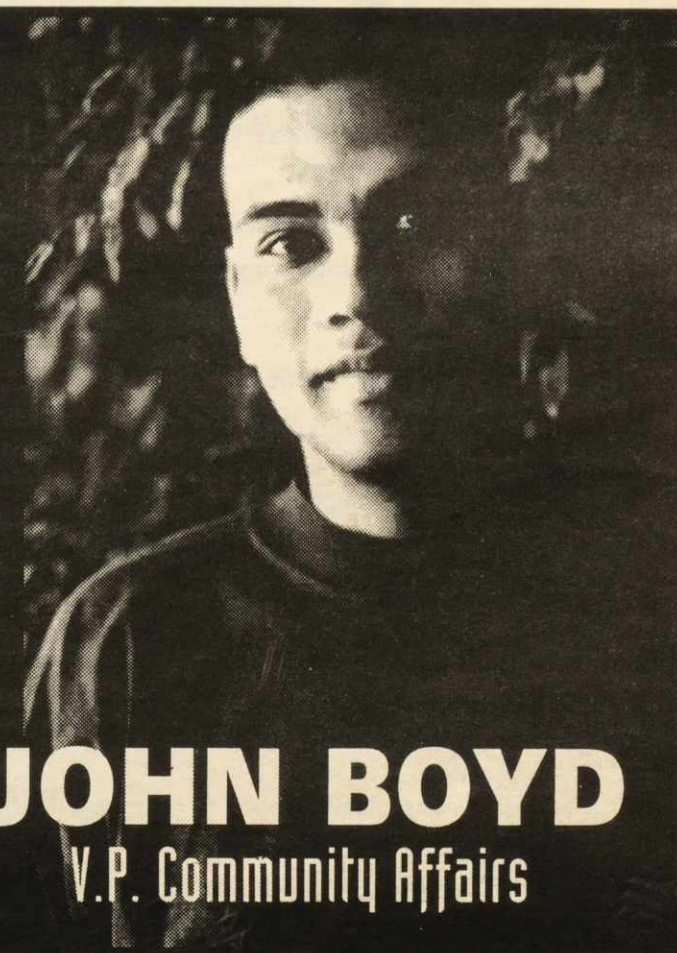


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