



Photo Ray Giguere

Don Millar, President of Federation of Alberta Students. "I'm disappointed about how things have turned out."

Federation to fragment

by Richard Watts

The delegates from the University of Alberta at the Federation of Alberta Students (FAS) conference this weekend will carry a mandate to disband FAS and go with a firm commitment for a new Provincial Student Organization.

This decision comes after the University of Calgary held a referendum and voted to withdraw from the Federation. Other campuses are also considering withdrawing from the Federation.

FAS cannot afford to operate without the membership fees from those institutions. Currently the Federation has seven member institutions but that number will be reduced to four as of August. These remaining members are the U of A, the University of

Lethbridge, the U of C Grad Students' Association, and Grande Prairie Regional College.

The U of A delegates to the FAS conference, which will be held in Lethbridge, will be SU VP Finance Roger Merkosky, Council Rep for Arts Bev Therrien, and VP External-elect Andrew Watts.

Council generally reached a consensus that FAS should be disbanded but was also in general agreement that a new Provincial organization should be enacted.

Said VP Internal and previous critic of FAS, Ray Conway, "I think the people who should be making the biggest commitment to a new provincial student organization are the ones who in the past were FAS's biggest critics."

Don Millar, Federation President, says the delegates at this weekend's conference are faced with four alternatives.

The first alternative is to dissolve FAS.

The second is to continue with FAS and hope in the future that students on other campuses recognize the need for a provincial student organization and join.

The delegates could form a new organization and begin all over again.

Finally the students of Alberta could come together as an affiliate wing of the Canadian Federation of Students.

Millar did admit to being disappointed at the state of Federation, however, did say his disappointment does not arise from the behavior of the U of A Students' Union.

"I don't think this is a vote against the Federation since this council has been a consistent ardent supporter of FAS," he said.

Millar did admit to believing that the idea that the credibility of the Federation is not connected to its membership.

"The only way to any level of credibility with the government is to know what you're talking about," said Millar.

The Federation of Alberta Students with its full-time researcher and 7 and a half years of research is equipped to deal with the government from a position of knowledge.

Millar also said disbanding the Federation has "a lot of legal ramifications." There are things to be done with reference to the Government's Societies Act, audits to be completed and information that has to be sent out to the member Student Associations.



Founding feminist still speaking out

Commentary by Darlene Milner and Theresa Kiefer

Betty Friedan spoke to a capacity crowd at the Chateau Lacombe last Friday evening. She is the noted author of *The Feminine Mystique* (1963), and *The Second Stage* (1981), and has been a major motivating force behind the first wave of modern feminism.

During a five year period, between the birth of her second and third child, she wrote *The Feminine Mystique*. This was at a time when she was a full-time homemaker, and freelance contributor to various women's magazines. Her work entailed interviewing other women and these experiences led to the insight that she was not the only woman who "didn't have that

because traditionally their power has been in the home and centered around their children; how much is she prepared to give up?

Traditionally, success in the workplace has been based on the structured lives of men who have had wives. Hence, the model of the workplace is defined by male socialization and experience. Women, however, are finding themselves doubly burdened. They must compete in the male dominated workplace for recognition, and then return home to fulfill the expectations of a woman's role. "We must create a new model of equality," says Friedan, "based on women's values as well as those of men." This would involve a restructuring of both the way we live and the way we work.

Changes in the pension plans to account for the non-monetary contributions of homemakers, including childcare, must be made now.

Most women are working in clerical, service and sales positions, that have been traditionally low status and low paying. Here, Friedan calls for equal pay for work of comparable value.

Friedan feels that the liberation of men and women from polarized sex roles will result in a decrease of violence. "Fighting porn doesn't change anything, and plays into the hands of those who use sexual politics to divert us from economic problems." She views the fight against porn as a potential threat to certain fundamental freedoms. "Take back

In *The Second Stage* Friedan tells us that the emphasis must shift to encompass the family structure. "It has got to include men..."

orgasm washing the kitchen floor, or experience the tiger coming out of the washing machine". The message that *The Feminine Mystique* presented to those women was one of self-actualization; women could no longer identify themselves solely as wives and mothers. The "first stage" was exemplified by women's desire to assert their personhood as women, and break through the image of being extensions of others. This led them to take action to secure economic, political, and reproductive rights. "Basic to the personhood of women and the reduced mortality of women is the right to choice". Reproductive rights have liberated women and exalted motherhood.

Society has not progressed to the point where many of these rights are taken for granted. The focus of the first stage was on women as individuals, and on breaking through the "feminine mystique". Although we have not finished with the first stage, Friedan states that it is now time to move on to the *Second Stage* of the women's movement.

In *The Second Stage*, Friedan tells us that the emphasis must shift to encompass the family structure. "It has got to include men. Men must be part of the sharing, and that has got to mean more than making a barbecue sauce while she cleans the toilets."

Men have a lot to gain by improving the quality of their relationships with each other, as well as with women and their own children. The ratio of heart attacks among men as compared with women is 10 to 1. Their role as the strong, silent and emotionally detached breadwinner is no doubt a significant contributing factor. By moving away from sex role stereotypes, men become freer to grow and develop more fully both within the family and in society as a whole. But it's a tradeoff. This transition will be difficult for women as well,

Friedan's new terms for the family are: Diversity, continued evolution and change, and equality. Regarding the workplace, Friedan advocates measures such as paternal sick leave, paternity and improved maternity leave, flex-hours, job sharing and accessible, affordable, quality, 24 hour, user controlled.

By the end of the decade most of the poor will be families headed by single women, and elderly women living alone. This has commonly been referred to as the "feminization of poverty"

the night marches accomplish nothing. It is time we give up our obsession with sexual politics and work with the family.

Friedan feels that the liberation of men and women from dehumanizing stereotypes will have a profound humanizing effect on capitalism. This will occur partially at least, when the value of women's experience begins to be asserted in the political mainstream.

"In *The Second Stage* we will all be more free to make love and not war."

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