

If voting could change the system...

the Gateway

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...it would be illegal.

Council told NUS melloes

by Alison Thomson

The National Union of Students (NUS) is becoming more moderate, according to vp external Tema Frank, who made her report on last weekend's national NUS conference at Tuesday's student council meeting.

"NUS is more preoccupied with issues directly affecting students," she said. She cited the lack of a labor caucus as an example of this, commenting that at previous conferences a labor caucus has always formed and has brought forth a variety of "radical" motions, such as boycotts of various products.

Frank said one of the most controversial subjects discussed was a "Declaration of the Rights of the Woman Student." She said although initially it appeared there would be no debate at all, discussion developed about a clause referring to the right of women to control their own bodies.

The declaration, however, was passed, she said.

Frank said she thought services had been underplayed at the conference. She said there had been little opportunity for students to compare notes on services offered at their campuses, and she said this was a major reason why people had come to the conference.

Frank announced that vp internal Sharon Bell had been elected as the representative for Alberta and B.C. on the Association of Student Councils (AOSC) board of directors. She added delegates were pleased to see someone from a campus belonging to AOSC and not to NUS elected, since many campuses are in this situation.

Frank concluded her report on the NUS conference by discussing the reasons she thought were important in NUS becoming more "moderate". She said the location made a difference. Because the conference was held in Regina, fewer people came from radical campuses such as Simon Fraser, said Frank. In addition, she said the timing of the conference in October instead of May meant there were more "average students" around. She also said "at last NUS is beginning to reflect the general trend among students to moderation."

Conference on Trust Fund begins today

The Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund conference opens today at the University of Alberta. The conference, discussing various political and economic aspects of the fund, will conclude Friday with a keynote address by Lou Hyndman, provincial treasurer.

Representatives from the academic community, business and the provincial government will present papers on the fund, including discussions of the fund's economic and political perspectives, and its effect on the rest of Canada and on foreign markets.

Attendance at the conference is limited to ticket holders.

Frank concluded that the students' union should continue to monitor NUS and perhaps in two or three years, to consider joining.

A discussion of Science councillor Steve Cumming's motion requiring the executive to make the anti-cutback committee their first priority was amended by president Dean Olmstead to make it a priority of council and not just the executive. After some discussion, an amendment was passed to make the campaign a high priority but not the first priority.

Arts councillor Kate Orrell objected to the amendment, saying that this made the motion "totally wishy-washy."

Vp internal Sharon Bell said she found the term first priority "highly undefinitive."

Medicine councillor Dean Cave said he thought the first priority of council should be the provision of services to students and not political action.

The greatly amended motion carried.

Council also passed the Cumming motion to require the executive to investigate the effects of cutbacks on campus, after an amendment to remove the time limit on the report. Vp academic Chanchal Bhat-tacharya noted that it is "nuts" to expect the executive to have the report finished by the next meeting.

The executive was also directed by students' council to prepare a brief on the situation in the Lister Hall Students' Association.

A motion from Olmstead was discussed which would propose amendments to the Federation of Alberta Students (FAS) constitution. The changes are similar to some proposed last year by then-vp external Stephen Kushner. The motion would change the FAS executive to one representative from each member institution instead of the present system, where the executive members are elected by all the member institutions together. Olmstead said, "This is not a slap in the face of FAS *per se* although it is to a point." The motion carried.

Council also made grants to the Undergraduate Physics Club, the International Students' Association and the Debating Club.



Two roads diverged in a yellow wood...which way is the exit?

photo Brad Keith

Arms demonstration

CALGARY (CUP) - A national campaign, Oct. 13 to protest Canadian nuclear energy arms policies included about 80 Calgary demonstrators.

The rally was organized by the Canadian Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility (CCNR) to coincide with a similar demonstration on Parliament Hill. The Ottawa protest, like its Calgary counterpart, questioned government understanding of the nuclear issues and called a moratorium on future sales of CANDU reactors.

In Calgary, speakers included Robert Nixon, a former nuclear technologist and now a full-time environmentalist, and Norman Polster, a research scientist who has presented related briefs to the US Congress and the BC government, gathered at the Alberta Vocational Centre with the demonstrators.

Researchers have discovered the incidence of cancer in the windward vicinities of nuclear plants can be up to 58 per cent, Polster told the crowd. He urged various political, church, native and other community groups to form lobby groups to counter those of pro-nuclear forces.

A major theme of the rally was the problems arising from foreign sales of Canadian-made CANDU nuclear equipment. Protestors were skeptical about trusting governments to use this technology for peaceful purposes, particularly in countries like Argentina where democratic and human rights do not appear

a priority.

The rally concluded with the circulation of a petition destined for the desk of Prime Minister Joe Clark, a display of educational materials related to the subject, and a symbolic wreath laying ceremony at the Family of Man sculptures in front of the Education Building.

Edmonton lawyer defends prisoners

One of the only Western lawyers to defend Czech dissidents addressed a small group of students Tuesday.

Edmonton lawyer Gordon Wright spoke of the trials of the Charter 77 Human Rights Movement in Czechoslovakia to the Political Science Undergraduates Association (PSUA).

"The idea is to enable me to be of as much assistance to the defendants as possible," he said. Wright was the only lawyer among many applicants from France, Britain and Canada to receive a visa.

Wright outlined the history of the Charter 77 group, noting that they had formed after

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SU by-election tomorrow

Bring your ID card and get punched out.

