

gateway

Thursday, November 17, 1983

If at first you don't succeed...

...DIE, DIE again.

DIE Board overturns CFS referendum

by Mark Roppel

The Discipline, Interpretation, and Enforcement Board decided yesterday to overturn the results of the Canadian Federation of Students referendum.

The seven page decision handed down by the Board concludes: "The Board holds that it is within the best interests of students to void the Canadian Federation of Students referendum."

Failure to sufficiently advertise the opportunities for forming a NO campaign, the use of misleading information by the YES campaign, and the use of supposedly informational CFS posters and buttons to the advantage of the YES campaign were cited by the DIE Board as the reasons for their decision.

"It wasn't a decision that was taken lightly," says DIE Board member Chris Zilinski.

The Board recommends that a new referendum be held in February in conjunction with the SU elections.

Gordon Stamp, the student who took the referendum to DIE Board was overjoyed with his victory: "It's not the fact that I won, the students won."

"I made a lot of enemies and had to drop a few courses, but it was worth it," says Stamp.

The decision was greeted with shock, outrage, disillusionment, and a liberal dose of disappointment by YES campaigners.

"It's easy to get cynical when five people (on DIE Board) can overturn the decision of more than 3000 (voters in the referendum)" said Peter Block.

Stamp presented nine charges to DIE Board. Five charges were dismissed. Charge six, that posters were in the Home Economics building on election day, was upheld. The YES campaign was fined five dollars.

However, it was charges three, four and five that brought down the referendum.

While none of the charges were significant enough in themselves to void the referendum results, the Board felt that cumulatively they were sufficient.

"It's the total effect," said Chris Zilinski.

Charge three alleged that Chief Returning Officer Glenn Byer inadequately advertised the meetings for the formation of campaign committees.

Referring to ads taken out in the Gateway September 29 and October 4, the Board argues that since there was no mention of deadlines or the fact that a NO campaign did not already exist, students may have been misled. There should have been more effort to ensure a NO campaign.

Therefore Stamp was justified in complaining about being unable to start up a NO campaign because he missed the deadline.

Charge four dealt with the use of misleading information by the YES campaign. In particular, the Board thought the YES campaign's quoting of a Students' Union task force report advocating membership in CFS was unfair. The Board argues this may have led students to believe that the Students' Union advocated joining CFS when in fact the SU took no stand on the referendum.

Charge five concerns CFS informational material on the campus that were not officially part of the YES campaign. This included the Agenda For Action posters and the CFS buttons.

According to the Board's decision, "no such posters or buttons should be posted or distributed during or within a reasonable period of the campaign."

CFS has the option of appealing DIE

see page 2

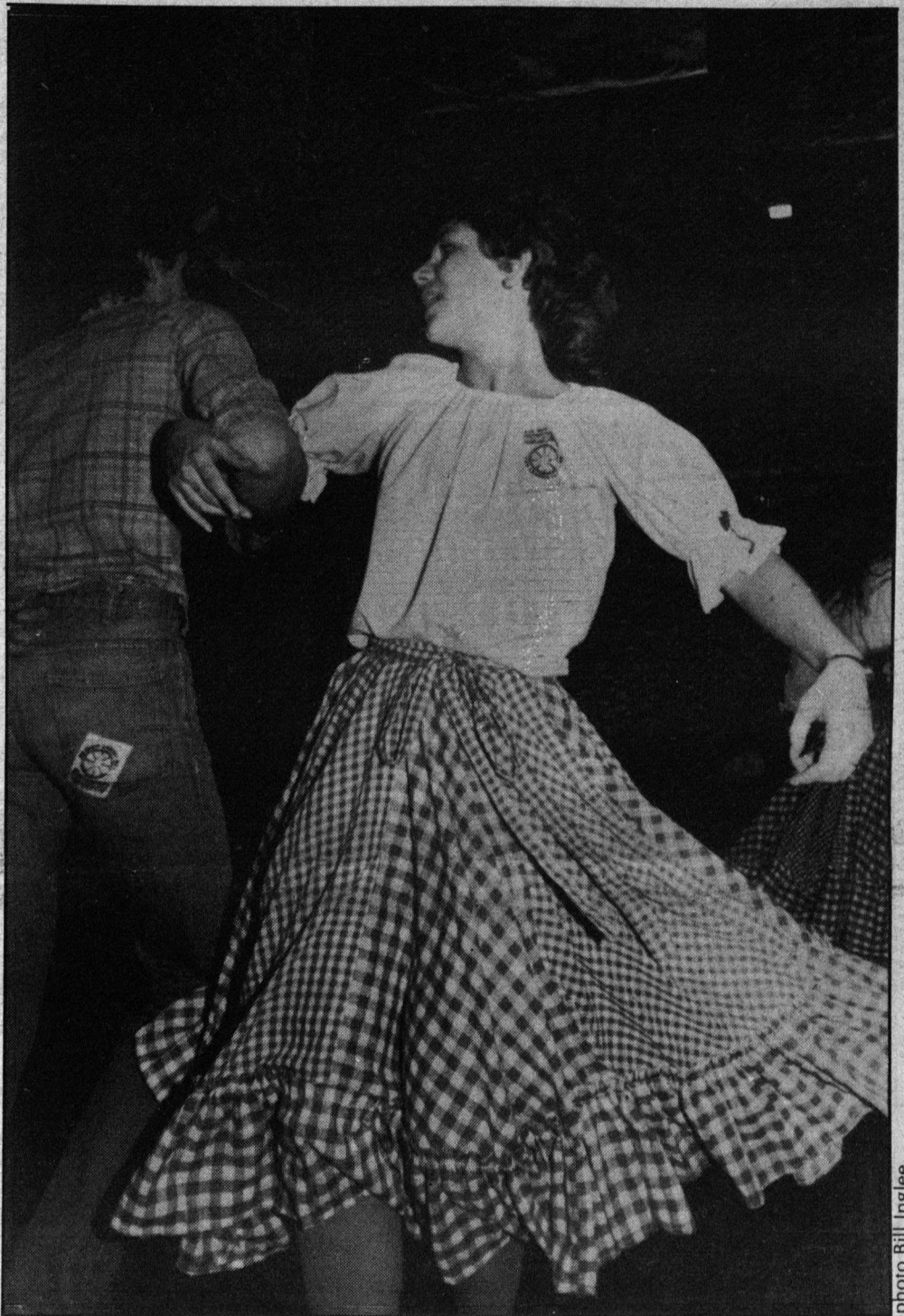


Photo Bill Ingles

Yeeehaw. It's Bar None time. This is the time of year when Aggies let loose. Events have been taking place all week, but the big Event itself is on Saturday in the Kinsmen Fieldhouse.

Effective direction for CFS arising

by Ken Lenz

Despite the disappointment over the overturned CFS referendum, the University of Alberta delegates to the recent national conference are optimistic about the organization's newfound effectiveness.

The U of A was represented at the conference by VP Academic Barb Donaldson, VP Internal Peter Block, student councillor Don Davies, and Sheryl Jackson of the Women's Centre attending as an ex-officio delegate.

The ten-day conference, which ended Monday, was described by the delegates as "positive" largely because of the "new focus of the organization."

Says Peter Block, "there has been a change; the whole mood has changed... they are starting to focus more on issues which affect students."

Block is referring to two motions put forth by the U of A delegation, both of which subsequently passed as policy.

The first was a policy requiring international motions to be passed by a two-thirds majority.

Says Donaldson, "all policy now - not just international but the entire spectra of policy - must be passed by a two-thirds majority."

"So we got even more than the specific issue that we had addressed."

The second motion was a sunset clause - requiring all international policy to be reviewed every 3 years. CFS decided all policy should be reviewed every 4-5 years instead of every 3.

"It wasn't exactly what we wanted, but the entire intent was there," said Donaldson.

She continued, "all international motions at the conference failed, including a motion to condemn the U.S. invasion of Grenada."

"The feeling was that CFS doesn't do any work on it (international policy)... and they just pay lip-service to international policies."

Says Block, "granted, nuclear war affects students, it affects everybody, but we should be dealing with issues that affect

students as students-accessibility, cutbacks, whatever."

Donaldson adds, "there is now a recognition by some of the 'progressive' universities that if we can't unite students because of these motions... then something is wrong."

Ex-officio delegate Sheryl Jackson thinks the new attitude in CFS will make the group more efficient and better suited to deal with the needs of students, saying, "we probably got more work done because we were addressing the relevant issues."

One of these issues was a motion to lobby for more jobs for students because of the worsening economic situation.

"We had special meetings with the Minister of Employment and Immigration John Roberts and the Tory shadow cabinet to discuss student issues," said Donaldson.

The organization also sees a problem with the Canada Student Loans Remission Program

students now don't know how much they owe. CFS intends to lobby the government for outright grants instead of remissions.

The Canadian Government is planning on establishing a Ministry of Youth, intended to address the problems of youth in Canada. It has been agreed that CFS will represent the interests of students in this ministry. CFS will also try to ensure that the other avenues for lobbying (such as the Secretary of State's office) aren't closed by this new department.

"We didn't want this department to be set up as a way to put us off," says Donaldson.

The Federation also decided to lobby the government to earmark funds from Established Programs Financing.

This is money allocated to the provincial governments by the federal government. The problem, according to CFS, is that money intended to go into post-secondary education often goes towards other programs, such as road construction.

Beth Olley was elected the new CFS political-wing chair and former CFS treasurer Brian Chadwick was elected CFS-services chair.

CONTENTS

- In the News readership surveys
- In the Letters Funny Money II
- In the Arts Roundabout
- In the Sports cross-country
- In the Features furs