



—Dave Hebditch photo

**WENDY VOTES 'YES'**—Students' union secretary Wendy Brown voted 'yes' at last night's council meeting to a number of issues. Among them were the yearbook motions and the installation of contraceptive vending machines in SUB. She also introduced the motion to eliminate the Awards Committee which failed to gain the required two-thirds majority.

## Drug sentences criticized

University of Alberta law students and professors sharply criticized a senior member of their profession yesterday for handing down harsh marijuana and hashish sentences.

More than two-thirds of the law students and better than half the faculty members signed a precedent - setting petition voicing strong disapproval over two and a half to five year prison sentences imposed by Chief Justice J. V. H. Milvain in Calgary Oct. 28.

The petition has been sent to Justice Minister John Turner in Ottawa, whose department is now reviewing drug laws, as well as about 30 high-ranking members of

the legal profession in Alberta.

"Individual reasons for signing the petition have been based on attitudes ranging from the view that marijuana should be legalized to the view that even if deterrence is a valid consideration in sentencing and the most important one at that, that the length of the sentences imposed by Chief Justice Milvain cannot be justified even on this basis," says the letter to Mr. Turner.

Expressing the fear that some sort of precedent might be set in the province, the petition says the sentences were "too severe in the light of the nature of the offense, previous Alberta decisions, deci-

sions in other Canadian jurisdictions, parliamentary investigation into existing drug laws, the needs of society and the needs of the individual."

One of the organizers of the petition, Halyna Chomiak-Freeland, law 3, said professors could not guarantee that students who signed would be free from retribution within legal circles. A number of students who agreed with the petition refused to sign, she said, especially those who will be seeking articles next year.

"I feel that many judges tend to lead very sheltered lives," she told The Gateway. Many, she said, are out of touch with society.

"It's morally wrong to make an example of an individual, especially when you know it's not going to work."

"We feel it is our duty, not only as members of the public, but more particularly as members of the legal community to honestly dissent from decisions with which we cannot agree," the letter to Mr. Turner states.

## Classes canned for meet

All classes in the Faculty of Arts have been cancelled from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday to promote attendance at an Arts Students' Association organizational meeting in SUB theatre.

Areas of concern will be:

- The level of education in the arts faculty,
- The arts student in the university,
- The arts student in society.

The association has been established largely to facilitate student representation on faculty committees. Over 100 students will be required to sit on faculty committees.

Work continues on the question of structural formation of the group in order to find the most effective form of democratic organization. Constitution and priorities have been discussed to a point where presentation to students for ratification is possible.

The meeting will also deal at length with topics such as curriculum, student representation, the tenure system, the community function of the university, the abolition of fees, and the enlarged environment of all arts students.

The meeting will decide the fate of the Arts Students' Association.

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