

Olmstead sweeps election



new fearless leaders

to right we have Dean Olmstead, Kyle Peterson, Chanchal Bhattacharya and Sharon Bell

the Gateway

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U of A students reject NUS

Lucinda Chodan

For the sixth time in twelve years, U of A students vetoed membership in a national students' organization. Students rejected U of A participation in the National Union of Students (NUS) in a referendum held in conjunction with Students' Union elections last Friday.

The referendum asked students to vote Yes or No to a \$100 per student per year increase to subsidize membership in NUS. Students voted 66.5% against membership. The final tally was 3058 against, 1540 in favour. Twenty-five per cent of the U of A students voted.

New SU president Dean Olmstead said he was happy with the outcome of the vote but that the SU would continue working to better the U of A's relations with NUS.

And NUS fieldworker Jeff said, "It is unfortunate that U of A students at this time have decided to work nationally with other universities. But I'm confident eventually they will see the value of working with other Canadian students."

Parr said the NUS issue would not be back until U of A students indicate they are interested in membership.

At a weekend board of directors meeting for the Association of Students Councils (AOSC), NUS's service affiliate, members of the board discussed the referendum results and its effects on AOSC services at the U of A.

Student groups must go

by Adam Singer

Twelve students' groups presently occupying space on the sixth floor of the Students' Union Building may be asked to evacuate their offices by this weekend.

And it seems most of them don't care.

The space occupied by the clubs is owned by the University of Alberta, which has allowed the Students' Union to use the space rent-free since September 1977. But the university recently decided it needs the space to house offices of the faculties of physical education and engineer-

ing, and served notice to the SU to evacuate by February 18.

Kaysi Eastlick, SU vp (internal), has asked University Space Allocations officer Wayne Hansen to delay the evacuation until the end of second term classes, and said she expects a reply in the near future. She also contacted the clubs involved with a view towards organizing some resistance to the February 18 evacuation. Only three clubs responded.

Eastlick frankly admitted she is frustrated with the whole situation. "I hate the way this thing is being handled," she said.

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Fourth ballot victory

by Tom Barrett

Dean Olmstead and his running mates swept to victory along with Kyle Peterson of the Fenna slate in last Friday's student union elections. The Olmstead slate did not field a candidate for the position won by Peterson, vice president finance and administration.

The closest races involved Olmstead, who defeated Alan Fenna on the fourth ballot for the position of SU President, and Chanchal Bhattacharya, who was elected vice-president Academic by a margin of less than 250 votes over Harry De Jong.

Olmstead's other running mates, Sharon Bell, Tema Frank, and Rhon Rose (B of G) won slightly more comfortable victories.

4737 students, 25% of the electorate, voted. This represents a slight increase over last year's 23% but is well short of the 30% who voted in 1977 and the 35% that cast ballots in '76.

It is possible interest in the NUS referendum was responsible for halting the skid in voter participation. More students voted on the referendum than on the presidential race.

Olmstead garnered 30% of the presidential vote on the first ballot, with Harvey Groberman and Alan Fenna close behind at 22% each. Independents Brian O'Kurley and Len Thom trailed with 17.5 and 7% of the vote respectively.

On the second ballot Olmstead increased his lead while Groberman pulled 30 votes

ahead of Fenna.

Brian O'Kurley was the next to fall. Fenna received enough votes from O'Kurley supporters to edge out Liberal Democrat candidate Harvey Groberman by 89 votes on the third ballot. Meanwhile, Olmstead widened the gap, as he continued to pick up more second-choice support than any of his rivals.

In the final tally Olmstead defeated Fenna by a margin of 2351 to 1796, garnering almost 57% of the total vote.

The Olmstead slate achieved their victory by receiving a broad endorsement from Commerce and Engineering students. They also showed surprising strength in the Arts polls, like HUB and Fine Arts, which they nearly swept, and Tory and Humanities which Fenna carried by a slim margin.

Fenna and his running mates also fared poorly with Education students and Residence students.

Olmstead, the Activity Coordinator of the Engineering Students Society, received 585 first ballot votes to 237 for Fenna in V-Wing, Mechanical Engineering, Cab Northeast and CAB south, all normally con-

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