

gateway

Tuesday, November 1, 1983

Hello mudda,
hello fadda...

...here I am in
Camp Grenada

CFS delegates off to Ottawa

by Brent Jang

The University of Alberta has only one vote at the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) conference in Ottawa next week, but the vote will be an influential one.

U of A undergraduates agreed to join CFS, a national student organization, in a referendum held on October 21. According to one of the delegates going to Ottawa, the referendum victory will lead to stronger input from the U of A.

"I think we're going to have a significant impact on the meetings," said Barb Donaldson, who will be representing the U of A along with Peter Block and Don Davies.

"The CFS results here lend a lot of momentum to our proposals," said Donaldson, who is the SU vp Academic. There was a 14 per cent turnout for the referendum, with 1811 students voting 'yes' to joining CFS and 1470 voting 'no'.

"We're not going to say we're paying the bill, so listen up everybody," said Block, referring to the large amount of money that the U of A will be contributing in 1984-85. Based on an enrollment of 21,000 undergraduates, with each paying \$4.00, the U of A will add \$84,000 to CFS membership fee revenues.

Block says the Alberta caucus is strong and cohesive, thus they will be able to get their points across to other campus delegates.

At a CFS Alberta caucus meeting held in Lethbridge on Saturday, Candice Douglas was elected as CFS Alberta Services Rep.

Douglas is the vp External at the University of Lethbridge. Douglas' alter ego on the political side is Don Millar, a second-year U of A arts student. Millar's title is CFS Central Committee rep for Alberta.

Donaldson is pleased with the election of Douglas to the board of directors in CFS Services: "I think it's important to have good reps. But to get them from different areas of the province is a bonus. Finding a person of Candice's quality and calibre at another institution was ideal.

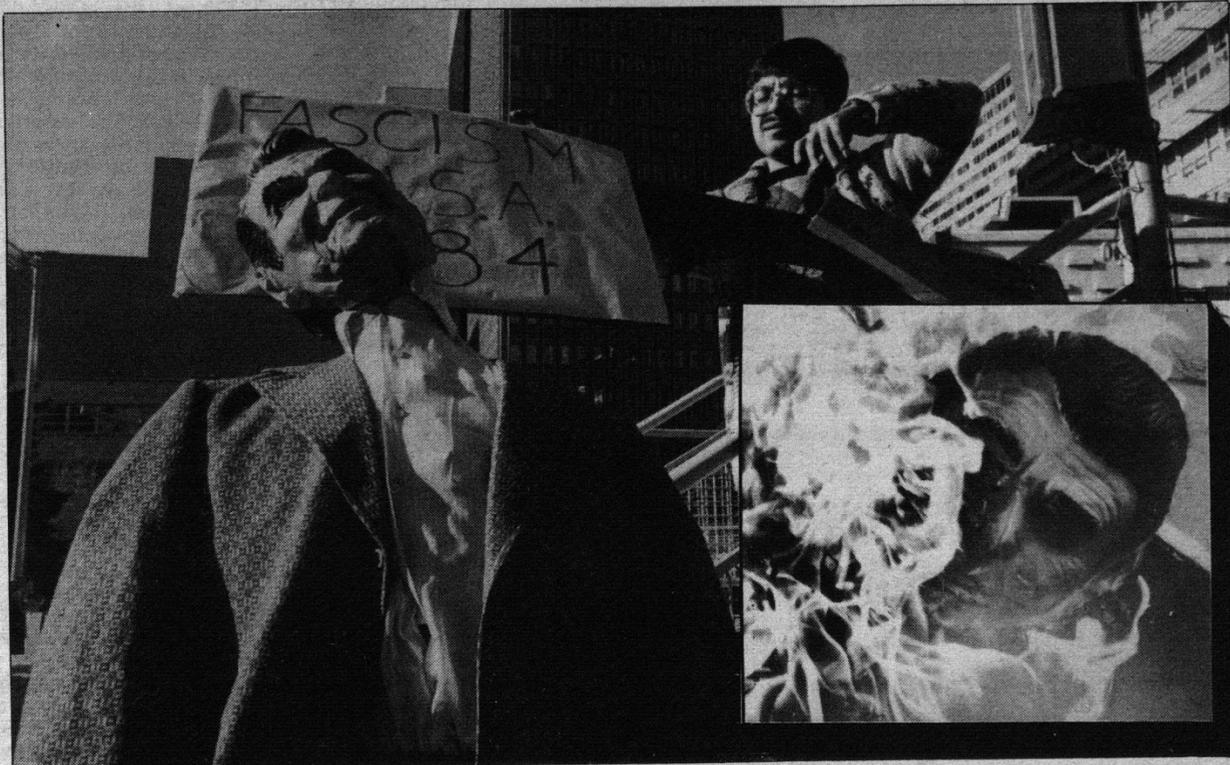
The previous CFS Alberta rep on the services side was Dawn Noyes, a U of A student who is currently the SU clubs commissioner.

Donaldson, Block, and Davies leave for the Ottawa meetings, to be held November 8 to 13, this Sunday. They will be accompanied by Sheryl Jackson of the U of A Women's Center and Ludgar Mogge of the Grad Students' Association (prospective members).

"I think the more delegates we can send, the better," said Block. The cost of sending the three U of A undergraduate delegates to Ottawa will be around \$2200.

The U of A delegation has sent of 'notice of motion' to Diane Flaherty, CFS executive officer, seeking changes in the organization.

The first motion asks that all international policy be passed by a two-thirds majority; the second is a sunset clause, where all legislation expires unless it is renewed; thus, the U of A is proposing that existing CFS policy be ratified within three years or be dropped from the books.



The once proud President pleaded with the angry mob but it was all to no avail. "Die you fascist bastard," the crowd cried as Reagan's head toppled from his shoulders in flames.

Group protests Grenada invasion

by Mark Roppel

Over 300 people cheered enthusiastically as Ronald Reagan was burned in effigy Saturday afternoon in front of city hall.

The burning was part of a demonstration to protest the American invasion of the tiny Caribbean island nation of Grenada.

"The turnout was greater than expected," said Vidya Thakur, of the Edmonton Front for Caribbean Solidarity, one of the speakers at the demonstration.

"People have a general belief that no country has the right to intervene in Grenada - regardless of the circumstances," said Thakur.

Other speakers at the demonstration were Ross Harvey of the NDP, Naomi Rankin of the Communist Party and Mario Gonzalez of the Farabundo Marti Solidarity Committee.

Last Tuesday 2000 U.S. marines and 300 troops from neighbouring Caribbean countries invaded Grenada after a military coup deposed Prime Minister Maurice Bishop. Reinforcements have raised the number of troops to over 5000.

Many Western leaders have condemned the act including Prime Minister Trudeau and Britain's Margaret Thatcher.

The reason President Reagan originally gave for the invasion was to rescue U.S. citizens trapped on the island. Vidya Thakur disputes this, "No previous attempt was made to evacuate nationals."

Thakur says the United States has been contemplating invading Grenada since 1979 when the Marxist Bishop overthrew then Prime Minister Gairy.

"In 1979 President Carter established the Caribbean task force at Key West and placed it on full alert," he said. "Reagan was just waiting for an excuse to invade."

Thakur dismisses as "ludicrous" the idea that Grenada was a security threat. "What threat would a national of 110,000 people pose to the most powerful nation in the world?"

"There have been accusations that the Soviets were establishing a naval base. In August 1983, (then Prime Minister) Bishop was in the United States, he said Americans were welcome to come and see if there were any Soviet naval stations. The Americans sent no observers."

Thakur is also sceptical of American claims about the Cubans on Grenada.

When asked if the Cubans on Grenada were primarily construction workers as the Cuban government claims, Mr. Thakur replied, "There is no doubt."

"I was there in 1981, I wanted to see exactly what they were doing. I met some of the Cuban workers at the airport, there were also a lot in the field of education....I came out more impressed than when I went in."

Thakur finds it ironic that Reagan used the overthrow of the Bishop as a pretense for invasion. "Reagan hated Bishop as much as he hated everybody else. Bishop represented a system of government to which Reagan was totally opposed. Bishop's was a society which takes people first, in Reagan's system what matters is profits."

Thakur is concerned that Reagan may be establishing a precedent with the invasion of Grenada.

"I'm sure the Americans see this as a staging ground for Nicaragua," said Thakur. "But this will not be easy. There will be problems because of the geography of Nicaragua - it is larger and there is more population."

In fact, Reagan's invasion may even be counterproductive.

"Most governments in the Caribbean are far to the right," said Thakur. "I think now the United States will have a harder time, (the invasion) will spark off many more revolutions....it will have a great impact."

However, there was at least one dissenting voice on Saturday.

A man claiming to be a former assistant superintendent of police in Grenada was holding a sign saying "Rescue not Invasion."

Joseph Robinson says he was kicked out of Grenada by Gairy (Bishop's predecessor) for refusing to join the ruling political power.

"I am enjoying my democratic rights in Canada," he said. There have been reports of Grenadians welcoming U.S. troops but heavy restrictions have been placed on media coverage.

Robinson's support for the invasion clearly put him in a minority position on Saturday though.

Most seemed to agree with Mr. Thakur: "I'm not sure if Reagan is smart enough to realize that he cannot stop the process of people wanting their own self determination....This invasion is just buying time."

photo Angela Wheelock

Clubs get much-needed space

by Rob Johnstone

The long awaited club space in the SU Building will finally become a reality.

Following a motion by VP-Internal Peter Block on October 25, Students' Council approved additional expenses of \$17,500 towards office construction.

There is no date set yet for completion of construction, but Block is hopeful that the space will be available for January.

Prior to August, the cost of construction was set at \$114,000. This was to include the removal of the existing curling rink, and the creation in its place of 20 offices.

At that time, Council allocated \$120,000 for the new club space, but added costs such as contracting and design fees have moved the cost up to \$137,500.

Now that funding has been approved, construction should be under way soon, and is expected to take 6 to 8 weeks.

Says Block, "there are about 35 to 40 groups waiting for club space... we're hoping that space will be ready in January."

It appears that some groups will have to double up in the larger offices

There has been a demand for extra club space for several years now and the basement offices in SUB would appear to be the answer to this need.

However, Block notes, "it still isn't a lot of room."

Regardless of how cramped it may be, at least university clubs will now have a common location from which to operate.

This will undoubtedly facilitate greater interest in participation in the various university organizations, and will ensure that the clubs will have space at least larger and warmer than the average phone booth.