

Prof says Nicaraguans are freer

Sandinista win predicted

by Audrey Djuwita

"Sandinista is going to win big in Nicaragua's coming election," said Prof. Fred Judson Friday to an audience of almost 100 people in a forum sponsored by the Political Science Undergraduates Association (PSUA).

The party has received "relatively solid support" from all Nicaraguans, said Judson. "94 per cent of the 1.6 million eligible voters have registered to vote on Nov. 4."

The present government is a collective leadership with nine directorates.

The reasons for Sandinista's popularity are plenty, said Judson who has been to Nicaragua three times.

Since it came to power in July 1979, the aggressive military admin-

istration has been generating reforms in education, economics and health-care of the country, Judson commented.

Despite the United States' claim the government has not kept its promise to be more democratic, "opposition parties in Nicaragua are free to sell their literature and hold political rallies or debates," Judson said.

"The people now enjoy more freedom and are free to engage in political activities without fear of arbitrary arrest or knocks on the door at night."

Asked about the role of the church hierarchy in Nicaragua, Prof. Judson said "There isn't a single role."

"Members of the church hier-

rarchy - such as the bishops - may have different views, they do play important and different roles," Judson said.

He stressed the revolution in Nicaragua is "not a church-state conflict."

Responding to the question whether the U.S. government had any responsibility for Nicaragua's current situation, Judson said "of course."

Judson cited that the U.S. government supported former dictator Anastasio Somoza's government and currently supported the counter-revolutionaries campaign against the Sandinistas.

Thousands of innocent Nicaraguans have been killed by these counter-revolutionaries, said Judson these same counter-revolutionaries are trained and funded by the C.I.A.

The successful revolution in Nicaragua threatens U.S. power and influence in the region. It proved that the people could and should take control over their own country.

The U.S. considered it as a bad example for the rest of the region, according to Judson.

Judson also claimed that Israel, El Salvador and Honduras are also supporters of these counter-revolutionaries.

"Undoubtedly, there are other countries which support them, although it may not be in form of money or other funds," said Judson.

Under the Liberal government, Canada had been supportive of the Sandinista government, however Judson said "there might be some cutbacks under the Tory government."

The PSUA's next forum, Friday, September 28, will be on the results of Canada's recent federal election.



Prof Judson says the Sandinistas have enacted popular reforms.

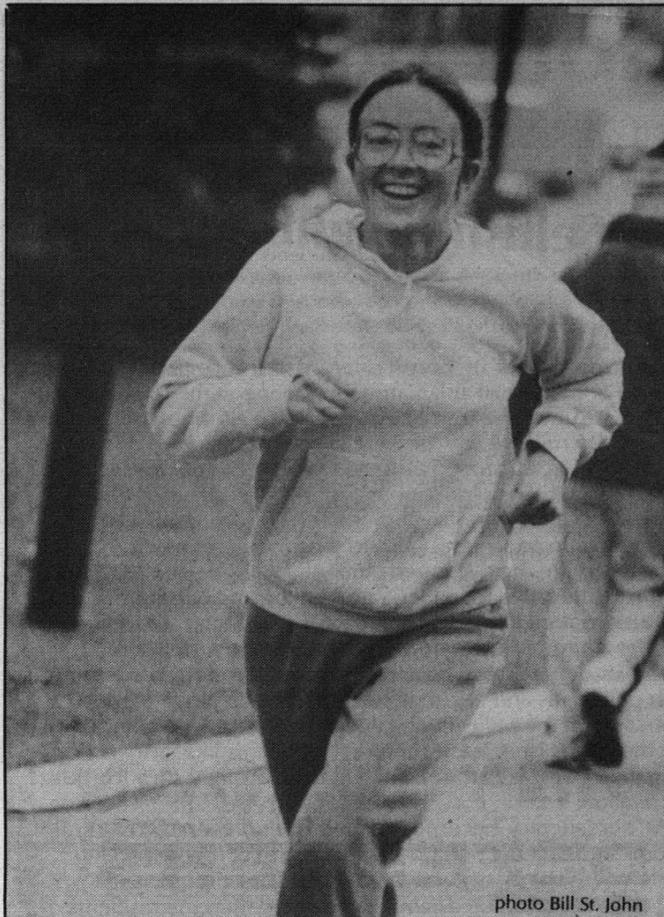


photo Bill St. John

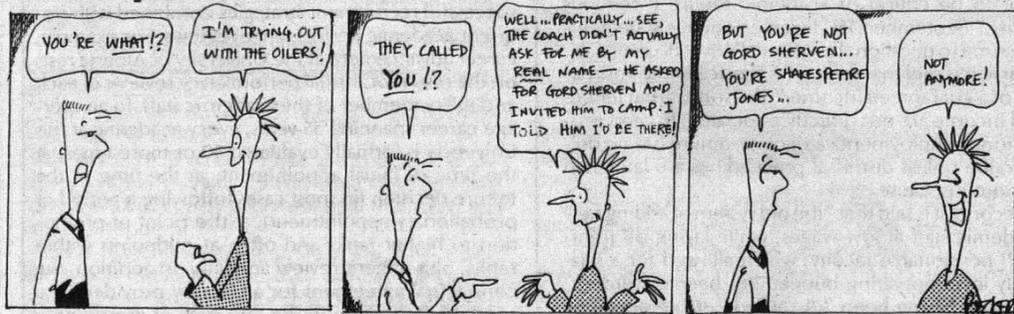
This is just one of 165 people who took part in the U of A Terry Fox Run on Sunday. Run organizer Kerry Kamra says the event raised "at least \$7,000 for cancer research."

ELECTIONS NOTICE

All Gateway staffers are urged to attend the staff meeting this Thursday at four, room 282 SUB for the elections of CUP, Circulation, and Production editors.

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Yard Apes



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