

New DSU elections voting days scheduled

by Gazette staff

Yes, voting will start all over for the 1995 Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) elections and referenda next week, despite concerns about a likely poor voter turnout.

New voting dates for the 1995 DSU elections and referenda have finally been set to take place from Wednesday, April 5 to Friday, April 7 — the last three days of regular undergraduate classes. The results of this second vote will completely replace the results of the mid-March DSU elections and referenda which were overturned by the Judicial Board on March 21.

Voting will be open for all Dalhousie students regardless of whether or not a student voted in the first

elections. Large print and braille ballots will be available at all polls.

In a statement by the DSU, "Dalhousie students are now leading the way in accessible elections not only

likely poor voter turnout

at Canadian universities, but also at the provincial and federal levels."

Concerns about poor voter turnout directly affects the outcome of the referenda. Referendum questions

must have a voter turnout of eight per cent of the student population for or against the question in order for its results to be valid. Students are being asked three referendum questions: whether or not students wish to become members of the Canadian Alliance of Student Association (CASA); whether or not students support the future publication of the Dalhousie yearbook with a \$5 yearbook levy increase; and whether or not students support a direct student levy to the Gazette which would replace a grant that is given to the newspaper by the DSU.

In response to a number of students concerned about getting a hole punched in their identification cards, the option to vote and not get a hole punched in their cards will be avail-

able at the Student Union Building.

There was some confusion last week as to how the elections were going to be rerun, and how to treat the 1496 ballots that were already cast during the first elections and referenda. One option being discussed was to reopen voting to students who had not voted yet, thereby simply adding the second set of votes to the first set of election results. The other option was to throw out all ballots cast and start all over.

In meetings with the Judicial Board following the release of its ruling, the DSU was informed that it must conduct voting all over.

The elections were overturned last week based on the election process not extending to all students and that the voting was not effectively conducted by secret ballot. The ruling was a result of a petition brought to the DSU President asking for a judicial review of the electoral process. The complaints centred around the inaccessibility to students with disabilities of the campaigning and the ballots themselves—specifically, there was no sign language interpre-

tation during candidates' forums and ballots which prevented visually-impaired students the ability to cast a secret vote.

Under the terms of the Judicial Board ruling, only those candidates who were eligible to run in the first election are eligible to run in the new elections; as well, no campaigning is allowed.

The practicality of the ruling in terms of remedying or addressing the complaints brought forward have been questioned by a number of people and groups—because the second election will not be making campaigning accessible.

Some candidates have come forward requesting that their names be removed from the second ballot. However, the DSU has ruled that their names will remain on the ballots.

Another concern that has been brought up is what will happen if a candidate, who won in the first elections, loses during the "second round," and vice versa.

This concern, among others, have not been addressed by the DSU.

Carleton vote overturned

by Jeremy Mercer and Andrea Smith, The Charlantan

OTTAWA (CUP)—Carleton University could be facing a rush referendum costing between \$5,000 and \$8,000 after a student council constitutional board overturned the students' vote to remain part of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS).

The referendum on whether or not to withdraw from the CFS was part of the student council general elections in February. Students voted 57 per cent in favor of remaining part of the national student lobby organization, which costs students about \$170,000 a year in membership fees.

But Noel Kivimaki, head of the No committee—which fought to

have Carleton leave the CFS—filed three complaints against the electoral procedure.

He says the airfare the Yes committee paid to fly a CFS lobby member to Ottawa should count as a campaign cost, that a CFS pamphlet distributed during the elections should also be charged to campaign costs and that CFS violated election laws by publicizing the Carleton victory while there were still complaints pending.

On March 17, the five-member constitutional board dismissed the first and third complaints, but upheld the second challenge by a unanimous vote.

The offending pamphlet is titled, CFS: What We Are All About.

"That pamphlet exists on campus any other time of the year," says

board member and student councillor Perry Simpson. "But during campaigning, if a Yes worker comes up to somebody and hands it to them and says, 'Vote Yes,' right away it becomes campaign material."

But CFS deputy chair Mike Mancinelli calls the ruling ludicrous.

"The purpose of the pamphlet was to provide information, not solicit a vote," says Mancinelli. "When that much power is given to a small, obviously biased board, it is an abuse of the process. This flies in the face of democracy."

The board recommended a new referendum be held this spring, even though there are only a few weeks left in the school year.

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Marrow search

by Gazette staff

Tilak Gunawardhane, from Sri Lanka, was recently diagnosed with leukemia. He is in need of a bone marrow transplant. Unfortunately his brother was found not to be a match.

Gunawardhane lives at Peter Green Hall, a residence at Dalhousie. His wife is a student at Dal.

A drive to recruit potential bone marrow donors has been organized by Lisa Sabean, with the assistance of the Dalhousie International Students' Office, and friends.

To determine if an individual's bone marrow matches that of the patient, the Red Cross takes a blood sample from the individual and analyzes it. The odds of finding a

match is one in 20,000. It is even more difficult to find a match for ethnic minorities.

There are 93,000 individuals listed in the Canadian potential bone marrow donor registry — of that less than 10% are of ethnic minorities.

"I urge any student, any family or friend — anybody — to register as a potential bone marrow donor," said Sabean, who works at Peter Green Hall.

"Each person who registers increases his chances by one more."

Information sessions of 20 to 30 minutes are being organized for anyone interested. If you are interested in finding out if you could help, please call Lisa Sabean at 494-6888.



Marlyn McCann displays one of the many valuable medical journals damaged by flooding in the Kellogg Library. The flood was caused by a ruptured pipe on the fourth floor of the Sir Charles Tupper Medical Building on March 11, which caused "waterfalls in the elevator shafts" and "water spurting from the side of the building." Library staff has taken over precious study space for recovering as many journals as possible.

PHOTO: MIKE DEVONPORT

Chebucto Week

by Gazette staff

Over 6,000 people now use the Chebucto FreeNet. The Chebucto FreeNet any member of the community the opportunity to get "on" the information highway. The number of registered users continues to grow, with an additional 200 new users each week.

In the month of February alone, the Chebucto FreeNet was accessed 800,000 times by users in Metro and around the world.

From April 2 to 8, the Chebucto FreeNet will celebrate Chebucto Week which coincides with Information Rights Week in Canada.

Activities during the week include public lectures, FreeNet training sessions, and a community party at the VIA train station.

The Chebucto FreeNet is based at the Dalhousie Department of Mathematics, Statistics and Computing Science, and is run by the Metro Community Access Network Society. The software developed at Dalhousie for the FreeNet, Chebucto Suite, is being used by FreeNets across Canada, in the United States and in countries around the globe.

For more information, contact Gerard MacNeil at 494-2449 or Joan Brown Hicks at 421-7673.