

# FAS loses referendum at Calgary

by Dave Cox

The Federation of Alberta Students (FAS) lost an important referendum last week at the University of Calgary, but circumstances surrounding the election remain murky.

The referendum question read "Do you favor raising the FAS fee from \$1.50 to \$3.50? If not, the U of C will terminate its membership in FAS." The result of the vote was 64 per cent (1624 votes) against FAS.

The argument of the "No" campaign centred around the question of cost-efficiency. The claim was made that monies spent on FAS were wasteful if the Students' Union could perform the functions of FAS.

But as President of the Federation, Don Millar says, "Calgary doesn't have a researcher, and their ties to government have always been weaker than FAS' by virtue of the fact that they're 200 miles away." The referendum was "a very frustrating experience", says Millar.

Calgary's SU, Rick Fercho, the executive member who had the most

since the "No" side distributed most of its material at night, boycotted the forums and has very little contact with students.

"It was hard to tell what they were saying at any given time", Millar says. "If they had brought their arguments into debate, we could have countered them and won the referendum."

The "No" committee used election tactics like putting out its only pamphlet in the last two days of the campaign, thus denying the "Yes" side any response. "What makes the Calgary referendum so frustrating", according to Don Millar, "is that the 'No' campaign had people registered as working for it who didn't exist. The chairperson denied being involved with the committee. His name is Kenneth O. Morrison Jr., and he denied involvement to the *Gauntlet* (U of C's newspaper)."

Other concerns of the "Yes" committee included polling irregularities. Numerous poll booths were mislocated. The voting was done

He apparently may be suspended because of the way he ran the referendum. Grad Students, who aren't members of the Students' Union, were seen voting illegally on two days (last Thursday and

least," Millar says. There is some chance the referendum may be overturned.

"The whole idea of a fee increase made the 'Yes' campaign more difficult", he adds, "We found at Calgary that it was very tough to overcome the perceptions that have been built up. The changes that we've made haven't filtered through."

Our SU President Robert Greenhill commented on the referendum, "Our position's fairly obvious—we're very disappointed by the outcome."

About the election itself Greenhill says, "I'm disappointed that a student organization would resort to the tactics that it did. I don't think it encouraged an environment which led to healthy discussion."

"To me the 'No' campaign was fighting a FAS that ceased to exist six months ago, and has been replaced by a more constructive, more useful Federation, says Greenhill. It's ironic that FAS may cease to exist when it has just started to realise its potential."

Millar refers to the sweeping

literally dozens of people throughout the province have worked with us — to bring about changes in our constitution. The spirit of the organization has changed, we've put it much more in touch with students."

"I've been in touch today with a couple of the Student Associations who continue to support FAS wholeheartedly," Millar says. "They were very disappointed with the result of the referendum. The organization is stronger and more viable than it has been in years, due to

the efforts of a lot of people."

What are the future plans of FAS? Don Millar is still sanguine: "The need for issues to be addressed coherently and effectively remains. I'm confident that FAS can stay viable and continue to do that. This doesn't diminish the need for students to be well-informed and organized provincially."

"We've had a lot of success in the past few months," says Millar. "It takes more than one referendum to wash those results away."

## Lethbridge pull out?

# More trouble for FAS

Lethbridge Community College (LCC) is also holding a referendum on the Federation of Alberta Students (FAS). It has two questions: one to consider membership in FAS (which requires two-thirds to withdraw), one for a fee increase.

There is a rather large students' committee on campus supporting the Federation. But some members of the college's Students' Council are working for the "No" campaign. This council has the authority to approve or disapprove the distribution of all materials about the Federation. Some members of council decided to use its authority to block the distribution of pro-FAS literature.

"They were thus not only the opponents of the 'Yes' committee," says FAS President Don Millar, "but also the judge and jury. They decided the information should be suppressed."

The members of the "Yes"

committee decided they would distribute the material anyway and disregard council's decision, which suppressed their rights and effectively blocked one-half of students from having a voice on the issue.

The *Lethbridge Herald* rushed to the scene as certain members of council tried to block members of the "Yes" committee from distributing their literature. The Herald ran an article denouncing the autocratic tendencies of the Council.

Since all non-students of LCC were blocked from campaigning on campus, the "Yes" committee distributing the pamphlets were all students. "It wasn't the FAS executive, but an independent group of students supporting the 'Yes' committee, although we completely support them," says Millar. "Jesus Christ! You can't have one whole side of a question blocked because of some Students' Council bylaw."



Federation of Alberta Students



Fédération Des Etudiants De l'Alberta

contact with FAS and was leader of the "Yes" campaign.

He travelled to Calgary for two forums with the VP External of

Friday), and the Chief Returning Officer reportedly counted Thursday's ballots without scrutineers present.

"It was pretty shaky, to say the

changes adopted at the Federation's Fall Conference: "We've struggled —

The two found it rather difficult to debate their opponents, however,

## Food Services On Campus CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 1982

FACILITY	CLOSE	OPEN
SUB - Buffeteria Snack Bar	Dec. 10, 1982	Jan. 4, 1983
	Dec. 17, 1982	Jan. 4, 1983
CAB	Dec. 21, 1982	Jan. 4, 1983
Lister	Dec. 18, 1982*	Jan. 3, 1983 (Lunch) 8:00 am - 6:00 pm - Weekdays 11:00 am - 6:00 pm - Weekends
Faculte St. Jean	Dec. 22, 1982	Jan. 2, 1983 (Lunch)

\*Service moves to The Ship

### All Food Services will be closed Dec. 24, 1982 - Dec. 28, 1982 in addition to January 1st, 1983

The following will be open for service on December 29, 30, 31, 1982 with regular operating hours.

- The Ship, Lister Hall
- Administration Building - Basement
- Biological Sciences - 4th Floor
- Education II - 4th Floor
- General Services Building - 7th Floor
- University Hall - Basement

All food services will re-open for regular service Tuesday, January 4, 1983.

Vending areas are available throughout the holidays, as well as the food outlets on the HUB Mall: HoHo Chinese Food, Bottleneck Restaurant, Cafe Casablanca, Incredible Edibles, Living Earth, HUB Deli, Patria (Ukrainian), HUB Burgers, Java Jive.

The University will be closed December 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 1982 and January 3, 1983.

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December 1982

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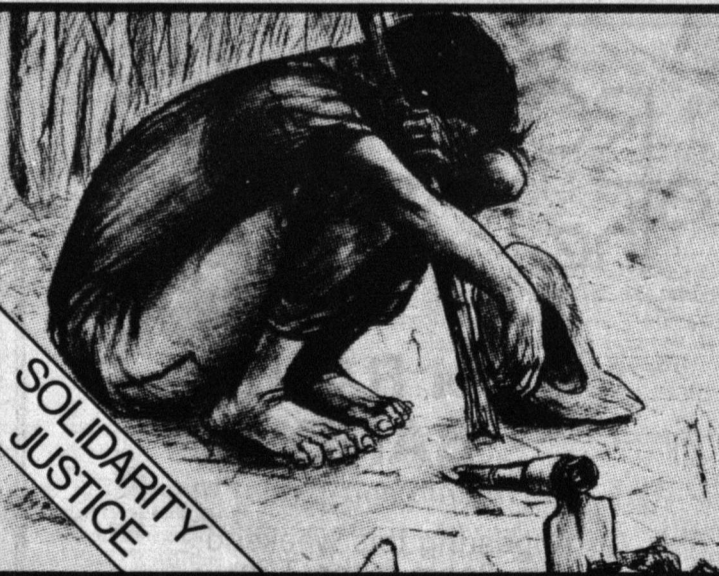
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