

Illegal election campaign pamphlet pulled

Chief Returning Officer Glenn Byer will be taken to the Discipline, Interpretation, and Enforcement (DIE) Board and four candidates were almost suspended because of an illegal campaign pamphlet.

The pamphlet features a banner headline, "Before You

Vote - Think About It," and accuses various candidates of supporting CFS and the recent Executive salary increase.

As many as 1000 pamphlets may have been printed.

The only candidates not mentioned in the pamphlet are Floyd Hodgins, Gord Stamp, Rainer

Huebl, and Jim Shinkaruk.

Therefore, Byer ruled that unless someone came forward to claim responsibility for the pamphlet, the four candidates not mentioned would be disqualified.

"Under the election bylaw, candidates are responsible for things done on their behalf," says Byer.

The people responsible for the pamphlet did come forward, and Byer says, "it was not a candidate or any candidate's worker... no one was disqualified."

Byer refuses to reveal who distributed the pamphlets, but he says more than one person was

involved, and an ad apologizing for the pamphlet has been taken out in today's Gateway.

But Gord Stamp is not satisfied with his vindication. He says the damage has been done and is taking Byer to DIE Board.

Stamp is upset that Byer announced the possible disqualification of some candidates in public at the election forum (see story page one).

"He (Byer) stood up in front of voters and told them that some candidates are going to be disqualified," says Stamp. "I want it straightened out what the Chief Returning Officer is allowed to do."

Floyd Hodgins is also angry over Byer's mention of possible disqualification.

"The old French system was you are guilty until proven innocent, but we operate under the English system where people are innocent until proven guilty."

Even Byer is not terribly happy. "I had to act according to the Bylaw... I will recommend that it (the bylaw) be changed."

If DIE Board rules in Stamp's favour, it has the power to void the election.

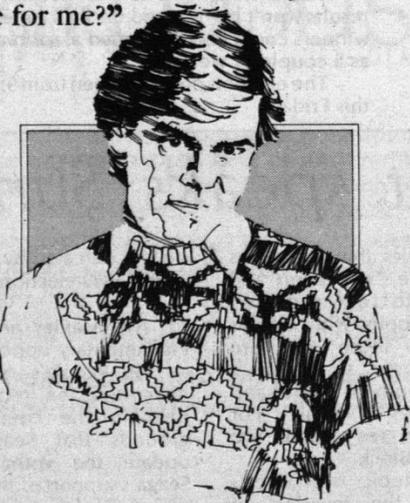
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"If nobody wants to give me a job because I've got no experience, how am I supposed to get started?"

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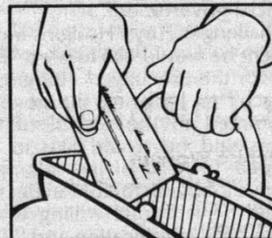


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