

STUDENTS' UNION

FEBRUARY 7 & 8th, 1985
 POLL LOCATIONS TO BE ANNOUNCED

GENERAL ELECTIONS & REFERENDUMS

ADVANCE POLL WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6th, IN THE STUDENTS' UNION BUILDING (SUB) 0900-2100 hrs

CFS REFERENDUM

SU BUILDING POLICY REFERENDUM

REFERENDUMS FORUM

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5th, 1400 HRS, SUB THEATRE. ALL STUDENTS ARE INVITED.

INDIVIDUALS WISHING TO REPRESENT SIDES IN THESE REFERENDUMS ARE INVITED TO REGISTER WITH THE S.U. RETURNING OFFICE, ROOM 232, SUB

ELECTIONS FORUM

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6th, 1200 HRS, SUB THEATRE, ALL STUDENTS ARE INVITED

(CLASSES CANCELLED 1200-1300 hrs)

Students vote in two referenda in SU elections

Referenda choices

by Susan Sutton

U of A students will be voting on two important referenda Feb. 7 and 8, in addition to the Students' Union general election.

The first referendum will decide if U of A students support continued membership in the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS).

The U of A's membership in CFS has been a hotly debated issue since Students voted "Yes" to joining CFS in a referendum Oct. 21, 1983.

The results of the referendum were appealed to the Discipline, Interpretation and Enforcement (DIE) Board, by then Science student Gord Stamp.

DIE Board ruled that the referendum was unfair.

The "No-side" stated they had not had adequate time to organise a campaign.

Pro-CFS forces then appealed to the University Disciplinary Panel (UDP), arguing that both sides had had equal opportunity to voice their opinions.

The UDP ruled in their favor and the referendum was upheld.

Former SU president Robert Greenhill called a general meeting in the Butterdome on March 21, 1984, to vote for another referendum.

Quorum was not achieved, and the meeting was cancelled.

A motion for a CFS referendum was passed by Council January 10 of this year, to coincide with the General Election.

Students will be able to decide once and for all if they support the U of A's continued membership in CFS.

The "No-side" in the campaign feel that CFS does little for Canadian students, the "Yes-side cite Student work Abroad Program (SWAP), TravelCUTS, and closer contact with University Administration and government as points in favor of CFS.

Students will be voting on the Students' Union Building policy in the second referendum.

The present policy, instituted Oct. 12, 1982, by then VP Internal Ray Conway, prohibits events or materials to be displayed in SUB which are "racist, sexist, or otherwise offensive."

The VP Internal, and the Building Services Board, have the authority to decide on the nature of any questionable material.

In October of last year, a motion to replace the existing policy with the Criminal code of Canada was defeated.

An amendment to the existing enforcement, was passed at a explosive meeting of students council, but did not take effect because of improper constitutional procedure.

The motion was put forward by VP Internal Gord Stamp, who felt the policy constituted censorship.

"Students are trying to tell us something, they don't want the SU to be a censorship board," Stamp said at the time.

Stamp illustrated his point Tuesday night by deeming the group in favor of the present Building Policy, "otherwise offensive".

Stamp prohibited the group from staging any activities in SUB.

Those campaigning for the present policy planned to demonstrate in SUB yesterday.

The referendum Feb. 7 and 8 will ask if students feel the SU has the right to impose restrictions on activities in SUB which go beyond those indicated in the Criminal Code.

Men's groups divisive

by Bill Doskoeh

Two U of A women's activists feel men's rights groups are backlashes against the women's movement.

Anne McGrath and Lorraine Mitchell have been actively involved in women's issues for several years.

Referring to the articles in the Jan. 22 Gateway on the Coalition of Free Men and Mens Rights Inc., McGrath said, "the issues they raise such as the all-male draft, are trivial and divisive."

Mitchell said, "They distort the real issue, which is: this society oppresses women."

As examples of the oppression, Mitchell cited the increasing pay gap, the problem of female job ghettos and the growing incidence of sexual violence against women.

McGrath pointed out that attacking feminist organizations as being ideologically "radical" was wrong because most feminist organizations were organized because of issues, not ideologies.

On other issues such as joint custody, Mitchell said it would be the fairest solution but added, "Men generally haven't been willing to be joint parents, so why should they expect joint custody?"

McGrath found it "curious" that rape was a reaction to powerlessness.

Mitchell said, "Men have been in power and wrote the laws," adding, "men will have to give up some of that power in order for true equality to occur."

A full report on the various issues affecting women will be published in the March 7 Gateway.

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