

EDITORIAL

A funny thing happened on the way to the referendum

They've done it again. They did it for the 1982 Students' Union General Election and they came up with a repeat performance yesterday for the Canadian Federation of Students referendum.

The Discipline, Interpretation and Enforcement (DIE) Board decided there were enough irregularities, enough backroom politics, enough lies, to overturn the October 21st results which saw 55 per cent of U of A voters agreeing to join CFS.

And the YES campaign workers are panicking. If some of them aren't worried, if some of them don't think that CFS Alberta is in trouble, then I'd like to sell them some swamp land in Florida.

In March, 1982, the SU Election II turned into a battle between the honest, oh-so-pure, upholder of clean-electioneering Greenhill Campaign and the villainous, stuff-the-mailboxes, win-at-any-costs Walker Campaign.

So, should CFS try to win the hearts and minds of U of A students in February 1984 they can, quite simply, expect to lose. The YES CFS people will be perceived as dirty, rotten manipulators.

Of course, the fatal DIE Board decision could be appealed to a University body, the Disciplinary Panel. But this would be admitting that the SU can not run itself and needs the University to control us naughty children. I hope CFS doesn't go this route.

The YES campaigners can keep self-respect, at least, if they accept the fact the referendum is now void and forget about going to the Disciplinary Panel. The best remedy, all things considered, is for CFS supporters to spend a week drinking heavily.

Brent Jang

Who's to blame in this fiasco

DIE Board's decision to overturn the Canadian Federation of Students referendum is one of those things so outrageous that someone should suffer.

I mean really suffer. Let's bring out the rack.

Here we have a bureaucratic organization overruling a democratic vote by students, and in so doing, wasting \$5000 of students' money.

To add to the frustration, there is no real scapegoat to blame for this rather ridiculous turn of events.

It's not DIE Board's fault, they were just doing their job. The Board did not believe that the referendum results accurately reflected the views of students.

I have to agree.

When only 14 per cent of students vote and only 55 per cent of them (or roughly 8 per cent of the student body) vote YES, it is difficult to read this as a resounding endorsement.

Furthermore, some of the campaigning for CFS was questionable: like CFS "informational" materials spread about the campus that did not have to be included in the YES campaign budget - it is difficult to see how those cute little buttons provide any information - or telling students that CFS represents 70 per cent of Alberta students while neglecting to mention that most of these are only prospective members and haven't actually voted to join.

I can't really blame the YES campaign. They took great pains to insure that everything they did was legal. Chief Returning Officer was the highest authority they could check with, and this they did.

So is it Byer's fault? Should he be impeached? No, because Byer was operating in a vacuum. Since there is no referendum bylaw, Byer used the election bylaw. But there are differences between elections and referenda. When these differences surfaced, Byer had to make decisions.

When in doubt, blame the SU.

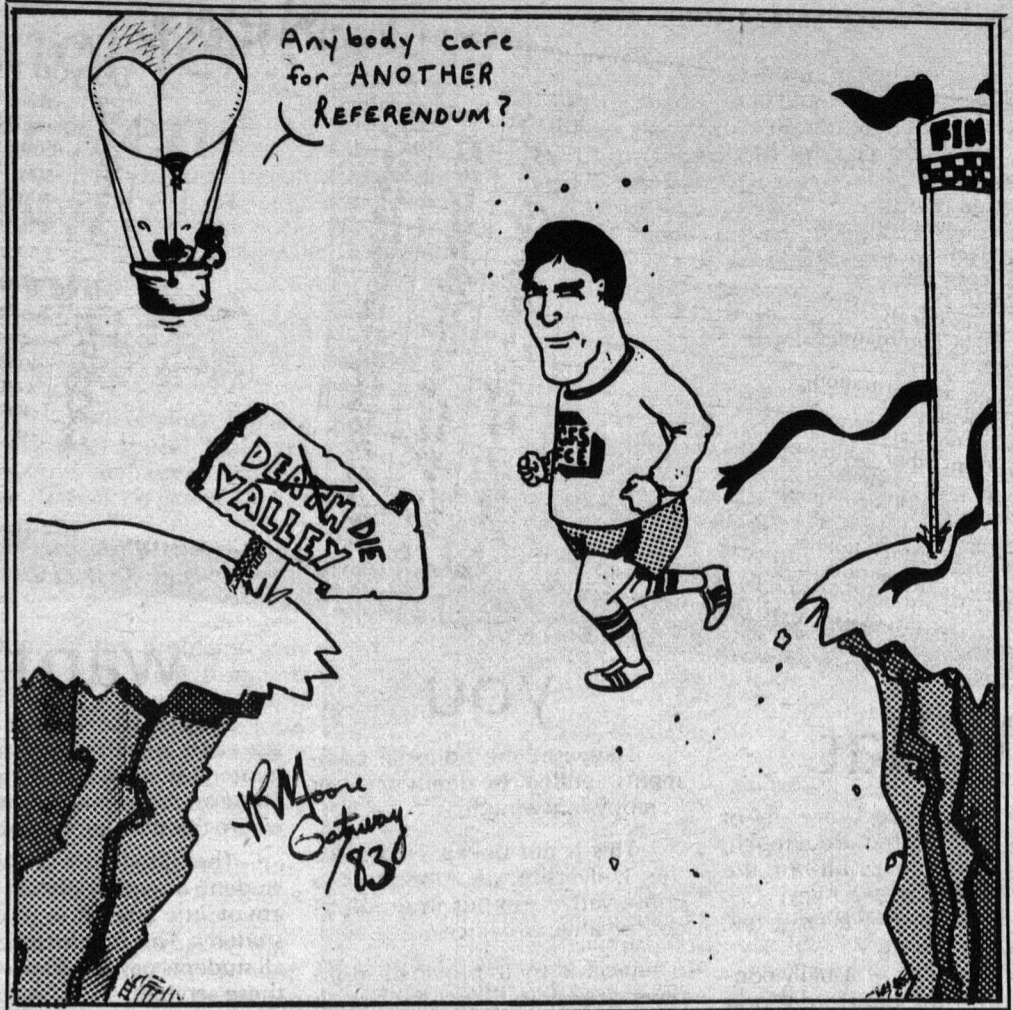
As DIE Board points out on the first page of their decision, back in 1974 it was recommended that a referendum bylaw be drafted. So what the hell has Students' Council been doing for the last nine years?

At last we have someone to blame. But even this isn't very satisfying. We can't put all of the members of Students' Council for the past nine years on the rack.

There is not much point in dwelling on past mistakes. But if a referendum bylaw does not pass Council by February, then the organization is even more inept than I suspect.

It's just too bad that we will never really know what students at the University of Alberta really think about CFS. The first referendum was unfair due to the lack of a NO campaign. The second referendum will fail, not because of CFS, but because of the fact that DIE Board overturned CFS.

Mark Roppel



« LETTERS TO THE EDITOR »

More funny Money business

Yet unpublished research on the dollar change machine in CAB (other machines may give varying results):

- Knowing what would be returned for a dollar bill I carefully inserted a fiver. It produced four quarters while four ones fluttered to the floor.
- A ten-spot took a few tries but finally the machine produced a steak, fried potatoes, and five dollars in quarters. (well worth the money if not a bit cumbersome).
- My twenty was gobbled up instantly and the Lady-who-fills-the-milk-candy-chip-and-coffee machines came out and gave me a haircut.
- I still had a dollar left so I wrote on it "please give me bus change — not four quarters". It gave me only eighty five cents!

This research was done at noon and many people were lined up behind me. Such research does hamper the normal functioning of many people in society and may actually be unethical. It is my hope, though, that this research can go on unthwarted. Of course, appropriate groups will be lobbied for more funding.

Paul Chell
Arts III

J'accuse

RE: PSUA Forum Disrupted

We take exception to a few things in the above article. Firstly, we did not disrupt the meeting as we left before the forum began when asked to do so. We did not prevent the speaker from expressing his

viewpoint in any way whatsoever. Our main intention was to, responsibly and without causing disorder, express our own individual views against communist hypocrisy.

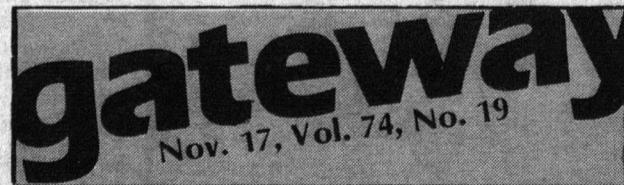
We were not there to protest against the PSUA. At this particular forum, we felt that only one side of the issue was being presented, and as a non-partisan organization, the PSUA should have presented both sides of the Grenada issue. Oscar Ammar, as president of the PSUA felt that our signs reflected badly on the image of the PSUA, he himself stated we were not disrupting but that our signs could have prevented a spirit of unity in the meeting. On the same subject, one person was taken out of context when stated "We're just a bit upset that other political science students can't express their own opinions unless they agreed with Oscar." The student stated that some students do feel this way but that we were not there to perform a personal attack on the president of the PSUA.

Pete Quily
Richard Zurba

Cheshire city blues

*it started slowly, sporadically
as an asocial here, a lone
malcontent
there, melted down to the eyes
this movement seemed
to pick up momentum, as whole
families, whole communities
melted, vanished slowly into
the woodwork
then this morning, a city woke up alone, greeted
only by the murmurs of a million eyes, trapped in the
brittle claws of the poplar trees dividing
the lanes of empty avenues.*

Gilbert



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It's Thursday night, and high mass at the Church of Gilbertology. Algard leads the choir in his best purple disco skirt (hell he even shaved his legs). Local power brokers and mental deviants Mark Roppel and Ken Lenz try vainly to join the Church, but just aren't smart enough (they're plenty of something, but I'm not a telling), while La. Ferguson, Jim Moore, and Mike Walker discuss the merits of spandex pews. Then Nate LaRoi, Suzette Chan and Jordan Peterson deliver the sermonette to an all-night pizza joint in Topeka. Meanwhile, back at the ranch, Brenda Waddle stayed in the bathroom and watched Hill Street Blues.

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