

MIDNIGHT OIL

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Referendum Today Remember to Vote

by Greg Lubelski
News Editor

Student Association President Bill Austin announced at the Dec. 3 meeting of the Student Coordinating Council that new procedures will be followed in the voting on the Breakfast Program Referendum to be held today and tomorrow. In response to criticism of the SCC handling of previous elections, Mr. Austin said that six voting booths would be acquired and that "fact sheets" would be handed out to those who had questions about the referendum.

The original referendum, held Nov. 20 and 21, was invalidated by the Student Judiciary when complaints of harassment and tampering were made. At that time there were election tables set up on Norton Hall, Acheson and the Ridge Lea Student Union. The Student Judiciary's hearing brought the charges of ballot-box stuffing at Acheson, and medical school students voting at Norton. There was also a charge of bias on the part of the poll-takers; it is believed that some of them were advising students to vote "no" on the referendum.

One member of the five-man Student Judiciary, Yigal Joseph, said he was "unhappy with the lack of information." He said that one of the major problems was that no one knew how much money would be left in the Student Association treasury if the funds for the breakfast program were provided. Those campaigning for the allocation of the \$28,000 believed there would be \$140,000 remaining, while those against the allocation believed that there could be only \$30,000 left for other purposes.

Ballots burned

The four members of the Student Judiciary present at the hearing voted unanimously to invalidate the election. The ballots, uncounted, were burned. Mr. Joseph stated that the student Judiciary was calling on the SCC to publish "clear and objective" fact sheets, and also to have voting booths. He went on to state that the Student Coordinating Council "should be experienced

enough to decide which matters are controversial," and warrant the use of voting machines.

The vote on the Breakfast Program was the second election to be invalidated this semester. Earlier, a freshman coordinator election was nullified. "It is not our job to coordinate elections," Mr. Joseph said, "only to investigate improprieties. He added that the Student Judiciary had the power only to recommend changes to the SCC. Mr. Joseph made it clear that recommendations were made after all sides had been heard and an agreement had been reached on how the election should be held.

Voting booths rented

In response to the invalidation and recommendations of the Student court, Bill Austin ordered six voting booths to be rented for the second attempt at the referendum. The machines would cost about \$25 apiece and the polling would take place in Norton Hall, Diefendorf, Acheson, Tower and Goodyear dormitories, and at the Ridge Lea campus. The polls will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., with special hours for Ridge Lea and the dormitories. In addition to these changes, Mr. Austin said that "each table will be integrated, one black, one white." Those who have questions will be referred to an information sheet printed by the Student Association.

The members of the SCC were told that there is to be no "electioneering" at the tables. If there is any, then the table at which it occurs will be closed.

Spectrum 11/5/69

Polity votes to fund breakfast program

Editor's note: Late Tuesday afternoon it was announced that the Polity meeting of Monday had been declared unconstitutional. Therefore the matter of allocating money for the BSU's Breakfast for Children program will be taken up at next Monday's Polity meeting.

The Polity voted Monday to help finance the Black Student Union's breakfast program.

The program — which feeds approximately 140 black youths every morning before their school day begins — is operating on a \$32,000 budget for this school year. However, since part of the school year is over, the program will only be funded for the remainder of the year. Student Association President, Bill Austin estimated the cost to be "about \$23,000."

In addition to funding by Polity, Mr. Austin said: "I'll be approaching the administration for funds as well as local banks and businesses now that Polity is on record in favor of it (the breakfast program)."

Emergency meeting

The allocation to the Black Student Union was approved at a special emergency meeting of the Polity.

Mr. Austin, who appeared pleased, said: "It (the Polity meeting) was the first . . . which had a balance of the two major forces on campus, the BSU and the Students for Democratic Society."

Ad proposal defeated

Also, an attempt to buy a full-page ad in the *New York Times* was defeated when no one appeared at the microphones to speak either for or against the motion. Proponents of buying the advertisement wanted to reprint the cover of the October *Dimension*, the monthly feature magazine of *The Spectrum*.

Dimension dealt with American militarism. The cover photographically depicted the life of a soldier from youth. The last picture in the series showed the soldier lying dead.