

Michigan Students Vote In Ann Arbor Election

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (CPS)—Over 1,000 University of Michigan students voted in Ann Arbor municipal elections for the first time last week as the result of an organized drive by the Student Housing Association, an arm of the university's student government.

The move was SHA's latest attempt to have an impact on rents and the quality of off-campus housing. Michigan students have flooded the market in recent years; with the university now growing by more than 1,000 a year and with junior and senior women now able to live off-campus.

pus, low-cost, high-rent apartment buildings can't go up fast enough. Average monthly rents have risen by as much as \$10 over the past five years.

SHA was formed less than a year ago to draw up model leases, rate off-campus apartments, and provide legal advice on housing to students. It was also conceived as a pressure group, for lower rents and decreased terms on leases.

Since Michigan instituted a trimester calendar, most students are in town only eight months a year; they take a substantial loss when they sign the standard one-year lease and are then unable to sublet for the summer.

Other Studies

Beyond the question of rents, SHA has done extensive studies in the areas of building code revisions, parking facilities, apartment zoning and fraternity, sorority and dormitory zoning. So far, however, its proposals have received little attention from either realtors or the city council.

One city council member suggested that students would have to "show their political power" before they would get a hearing. SHA responded with letters to the university's 13,000 graduate students, asking them to register to vote in Ann Arbor. The letters were endorsed by numerous other student organizations, including the Interfraternity Council, the Young Democrats and the Young Republicans.

Registration was made more difficult by an "intent" clause in the Michigan voting laws. The only absolute requirements are that a person be 21, have lived in Michigan for six months and Ann Arbor for at least 30 days.

These requirements met, voting rights are determined by a statement of "intent" as judged by the city clerk or a board of appeals.

In its letter to graduate students, SHA noted that students were "more likely" to be considered eligible to vote in Ann Arbor if they remained in Ann

Arbor during vacation periods, did not return to their parents' homes if sick or injured, and were self-supporting, married or could otherwise establish their freedom from parental control.

Students would not necessarily be disqualified, the letter said, if they paid out-of-state tuition, were unsure of future residence, depended on their parents for support, or were single. Attendance at the university does not fulfill the residence requirements, it was noted, and the whole matter was essentially one that could be decided only by the clerk on individual cases.

Thirteen hundred students registered in a 10-day period. Although a small proportion of the 18,000 who voted in the last election, their power was concentrated in three of the city's five wards. A Republican party campaign letter called the registration of "nearly 1,500 voters" a "most disturbing trend."

"Show of Force"

SHA did not, however, endorse either party or specific candidates. "This was merely a show of force," SHA President Robert Bodkin explained.

With the election over, SHA plans to present its program for an integrated City-University Housing Program to City Council. The proposal, drawn up in connection with local developers and housing commission members, advocates revision of some of the building codes, a change in zoning laws for some areas to allow high-rise apartments, and a change in the land-use laws to allow family and medium-rise apartments in other areas.

SHA also plans a pamphlet on student legal rights, an investigation into university acquisitions and leasing rights, and the establishment of a mediation board.

'23 Privies Later'

Creston Creekers Celebrating '75th'

The Diamond Jubilee, celebrating the 75th anniversary of the founding of Creston Creek College, is being celebrated this week by a number of "transplanted" students now attending the University.

Creston Creek College supporters have formed a rally group which, dressed in colorful sweat-shirts, helped root for the Oregon varsity basketball squad last winter.

Theme for the Jubilee is "75 years and 23 Strategically Located Privies Later." Campus activities, under the direction of Mike Glover, a junior from Salem majoring in art, began at 3:45 p.m. Monday with "The Cavalcade of Condors."

The week's activities will include a sign contest on Tuesday; the unveiling of the Condor Court in the Co-op windows Wednesday; a tug-of-war at 4:15 p.m. Thursday near the north Hamilton dormitory parking lot; the unveiling of Creston Creek Czarina and the "Root Beer Roundup" Friday.

The Spring Prom "over which the Creston Creekers didn't have much to say about," will be held Saturday, according to the Jubilee schedule as well as the University plans.

Throughout the week the booklet, "Home of the Condors" will

be selling in the Co-op for 35 cents a copy.

Also, an art exhibit of Creston Creekers will be on display in "The Womb" of the Luther House from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., Friday. Paintings, drawings, and architectural plans will be included. The public is invited.

Further information about Creston Creek College activities this week may be obtained from Mike Glover at ext. 1842.



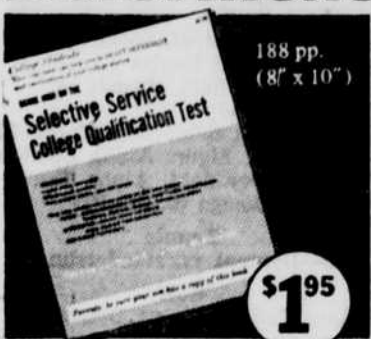
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