

DO WE NEED NFCUS?

NO! THINK! YES!

"Government is a trust, and the officers of the government are trustees; and both the trust and trustees are created for the benefit of the people."—Henry Clay.

"Ignorance never settles a question."—Benjamin Disraeli.

It is with the above in mind that we who are opposed to continued membership in the National Federation of Canadian University Students take to pen and platform in an attempt to convince the students of this university that NFCUS, as presently constituted, operates against their best interests. We do this in the hope that you will see fit to "vote No to NFCUS" in the forthcoming referendum. By so doing you will relieve your Students' Council of the odious duty of relaying \$500.00 of your money to an ineffective, wasteful and confused organization.

NFCUS, since its formation 29 years ago, has been singular in its failure to achieve the objectives its name implies. As a federation of university students it has failed to bring tangible benefits to you who are its members. The federation has survived a sequence of withdrawals by member universities, attacks upon the unrealism of its policies, a series of ineffective executives and a spell of Communist infiltration. Its fees per member have been raised through the years from 5c to 50c, and at present there is agitation for a further 50% fee increase. The apathy of its members, produced by the inherent weaknesses of the organization itself, have acted to preserve NFCUS through the onslaughts of its critics.

Whenever the question as to whether one should become a donor to an organization arises, the logical course is to ask: "What benefits do I, or some other person whom I wish to help, receive from this institution?" This method will lead one to a conclusion as to the value of the organization. Let us examine the supposed benefits those who maintain we should remain members of NFCUS claim, we will receive for our \$500.00.

1. Canadian University Debating Association and Canadian University Press: It must be acknowledged by all parties that the C.U.D.A., for the past 20 years, has operated, for all intents and purposes, independently of NFCUS and does not require the support of that organization in order to perform its duties. In fact, when NFCUS renewed her influence in the C.U.D.A. during 1953-54, the management of the debating association stumbled into a morass of confusion which is yet to be equalled. The Canadian University Press, too, conducts its affairs without recourse to the organizational or financial assistance of NFCUS. Those who attempt to justify our continued membership in the federation on the grounds of the success of these two organizations are resorting to deceptive arguments.

2. Federal Government Scholarships: NFCUS, together with innumerable other organizations, was heard by the Massey Commission. NFCUS recommended that the Government provide scholarships for students. To date no action has been taken. If any action is taken, it will be taken as a result of the recent decision of the Rockefeller Foundation to withdraw its financial aid to Canadian education unless the Canadian Government exerts itself in this field. The benefits, if any, which will accrue to us will hardly be the result of spasmodic activity on the part of NFCUS.

3. Overseas Travel: This bureau of NFCUS obtains booking at slightly reduced rates for students desiring to travel abroad and assists in the planning of their foreign tours. NFCUS pays \$2100.00 salary to a travel secretary who spends his time organizing an activity in which less than 1% of the Canadian student body can participate.

4. Photographs, Art and Short Story Contest: NFCUS has budgeted \$100.00 to sponsor these undertakings. It is illogical to attempt to justify the gross deficiencies of NFCUS on the grounds that the federation supports these contests. They could easily be sponsored by an executive University and arrangements for same made by an exchange of letters between the various student unions.

5. Income Tax Exemption for students: For 29 years students have been promised such exemptions by NFCUS and for 29 years no such exemptions have been forthcoming. It is highly unlikely that NFCUS will ever be able to persuade the Government to give such exemptions.

Fifteen of NFCUS's 42,000 members took part in an International Study Exchange Plan last year.

What, then, you may ask, does NFCUS do with the approximately \$18,000.00 it receives each year? The administration and salary expenses of the national office use up approximately \$11,500.00 of this income. To bring delegates back and forth from its annual conference NFCUS spends \$5300.00. Propaganda publications which until this referendum have reached only executive members of the various student councils, cost \$1200.00. This leaves approximately \$1,000.00 which NFCUS proposes to use to print membership cards, send delegates to various international student organizations, organize the art contest and defray unforeseen expenses. The above figures are taken from the 1955-56 NFCUS budget and show that it costs NFCUS \$17,000.00 to administer \$18,000.00 of your money.

And so we approach the conclusion of our argument against our continuing as members of NFCUS. It must be realized that the majority of those who ask you to "Vote No to NFCUS" are not opposed to the idea of a federation of Canadian university students. We are opposed to THIS federation, as an inefficient, ineffective and wasteful organization. U.N.B.'s withdrawal will not mean the disintegration of NFCUS, but rather may serve to make it aware of its responsibilities and duties—an awareness which has not been brought about by the speeches urging reform which have been made in the past by our delegates to its annual conferences.

And so we urge you to mark your ballot "NO" when you go to the polls on February 29th.

JIM MacDONALD

(Continued from Page 1)

I urge all students to get out and vote for the candidates that will represent, faithfully, and protect your views.

In closing I should like to say that I am prepared to serve the students for the coming year if they feel that I am qualified to be their president.

Thanking you, I remain,

Yours very truly,

Jim MacDonald.

HAZEN MARR

(Continued from Page 1)

of the situation. The S.R.C., instead of promoting it from the beginning, waited until it was all but forced to go along with the idea. This is the sort of thing that should be changed.

If I am elected, I will endeavour to put these ideas into effect. Also, I strongly urge you to consider the candidates for Representatives for no S.R.C. can work for the student unless the students are well represented.

Hazen Marr.

NFCUS as an organization, and as an idea has been discussed at length in countless SRC meetings, has provided topic for many an argument and has been responsible for flaring tempers, usually latent. Yet, in spite of, or because of this, NFCUS has remained virtually unknown to the average student; NFCUS! What is NFCUS? This has become a familiar phrase. The "Brunswickan", because of certain discrepancies it feels are implicit in the federation, has attempted to point out fallacies to the students; the NFCUS committee has retaliated by pointing out what it feels to be worthy in NFCUS. This could conceivably be carried on for years, with little or no change in either policy.

HOWEVER - - - -

However, since UNB contributes \$500.00 yearly to the national treasury of NFCUS, on a basis of .50 a student; since this money has been forwarded continually to the federation for the past 27 years; and finally, because the average student on this campus should know to what use his funds are being put, and if these policies are mutually beneficial—the idea of the referendum was conceived and duly executed—a referendum that will enable the student to decide HIMSELF whether it is to his advantage to be a member of NFCUS.

TO BE ALL AND END ALL - - - -

In this referendum, you, the student will be deciding the "be all and end all" of the National Federation on this campus. Do so, only AFTER you have found out what NFCUS is, and what it has done. This information, together with a knowledge of the shortcomings of the organization, will enable you to make a wise decision. Such information can be gleaned from the NFCUS committee, chaired by Bill Griffin and from this and previous issues of the "Brunswickan".

SUFFICIENT CALIBRE - - - -

The basic issue at stake is whether the National Federation, its administration, policy, plans and benefits are of sufficient calibre to warrant future participation. It's a question of efficiency, need, and importance. And finally, it's a question of money. Is \$500.00 wasted?

The student is the only one affected and is the only one that can decide!

Remember that several universities have seen fit to withdraw from the federation. Their problems paralleled ours. It's no disgrace to withdraw from a federation, if that organization is not doing a useful job. Also, it's a mistake to forsake such a body if there is some significant need it fulfills. National organization is an ambitious task; if it succeeds, there are many benefits to be derived from it; if it fails, its members are deprived of money, time and effort which could be put to other and more advantageous ends.

NOTICE!

Although there is an inconspicuous notice to the effect that soft drinks are to be consumed only in the cafeteria, it has become quite common for students to take the bottles up to the common room.

These bottles mark the table tops, and since accidents are inevitable, the rugs are taking a beating. Also, due to the fact that the janitor does not report for work until 10:30 p.m., the accumulation of bottles makes the common room look grubby most of the day.

As I believe that the majority of the students are in favor of it, I request everyone to observe the rule that soft drinks not be taken out of the cafeteria.

J. C. MURRAY, Director
Memorial Student Centre

February 14, 1956.

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Next week students at the University of New Brunswick will be asked whether they think U.N.B. should remain a member of the National Federation of Canadian University Students. This is a very important question and before you make your decision, please consider very carefully the ideal NFCUS stands for, what it has done, what it is doing, and what it could do. The letters NFCUS have had an unfortunate tendency to get lost in the shuffle of alphabetical agencies that bombard us; but these letters have a very special meaning for the university student. The aim of this article is to show you what these letters stand for.

N—for national is the first and perhaps the most important of these letters. Canada needs a national federation of its students more, perhaps, than any country in the world. The differences in Canada—cultural, geographical and language—are vast and lead very easily to isolationism and provincialism. Fighting this regionalism and provincialism is one of the chief jobs NFCUS does. It provides a bond between student across Canada—from Nova Scotia to British Columbia, between people at Laval, Toronto and Manitoba. NFCUS is the only national link that includes all the Canadian students. The withdrawal of any university considerably weakens that bond and affects students all across the country.

National activities which NFCUS organized include the Canadian University Press (now, of course, flourishing under its own steam, but originally organized by NCFUS); the NFCUS Debating Association, (formerly CUD) in which Manitoba debaters have often successfully participated; and NFCUS holds annual art, literary, and photographic contests. Many Manitoba students have entered these contests and won prizes. These are some of the few chances we get to compare our cultural talents with those of other Canadian students and to help promote that so-badly-needed, so-often-cried-for enigma—Canadian culture.

NFCUS also holds a national conference each year at which representatives from every Canadian university come together to discuss the problems which concern them all. Such things as national scholarships, the cost of textbooks, a national student insurance plan, and student administration relationships are examples of these problems which NFCUS has undertaken to work out.

NFCUS, then, is a national organization, to which we, as Canadians in the university community, should belong.

F—for federation—is the second word in the name. Like Canada, NFCUS is a federal organization. It has a national office and committees in each member university. The job of the national office is to administer affairs of a national and international level, while the job of the local committee is to implement national plans on a local level and to deal with indigenous problems which might arise. If one university withdraws from NFCUS, the whole federation and all the other Canadian universities are affected, as the whole of Canada is affected if one province fails to co-operate. NFCUS spokesmen may go to the government at Ottawa asking for national scholarships and if they must say "We speak for Canadian university students except for those at the University of ——" the whole request is considerably weakened. Don't let UNB be that weakening exception! A federation, to be strong and effective, must have the wholehearted support of its members, and if it gets this support, and can speak with the united voice of Canadian students, it will provide them with the welfare and benefits that are its aim. And it must be emphasized that the only reason NFCUS exists is because it was set up by Canadian students to provide these benefits for Canadian students.

C—for Canadian. NFCUS attempts to overcome the divisions that afflict Canadian students and to speak with a united voice for their needs. The inter-regional study plan which NFCUS operates permits the exchange of students between Canadian universities giving many students a chance to see how the rest of the country lives. This plan is another of the valuable things NFCUS does.

NFCUS also brings students together in seminars between French and English-speaking universities. This helps people of the two main heritages in Canada to appreciate and understand each other more fully. The national federation tries to help Canadian students in all parts of Canada to understand each other and to co-operate on mutual problems as Canadian students.

U—for the very word "University" implies catholicity. All universities belong together; they all share the same enterprise, as do university students. The word implies a universality which does not stop at national boundaries. This article has already mentioned the catholicity which is so needed within Canada, and just as we are members of the Canadian university population, so we are members of the international student population. NFCUS provides us with very respected representation at international student conferences.

At conferences such as the International Student Conference, where national unions of students from almost every country in the world are represented, Canada speaks with an authoritative and respected voice. With the world situation as it is, with two camps facing each other, it is imperative that a country as important as Canada should have representation in international student affairs. It is a fact that several national unions of students send representatives to NFCUS conferences, indicating the importance and esteem in which NFCUS is held in international circles.

S—for student is the final word. All this is at the student level. We think this is not a weakness, but a strength. Students are generally the more intelligent part of the population. Among them, with few exceptions, are the leaders of tomorrow. They should affirm national unity—which you will do on Feb. 29 by voting "yes." The cost, which you have already paid in your student fees, is fifty cents. It's a bargain made possible only by numbers. You can make the assertion and have the reality of national unity at the student level by voting YES on the NFCUS ballot, February 29.

JIM McKENZIE

(Continued from Page 1)

as your Treasurer for 1955-1956, a post which has given me an insight of the present strength and weaknesses of the S.R.C.

No President of the S.R.C. can function adequately without a good Council. I therefore urge you to take as much care in your choice of candidates for executive and council representatives as you will, no doubt, in your choice

of President of the Students' Representative Council.

Yours sincerely,
Jim McKenzie

JACK ERNST WINS

(Continued From Page Three)

Expenses for UNB's representation come from various sources. In past years the provincial government has generously granted \$500.00 in aid of the programme and it is hoped that this grant will be renewed again this year.