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The Rest Is Ours . . .

In a small University town students often fall into a rut; too often ideas are repetitive and thought tends to become channeled and stale. Earlier this week the students had an opportunity to see professional theatre. The Canadian Players gave performances of Hamlet and Peer Gynt in the High School Auditorium. These were not only entertaining in themselves, they provided intellectual stimulation. A stimulation which we sometimes tend to avoid; and in doing so dismiss one of the obligations of University students both to themselves and to the community. It is this stimulation, the opportunity to derive new ideas, that we must not lose.

The Canadian Players are on a theatrical mission. In the Maritimes they are introducing many people to the professional theatre. By doing this they are opening the eyes of many to something new, something that few people realised existed. The Players have given the Maritimes an opportunity to appreciate theatre.

What, then, should be the result of this? We, as University students, must try to continue the movement that has been started by the Canadian Players. Surely we must try to understand the awareness of a stage performance; the personal contact between the actors and the audience; the ability to share in the emotional crises of characters who have been built around our own personalities. These are the aspects of the theatre which we must try to share.

We should continue to further the ideologies of the Canadian Players, and to try to introduce Canadian theatre to Canada. This week's performances have opened the eyes and hearts of many people, we should not allow them to ciose again. let us not wait until the Players come to Fredericton again, in a year's time. It is up to us to bring the theatre to the Maritimes, we must follow their lead.

Their visit can do all who went to see them a great deal of good. We must not forget the example they have set us. The Maritimes will accept theatre if they are given the opportunity. The Canadian Players cannot complete the task, that is up to us.

S.F.J.F.

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Active Participation

For the first time in a decade the Brunswickan is publishing party platforms. This is a direct result of the regrowth of political parties on the campus. The work of a few students has resulted in an amazing increase in number of students who find themselves willing to commit themselves to one political party before they leave University.

Although the numbers show a great increase over past years they are still not very large when compared with those in universities of similar sizes throughout the country. Too many people seem to be afraid to commit themselves while undergraduates. This is a phenomenon which seems peculiar to our country. In many countries of the world students have an influence over the government, in most the youth has a very important part in the formulation of policies. This does not happen in Canada; and it can be attributed to the fact that active political participation in Universities is low.

On Friday the elections to the Model Parliament, which is scheduled for March 1st and 2nd, are to take place. As yet the party organizations are small, there is still room for more students in each of the parties. Now is the time to learn what happens in an election and how a party is run. This is a perfect opportunity to take an active interest in politics. It is almost essential in a democratic country that we do take an active part, there are few better places to learn than the university. Now we have the opporuntity, there can be few excuses for not taking it.

S.F.J.F.

For Lunch and Coffee too . . .
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Letter to the Editor

Editor's Note: It is not the policy of the Brunswickan to publish long letters. We make an exception with the following letter, because we feel that it answers some pertinent questions about NFCUS.

Mr.. J. Barry Toole,
Editor in Chief,
The Brunswickan,
University of New Brunswick,
Fredericton, N.B.

Dear Mr. Editor,

Thank you for your letter which I have just seen in your issue of the 1st of February. I am pleased to accept your apology, but would prefer to excuse you from what you are pleased to call "this enterprise" on the grounds that my original comment was not seriously meant. I may add, however, that all I meant to imply was that (almost) any graduate in the present Canadian empoyment situation could earn more in public or private enterprise than working for NFCUS. It is obvious that until now I have preferred the non-monetary compensations of NFCUS.

It was precisely my point that your remarks on the NFCUS National budget had no relevance to the main burden of your argument, and this was one of the reasons for which I thought you guilty of loose thinking. Similarily, I felt that your remarks on "minor activities which invariaby run amuck" required substantiation, while I thought it rather inaccurate to see "a strong, active and imaginative Local Committee' as the ONLY way for a university to benefit from NFCUS. I still, incidentally, am unable to see the relevance of your comment of a successful referendum that "apparently it didn't work".

I fully recognize, of course, the great importance of a strong U.N.B. Committee and I readily admit that I am in no position to judge the local situation. I am only—perhaps to labour the point—concerned to point out that to call for competent local Committee is one thing; but that to throw in gratuitous and derogatory remarks about the national organisation is quite another. If, too, the students of U.N.B. are unaware of the existance of NFCUS, then the fault is neither yours nor mine. You were kind enough to publish my long reply to your article on the the NFCUS Life Plan; there has been this exchange of letters; and there was I am sure very good reason why you could not publish the travel material I sent you last year, the press release on the Christmas meeting of the National Executive and my recent letter on travel.

This said, there still remains the question of what exactly the students of U.N.B. get from the membership of NFUS. I gather that the importance of the National Conference (and here presumably we may include the Atlantic Regional Conference which is being held shortly) and of International representation is common ground between us and requires, therefore, little further discussion. I would, however, remark that the returns are as tangible as anything in the academic community should be and that if they themselves cannot be measured in dollars and cents their cost most certainly can!

The last National Conference was the first I had attended. I thought the spirit which informed it wholly excellent and I am told by others more experienced than spirit of its predecessor it was myself that compared with the unbelieivable. At all events there emerged from the Conference a rational and well-ordered program which, when realised, will redound to the benefit of all Canadian students. I don't propose to describe this program in full detail—I have already prevailed too much on your space and your reader's patience—but a brief discussion of its salient features will, I think, show what, exactly, U.N.B. gets for its $500.

1. **Scholarship campaign:** In making this project the top priority the conference was in this at least continuing previous practice. It is unnecessary to recry (again!) the existing situation or to chronicle past effort. Suffice it to say that the effort is still being made and to report that as recently as the 24th of January a full day debate was staged in the House of Commons on this subject and partly at least on the instigation of NFCUS. In opening the debate, Mr. A. H. Hollingworth (York-Centre) had this to say; "I should like also to compliment the National Federation of Canadian University Students for the untiring work they have done in this regard, and I would think that the work in which they have persevered throughout the years will soon bear fruit". (Hansard, Vol. 100, No. 13, page 598). It is obvious that the fruit will be as much available to the students of U.N.B.as to the students of other Canadian universities.

2. **Interregional Scholarship scheme:** The Conference agreed also to continue with this scheme and directed the National Executive to make a critical examination of it in order that it may be improved and expanded. Even as it is, however, it offers a valuable student service and although the deadline is quickly approaching any U.N.B. student who wishes and is otherwise qualified may spend the next academic year at any one of the appropriate universities without payment of tuition fees.

3. **Seminar:** In addition to deciding to alter its own character in order to spend more time on seminar discussion, the Conference expressed a keen desire greatly to increase week-end exchanges and seminars. This is, of course, a costly ambition and the initial arrangements have been made for the approach to a number of Foundations. The success or otherwise of the approach is still unknown. If, however, it does fail it will not be from lack of effort or energy; if it succeeds the results will again benefit the students of U.N.B. as much as the students elsewhere.

4. **Travel:** I am sure from your editorials that you are second to none in your appreciation for the need to promote amicable and extensive international relations. In addition to its formal programme of representation abroad the NFCUS, through its Travel Department, attempts to arrange for a large number of Canadian students to travel widely, but cheaply, and in a way which will at one and the same time enable them to learn much of the countries they visit and to convey something of their own country to the foreign students they meet. I don't wish to describe this year's programme in detail. Let me just say that we have for example arranged a tour which will last for 64 days in Europe and which will cost a mere $840.00. This will include the cost of trans-Atlantic air travel and all accommodation, food, and entertainment in Europe. The tour will have two unique features which are of a special value to student travellers. It will include a visit to Berlin and discussions there with East and West German students. It will also include a stay in the West of Scotland as guests of the Students' Representative Council of The University of Glasgow; the latter feature will enable Canadian students to learn a great deal of student government and other aspects of university life in Scotland.

If there be any student at the University of New Brunswick who feels that he is not getting his money's worth from NFCUS and who thinks that this might be one way of making good his loss then, provided he writes to me within seven days of the publication of this letter, we will guarantee a place on the tour.

I am sorry to have written at such length and I am sorry, too, if we seem to be at cross purposes. I am sure that you will fully agree that a National Union of Students by the promotion of intercourse, student travel, and international conferences, and in the making of intelligent comment on higher education, can

(Continued on page 3)

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