

FASC... our last chance

By Fred Carmen

The Federation of Atlantic Student Councils is the most recent of several attempts to establish communication among Atlantic students. In the past four years two former regional unions, the Atlantic Student Association (ASA) and the Atlantic Association of Students (AAS), collapsed because they accomplished little for the member universities. It was from the experience of these two

organizations that the present attempt — FASC — was conceived. Last May a number of students from each of the universities in the Atlantic region got together in Halifax and rapped about the problems involved in making a regional federation work. Past failures of Atlantic student unions were hacked out and from the discussions emerged a new enthusiasm for an organization that would not repeat the mistakes of ASA and AAS. A steering committee was formed, under the direction of Barry McPeake, former CUS field secretary, to plan and organize the founding convention of FASC last October in Charlottetown.

Michael Start was part of the UNB delegation. Start didn't commit our SRC membership at the time because of a lack of a mandate. When put to council, the membership question went down to defeat twice last term by the SRC and again last Sunday night. After the most recent meeting of FASC over the Christmas break, Start has taken a change of stance and now advocates immediate UNB membership. Convinced of the viability of FASC, Start is, as he says, "the first to admit UNB students would make no immediate gains from membership". This would be due to a complex FASC priority system whereby UNB would be classified as a Priority Two university.

A Priority Two university is one in which student organization has reached the 'emerged' stage of development. That is, there would be less need for fieldworkers to assist in meeting organizational problems on the particular campus. A Priority One university on the other hand, would be one of the smaller 'emerging' campuses, where there is a decided lack of student resources to meet the specific organizational problems. Here the fieldworker would be an asset. For example, if the Camera Club at a Priority One university needed the help of an experienced person to organize a regional student photo contest, the club would help and receive the full-time help of one of the FASC fieldworkers. All universities would be evaluated separately as to specific needs. The organizational aspect is one of the main advantages of FASC. As UNB sees it, or rather as the SRC sees it, the fieldworkers won't be of much use here because our organizational problems seemed to be already solved or aren't worth the membership fee in FASC. But I do not think this is quite true yet. Student unions don't survive without membership (remember CUS?), especially ones just starting out. The SRC's motives are perhaps prejudiced: i.e. if ASA and AAS failed in the past, therefore FASC will fail too. At any rate, the UNB SRC isn't helping improve Atlantic student union by its unwillingness to participate in the new, and somewhat experimental Federation of Atlantic Student Councils.

Johnson To Run For Prexy

David Johnson, post grad English announced earlier this week that he will be in the running for the position of SRC president in the February 11th election.

Johnson has had no SRC experience, but feels that he definitely has something to offer to the position. Johnson ran for president last year against Geoff Green, and was defeated in a close battle.

The main plank in Johnson's platform is that he wants to bring the SRC back to the students. He stated that he felt "the students have been alienated from student government because they have no real power in the decisions that are made."

Johnson is definitely in favour of a more democratic students union. He was very critical of the present SRC Constitution when questioned, and feels that something must be done immediately about the present one.

Johnson said that if elected he will advocate more of the teach-ins that were so successful last year.

Johnson will release a more complete platform to the voters next week.

John Oliver, manager-in-chief of the Peoples' Bookstore, reports increasing business as the store gradually bites into the Campus Bookstore's profits. Several professors are giving their course booklists to Oliver rather than have the values of the texts exploited by the profit-taking Administration-run bookstore. — ekers.

Council Meets .. Reject FASC.

The SRC will not become a part of the Federation of Atlantic Student Councils this year. At its Sunday night meeting the SRC defeated the motion which would have made UNB the largest university participating in FASC.

The defeat came after lengthy debate over the advisability of paying \$600 to an organization which was still in its trial stages of development. Some SRC reps felt that the feasibility of FASC and its chances of success were remote. Questions concerning FASC priorities and fieldworkers' roles were also discussed.

"The organization should at

least be given a chance to prove itself", expressed a disappointed Mike Start at the outcome of the vote. SRC President Start had been pushing FASC membership for the past two weeks.

The remainder of the meeting dealt with two SRC by-law changes, reports from the University Rules and Regulations Committee, the Constitution Committee, the Senate Committee, and the Administration Board.

One of the by-law changes establishes an advance poll for the upcoming SRC elections. It will be set up within a week prior to election day for at least four hours, between 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Admin. Fires Clifford

Wade Clifford, a corporal with the UNB Security Dept., was fired from his job last November.

Cpl. Clifford was well known amongst students — especially those who were involved in last year's Liberation 130 adventures, and the sit-in at the Board of Governors Meeting.

Clifford has obtained the services of George McNerny, MLA as his lawyer, and probably will press legal charges against the UNB Administration.

When questioned about his dismissal, Clifford said that at present he was not prepared to state the reasons given but that they definitely were false. He also said that he was most interested in having his name cleared and that the be re-instated.

Rumours have been spreading around the campus

that Clifford was dismissed because a coffee machine in the Security office had been broken into. According to Clifford the machine had been turned upside down and the money shaken out of it. He said that he was "investigating the case" when he was told to leave it alone. Clifford said that "they try to hush things up, and I don't."

Clifford's lawyer wrote a letter to Brig. Knight the Personnel officer asking for a hearing in his case, but Knight answered back stating that he felt that he didn't think that a hearing was necessary, that it was poor discretion on Clifford's part.

When questioned, Security Chief Williamson had trouble remembering the dismissal, but when he did he had no comment to make about it.

The leak was slow getting to the students and the reasons

for this, quotes Clifford, is that "Williamson said that anyone who brings this up, I'll fire him."

Clifford feels that the students should know the facts of the case because "I was protecting their property." He also added "All I want is my name cleared."

QUOTABLE NOTE

"The Fraser Company has earned a fine reputation on the Miramichi, and continues to be an outstanding corporate citizen of New Brunswick" — N.B. Natural Resources Minister Wm. R. Duffie. — Miramichi Press, Jan. 14, 1970. (The Fraser Company was recently cited as one of the major polluters of New Brunswick rivers.)



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