

International Issues

What concern is it of the students on this campus, if Hungarian students are murdered, that France is fighting a "civil" war in Algeria, or that South Africa has an apartheid policy? An even better question—what do U of A students intend doing about it, if they are concerned?

That they are going to be represented on issues like these and others is one sure thing. At the recent National Federation of Canadian University Students Congress in Halifax a motion was passed giving the national NFCUS executive authority to make such representation.

Whether NFCUS should or should not have the blanket right to represent 78,000 Canadian University students on international issues has made for hot debates, both at Halifax and in the Students' Council at this University.

Many persons contend that NFCUS has no right to present the Canadian students' view without first contacting each member University. But, there is almost no single student or student group in Canada that has enough information to form an accurate opinion on any international controversy. If NFCUS is to contact every University in the country for their opinion, the result will only be uninformed garble and garble that bogged down by red tape, will lose any initiative gained by timely presentation.

The national NFCUS office in Ottawa has access to information from which a reasonable view on something of international scope can be formed and for this reason, if for no other, they are the only representative student group physically capable of presenting an informed view.

International representation by the Canadian student body then resolves itself, not around who should represent the student body, but whether they should be represented at all.

There is an apparent trend today toward internationalism—democratic and communistic both competing for the whole scene. Internationalism presumes an interest in what other people in other countries are doing and what is being done to them. Canadian students, if they have any belief in the freedoms inherent in their background, should be interested in what is happening beyond the seas, and should express their interest.

Communist students are interested in expressing themselves. Whether they express the communist line or not is irrelevant to the fact that they are being a vocal group internationally, and are getting a response. We can and should be doing the same.

An opinion from NFCUS, while it may not correspond exactly to what an individual campus or student might think he thinks, is at least an informed opinion, thought out by students who are conscientiously and sincerely trying to produce the consensus of thought of most of the Canadian student body. Canadian student opinion, more objective than political opinion, would be listened to on an international level.

Let the world know we are here.

Give Us A Holiday

Make ready to join the ulcer brigade fellow students. You have been robbed of your Christmas holidays.

The administration has seen fit to relegate the Christmas break to the ashcan by scheduling the Christmas examinations for Jan. 3 to 9 this term. Gone are the days of respite, when one could collapse and catch up on lost sleep after the frantic study and examination weeks of December. Gone are the gay Christmas-time tension-easing parties. The student will have two choices: stay home and plug away at a time when everyone else has a holiday—or go out and try to have a good time attempting to forget your guilty conscience.

Any graduate will tell you he has never had as much continuous strain placed upon him at

his job as during college. Now, with the term a straight seven and one-half month grind, the problem is more acute. The administration may have to send many a student home in a basket after the 1960-61 term is over.

Unofficially, the administration has advanced five reasons for shifting the Christmas examinations to January. First, the administration is worried over the high Christmas examination failure rate among first-year students. It is felt the new schedule will give freshmen an extra week of time to digest the University scheme of study, and will result in better success on the finals. This is hard to understand. The main reason freshmen do poorly on Christmas examinations is that they haven't awakened to the fact University requires more work than high school and they must get down to it. We say wake them up at Christmas so they will work the rest of the term, rather than waste the time they always have wasted plus another three weeks.

Secondly, the University feels the new schedule will help to balance the length of the two terms, as the pre-Christmas term has been too short. Is this balance absolutely necessary? The University of Alberta is not planning to introduce a semester system, so why are equal terms needed? Some patterns such as engineering have half-year courses, but there is no reason to modify the entire schedule merely to accommodate these courses.

A desire to give more weight to Christmas examinations is advanced as a third reason. Why? We feel the final examinations should count most heavily. The student should be passed or failed on his grasp of the course as a whole—and too much stress should not be placed upon the pre-Christmas portion.

Fourthly, the complicated and cumbersome Christmas examination setup of past years would be simplified. One fails to see much difference here. Certainly, the number of examinations will not be cut down.

Perhaps the heart of the matter lies in the administration's final reason: under the new system the staff will not have to mark examinations during the Christmas holidays. But won't the marking drag on after January 9, thus hampering the faculty from making any progress in its lectures? No says the administration. Examinations for large classes will be held at the first of examination week, so the markers will be able to have the papers out of the way by the end of the week. The papers from small classes will also be finished by the end of the week.

If this is true, then why can't all this speedy marking be done during an examination week which would precede Christmas? Then the faculty would not have to mark papers during the Christmas holiday. Then both students and faculty would get a holiday.

As the situation now stands, the faculty will get a Christmas holiday AND a partial holiday during the January 3-9 test week, as they sit back and supervise examinations. The students will get no holiday at all.

Does this mean the faculty is being catered to at the expense of the University of Alberta's 6,500 students?



KUPSCH ON CUP

BY RICHARD KUPSCH



It is quite satisfying to learn that the University of Manitoba Students' Union has finally solved the dilemma created by the inconsiderate flunking out of president-elect G. Lindley Abdullah. This was accomplished by the simple expedient of declaring Roy Mackenzie's election by acclamation constitutional.

Council also chose a replacement for secretary Dave Humphreys, who resigned during the election held three weeks ago because of what he called "election manipulation".

—CUP Press Release

Prime Minister John Diefenbaker's promises do not appear to carry too much weight at the University of Saskatchewan. He stated in an interview that he is in favor of the National Federation of Canadian University Students proposal for 10,000 \$600 scholarships to be provided by the federal government. He cited as a reason the fact that only 15% of our University students are subsidized, whereas other democratic countries subsidize up to 75%.

This, observed the Sheaf, is comparable to the proverbial carrot. In 1957, he and his accomplices made varied and spectacular promises concerning the subsidization of higher education, but as yet none of these

have been fulfilled. Good politics, but... However, he redeemed himself somewhat when he stated that as much emphasis should be placed on the Humanities as on the Sciences.

—The Sheaf, the University of Saskatchewan

Department of Useless Information: Liberal Leader Lester B. Pearson: "I hate to admit it, but Prime Minister Diefenbaker was magnificent at the United Nations."

—Queen's Journal, Queen's College, Kingston

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