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Inept and Inactive . . .

One of the latitudes allowed a newspaper editor is the right to publicly castigate groups or organizations, allegedly operating for the public good, but in reality, doing little or nothing to justify the position of trust placed in them by their subscribers. The "Brunswickan", his year, has modestly refrained from this practise, hoping that in time, the deficiencies would dissolve themselves. However, clinging tightly to the responsibility we fondly feel is still ours, as a student newspaper of the University of New Brunswick, we can no longer refrain from comment on at least one such group. In this case, time seems to have failed miserably in its curing process; failed, unless we are to regard silence, immobility and incompetence as symptoms of good health.

It was only last spring that the Brunswickan launched a program designed to acquaint the students with the deficiencies of the local committee of the National Federation of Canadian University Students. The end result was a student referendum that indicated, on the surface at least, an overwhelming confidence in NFCUS. Immediately preceding the vote and directly afterwards, the committee in question indulged in what were, to some extent, activities partially justifying their position. Since that time, not only has nothing further been accomplished, but what progress that had been made was nullified through a complete break-down of activity.

It is fairly common knowledge that the students contribute about \$500.00 a year to the National Federation. In the past, the "Brunswickan" has been reproached for assuming that you, the student, should expect some return on your investment. "The returns are not tangible . . . they are national in scope . . . one cannot measure them in dollars and cents." Now, that's all well and good. However, the problem remains: in what, exactly, are we to measure our return on investment? Surely not in terms of incompetence, waste and stagnation? Yet that's all the student at U.N.B. can observe.

As far as we can determine, there are only two emphatic activities of NFCUS: the National Conference and the International aspect. As for the first, its intrinsic value has never been questioned; yet its practical advantages, as evidenced in our representatives at least, are negligible. Each year, delegates from all parts of Canada congregate for a few days to, as the name suggests, confer. The inspiration and spiritual uplifting are apparently, of vast proportion. Yet, the life of this inspiration must be inversely proportional to the distance home from the conference; for, excluding one very enthusiastic speech to the SRC, nothing more takes place.

The latter aspect, that of the International program, we will be the first to applaud. If this were the only program of the National Federation, we would support it unquestioningly. To shoulder the responsibility for Canadian student representation abroad, and do such a magnificent job, is truly an accomplishment of which to be proud. Unhappily, however, the Federation indulges in several minor activities which invariably run amuck. In addition, about two-thirds of the total national budget is allocated to salaries.

During the annual conference of the Canadian University Press, representatives of U.N.B. had the good fortune to exchange a few words with the National President of NFCUS, Mr. Gabriel Gagnon. We were, naturally, curious to discover if the situation at U.N.B. was common. Much to our astonishment, we found out quite the opposite. It is sufficient to report that Mr. Gagnon was appalled at the condition of NFCUS at U.N.B.

The only way for a university to benefit from NFCUS is to have a strong, active and imaginative local committee. It has been remarked that the local committee is not important; yet we maintain that the only way the value and benefits of such a National organization can be impressed upon the students is through decisive local action, involving the student directly. We are not advocating another referendum. Apparently it did not work. The only way to achieve success is to bring the local chairman of NFCUS before the students' council and dismiss him! At that point, another chairman should be found, whose capabilities would more easily be directed towards activities of this sort.

NOTICE TO ARTSMEN

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Letter to the Editor

"NO DRINKING" SAYS TUXIS

EDITOR,
The Brunswickan,
Sir,

It is a sad antithesis that we, who look with admiration on Hungarians standing by their convictions of government, morals, and religion even in death, have not the intestinal fortitude to stand for our better judgment in danger of appearing as individuals with minds of our own.

One student society felt its lack of popularity was due to its failure to organize during the first month a certain function improperly named a "Smoker". Certain faculties tried to outdo each other in consumption ratios as their smokers. Shortly before Christmas even the girls proposed plans for a smoker of their own, asserting their ability to feel as little pain as boys do. The general male attitude on the campus was: "That's okay for us, but not for the girls. I drink myself, but I don't want MY girl to drink!"

Reasons for not wanting a select group to drink apply to all with equal gravity. Anyone with the ability to enter college knows full the dangers and liabilities connected with it, and I do not propose to spend this space preaching negatively. On the positive side, if any readers know anything alcohol has done constructively apart from the erection of both male and female alcoholic wards in the Provincial Mental Hospital, please let me know immediately.

If you can prove drink will help me save money, drive my car better, get better university marks, feel more at ease, or increase my powers of reason and judgment, then I will immediately resign my position and invest my savings in that Queen Street building nefariously indicated by a sign reading: N.B. Liquor Control Board.

So often an abstainer is encouraged, begged, insulted, and bribed by danger of losing popularity to take that first drink, and this brings satisfaction once more to those who hate to see someone with far superior will power standing aloof from their inability ever to say "NO".

In an institution where we attempt to find and discuss the truth, why can't we also practice truth in everything? Instead of saying: "I'm going to the Smoker to have a ball", say: "I'm going to the Drinker to go broke, spend the night in jail, and feel rotten for a week." To that you reply, quite hurt: "But we can handle our liquor!" You will have to demonstrate that first of all, because I too have attended and know just how well students handle it.

The sign in front of military bars is quite regularly: "Men come in; dogs stay out!" I propose it is the men who stay out. I was tempted to present this opinion before Christmas, but I feel it now bears far more weight with the unanimous support given by the ninety members of the only organization attempting effectively to represent the high school and university students of the Maritime Provinces. I refer you to the official journal of the Thirty-fourth Session of the Maritime Tuxis and Older Boys' Parliament, page ten, Resolution Number Two, which states:

Be it resolved:
That we, the members of the Thirty-fourth Maritime Tuxis and Older Boys' Parliament, continue to abstain from the use of alcohol and show a strong influence against its use, especially in our schools and colleges.

I will not go into the Parliament as such. Suffice it to point out two Provincial premiers and Canada's greatest commentator John Fisher as former members and presently active advocates of this conference and parliament system. If you have not the courage to stand with these true leaders and future leaders because "the gang" might laugh at you in your honesty, then at least express an anonymous opinion in our university paper or to me, as several have done, of your intentions to earn respect now and later at the cost of erstwhile friends who are too ashamed even to call a Smoker by its proper name.

Malcolm E. Harris,
Premier
Maritime Tuxis and
Older Boys Parliament

Editors note:

We might point out that any letters submitted to the Brunswickan in the future should be of reasonable length. The above was printed in full only because it was felt that the views expressed must clearly be those which influenced the founders of our province.

SMT will run a Special Ski Bus

A ski bus will run to the hill on Saturday and Sunday. The bus will leave the SMT terminal at 9.15, and go to the hill via the campus. Skiers may stop the bus anywhere along its route.



Letter to the Editor

The Editor,
The Brunswickan,
University of New Brunswick.

Dear Sir:

The November 30, 1956 edition of the Brunswickan featured an article on the 1956 U.N.B. Christmas cards. At the time of issue, it was dubious as to how the students would accept a different card from that offered in previous years. The response has clearly indicated that the students want quality, simplicity, and design in a University Card.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the students for their wonderful response to the sale of these cards. To those students who were unable to obtain them, we extend our apology. However, we could hardly have anticipated the large increase in sales which has occurred. Sales this year increased by over 200 dozen cards.

The University has long felt the need for a higher standard of Christmas card. We endeavoured to fill this need to the best of our ability, at the same time retaining the moderate selling price.

We are pleased that we were able to present such an acceptable card and it is our sincere hope that a high standard card is maintained in the future.

Yours very truly,

Bill and Roy McEwen.

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