

NUS referendum defeated at UNB

FREDERICTON (CUP)—Students at the University of New Brunswick voted 681 to 644 to terminate their membership in the National Union of Students (NUS) in a referendum here on Thursday.

The referendum was the third NUS vote at the campus in as many years with 1338 students, about 27 per cent of the university's population casting ballots.

Jim Murray, president of the UNB students representative council said he was very pleased with the results of the referendum. Murray, who ran for office last February on an anti-NUS platform said that leading the campaign to pull out of NUS was one of his special projects.

Murray called for the referendum because he felt the organization was a waste of money and accomplished nothing. The UNB student news-

paper, **The Brunswickan**, had quoted him as saying that UNB NUS fees were \$55,000 whereas their fees actually are \$5700.

According to NUS executive secretary Dan O'Connor, one of the reasons the referendum failed was that Murray withheld information on NUS from the council and the students.

"When Murray said NUS wasn't doing anything," O'Connor said, "students had no way of checking whether he was correct. When a NUS fieldworker visited UNB in the early fall Murray steered him away from student council and executive members."

O'Connor said the campaign was "really dirty." "Anti-NUS people included false information in articles submitted to **The Brunswickan**

which the paper failed to check out."

NUS, he said, was also handicapped by the "snap way" in which the referendum was called. NUS had only one and half weeks to inform people about the organization.

Murray said he didn't believe there was much support for the National Union at UNB, adding that "the UNB NUS committee didn't exist." He said the pro NUS campaign was run entirely by NUS employees, although he admitted he was unaware of the turnout at any of the pro NUS meetings.

O'Connor said the loss of fees will affect NUS because of its tight budget, however he doubted the loss of UNB as a member would be as serious as it could have been because the campus has been steadily isolating itself over the past

year. The student council is not a member of the Atlantic Federation of Students and the Brunswickan has withdrawn from Canadian University Press, the National Student Press Organization.

He said NUS plans to have a representative meet with the UNB council within the next two weeks. They will also be talking with the pro NUS campaigners to discover what went wrong, and to consider how to build up further knowledge of NUS.

Following that there may be another UNB referendum later this year to get the campus back into NUS, O'Connor said.

Two previous NUS referenda have been held at UNB: the first in 1975 approved NUS membership by a slight margin, the second in October 76 reaffirmed membership by just over 200 votes.

Cadeau aux mandarins

par Gary Hominiuk et Marc LePage

Le lendemain de la présentation des mémoires acadiennes au groupe de travail sur l'unité canadienne, le ministre de l'éducation annonça la formation d'une école élémentaire francophone pour la région de Halifax.

"Il existe plus de 10,000 familles francophones dans les environs d'Halifax mais il n'y a aucune école qui réponds à leur besoin d'éducation dans leur langue maternelle" nous a révélé le ministre de l'éducation monsieur George Mitchell. Selon lui, l'école que le gouvernement propose remédiera à cette situation et en plus facilitera la décision de déménager en Nouvelle-Ecosse pour les familles francophones des autres provinces.

En commentant les intentions du gouvernement, le directeur administratif de la Fédération Acadienne de la Nouvelle-Ecosse, monsieur Paul Comeau, nous a déclaré que bien que la FANE soit heureuse de ce service pour la plupart des acadiens à Halifax "c'est trop peu trop tard."

Il dit que la FANE ainsi que plusieurs parents francophones se posent des questions sérieuses quant à l'école.

"Jusqu'à date on annonça qu'on enseignerait jusqu'à la sixième

année. Mais qu'est-ce qui arrivera aux élèves après ce stage? Devront ils s'intégrer au système anglais ou pourront-ils poursuivre leurs études en français?" a demandé monsieur Comeau.

Il dit que c'est une question d'importance primordiale pour les parents qui envisagent d'inscrire leurs enfants dans le système scolaire. Il est d'avis que plusieurs choisiront immédiatement le système anglophone au lieu de risquer une interruption fâcheuse dans six ans.

"Je ne suis pas du tout convaincu que le gouvernement s'engage à fonds dans ce service" et ça ne me surprendrait pas du tout qu'il s'agit simplement d'un projet pilote" dit-il.

Monsieur Comeau n'est pas le seul à s'interroger sur les intentions du gouvernement. Jean-Luc Pépin, co-président du groupe de travail sur l'unité canadienne, a récemment déclaré que l'école fut conçue pour attirer en Nouvelle Ecosse les fonctionnaires touchés par le nouveau programme de décentralisation du gouvernement fédérale. "Mes sources me révèle que le gouvernement n'avait pas les intérêts des acadiens en tête lorsqu'il annonç le création de l'école," a dit monsieur Pépin. Il ajouta toutefois qu'il se pouvait que les acadiens en tirent des avantages.

Smoking banned

by Eric Lawson

The cities of Toronto and Ottawa, in deference to public opinion, have recently passed legislation involving a total ban on smoking in public places. The City of Halifax has adopted a tentative position on the same issue.

According to Mayor Edmund Morris, the question of public smoking has come up in previous city councils. Legislative proposals have come most notably from Margaret Stanbury, who has in the past worn a gas mask to council to emphasize her stance on the public smoking issue.

The city has responded with what Morris terms an experimental, "toe in the water" approach, with council opting for a persuasive method of influencing people not to smoke publicly, due to an anticipated difficulty in enforcing an actual law. Council has enforced a

voluntary ban on itself in terms of smoking in the Council Chambers, and visitors and the press are also asked to refrain from smoking.

Morris feels that more positive action is required, for two reasons. Firstly, he believes that the majority of the citizens of Halifax would obey a law "simply because it is a law," and therefore the law could easily be enforced with only a minimal number of extra law enforcement personnel required. Secondly, the cases of Toronto and Ottawa, where the ban seems to be working, have proven that legislation can be effective.

When asked if and when he expected legislation to be introduced, Morris refused specific comment and said only that he "anticipated a more widespread area of no smoking to come out of the present council."



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