

# Is UNB isolating its campus ???

Another student election has come and gone, but there are a few things about this one that bears closer scrutiny.

The National Union of Students is out. Apparently University of New Brunswick students listened to student union president Jim Murray and - his "Nuts to NUS."

That brings things full circle at this campus.

In the heady days three and four years ago, NUS, AFS and CUP were in vogue around UNB, but that is all changed.

The founding conference of the Atlantic Federation of Students was held here in 1975, and later that same year, this campus hosted the national conference of the National Union of Students, a prelude to the students of the day narrowly voting themselves in.

The Brunswickan, at the same time, was backing NUS, and we

were ready and willing members of Canadian University Press.

As the people who backed these organizations on campus graduated, quit, flunked out, and went to the various places old students go to, attitudes began to change.

Particularly after the AFS office moved from campus to Halifax, UNB students, and particularly the students union, executive lost interest. When a \$1.00 per student levy was proposed for AFS, the final break came.

We never actually voted ourselves out in a legal sense, but by voting down the fee hike when most other AFS campuses voted in favour of it, that was the effective result.

It seems like a long time ago, but that was only last year.

Canadian University Press was

the next big one to go. To put it simply, The Brunswickan staff was getting fed up by what was going on in that organization, so we got out.

Their fees were going up at an unjustifiable rate, and they wanted to push through a major expansion program at a time when student enrolments were leveling off and students were (as they are still) finding themselves in a financial pinch.

Meanwhile, the expansion program offered little to help solve the basic problem facing the organization, which was that students were losing their basic commitment to the organization.

So, the national union was left.

They didn't get the boot last year, basically because they had their second referendum early in the year before the surge of opinion against extra campus organizations took hold.

NUS personnel were hoping against hope that they could pull off a referendum this year, but they just couldn't swing it.

One could go into long and winded discussions on how the pro- and anti- campaign was conducted, but the end result was still the same.

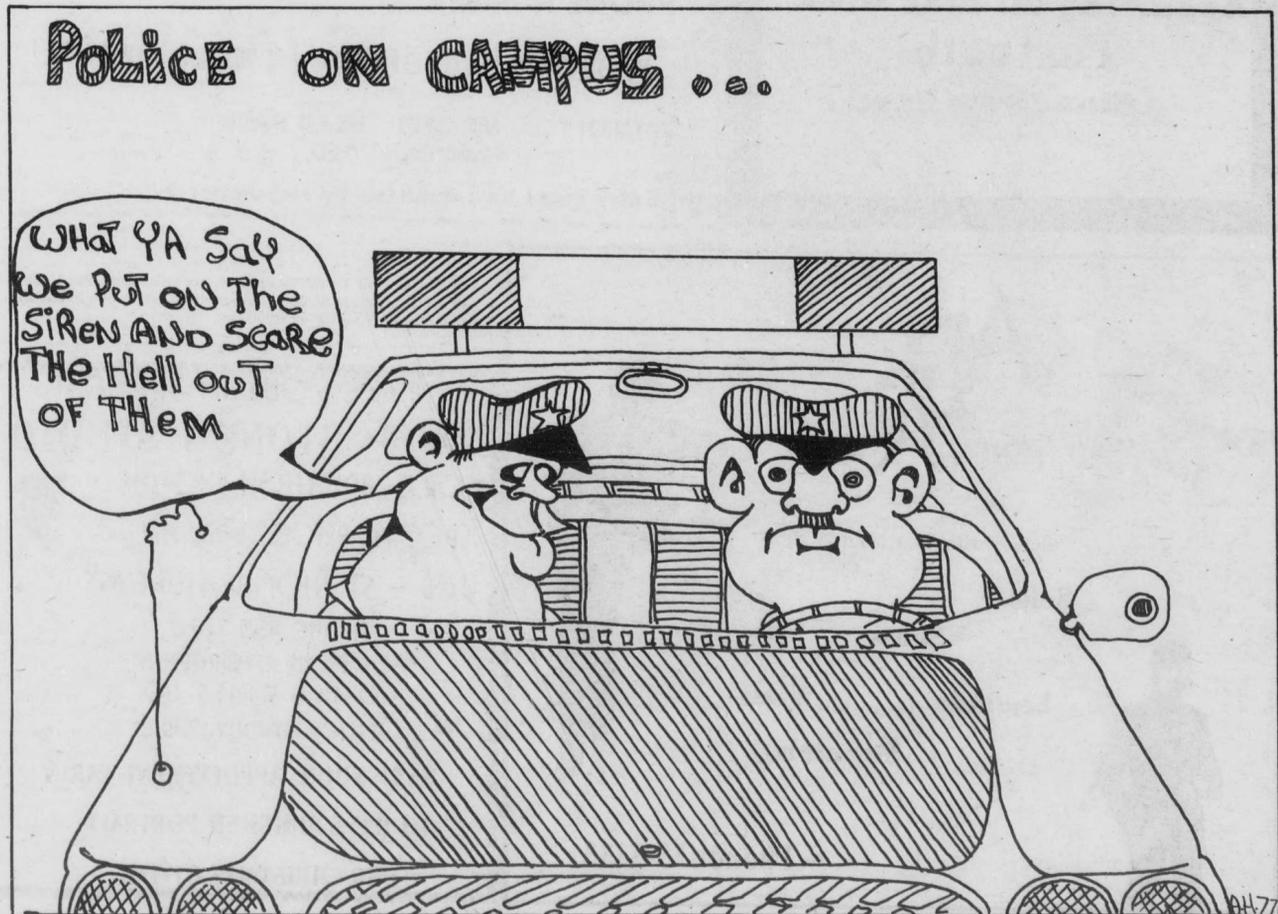
The people who were strongly in favour of NUS were a bit bashful, and others hid in the woodwork. But, this probably isn't the last.

Three or four years from now, they will wonder what we thought we were doing.

Proponents of whatever NUS develops into by that time will be winning headlines again, and regional and provincial organizations, as well as student press co-operatives will be much in vogue.

And, three or four years after that . . .

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OCTOBER 21, 1977

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