

here and across Canada. The question is, how will students react to their problems - by organizing together against them, or by trying to ignore them?

Today our country is in a crisis situation. Inflation and unemployment are hitting new highs. Social Services are under attack (witness the Alberta Conservatives 11% limit on increases in this field). Governments hand out millions of dollars to oil companies; and tell people at the same time to "tighten their belts".

Students and the education system are not isolated from all this. Education cutbacks and tuition fee increases are becoming facts of life across the country. Thousands of us can't find summer work or a decent place to live.

In this situation, students have only one way to defend themselves. We must organize to overcome our problems. And NUS is proving itself to be an effective body to unite student protests and to lobby governments on these questions.

By organizing against fee increases; for better student housing; for jobs for students; for women's rights; and against anti-foreign student measures such as put forward in the Green Paper, NUS shows its vitality and its potential strength.

To build that potential, the U of A must join NUS. As students, we can't find a better way to spend our money! Vote YES!

Kimball Cariou

editorial

NUS ain't US

Many of our student politicians try to convince us that we should join the National Union of Students (NUS). Under the catchy slogan "NUS is US" you will be invited on Thursday to vote in favor of joining NUS and thus allotting one dollar per student to this organization.

Are the benefits we will gain out of the three objectives worth the 20,000 dollars they will cost us? I think the answer to this question is NO. While NUS may have its merits, most of its objectives could be achieved by our own Students' Union and the newly-created Federation of Alberta Students (FAS) at lesser cost and at probably greater benefit to U of A students.

There is certainly a need to provide research on various issues of student concern but this work could also be done by a special Students' Union employee or by a FAS field worker who could look as the specific needs of our university. The costs of such a more local-oriented research program would not be excessive because the Students' Union has already proven that it can hire first-class personell to conduct short-range projects at a rather low salary (see Ray LaPerriere of the Housing Registry).

Many words have been said and written about the role of of NUS as a lobby organization in Ottawa. And yet, it is obvkous that the major areas for which NUS expresses concern - like housing and student financing, fall under the jurisdiction of the provincial government. True, we need a strong student lobby but here at the legislature in Edmonton and not in Ottawa where it is of little benefit to us. Make the Federation of Alberta Students more effective and soon! Shouldn't the provincial lobby be our first priority?

While there is a need for communication between the different campuses, I cannot see why this does necessitate our membership in NUS. Our current Student Executive has been very successful in establishing contacts, and there is no real need to formalize them at a cost of even \$2,000 (if you allot 10% of the \$20,000 for that benefit of joining NUS).

I am not too cheap to pay an additional dollar next year in my fees. But I believe that there are more worthy organizations right here on this campus that should be subsidized first and that could handle certain problems as well or better than NUS. A larger subsidy to the Women's Program Centre at this university will do more for our female students than all the talk NUS can do in Ottawa about women's rights.

I'd like to leave you with one question. Why did NUS have only 20 members as of May 1975 if it is that good? Apparently, NUS is not US for every student in Canada.

No-NUS'sers

On October 9 there will be a referendum which will ask all students whether or not they support the Students' Union becoming a member of the National Union of Students.

As representatives on Students' Council, we recommend that the student body reject NUS by voting NO in the referendum. We believe that the possible rewards brought about by joining NUS do not justify the collective cost of over \$20,000 per year, though this constitutes an individual cost of \$1 per student per year.

The major priorities of any Students' Council should be to provide valuable services, to represent student interests and to use Students' Union fees in the most efficient manner possible. Since the Provincial Government is directly responsible for student problems in Alberta, sending money east to support a federal lobby is an inefficient use of Students' Union fees.

It is at the Provincial level where we must apply pressure to solve both short term and long term problems of university students in Alberta. The Provincial Government is directly responsible for the

quality of education, human rights, housing and student financial aid. Possibly the federal government can have some indirect influence on the solution of these problems, but to a far less extent than the Provincial Government.

The National Union of Students has named three issues as their most immediate priorities. These include University Finance and Student Financial Aid, the Status of Women Students and Housing. Because the Provincial government is directly responsible for these areas, it is they who will be better able to solve the problems.

It has been established that effective lobbying to the Provincial government has helped to solve many student problems. For example, this year they helped finance the emergency accommodation on the Arts Court. Last year they bailed the Students' Union out of the HUB crisis. And of course for years the Provincial government has provided funds for student clubs, services and organizations.

We believe the National Union of Students are wasting their time by talking to the Federal government. If anything, only effective lobbying to the Provincial government will achieve solutions to our student problems. We believe our problems are here in Edmonton now, and only local solutions are likely to achieve results. Over \$20,000 sent down to Ottawa every year is a bad investment and could be better spent, possibly by supporting the recently established Federation of Alberta Students.

On October 9, SAY NO TO NUS!

P. Drabble
R. Cooper
C. Linnberg
K. Warner
G. Hunt

Student At Large

NUS is Coming!

The time of decision is upon us. The NUS Referendum is Thursday, October 9th. Will we join NUS, or shall we continue to watch on, while others do the work. Such a position shall by no means impede our ability or our "right" to criticize their efforts. A safe, but most despicable position for anyone to take.

In joining NUS we will become part of a country-wide body fighting on problems facing students. And problems are one of the few things students have in abundance. Not just scholarly, or the equality of teaching, but problems faced by a group in society that often gets the rotten end of the stick.

Overcoming social problems demand broad scale movements. If we are to get anywhere with questions like financing and housing, we must get involved on a national scale.

It is true that we must get involved with the community around us, and we are involved in the municipal level. True, education has large provincial jurisdiction; just as true, we are involved on the provincial level.

National questions like housing and financing, demand involvement at the national level. Joining NUS is getting involved on the national level. I doubt if anyone would say housing or financing are not serious problems. No one would say, not to worry about them.

These problems need a national organization! So far there has been no counter proposal or alternative to NUS:

let alone any debate as to which organization would be better.

What I have read is a negative poster with a relatively large number on it, \$20,000 (which I think is a bit of sensationalism), which goes on to say this money would be wasted and implies it would break us. BULLSHIT!!

Twenty thousand, when looked at in perspective is \$1.00 per year per person. One dollar! Less than one highball per year per person. It is five (5) cups of coffee. What a terrible cost! Most people spend that much on coffee just to complain about housing. It would not be a waste to spend money on something positive. Joining NUS is something positive. NUS is doing something positive.

Vote YES on October 9th.

And everybody get out and vote, yes. Let all Canadian students know: let Ottawa know that we, the U of A students, are doing something for better housing; for better financing; for better conditions for all studnets.

Make us a part of NUS. VOTE YES.

Paul Jarbeau
Engineering 3

The Prez

This Thursday you have a crucial choice to make, whether or not to join the National Union of Students. In your own best interest and in the interest of future students, I ask you to whole-heartedly support membership.

A few clear reasons why membership is essential:

1. FACT, policy regarding issues that surround students (i.e. housing, finance, employment, immigration, women's rights) is, in part, made at the federal level.

2. FACT, the U of A Students' Union does not have the financial or human resources to maintain a lobby in Ottawa on behalf of the students on this campus, in isolation from other campuses.

3. FACT, the National Union of Students has proven its ability to lobby effectively at the federal level on student aid and immigration issues.

4. FACT, NUS is presently gearing up to lobby on behalf of students, for the renegotiating of the Fiscal Arrangement Act. If the concerns of students are not brought forward at these renegotiations, the consequences to students could be very damaging like increased tuition and reduced student aid.

As hundreds of thousands of other Canadian students have done and as I will do on Thursday, please throw your wholehearted support behind NUS, by voting yes for membership!

Graeme Leadbeater
President
Students' Union

NDP

A meeting of the U of A NDP club on Sept. 23 unanimously endorsed a proposal to support a "YES" vote on the NUS referendum.

Because the stay of students in a post secondary institution is a limited one, it is important to have an ongoing body that works in the interests of students. Since a dispropor-

continued on page 8

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All Departments:
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Media Productions:
432-3423