

# It is time for UNB's students to unite

It is time for the students of this university to realize that we must begin campaigning to improve the lot of students all across Canada.

After the Canadian Union of Students folded several years ago students have been without a combined voice to represent their viewpoints in Ottawa, and little such campaigning has taken place.

However, since 1972, a new organization - the National Union of Students - has been attempting to fill the void left when CUS folded.

NUS has gained support, and now represents over 350,000 students.

It is time for UNB to realize its responsibility to all students and support the national union. The more members the union has the more weight it will carry in Ottawa, and the more likelihood there will be of attaining reforms in favor of students.

Most students fail to realize that we will receive the benefits of the union even if we are not members. However, it is completely irresponsible for UNB to sit back and reap the benefits earned through the efforts of others without giving any support.

The cost of supporting the union is one of the organization's inexpensive this year, but membership fees will be about \$6,000 next year, based on a dollar a head per student. This is a small price to pay for the benefits of being a member of a national organization whose sole duty is to improve the lot of students.

Many people seem to feel that UNB will have little voice in the organization, and the organization will be dominated by universities from central Canada.

However, the voting structure of the organization gives one vote per institution, giving UNB the same power as a university twice our size.

The argument has been put forward that UNB is adequately represented in the Atlantic Federation of Students, and has no need to be a member of another student organization.

To date AFS has only been able to work on student issues on a provincial and regional basis, with no attempt being made to treat the problems of students on a national level. We desperately need an organization which can collate the desires and needs of students so we can present a unified voice in negotiations with the federal government.

Also, it is unlikely that this region would have formed the Atlantic Federation of Students without the research, assistance and impetus supplied by NUS. NUS has a policy of assisting all regional and provincial student organizations, and in no way can be construed as a replacement for the regional organization.

Having several student organizations approaching the federal government is totally illogical when there is one organization to do the necessary research and make the presentations.

UNB, as always, is in danger of operating in a vacuum. We must attempt to encourage all interaction with other universities who have problems. One of the best ways of keeping in touch with what is going on on other campuses is to be a member of a national student organization like NUS.

The government has never been over anxious to make reforms in favor of students, and every step that is made is at the cost of a great deal of work by student organizations. We must take every step possible to ensure the government realizes students are aware of the issues, and are prepared to make those feelings known.

In the past there has been too

much of a tendency for students to ignore the government's actions with regard to student issues like student aid and housing. This is a situation which must be remedied, with the first logical step being joining the national union.

The referendum campaign at this university is just a small part of a cross-country campaign of national union to attempt to increase membership. Successful referenda have been held at universities in Newfoundland and Alberta in the past few weeks, and the organization now has the support of a high percentage of the approximately 600,000 post-secondary students in the country.

The government is beginning more and more to recognize the union as the voice of Canadian students. UNB certainly will not have much clout in dealings with the government if we become a member of a small minority of universities who are not members of the national union.

Labor, manufacturers and other groups all have lobbying groups to protect their interests in Ottawa. It's time students started to use the same methods other groups have used so effectively.

The staff of THE BRUNSWICKAN, while not unanimous in our support of joining the union, feels that UNB should join, at the very least for a trial period.

## UNB has unique system

### Double shuffle parking

Events this week make it very obvious that the university operates with one set of rules for students and another set for others.

Two students' cars which were parked near the kitchen entrance of the SUB were towed away Wednesday. According to security officers the cars were blocking the driveway to the kitchen entrance.

However, the cars in question, a Volkswagen, and a Toyota, could not possibly have prevented other vehicles from using the driveway.

The cars were towed to the industrial park, at the owners' expense. Security officers were unwilling to even inform the owners of the exact location of the cars.

There are no signs in the area saying cars cannot be parked there, and the area has

traditionally been used for parking by students.

However, at the same time the students' cars were being towed away security officers were directing cars to park on the sidewalk near Head Hall. Apparently the cars did not belong to students.

This seems to be quite a contradiction. Without even a warning ticket student cars are towed away from an unposted area, while visitors to the campus are directed to park on sidewalks.

This is just one more example of the long list of examples of discrimination against students by the UNB security force. It's about time the security force started to treat students like human beings instead of operating on the "this would be a great place if it wasn't for the students" system it has used in the past.

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