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Brunsbites

Great come-on lines throughout the ages:

"I hope you've got something under that fig-leaf for me" - *Eve to Adam*

"You got a great-lookin' asp" - *Antony to Cleopatra*

"You're a head above them all, baby" - *Louis to Marie-Antoinette*

"You're a cut above the rest, baby" - *John to Lorena*

"Is that a hair on your Coke can?" - *Clarence to Anita*

"If you play your cards right, I can get you onto the bridge" - *James T. Kirk to any intergalactic maiden in a tight spacesuit*

Hello CASA, good-bye CFS...

Student unions form new alliance

Estabrooks elected interim president

By Gabriel M. Fantino
The Gateway
with Charlene Deyarmond
and Mary Rogal-Black
Brunswickian News

A new era in Canadian student politics is expected to be ushered in with the creation of the first new national student alliance in 15 years.

A slew of student leaders from over 20 universities gathered at the Lord Beaverbrook Hotel earlier this week to finalise a constitution and give birth to the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA).

Among the delegates were representatives from the University of British Columbia, the University of Alberta, the University of Saskatchewan, McGill University, Dalhousie University, and Carleton University.

"When we were out at Edmonton we discussed a constitution which we drafted up and at the Winds of Change we decided to meet here and try to finish that constitution and actually have the inception of the new organization. That is what we're doing today," said Paul Estabrooks, President of the UNB SU, and one of the organisers of the Building the Foundation Conference which started January 28 and wrapped up on Tuesday.

The new organization will feature fifteen to twenty member universities and a permanent staff in Ottawa to lobby

the federal government on post secondary education issues. Estabrooks was elected interim national director of CASA on Tuesday afternoon.

An underlying issue at the conference is the Canadian Federation of Students, which has been Canada's national student lobby group since its formation in 1981, but now appears ready to crumble as student groups across the country reconsider their memberships in the federation.

Pat FitzPatrick, VP University Affairs, said that there have been several problems with CFS which prompted student groups to work toward forming an alternate lobby group.

"The CFS is a structural nightmare and they are more interested in world peace than education," said FitzPatrick.

FitzPatrick did add later that he had nothing personally against world peace.

Listing problems with CFS, FitzPatrick cited the group's response to the green paper.

"Throwing eggs results when people stop listening," he said.

According to FitzPatrick, CFS representatives have been unwilling to sit down with the government. While student groups outside of the Federation have met with a total of thirty MPs, CFS has met with none.

U of A SU President Suzanne Scott,

said CASA is intended to be a better lobbying vehicle than CFS because it will be a strictly political body, and will avoid tackling social issues.

"We haven't been involved in a national group like this for a long time and I think we've not had the same national voice that a lot of other schools have had on a lot of issues. So we don't have that access to the federal government," said Scott.

"But more importantly, this organization has taken a serious look at what has gone wrong with previous organizations, like CFS, and tried to look at where schools are now and how to best lobby for the students," continued Scott.

"CFS's role in lobbying the federal government hasn't been effective at all. I don't see them as ever dealing with the actual policy makers and they don't keep political reality in mind when they do. They protest, yell and get angry but don't back it up with alternatives."

Kyle Kasawski was also at the conference representing the University of Alberta's student union.

"They tell the government they can't do something because it goes against CFS ideology and when the government wants to compromise, they say no, we can't compromise," said Kasawski, U of A SU VP External.

"The only thing that is up in the air

is Ottawa," said FitzPatrick. "They are a really strong students' union and being in the capital they are an important students' union to have involved because of their contacts, national media contacts and government contacts. However, I think we will end up with them in this."

CASA will levee a fee based on school enrolment and SU revenue. UNB will pay approximately eight or nine thousand dollars towards operating costs. CFS membership cost UNB over forty-one thousand dollars last year.

Fees are based on student union yearly budgets, and the number of students represented.

"The fact that the universities will be working together frees up the researchers on campus to work on their own stuff while we will have researchers in Ottawa doing a better job of lobbying the government since our resources are being pooled. The bottom line is we will be better able to handle local issues because of the resources being freed and we will be doing a better job on the national level too," said Patrick Horan, University of Manitoba's SU Director of Communications.

During the constitutional talks on Monday, the issue of bilingualism was tabled.

Continued on page 3

President addresses apathetic students

By Janice McConnell
Brunswickian News

UNB SU President Paul Estabrooks got up on his soapbox Wednesday.

Taking to the stage in the SUB cafeteria during the lunch hour, Estabrooks told students about implications of the proposed federal government cuts to post-secondary education.

"I think it's important that students understand exactly what is happening to their tuition," said Estabrooks.

He commented on the expected rise in tuition if the proposed reforms are passed and discussed reform alternatives like a graduate surtax and income-contingent student loan repayment.

"You would essentially be paying it back at the same time as you take out Freedom 55," said Estabrooks.

Few of the lunching students were observed to be following Estabrooks' speech. No one acknowledged or responded to Estabrooks invitation to questions following the talk, which lasted about fifteen to twenty minutes.

Estabrooks admitted afterwards that he was disappointed that several students who are members of the International Socialists left the room as he began to speak. He said he hoped they

would contribute to the question and answer session after his speech.

"The whole thing has turned out to be a sham, no one spoke out," said Tammy Jack, a 4th year BA student at STU, commenting on the apparent effectiveness of Estabrooks' speech.

Jack is not in favour of a graduate sur-

tax as she feels that students who got through university without incurring debt would then be penalized.

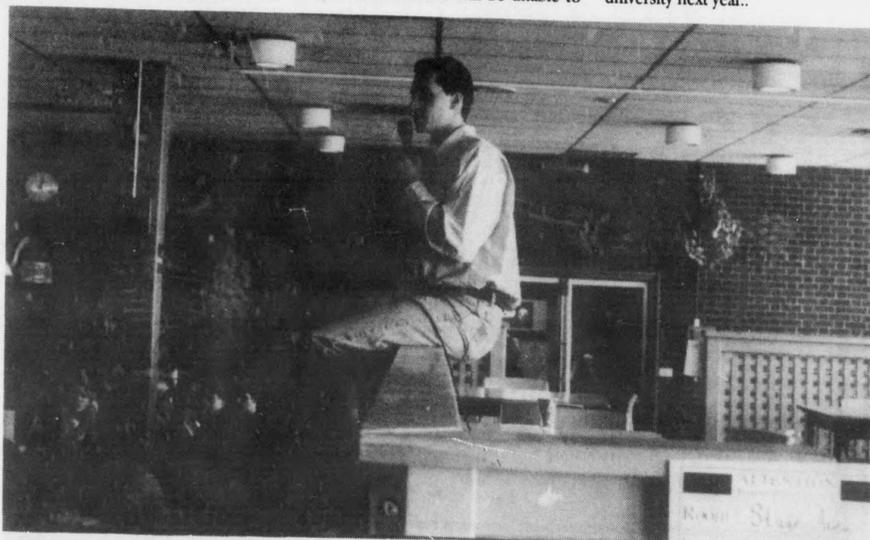
"I think that fighting the cuts with the proposal of a graduate surtax is just trying to put paying onto other people," said Jack.

Jack said that she will be unable to

return to university next year if the loan system changes.

First year Science Student Laura Russell was asked if she listened to the speech.

"No, not really," said Russell. She added that she does not plan to attend university next year.



Why are you sitting on the fence, Paul? Despite his location, Paul Estabrooks has definite views about social policy reforms.
Photo by Mark Robichaud