

CFS - the new kid in town

NUS, CFS, AOSC, EPF; do these acronyms bantering throughout the Gazette pages strike you with familiarity? They may not be used in common kitchen talk, but one new one you'll hear a lot more of in the years to come is CFS, the Canadian Federation of Students.

CFS is the born again Canadian student movement that merges the National Union of Students (NUS) and the Association of Student Councils (AOSC), the organization that brings you CUTS travel service) and links the provincial student movements under one umbrella.

It's a coincidence, perhaps, and a good one, that the restructuring of our national movement comes at a time when a national lobbying force and a national perspective of education was desperately needed.

Let's face it. The provinces may have constitutional responsibility for post secondary education, but that doesn't seem to count for much. The federal government will shortly cut back funds that will drastically affect higher education across the country.

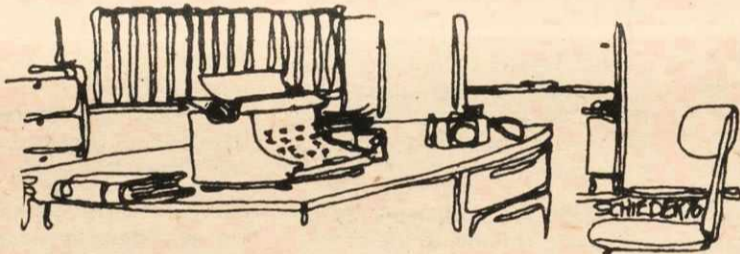
While the federal government shows its weight in educational matters without the benefit of an education ministry, we need student leaders to fill the gap, and present a national perspective of this country's

education policy, from the students' point of view.

Why the big reshuffle in the student movement? Again, what better time to see the need for provincial student organizations to become officially linked to the national organization. Our own SUNS, Student Unions of Nova Scotia, will retain its autonomy as a local entity (no one can know more about the intrinsic characteristics of the House of Assembly than Nova Scotians). But to be effective as a part of a national campaign, the government must be pressured from all sides, from Nova Scotia and the Atlantic, from Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and again from students in B.C.

Students as a political constituency need a strong central voice. Students are a vulnerable lot for the few years they have a direct stake in the quality of higher education. No one is more dependant on federal funds than we are.

The Canadian student movement is maturing in its political strategy, witness the massive lobbying at Parliament Hill last week. However, CFS's test of strength will come in National Protest Week in March. Work hard, CFS, we need you.



the Dalhousie Gazette

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LETTERS

Thanks for Dr. Perez Esquivel

To the Editor:

I would like to thank the Dalhousie Dept. of Spanish for helping to give Haligonians a chance to hear Dr. Adolpho Perez Esquivel, winner of the 1980 Nobel Peace Prize, talk on human rights in Latin America.

Dr. Perez Esquivel gave two talks which were attended by over 400 people. It was a striking fact that, though a devout Catholic and pacifist, he did not once mention communist intervention as a factor in the current conflict between the left and the U.S. supported military dictatorships, a strong contrast with the fact that in Canada the Russian/Cuban threat is all we hear about from President Reagan and Trudeau's MacGuigan, people who do not find it incongruous that the U.S. will not send wheat to a crippled Nicaragua but will send it to Russia.

Dr. Perez Esquivel sees as a major problem the North American desire to create a stable environment for its business interests and sources of raw material in Latin America, even at the cost of the basic free-

doms of the majority of Latin Americans.

He does not advocate armed rebellion, claiming that if a broadly based commitment to nonviolent resistance can be achieved, any dictatorship could be rapidly removed. He said that one of the most positive things nations outside Latin America could do would be to stop arms sales to the region: arms bought with money that could be developing the region in more diverse ways than merely providing repressive stability for our multinationals.

Dr. John Kirk of the Spanish Dept. did a magnificent job of translating Dr. Perez Esquivel's talks and his answers in the question periods that followed.

The outlay of a few hundred dollars of Dalhousie funds spent to bring such visitors to Halifax and thus expose us to broader ideas is a more appropriate use of tertiary education funds than is our current emphasis on recreational facilities.

Yours sincerely,
 W.H. Owen
 Kellogg Library

Gazette drawn into middle east conflict

To the Editor:

In your Oct. 23rd edition Reza Rizvi wrote an article deploring the Camp David Accords. Unfortunately articles like this tend to start a chain reaction of letters; first comes the Palestinian article, then comes a Zionist letter in reply, then comes two Palestinian letters in reply to the Zionist letter, then comes three Zionist letters in reply... I should state my bias, I am a Zionist (sorry Reza), but I just could not bring myself to start this chain reaction.

The most I will say is that I disagree with Reza. I know that this comment will not change anybody's mind, but it is not meant to. The Arab/Israeli conflict is wide enough already--let's try not to draw the Dalhousie Gazette into it.

James C. Morton
 Physics M.Sc.