

# NATIONAL FEDERATION

... TO PROMOTE a better understanding, surpassing both geography and language, among all Canadian university students.

TO PROMOTE greater co-operation and correlation among student government bodies, in order to watch over the progress of student interests and academic freedom.

TO SERVE the cause of peace by creating ties with national unions of students around the globe. . . .

—NFCUS Constitution, 1926-1961

## ON TRIAL

by Kathy

"The Individual in Society," as the topic for a week-long seminar, presented a unique challenge to some 150 students from 36 universities across Canada. The delegates found the topic illusive, however, but concluded on the whole that it was a good thing. As individuals, they themselves were on trial.

Each speaker put forward his own personal views, sometimes in quite

PHOTOS BY  
GEORGE HALLETT



CHAIRMAN SAVILLE—  
ALLEVIATES GAP

## THREE BIG CONFERENCE-MEN

by Carol Anderson



KEITH CONRAD—  
JUDGES VALUES



BOB HEMMINGS—  
TERMS THINKER

### PETER ARDENT

"I am an enthusiastic and ardent supporter of NFCUS," emphatically declared Student Union President, Peter Hyndman. I can believe it, for by the end of the interview I was an "enthusiastic and ardent supporter" too.

According to Mr. Hyndman this campus has been "most difficult" in the past because of lack of student education and general apathy. He felt that NFCUS must "sell itself" through an increased publicity program. In return students should respond by taking any questions and comments to our NFCUS chairman, Francis Saville. Such people as Saville, Dave MacLean, western regional chairman of NFCUS, and Bruce Rawson, former NFCUS president will help to make this "a worthwhile year" for NFCUS at U of A.

"NFCUS is a very intangible concept whose concrete benefits—of immense value—are rarely known by the student." In this comment we find the practical value of NFCUS. Mr. Hyndman elaborated on this by saying that the recent act of making tuition fees tax deductible was largely a result of NFCUS agitation. Thus the two dollars we pay over four years to NFCUS can save us up to ten dollars in taxes.

Throughout the interview Hyndman continually expressed his admiration for the permanent staff.

"The staff in Ottawa are tremendously loyal and dedicated people who do prodigious amounts of work. They are so involved in so many programs that something must be sacrificed, and I'm afraid in the past it's been publicity."

When asked to comment on the biggest value of NFCUS, Hyndman said "NFCUS is the UN of Canadian Students' Unions." Even as the UN has an East-West split, NFCUS has a French-English split. He believes NFCUS helps to coordinate their ideas and leads to better understanding.

### DAVE WESTERN

Dave MacLean, Western Region Chairman defended NFCUS by saying that although it had been in existence for thirty-five years it had only been "effectively organized" for the past 12 during which it has made "tremendous strides." Until recently NFCUS has had only "sporadic membership," not truly representing all Canadian university students.

To MacLean the biggest value of NFCUS is the unifying effect of the exchange of ideas between the regions of Canada. He emphasized that the Eastern universities experience more directly the benefits of NFCUS than do the Western ones. To illustrate this point, there are five universities in the western region which stretches from Vancouver to Winnipeg. Thus the cost of bringing students from one university to another is, in his opinion, prohibitive whereas in the east the concentration of universities allows them to intermingle relatively easily.

As he was a member of the International Affairs Committee for two years, MacLean had much to say about the role of NFCUS in international affairs. The NFCUS national chairman, representing Canada as a member of the International Students Conference, is also the chairman of the steering committee under COSEC (coordinating secretariat of the ISC). MacLean explained that this committee has the job of finding out who officially represents a country at the conferences.

"There is a possibility of having the next International Conference held in Canada." He said that he should know by October 20 if our bid has been accepted.

As far as NFCUS international policy goes, I understand it to be mainly concerned with establishing relations with Russia and South America. According to MacLean the ISC, which NFCUS acts through, is trying to keep South American students from going communist. As a manifestation of ISC student support, on a motion from Canada, a medical social center was built in Chile after the disastrous earthquake.

So ended my interviews with the "big three" from Alberta at this

### FRANCIS SUPPORTER

In the words of NFCUS chairman, Francis Saville, NFCUS is a "union of students' unions — a pressure group, in that as the voice of students it can make the Canadian public aware of the needs of the university student."

According to Saville "not everyone can be a NFCUS supporter" but its presence is justified by its usefulness. Student disinterest, in his opinion, is partly the fault of NFCUS, through lack of publicity, and partly the fault of the student, who fails to look into NFCUS. "During this year my main objective will be to alleviate this gap of unawareness."

With more publicity coming soon, it will be the duty of the student to inform himself about NFCUS. To give the student an idea of the facilities available to them Mr. Saville outlined a few.

1. Annual National Seminar—next year it is tentatively to be held at the University of Sherebrooke in the late summer. Alberta sends eight delegates—the criteria: interest and academic standing.

2. Inter-regional Scholarship Plan. The four regions under the central Ottawa office exchange students with one another. The number of students we send depends on the number that wish to come here from other universities.

The national congress passed a resolution to the effect that French should be taught earlier in English schools and English in French schools. Saville suggested that this could possibly be the theme of this year's National Student Day. Here NFCUS would act mainly as a "pressure group," as it couldn't take any action to put this into effect.

Mr. Saville concluded by saying that the biggest problem of NFCUS is money. About one-third of the money to run NFCUS comes from the student and the other two-thirds come from the Canada Council and donations.

NFCUS conference. And in my prejudiced opinion (as a female) I fail to see how anyone could complain about being uninformed on NFCUS when such qualified persons are available to answer questions.

strong terms. Few of their remarks were to the essence of the topic; students were obliged to correlate the information and ideas themselves, and use their common sense as individuals.

In the opinion of Keith Conrad, this is the true test of the individual—a person who has learned to make value judgments. This type of seminar, he feels, with its antagonism of ideas, stimulates thought and the making of judgments.

Most of the discussions were of a political nature and usually boiled down to the clash of ideologies be-

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