

# The skeptics are wrong according to Buckingham

By DERWIN GOWAN  
News Editor

The National Union of Students began in 1972 at a meeting at the University of Windsor with about 50 institutions represented, NUS General Secretary Bob Buckingham told delegates at the NUS conference held here last weekend.

The original meeting was concerned with the fiscal arrangements by which post-secondary educational institutions are funded, but it soon became apparent there were other common problems as well, Buckingham said. The need for a unified group to replace the Canadian Union of Students was seen, so a steering committee was set up.

This committee reported to a conference held at Carleton University in November of 1972 and the national union was formed.

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At the next conference at Dalhousie University in 1973 a membership fee of 30 cents per capita was implemented and a national office set up. It was then thought NUS could operate on \$30,000 per year, Buckingham added.

These fees started to come in six months later, but bills started to come in immediately, thus necessitating a fund drive.

Housing, student aid, discrimination, inflation, and other student related concerns were made

priorities and goals and aims were worked out. Some institutions offered to do research in certain areas.

The next conference at Simon Fraser University in May of 1974 decided that short term goals should be set so NUS could prove they were concerned with practical matters. One of these goals was to have tuition and student fees tax deductible, the delegates were told.

The summer was spent lobbying, organizing, and getting publicity. They were unsuccessful in lobbying the department of finance to as NUS was the weak. It was also decided that some long term goals would have to be set.

The conference of October, 1974, was held at the University of Saskatchewan. Here, plans were made for a student aid campaign and this issue was made a top priority. Also, membership fees were increased.

The strategy for the student aid campaign was developed and negotiations with the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada and the Canadian Association of University Teachers began. Buckingham said this was a very ambitious campaign and NUS learned not to over-extend itself.

The Government began to take an interest in NUS, and now recognizes the organization as the national voice of students, although Buckingham pointed out that NUS did not know about the secret report being done on student aid at that time.

They tried to reach as many students as possible, said Buckingham, but there were financial

restrictions. The operating budget was raised from \$30,000 to \$54,000 when the fees were raised. This raise was tested and referendum passed on four campuses.

Research was started on housing by Dalhousie University, on foreign students by Capilano College, and on student aid by Lakehead University.

In May of 1975, student aid was still the main issue, Buckingham said. They wanted student repre-

sentation on bodies governing student aid. Also, fiscal transfers had to be dealt with, he said, because this was the issue that brought students together in the first place.

Buckingham said NUS was now moving into the more concrete areas of student housing, women's policy, employment, and other such topics.

A special stand was taken with respect to foreign students

because, Buckingham said, foreign students are often told they cannot be involved in politics by their home governments, so Canadian students, whose rights are protected, must speak on their behalf. He said there was "a very subtle growth in racism" in Canada and, "It is very important to defend the rights of all our members."

Said Buckingham, "I think the fact that we're here...has proved the skeptics wrong."

## Student participation remanded

By DERWIN GOWAN  
News Editor

A lengthy debate over student aid with York University objecting to the final proposals was one of the major events of the final plenary session of the National Union of Students meeting held in Fredericton last weekend.

They endorsed the petition campaign and agreed to work closer with non-NUS members to this end. They also voted in favour of an educational campaign in conjunction with regional and provincial organizations and local campuses.

They want increased funding of graduate studies as well.

The York proposals included a more vigorous educational campaign and active seeking of support from political parties and other lobbying organizations. Leaflets and a national newsletter would be used and support of faculty would be sought as well.

The campaign would be built up at the local level, with each campus determining its own

campaign content and strategy.

They would have rallies and workshops around the following rallies: Education is a right, not a privilege; Stop the Cutbacks; Abolish tuition fees; Tax the corporations to pay for education; Student-staff-faculty control; and for a free university in a free society.

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The national union endorsed a draft to be presented to the Canada Student Loans Plenary Group. This draft wants students on this board.

This brief says students have been lobbying for better student aid programs for more than 15 years and that student involvement in and awareness of the issues involved is increasing, although they admit, "...the majority of individual students has not become as involved as expected."

Students are now used to being part of the decision making processes at their respective

institutions and some provincial student aid bodies have students as members. However, provincial bodies do not think that greater student participation is necessary. This board administers Canada student loans and sets policy.

The NUS Central Committee has worked out a strategy for the student aid campaign which letters, telegrams, and visits to bureaucrats would be a prominent part. Dialogue with students would also be developed on a day to day basis.

On the national level, the campaign would be moulded around what the government is doing. The support base will have to be widened and the information flow co-ordinated, they said.

The importance of getting back to the grass roots was stressed.

Today, the student loan lobby cannot be ignored, the conference was told, and a long term strategy must be developed to compliment the day to day lobbying.

Student aid is a unifying issue and will continue to be, the conference was told.

## Education poorly funded says NUS

Federal - provincial funding arrangements highlighted debates of the final plenary session of the National Union of Students conference held in the Student Union Building last weekend.

Federal funding of universities is done under the auspices of the Fiscal Transfers Act, passed by the federal parliament in 1967. According to NUS sources, the present level of support is \$15.00 per capita. In 1972, an amendment to the act placed a 15 percent limit on the annual increase of support.

Delegates claimed there was strong evidence that some provincial governments were not spending all of the federal grant on education. Therefore, the first resolution passed urged the provincial governments to spend all the educational allotment on education.

They also affirmed support for the principle of the abolition of tuition fees. With this in mind, they moved and passed resolutions

favouring making federal support for post-secondary education conditional on the abolition of tuition fees. They also suggested that poorer provinces be subsidized to a greater extent than richer ones.

Delegates decided in favour of an educational campaign in conjunction with regional and provincial organizations and the support of the Canadian Association of University Teachers and the Association of Colleges and Universities.

A defeated resolution would ask the government to increase corporate taxes for educational purposes as corporations receive more benefits from education than any other group in society and they presently pay less than their fair share of taxes.

According to the delegation from Lethbridge University, this motion was too political and not enough research has been done by NUS in this area, and the organization was in no position to affect the federal

tax structure. Further, the delegate said, it would play NUS into the hands of communists. "I think we should defeat it and throw it out," and "It's going to have a very detrimental effect," he said.

The University of Alberta said if the resolution passed it would adversely affect the chance of the NUS referendum passing there.

York University took exception to this. "That's got to be part our policy," that corporations be taxed to a greater extent than they presently are. The effect of deleting the resolution would be to dilute the proposals, their delegate said. More money is needed and "...it will come from the corporate sector."

University of Waterloo delegate and Ontario Federation of Students chairperson John Shortal said unless the extra money for education comes from the corporations, some other federal program will have to be cut.

## McKenzie raps student parking

"We can't have student cars being towed away," said student council president Warren McKenzie at last Monday's regular meeting.

McKenzie said he believed the parking regulations were being enforced too strictly, "...but the crunch of the problem is the regulations themselves." There should be parking at UNB, he said.

McKenzie said C.F. Williamson,

chief of security, claimed parking regulations were being enforced equally on both student and faculty parking lots, although some

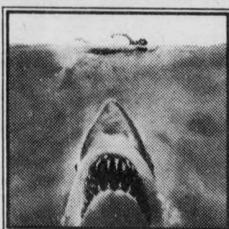
councillors doubted this. This has been talked about for a long time, McKenzie said, and it is time that action was taken.

## Alumnae power conference slated

Fredericton area UNB alumnae will give an opportunity to voice an opinion on the alumni power conference scheduled for Nov. 21-22 at a meeting Oct. 22 at 8 p.m. in the Tartan Room, Memorial Student Centre.

A panel discussion concerning the conference will be chaired by Reginald Tweeddale, chairman of the conference. Alumnae president Pamela Bacon urges all local alumnae to attend.

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Tilley Auditorium 7:00 & 9:00

Note: Change in Schedule

Nov. 2 O' Lucky Man (Malcolm Mcdowell)

will replace American Graffiti 6:00 & 9:00

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