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Committees at Work

In his parting remarks to the Students' Representative Council meeting last Wednesday, Jack Ernst, Ex-Officio President, requested that the S.R.C. make an effort to put the committees operating under it to more effective use. The S.R.C. has lacked co-ordination in this respect for many years and it is heartening to hear words of action on the subject. The announcement was made shortly after the meeting convened that all S.R.C. committees will have to meet at least 24 hours before the Students' Representative Council does if any topic to be discussed is to be brought up at the parent body. If Dick Hale can enforce this then it will be a great step forward in speeding up the business of the Council.

With the committees meeting at prescribed times and making official reports there remains but one thing to be corrected. That is the business the committees are to discuss. Little use has been made at U.N.B. of the investigative committee. At the final fall budget meeting last Wednesday the financial committee presented its recommendations and requested, after some discussion, they be passed. The budgets which had been submitted by various campus organizations were voted on by the council on this recommendation.

The S.R.C. has been faced with, and most likely will continue to be faced with, yearly debts of campus organizations. It is high time the financial committee did some research into why these debts are continually cropping up and what can be done about them. Some intelligent work in this direction might be the answer to rising S.R.C. fees and the persistent lack of operating funds in the S.R.C. coffers.

Order out of Chaos

The apparent inefficiency of the much-ballyhooed NFCUS organization, as illustrated by the mismanagement of last year's debating final in Toronto, does much to substantiate the anti-federation sentiments which the Brunswickan has continually expressed.

Most of us will agree that this discouraging report does indicate a certain lack of initial order within that hallowed organization. The natural question arises then: Do we need a national student lobby of this sort? Have the universities in Canada reached the point where a student body on a national basis is unnecessary? The answer is obvious—NO! With the increase in the size of the individual schools in Canada, the need has become greater, not less. It is therefore a shame that, for all practical purposes, one does NOT exist. NFCUS, as it is constituted at present, does not fill the bill.

The greatest difficulties in NFCUS seem to arise at the executive level. This is born out by the fact that the examples of mismanagement occur through the channels of the general office, and not at the university level. Such things as the failure to live up to advertised obligations (the debating finals), the complete loss of a student art exhibit and the long months of silence which follow one of those unique short story competitions. These are all the responsibility of the permanent administration. One solution would be to establish regional offices, and in this way take some of the load off the head office. This will of necessity be more of an expense, but if the students have any assurance that their funds are being constructively used they will gladly comply. These regional outlets would also tend to bind the organization more closely than it is at present. This factor of loose organization is perhaps one of the chief reasons for NFCUS failure.

Another point for consideration is that of money mismanagement. It is obvious, in the case of the CUDA debating finals. Either they did not have sufficient funds, in which case no such offer should have been made, or, they had the monies but decided for various reasons not to allot them to debating. Clearly no effort was made to live up to advertised obligations.

On the basis of these findings an investigation of NFCUS spending is in order. It is up to the member universities to instigate one. Apparently no severe pang of conscience have smitten the officials themselves. We must decide whether to support a federation, which is grossly inefficient, or to support an organization that can effectively project student interests. The latter does not exist. It can only become reality when the students have acquired sufficient interest to completely re-vamp the present system.

Freshman Elections

The freshman elections for the positions of class representatives in the Students' Representative Council and the class executive are being held this coming Friday, October 28th. We need hardly say that it is the duty of every freshman to go to the polls and vote. This is a franchise that we possess in Canada and, sadly enough, it is too often neglected. Although the positions up for election may appear to be insignificant they are not. Each of the elected officers will have specific duties to perform and their actions will affect every freshman and sometimes every student on the campus.

In the past the elections on this campus have been regarded with little concern. The students who should have taken an interest are the first to complain when there is levy made for funds to pay off debts, or when the S.R.C. levy is raised. All these actions take place after the elections and it is then too late for the student to voice his or her opinion. The time for that is now. Your candidates have been nominated, Freshmen, it's up to you to see that the best of them are placed in office to represent you.

If you don't vote only YOU lose out.

NFCUS IN ACTION

Editor's Note: This is a resume of a report prepared for the annual meeting of the Maritime Intercollegiate Debating League. NFCUS, under its constitution, is responsible for any discrepancies resulting from mismanagement of CUDA funds.

Len St. Hill and Fulton (Mt. Allison) having won the M.I.D.L. finals in the Maritimes went on to Toronto to compete against the other league members for the national championship. They won. The award for the winners which has been nationally advertised was a debating tour of Europe, and \$200.00 cash.

The debators from Mt. A were approached as to when they would be available to make the trip. They told the officials of C.U.D.A. (an affiliate of NFCUS) that the trip would be most conveniently made in May and June last summer. No dates were given because the debators did not anticipate their good fortune. (asked before the finals).

After they had won, they informed C.U.D.A. that they could go after May 15, and be back the end of June. Because absolutely no information whatsoever had been given as to the trip, they also sent in three questions to be answered before their departure.

1. Could Mr. St. Hill's return ticket be exchanged for two single passages, because he was planning to stay in England, and would like to bring along his wife?
2. Would the officials kindly the exact nature of the tour?
3. Who will assist them when overseas. That is, who will be their sponsors in Europe in case they require any assistance.

They got no answer for considerable time, and when it did arrive, their questions were answered thusly:—

1. NO.
2. NO REPORT.
3. NO REPORT.

CUDA then informed the winners that there were no reservations available at that time, that the \$200.00 prize nominally awarded to the winners over and above the trip would be spent on securing tickets, and that the times submitted were too early.

Mr. St. Hill and Mr. Fulton then suggested that they go later on, sometime in July and August. Their answer to this, secured only after considerable expense for phone calls on the part of St. Hill, was that this was too late. What would be the point of going then when the European Universities would be closed? Furthermore, the trip had been restricted to England. By this time (late June), Fulton had dropped out.

St. Hill was told that in future debators would be CHOSEN who could be away the complete summer.

To summarize:
 NFCUS has violated their promise in that—
 1. The winners were given no prize.
 2. The European trip was denied them.
 3. The prize money was to be spent on tickets.
 4. There was no alternative offered.
 5. They did not arrange to have reservations for the trip (at the only time that would have been feasible, namely, May and June).
 6. The trip, if made, would be restricted to England.

The General Committee of MIDL has sent a strong protest to NFCUS (because CUDA is a special committee of NFCUS, and receives in funds from the parents body), in view of the treatment received by the winners of the CUDA finals. Furthermore MIDL has held back any funds payable to CUDA until something is done to fully compensate the persons concerned.

Letters to the Editor

(Editor's Note—A letter has been received signed "Disgusted Freshman". We cannot print a letter that is not signed or one for which we do not have the real name of the 'nomme de plume' on file.)
 Dear Mr. Editor:

The editorial which you have so carefully chosen from the "Toronto Varsity", truly expresses your feelings of NFCUS in doubt. I believe you have something there. NFCUS has fallen down in a few of their attempts in bettering the University student and any organization which isn't perfect must go.

McGill and Montreal, two of Canada's largest universities, have withdrawn from NFCUS and show no desire to return. We need more universities with this attitude, for NFCUS does not uphold everything they promise.

NFCUS stands for National Federation of Canadian University Students. It is the only tie of University Students in Canada. But let's be isolationists, let's be like Montreal and McGill, forget about the other university students in Canada. We are not interested in them. NFCUS sponsors music, debating and art competitions. But who's interested in these? If we want to debate, we'll debate amongst ourselves. The H--- with debating competitions with other universities. And who wants to see paintings? If I wish to see the Rockies, I'll catch the five o'clock train from Fredericton and go to Banff and see them the way they really are.

NFCUS also plays an international role, sending delegates from Canada to meet with delegates from countries around the world. The Canadian student delegation impressed the delegates from other countries with their leadership. But why should NFCUS go into international problems? There is no hope, for we are Canadians and Canadians were never leaders. Let the U.S. delegation worry about world problems. Let's be isolationists, quit NFCUS. To quit NFCUS would eventually make the Canadian university student one of the most disunited and backward in the world.

To support NFCUS would eventually make the Canadian University student the leaders in solving problems of both Canada and the world.

The cost to support NFCUS is just 50c per student. Just one admission to an evening performance at the theatre. That 50c is an investment. Like all investments, they don't turn out the way you always plan, but the theory behind that investment is good. For when you invest your 50c in NFCUS, you invest toward bettering the University student, by increasing understanding and uniting the students into one body.

At the present time NFCUS may have a few problems. The purpose of the National Convention is to solve such problems and these problems can only be solved by us, the Students of Canada, and not by the students of McGill and Montreal who chicken out at the slightest indication of error.

So I conclude Mr. Editor—by saying that no matter what happens, never turn your back to NFCUS, for we are NFCUS, and NFCUS is only as strong as we make it.

Gene Motluk
 M.E. '57.

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