

Atlantic Regional NFCUS Conference:

NATIONAL STUDENT DAY—FEB. 16 ATLANTIC NFCUS ADOPTS BRIEF

Special Report to the Gazette by Regional President, Peter Green

Education—the foundation of the development of Canada's greatest resource—and the equality of opportunity for obtaining an education were the major topics of business at the Atlantic Regional NFCUS Conference held last weekend at Mount Allison University.

BURSARY BRIEF

A brief proposing a national bursary plan for 10,000 bursaries of \$600 value each for four years until 40,000 are awarded annually was adopted by the Conference and will be presented to Prime Minister Diefenbaker and a number of provincial premiers, including Premier Stanfield of Nova Scotia, on National University Student Day, Feb. 16.

The opening paragraph of the brief states: "Equality of opportunity is the immediate and necessary consequence of the principle of equality which Canadians respect as the basis of their democracy. And it is in the field of education that equality of opportunity is truly vital to the individual and to society, for it is here that the future of each is decisively influenced. Canadians recognize this fact to the extent that they provide by law that all who are capable must receive a certain level of instruction in the public schools. It is a startling and incredible lapse of logic that the universally acclaimed proposition of free education should be abandoned at the very point where its continuance would be of the greatest value and its discontinuance the most shameful waste."

The brief closes by stating that the National Bursary Plan proposed by NFCUS is imperative to the well-being of Canada and Canadians. "It is an essential investment in education, an endowment for the future, and instant need and a responsibility that can be evaded only at the risk of incalculable loss."

A resolution was passed by the Conference directing the National NFCUS President to make representation to the Minister of Labour asking that students be exempted from paying unemployment insurance during summer employment. The Conference felt strongly that it is not logical for students to pay unemployment insurance if they cannot collect benefits while attending school.

The Conference deplored the part of the Immigration Act which prevents foreign students from obtaining summer employment while studying in Canada unless such employment is closely allied to their field of study, and requested the National President to make the feeling of the Conference known to the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration.

IMMIGRATION ACT CRITICIZED

The only resolution dealing with the NFCUS International Affairs Policy was orientated to Latin and South America. There is a spreading interest in international student affairs among Canadian students, and the Conference felt that we should place more emphasis on student exchanges with Latin and South American students.

Mount Allison accepted a mandate to compile a list of all local student discount service retail outlets across Canada. This will mean that by referring to a bulletin to be posted on every campus, students will be able to learn of student discounts of which they can take advantage in other parts of Canada. If the various NFCUS Committees co-operate, this should be a very easy service to organize and will undoubtedly

bring about considerable saving for students who take advantage of it.

NFCUS is dependent on an effective local committee to inform students of NFCUS activity and to solicit student opinion and support. The Conference realized that in this Region local committees are weak; there were complaints that information on what NFCUS is doing is not reaching the student body, while local, regional and national projects mandated to local committees are not being well organized.

PRESIDENTS MEET

The Conference dealt with a wide variety of other matters, including national debating, reports on mandates, national and regional seminars, and the travel program. Probably the most important undertakings of the conference were the meetings of Students' Council Presidents. This is the only time, other than at the National Congress, that all Students' Council Presidents can meet, and they discussed a variety of topics dealing with student government.

The Conference clearly illustrated the need for a national union of students. Without it we would be entirely too local in our outlook; with it, we have a means of communication and co-operation. We have a body which can organize national student activity and make national and international representation on behalf of Canadian students. However, NFCUS will fail if students do not actively support it by first understanding the Federation, and then by participating in the variety of programs.



Gazette staff relaxes with women and song at last week's party. Editor Denis Stairs looks on benevolently at his associates, who participated in an affair that was generally conceded to be one of the high points of the year.

Rhodesian View—

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I am aware that few Canadians will accede to the sweeping assertions I have made. If any Canadian reader has been sufficiently interested and tolerant to read this far, without consigning article and paper to the garbage can, I offer him my thanks, and my congratulations on his broad-mindedness. I invite any Canadian reader to criticize and slander my own country, or neighboring South Africa. But first I would say "go there" so you may know what you are talking about. In the meantime, God bless you all, and good luck to your fine country.

McMaster—

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these things which hurt some people."

The other petition is more general and expresses, "disappointment and shame," that "this book was published to represent the best poetry and prose of McMaster."

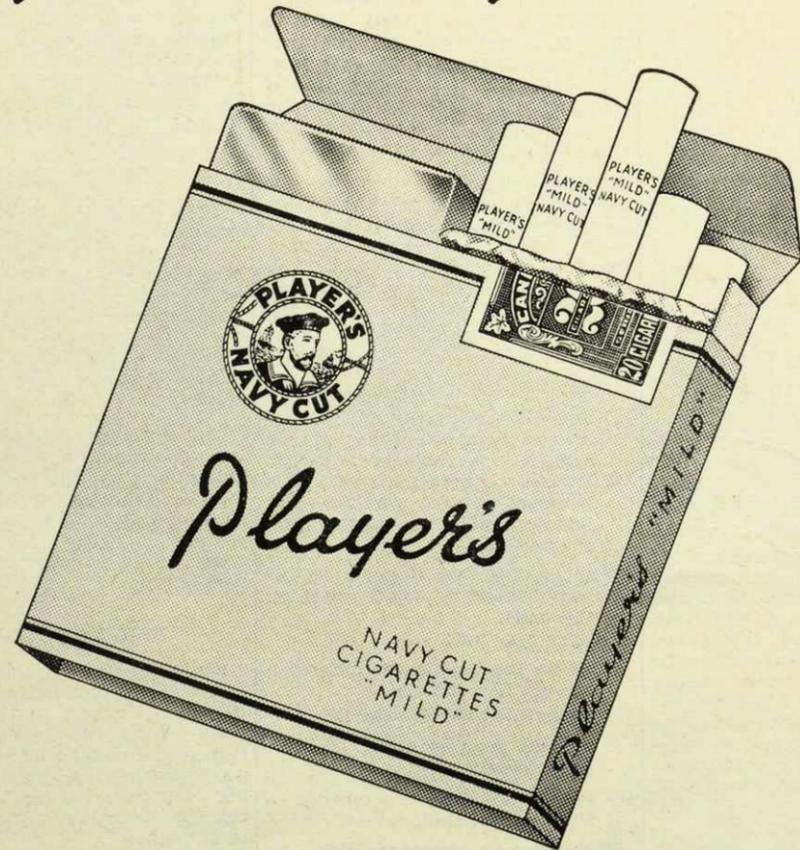
There has been no action by the University administration.

Acadia Venture—

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Henry Muggah, second-year Commerce student from Halifax was elected at the meeting to head next year's initiation committee. Mr. Muggah said he would call a meeting "in the near future" to set up a committee.

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