

gateway features

YOUR

We are not trying to tell you what NFCUS is—we hope you already know. Nor are we primarily concerned with reporting what NFCUS is doing—this we assume you also know. Gateway Features asks “Why should we know, and why should we care?” In other words, are the activities of our national federation effective and significant?

Here we touch on only a few of these activities. Kathy Showalter interviewed the eight U of A delegates to this year's national seminar. An exchange student gives her reactions to the scholarship program. 1960-61 national president Bruce Rawson examines international problems. Feature writer Carol Anderson asked for evaluations from Messrs. Hyndman, MacLean, and Saville.

Prime questions in our view are: does NFCUS get to the average student? and if not, why not? We think we've found the answers—have you?

The enthusiasm of NFCUS people is convincing and contagious! We have caught the bug—we admit it. Corner some of the people mentioned on these pages and ask them about it. You too will be convinced!

THE CONGO - OR OUR COFFEE?

by Bruce Rawson

“I thank God for the spectacle of student picketing—even when they are picketing me and I think they are wrong. I thank God for students protesting and freedom riding, for students going into the fields with migratory workers and marching off to jail with our segregated Negroes. At least we're getting somewhere. The colleges have become boot camps for citizenship and citizens are marching out of them.”

—Governor Pat Brown of California.

At an international meeting in Holland this summer I happened to mention to the president of the Congolese Students'

Financial assistance from the Congo—that's a twist! Involvement in international affairs costs money . . . it costs each of us the price of a cup of coffee. Let's hope we can afford it.

Not only Governor Brown but a great number of Canadian students are beginning to give serious consideration to the international aspects of the NFCUS Program. There is a quiet revolution in the university student community from Halifax to Vancouver.

UNWELCOME INTERFERENCE?

Some students seem to have felt that our resolution supporting USN SA (the United States' equivalent to NFCUS) on its enlightened stand on the “sit-in” strikes might be construed as unwelcome interference in the internal affairs of another



Federation that NFCUS (the Canadian students) may have to abandon their international program for lack of funds.

“No you can't,” my Negro friend pleaded, and when I persuaded him I wasn't joking he said, “Maybe we could help you in some way; we need your neutral western leadership!”

country, and that international diplomacy is the right and the duty of various national governments and the United Nations, not of a student organization.

This latter idea is most annoying. As you know, representatives of 95 per cent of Canada's university students, at the Kingston Congress this fall, unanimously decided to concern themselves with situations where human rights, academic freedom, or material well-being of stu-

FROM BILINGUISTS TO IDIOTS

by Kathy Showalter

“Somewhere around grade three we were told that Canada was bilingual and the subject was dropped. I was ashamed to find this whole big culture that we in the west know nothing about.” With these words, Roberta Sheps pretty well summed up the strongest impression received by the eight

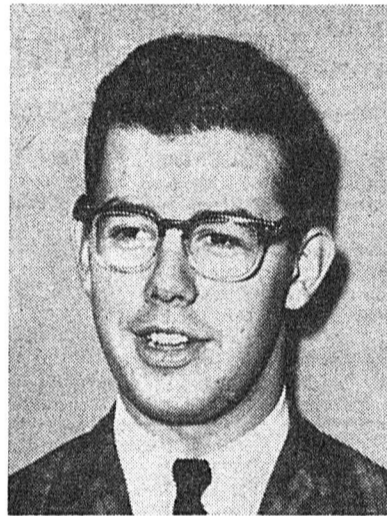
delegates from the University of Alberta to the fourth national seminar of the National Federation of Canadian University Students, held at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario.

U of A's delegation was made up of Bob Hemmings, Engineering 4; Don Bishop, Law 3; Dan Hays, Arts 3; Ross Rudolph, Arts 3; Keith Conrad, Law 2; Bonnie Bryans, Arts 4; Roberta Sheps, Arts 4; and Francis Saville, Arts 4.

“One of the best things about the seminar,” Bonnie observed, “was the students of Western Canada meeting French students. It was interesting to talk to the French people and see why the separation exists. They feel the fact that while they all speak English, we don't speak French.”

Ross also observed the mixture of personalities and the difference in cultures existing between the English and French Canadians. In his opinion, the ability to speak French is quite important, “an exercise in good Canadianism in language.” Generally poor translating made him appreciate all the more his own studies of French.

Although all were impressed by the French students, the delegates



ROSS RUDOLPH—STIRS MIXTURE

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ARE YOU IN ON THE QUIET REVOLUTION?

dent were involved.

Our rising social conscience is evidenced in this involvement. All over the world students are being imprisoned arbitrarily, murdered, or tortured. A protest to the nation guilty of these actions is bound to be called unwelcome interference. Does this negate our right to protest? Such expression, based on reliable in-

MURDERED OR TORTURED?

formation is the duty of all of us. Even if the opinion of students differs from that of national governments, it is not necessarily invalidated.

And internationally we are not always dealing with oblivious government officials. Our meetings are with students who will be members of their country's governmental hierarchy in the near future. This is particularly apparent in the underdeveloped countries where the students of today are cabinet ministers tomorrow.

Students have been looked upon in the past as a harmless and privileged group, and perhaps even considered irresponsible. But recent events in South Korea, Hungary, Turkey and Japan have shown that students can, and do wield a positive force in international affairs. In 1948 we were forced to split with the International Union of Students because of Communist infiltration. We set up the 73 nation International Students' Conference in order that our problems and ideals could be discussed outside the confines of Com-

munist ideologies.

It is apparent that Communist youth and student organizations are attracted to Latin America, South Africa and Asia (the underdeveloped areas). The Communists spend incredibly large sums for propaganda programs and handsome salaries to their highly trained, permanent “student” officers. How can a nationalistic, emergent country evaluate “democracy” rationally when Communism offers immediate support and assistance “in the struggle for independence,” and we offer nothing but philosophy?

I mentioned earlier that the leadership of the underdeveloped countries will shortly be in the hands of the newly-elected elite. We must, therefore increase our support, where our conscience permits, and establish active contacts with this embryonic, developing leadership class.

NAUGHT BUT PHILOSOPHY?

In the past we have built a strong reputation for impartiality. Canadian students are in a unique position. We are not an imperialistic, colonial, or militaristic power (Bomarc's?), therefore, we are not feared. At the last ISC meeting our delegates spoke fluent French, English and Spanish with some Hebrew and Arabic, and were able to successfully translate the feelings of the North Africans and the South Americans to such groups as the Scandinavians.

Responsibility is a key word. Let's hope our students' councils will consider their international opportunities. Or would you ask the Congo to pay for our coffee?