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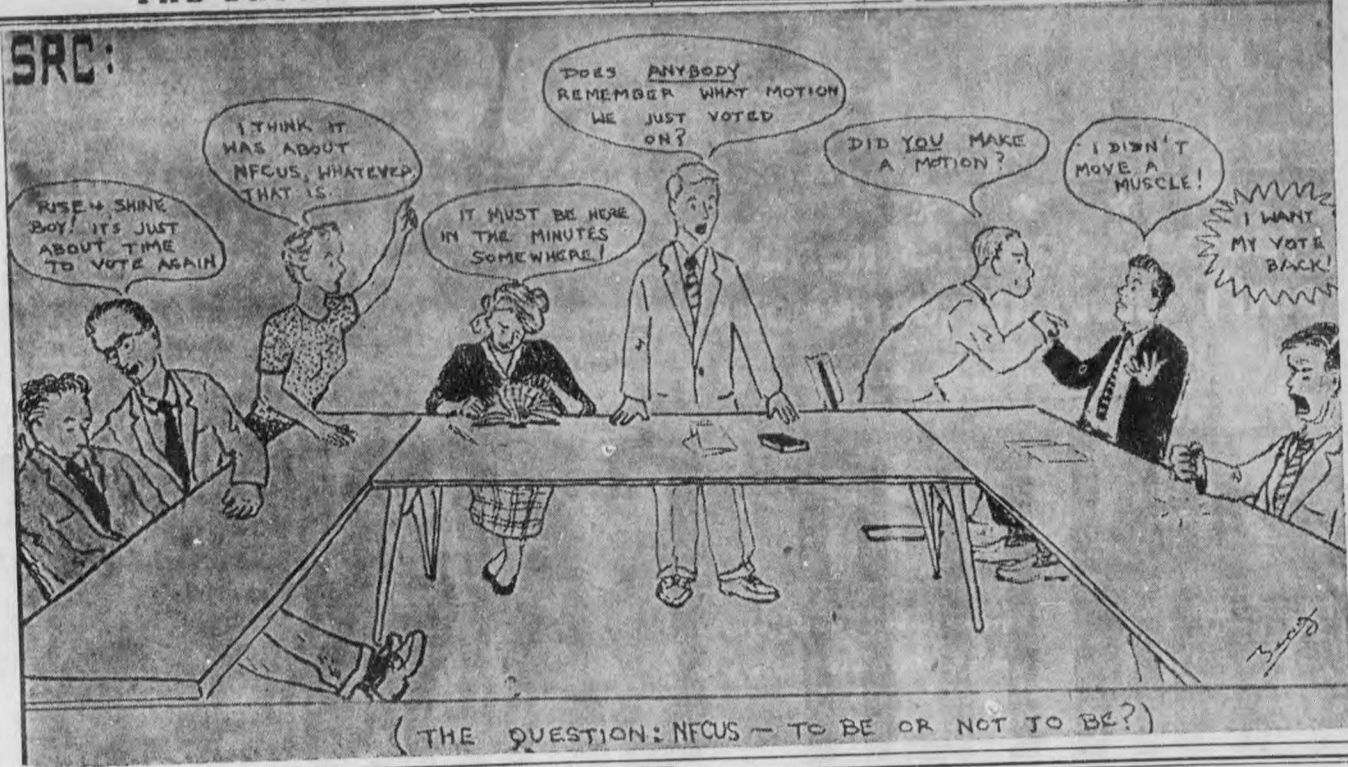
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Honour First . . .

In one of their more brilliant displays of what chaos can be, the Students' Representative Council last week voted to leave the National Federation Of Canadian University Students, and, twenty minutes later voted to rejoin. It was so quick that many members did not know for a certainty just what they were voting for and the NFCUS national office is probably just finding out that they lost a member for twenty minutes. Two conclusions can be drawn from the evening: the members did not know whether they wanted NFCUS or not and the members did not know what the student body thought of NFCUS.

The Arguments: Those voting in favour of cutting NFCUS from the budget gave as their reasons: (1) the SRC had a budget deficit; (2) NFCUS had been given a chance in the Fall to prove itself and from all indications had failed to even enlarge the local committee of four, much less carry on projects; (3) campus activities involving students who had paid their fees were being cut in favour of NFCUS, and the student body would rather see the money from their fees spent on the campus rather than sent to Ottawa, showing little or no return;

In the discussion after the first motion had been passed the arguments for reincluding NFCUS in the budget were: (1) we had indicated that we would belong to NFCUS for the whole year and that to withdraw now would be dishonourable, (2) NFCUS provides the one medium of uniting Canadian students, (3) its projects are the type that take time and may not show results for years.

It has been a long time since the students were last asked what their opinion of NFCUS is. Many have tried to guess, including "The Brunswickan", but no one really knows. It has reached the point where a definite decision must be made. A referendum held at the same time as the S.R.C. elections could settle the question of NFCUS once and for all. We strongly urge the S.R.C. to consider it.

1984 Is Here . . .

In his book "1984" George Orwell describes a civilization of the future in which all society is controlled by television. Every action and spoken word is seen or heard by the authorities and those citizens who go against the prescribed rules of living are punished. This is seen as the ultimate end in the use of the means of mass communications available today.

1984ism is rearing its ugly head in Canada already. The postal employees of the Peterborough, Ontario, Post Office are soon to be placed under the scrutiny of television cameras. This has resulted in debate in the House questioning the practise as violating individual freedom. The Post Office Department has some ground to stand on however, because the employees ARE employees and would be subject to supervision of one sort or another, be it the presence of a superior official or a TV camera. The camera can be considered a new method of determining whether a full days work is being given or not. The presence of a somewhat similar system in the Men's Residence of the University of New Brunswick cannot be considered in the same light.

In recent weeks the University has installed a public address system in the Lady Beaverbrook Building to facilitate the receiving of telephone calls and the making of general house announcements. The equipment has been placed in the 'phone room and the arrangement is such that an announcement can be made over any or all of six speakers on the three floors of the building. An added feature makes it possible, by switching a lever in the main unit, to hear what is transpiring near any of the speakers, which act as microphones in this case. The disturbing element enters when it is discovered that a University authority, the Dean of Men, also has the power to listen in on building conversation.

The advantages of the Dean being able to speak to the building over such a system can be seen by all. The advantage given the Dean to listen in on the building is a violation of individual freedom. The freedom to speak as one wishes is impaired. We are not implying that this system has been used for such purposes. We only point out that the possibility exists and someday might be put to work. A man's home is his castle. The University could easily make a two-way set a one-way set, and return the castle and its privacy to the students who pay high board for it.

Winter Carnival Future

From an idea first discussed on the snowy slopes before the Arts Building by several ardent skiers just a year ago the UNB Winter Carnival has grown to a healthy size. The first, of what it is hoped will become an annual event, will be opened officially tomorrow night in the new Lady Beaverbrook Rink by President Dr. Colin B. Mackay. Two days of winter sports and activities will follow giving the students of UNB their first chance to relax as a group and enjoy a few days of a season which usually provides only difficulty in getting "up the hill", and a muddy spring.

Originally the Carnival this year was planned to embrace only UNB as it was thought that to invite students from other universities would tax the accommodation facilities of Fredericton too much and the success of the Carnival is yet to be proved. Mt. Allison University students however, not to be left out, have arranged to come by train to the Saturday event. 350 of them will be arriving at ten that morning. Two other Maritime Universities will be represented by athletic teams, Acadia and St. Dunstons.

If the Carnival is a success, and it appears as if it should be, the committee of the future should seriously consider inviting all the universities of the Atlantic Provinces to participate. Much good-will and understanding could come from such an event and UNB is the only University with the athletic plant to stage it.

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor of The Brunswickan:
 Dear Sir,

Two weeks ago we were told to have the courage of our convictions and write to The Brunswickan if we didn't like what they were doing. Here goes. The case in general is the Features Page, the case in particular Slabs 'n Edgings.

We were told that that column was becoming too local. It was becoming a sorting-house for comments on particular people which only a handful of acquaintances would appreciate, stale and/or raw jokes and so on. One of the main reasons given for this criticism was the fact that the Editors had their sights set on the CUP trophy. This, were we told, would never come to UNB with the Features Page in the condition it then was.

We have no complaint about the Editors wanting the CUP trophy. We would like nothing more than to see it take up permanent residence at UNB. But—and this is the question we want answered once and for all—are the columnists to write expressly to secure the trophy or are they to write to satisfy their readers? Certainly other faculties read our column, just as we read theirs, but surely the people who are most interested in any one column are those whose faculty the column represents. The most interested readers of Slabs 'n Edgings are Foresters, of Bulldoser are Engineers, and so on. We do not mean to imply that these columns should be written solely for their respective faculties, but we do feel that the writers of faculty columns must bear in mind that most of their readers will be members of their own faculty and hence must write what these people want to read. Referring to Slabs 'n Edgings, we asked the Foresters, both informally and at an Association meeting, what kind of column they wanted. The answer was overwhelmingly in favour of the kind of column that Slabs 'n Edgings has been for years. We have submitted such a column each and every week. Twice last term and again twice this term they were not printed, yet The Brunswickan is crying out for more Features articles. To us this seems slightly less than logical. We wonder what the reader's opinions are.

As you may have noticed, the few columns that we have had printed since the revision of policy have not changed perceptibly from the previous ones. We do not intend to change them. We will continue to put our readers and their wishes first. If this policy is out of line with the policy of The Brunswickan, then further argument will be pointless. We want our column printed as submitted or not at all. If the latter course is adopted, then we will be of no further service to The Brunswickan and will resign forthwith.

Sincerely,
 Doug Lacate,
 Ian Barr.

Editor's Note: The policy of "The Brunswickan" has never been designed to win a trophy, it couldn't win one. Our only desire has been to endeavour to give our readers the best we are able. We would be most interested to learn who said we cut Slabs 'n Edgings for trophy considerations. Nothing could be more ridiculous.

Both omissions last term were during a period when we were trying to improve the calibre of the columns on the feature page and diversify the material. Slabs 'n Edgings was left out but not forgotten; it returned for the final issues.

The first issue this term omitted the column because the Features Editor took sick the evening of publication and the page was put together by staffers of other departments not acquainted with the source of the normal material. The second issue this term was the Engineering issue and the regular feature space went to it.

In the way of features we want articles of interest to everyone, if they have reference to a particular faculty so much the better. Columns do have their place but too often in the past they have degenerated as their authors are sucked dry of original thoughts.

You are putting your readers first; we are putting ours. Yours are the Foresters; ours are the entire student body. You can write to please them; we must try to print to please everybody, as futile as the task may be.

—F.R.D.

ATTEND THE . . .

U. N. B.

WINTER CARNIVAL

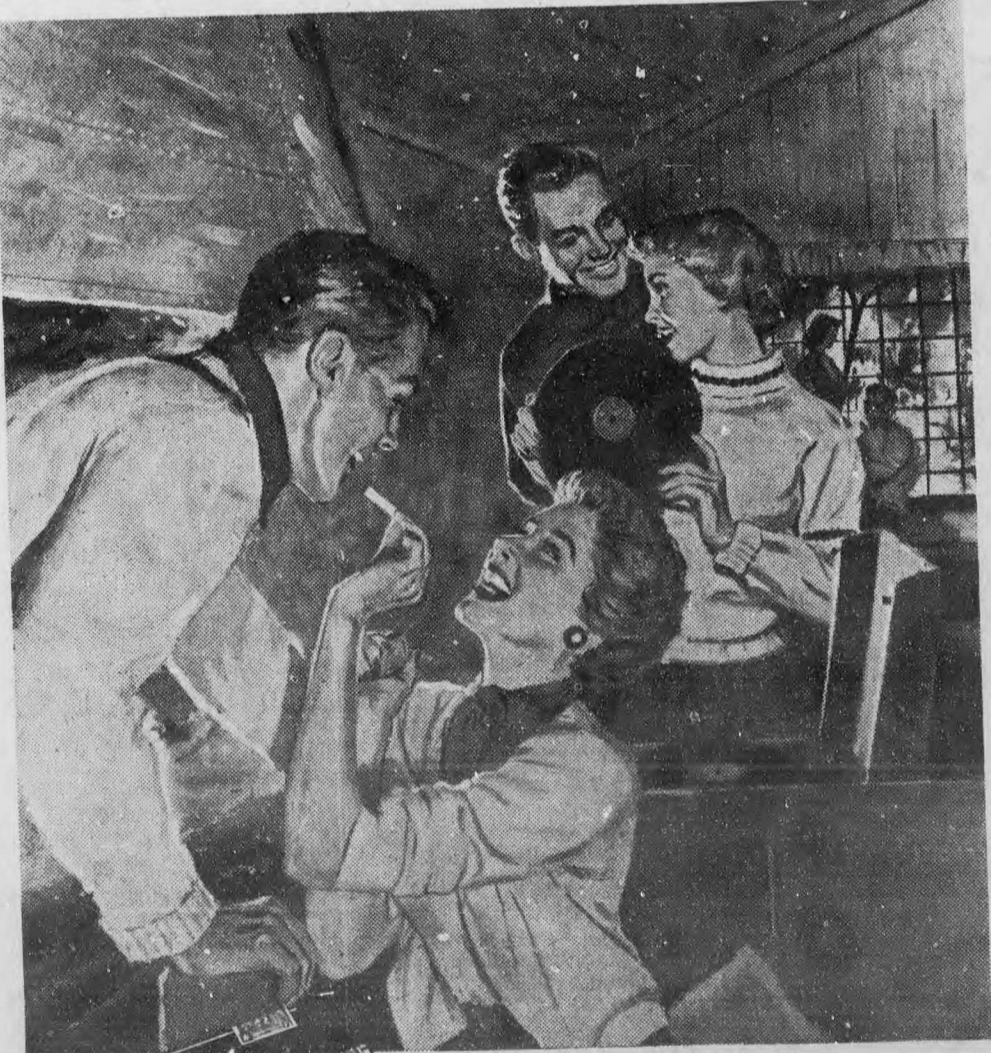
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