

Students urged to vote on referendum

University of New Brunswick students will decide Oct. 22 whether they want to join the other 350,000 Canadian students who form the National Union of Students.

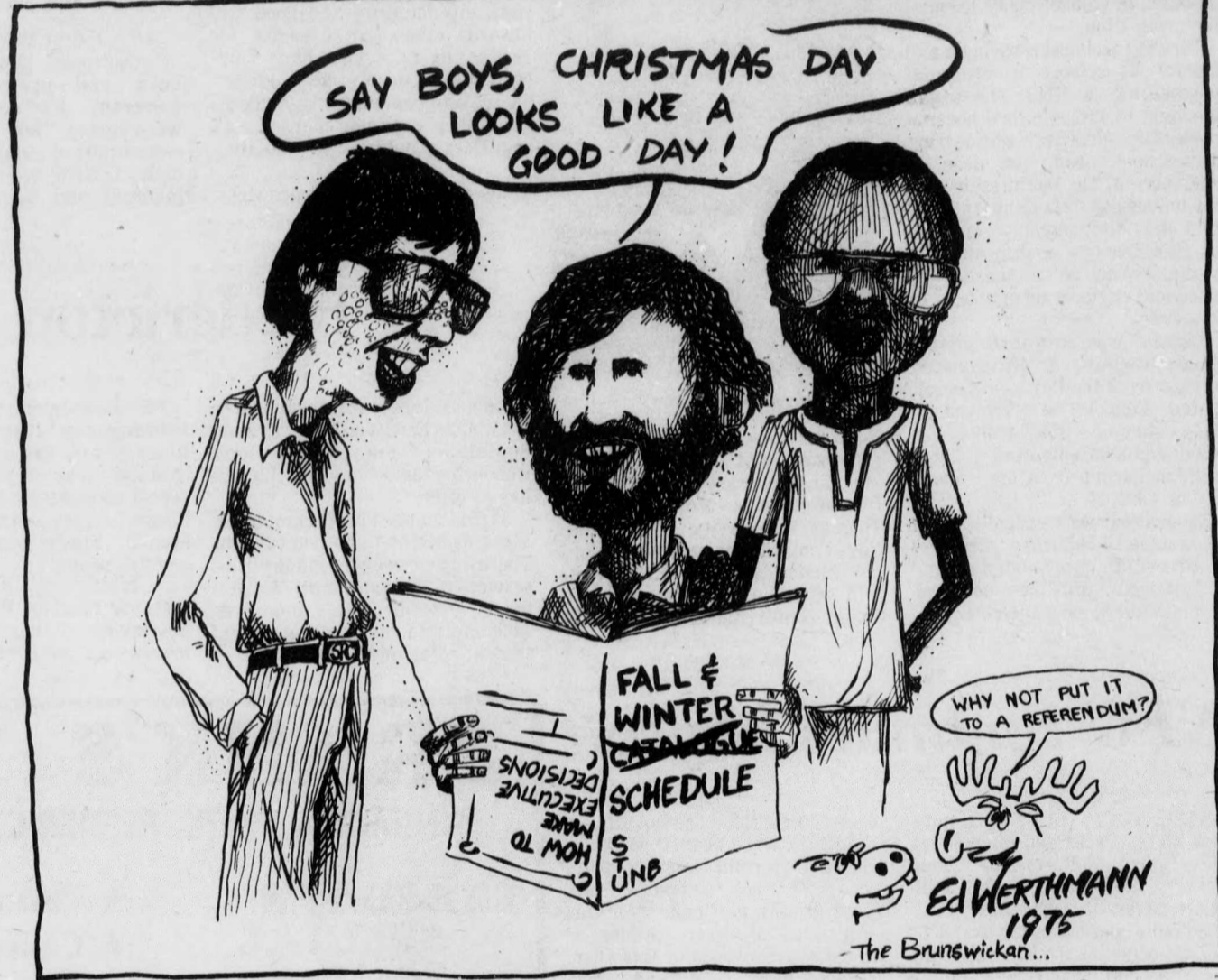
Previously to be held on Oct. 15 and before that on Oct. 8, the election date has once again been changed, this time to Oct. 22. Apparently, when the Oct. 15 date was named, it never occurred to anyone that this would force the election to fall on the same day as fall convocation.

The Brunswickan supports this change as it will give students more time to weigh the pros and cons of NUS before voting on the referendum, which is to be held along with the SRC election.

The National Union of Students will be holding their conference here beginning on the 16th of October. This should give students an excellent chance to find out more about NUS before we commit ourselves.

Two members of the Students Representative Council, president Warren McKenzie and law representative Jim McLean, have been the impetus behind encouraging UNB to join.

McKenzie has said that the cost will only amount to \$.15 per student for the first six months, after which UNB can withdraw if they are not satisfied with NUS. After this probationary period, the rate goes up to \$1 a head. He and McLean have both indicated an interest, however, which leads the Brunswickan to believe that UNB's role will be more than just that of an observer. This means as our involvement in NUS increases so does our commitment. It will not be easy to break these ties if the students oppose continued involvement in later years.



That is not to say that there would be no advantages to our six thousand dollar investment.

McKenzie and MacLean have said UNB can benefit by the information which will be disseminated through NUS to UNB. What other universities think or are doing about issues such as student aid and housing will be made available. They also describe NUS as a forum where students will be able to discuss common issues. Other functions, they say, include serving as a lobby

for UNB at the federal level and conducting research on problems

which are shared by several universities and colleges.

This is impressive, but we're still talking about potential.

The union has during 1973-74 focused on the issues of student aid, housing, employment and immigration as it affects foreign students.

Those who sit on the SRC and push for membership point to the NUS lobby in Ottawa as working on the housing problem.

The SRC, at the same time, has lagged in attempting to beat the problem. Council—especially vice president Gary Stairs—was supposed to be working on coming

up with a solution or at least influencing construction of the Residential Tenancies Bill, yet the provincial legislature law amendments committee accepted the last briefs on the bill Monday and council had made no submission.

Couldn't the \$6,000 be better spent on lobbying at the provincial level?

The Brunswickan sees the most recent delay as a blessing in disguise since it gives UNB students time to attend the NUS conference and determine how they feel about the prospect of UNB joining NUS. We urge all students to attend the conference, talk to their SRC representatives and vote in the referendum.

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