

NUS launches campaign to increase student loans

SASKATOON (CUP) -- The National Union of Students (NUS) has decided to launch a campus-directed campaign on student aid in Canada.

At a three-day conference held in Saskatoon on October 11-14, the 60 NUS delegates discussed the possibility of a "student campaign." The campaign's purpose is to increase the student loan and grant ceilings in order to make a university education more accessible to the poor sections of the Canadian population.

It was decided that this year's campaign should be more campus orientated since each institution would want to handle its campaign in different ways.

NUS also wants campaigning to take place on all campuses in Canada, not just the 23 post-secondary institutions that belong to NUS. With a Canada-wide, all-campus campaign, all students will benefit and NUS will prove to be the voice of all students.

Specific suggestions for the campaign included informational pamphlets, posters, public debates, setting up campus committees, and students press coverage. Most of the delegates agreed that there was a need for a grass roots approach -- discovering what the students felt. And that information should be exchanged between campuses on the student aid campaign and student response.

A lobby campaign conducted in the past few months by the Central Committee of NUS was felt to be only partially successful. The lobby consisted of letter-writing

and presenting briefs to government officials asking that students be allowed to deduct student fees and educational materials from income tax and that students be granted an increased deduction for the cost of living allowances.

NUS and the two national student unions that preceded it, NFCUS and CUS were and are concerned with the problems of student financial aid.

CUS was partly responsible for the implementation of the Canada Student Loans Programme (CSLP). However, the CSLP is unsatisfactory in many ways and NUS, with its campaign, hopes to have changes made. Their main desire is to have financial aid programmed standardized across the country.

This would require federal administration of the CSLP instead of the current ten provincial administered programmes. Standardization of the CSLP would hopefully eliminate regional disparity.

A motion was passed calling for increased student aid, via additional grants -- not loans, thus reducing students' total liability for educational debts and encouraging students from lower class backgrounds to attend university without fear of huge debts to pay back after graduation.

Other motions passed included: reducing the age of independence to 18 for student loans; tying the student aid programme to a cost of living index; subsidizing the interest rates on student loans and making part-time students eligible

for student loans.

One problem facing NUS is a lack of money. A motion was passed that fees be raised from 30 cents per student to \$1 per student. Some concern was expressed over this increase in that delegates felt a fee increase referendum (required by the student unions' constitutions) would not pass on their campuses.

However, it was pointed out that the Ontario Federation of Students

has recently raised its fees from 40 cents to \$1.50 per student with six out of seven campus referendums being successful.

Another problem facing NUS is its low membership. Only about one-quarter of Canadian post-secondary institutions are members of NUS and no Quebec institutions are represented. NUS is attempting to resolve the problem by conducting an accessibility campaign on student aid -- a

subject which touches all students, and secondly by negotiating with the Francophone institutions.

The next NUS general meeting, to be held in May 1975 at Glendon College will deal specifically with the Francophone question.

The future of NUS has been reassured with the fee increase. Also, the government has recognized NUS as the official representative body of Canadian post-secondary students.

Pollution problem is worsening

MONTREAL (CUP) -- Quebec Environment Minister Victor Goldbloom told students at Loyola University last week that pollution in the province will get worse as long as the present rate of consumption is maintained.

In response to criticism of Quebec's policy of rapid industrialization Goldbloom said he could not foresee when the average Quebecois would be willing to reduce his rate of consumption to cut down pollution.

"In a sense we have a kind of generation gap where young people are beginning to come to terms with the fact they will eventually have to slow down consumption. The older people are not yet ready to give up their cars and other objects which they feel are essential in our Western society."

Goldbloom participated in a panel discussion with Loyola

science professors Michael Hogben and Paul Widden.

Hogben said the Quebec government's industrial policy is to seek "quantity before quality," thereby ensuring that the pollution rate will go up.

Goldbloom's curious rationale to justify this is that even though more industry inevitably has a negative effect on environment, it also generates more funds to control pollution.

Widden then asked Goldbloom what groups receive money from the government to carry out environment impact studies and otherwise control pollution. He admitted that private enterprise, the polluters which are supposed to be controlled, are studying and making recommendations on themselves.

"We've asked private industry to do some of these studies," explained Goldbloom, "because

government is there to look after the interests of the collectivity."

Widden, an ecologist, said that his students at Loyola are capable of carrying out those studies which are now being done by self-interested groups.

The discussion which followed seriously undermined Goldbloom's contention that big business does not control his department of environment. Premier Bourassa's policy to attract as much outside industry as possible was seen as one of the main problems because foreign industrialists would be more willing to pollute an environment which isn't theirs.

"Some sectors of the Quebec economy are stagnating," said Goldbloom, "so it is necessary to invest in these areas."

"But the government doesn't accept all industries in particular those which have high electricity requirements. We do not want to go beyond James Bay."

Saskatonian to be sued

SASKATOON (CUP) -- The Saskatonian, a community weekly may be sued by the City of Saskatoon, according to recent news reports here.

Some civic officials have apparently taken exception to an article in the October 3 issue of the paper entitled "Land Development in Saskatoon" written by John Piper.

A Mr. Robson sent a letter to Saskatoon city council enclosing a copy of the article and asking for appropriate comments. He was apparently concerned as a taxpayer about what the article meant

to him. The regular media in the city seem to have decided potential legal action is an issue and are making a great scene of it, said David Glaze, Saskatonian editor.

Neither the Saskatonian, nor the Saskatoon Community Newspaper Society, publishers of the Saskatonian, has been informed of legal action.

"Typically, none of the regular media are dealing with the issues brought out in the article," Mr. Glaze said, "namely the way in which developers and city hall bureaucrats work together and in secret to plan the city's development."

"Sensationalism is the life-blood of the established media," he said.

This is not the first time the Saskatonian has been threatened with a suit. In early July the paper ran an article which described some of the problems low income house buyers face when dealing with their contractor and the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC).

After the paper refused to publish a retraction, the contractors failed to carry the action further.

"When we tell our lawyer we might be sued," Mr. Glaze said, "he replies that our only defense is the truth. We are willing to stand on that defense."

Beauty beats brains

(CPS-CUPI) -- The American brokerage firm of Merrill Lynch has a test it gives to potential account executives, and one question asks them to rate the most important qualities in a woman.

If the applicant replies "dependency" and "affectionateness" are a woman's best qualities he gets two points. If he says "beauty" he gets one.

However, if he rates "intelligence and independence" as the finest qualities he gets no points.

RUN, DON'T WALK to Lang's

Just arrived, a new shipment
Levi Cords & Jeans

sizes 28-38



black navy
tan grey brown

LANG'S Ltd

for Fall '74

YOUR SMART MEN'S WEAR SHOP

kmart plaza

454-5002