



Established 1867
 Weekly Journal of the University of New Brunswick
 Member of the Canadian University Press
 Office: Memorial Student Centre, U.N.B. Campus. Phone 8424
 Subscription \$2.00 per year
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VOL. 88 FREDERICTON, N.B. NOVEMBER 9, 1955

Letters To The Editor

Fredericton, N.B. Oct. 20, 1955

The Editor,
The Brunswickan

Dear Sir:

Last week you asked for opinions. Well, here's mine. I don't know how the rest of the students from God's country feel about this neck of the woods, but as far as I'm concerned, it's for the birds. I could talk about a lot of things but the thing that really gripes me is the liquor laws in this so-called province. Back home when a guy feels thirsty he can go to the nearest grocery store and buy a box of beer, if he wants a glass he can hop into a tavern. What happens here, a guy has to walk two miles for dishwater and drink it behind the bathroom door. A guy even has to fight for the brand of dishwater he likes. I guess they only make two brands in this province. Namely bad and awful. I've heard all about the rotten political setup, liquor-wise here, and

I've only been here three weeks. I guess everybody knows about it. I don't see anybody complaining to anyone but his best pal. Is everybody in this province a do-do bird? Also the movies that come to this town I've seen at least two years ago.

Yours truly,
A disgusted Freshman
P.S. The women here stink too.

(Editor's Note—It is quite true that we called for letters to the editor but we would draw your attention to the first of the notices—"Have You had an Intelligent Thought Lately?" This letter, we feel, does not fall into the category of intelligent thinking. Possibly a column dealing with "What I Don't Like About New Brunswick" could be instituted to give aggravated Upper - Comedians a chance to express themselves. It is difficult for the editorial staff to answer the comments on the New Brunswick Liquor situation given by 'A Disgusted Freshman' for fear of agreement or bias. Any and all members of our readership are invited to answer for us. Space will be provided for any letters received.)

NFCUS President Rights The Brunswickan

The Editor
The Brunswickan

Dear Sir:

I have just read your editorial of Wednesday, October 26, entitled, "Order Out of Chaos". Since the subject matter is of such vital concern to NFCUS, I felt that it might be in order for me to write to you.

While I do not intend to comment on the "anti-federation sentiments which The Brunswickan has continually expressed", this being an editorial prerogative, I do feel that some effort should be made to correct the mis-statements and mis-interpretations of fact which appear in the editorial.

In the first paragraph of the editorial is a statement concerning "the mismanagement of last year's debating final in Toronto". Last year's debating final was held at McMaster University in Hamilton. The technical arrangements for the debate were admirably carried out and the event went off without a hitch. I, myself, was privileged to attend as a spectator and was impressed with the efficiency with which Ivan Cody of McMaster and Peter Tanguay, NFCUS CUSA Chairman, organized the proceedings. I believe that any of the debaters present will substantiate this judgment. Certainly, no criticism of the management was expressed at that time.

In the third paragraph of the editorial, there is a reference to "the complete loss of a student art exhibit". The implication being that the National Office of NFCUS was responsible for this loss. Two comments would appear to be in order. First, there was no complete loss of the exhibit. After a successful showing in Toronto a small number of pictures went 'in the road' to Western, Waterloo, and Assumption colleges. Some few of these pictures were, unfortunately, misplaced. The lost pictures represent less than 10% of a total number of over one hundred pictures and drawings. Secondly, the Art Contest last year was the mandated responsibility of the University of Toronto, and was not conducted from the NFCUS National Office. This procedure is in keeping with the familiar policy of NFCUS giving specific projects of this nature to member schools for implementation. The National Office contribution consisted of the circulation of publicity material prior to the contest. Finally, it is worth noting that the National Office has now taken upon itself the responsibility of finding the lost pictures. They are believed to be in one of the three universities mentioned above, and every effort is being made to find them so that they may be returned to their owners. It is needless to say that everyone in the NFCUS organization regrets the loss of these pictures.

A further statement in paragraph three refers to, "The long months of silence which followed one of those unique short story competitions". Here again the imputation would seem to be that this is the sole fault of the NFCUS National Office. Again the facts imply a different conclusion. The Short Story Contest was mandated to McGill University. The contest proceeded successfully to the point where the McGill NFCUS Committee sent the stories to the first judge. The stories were lost in the mails. Hence, of course, no winner could be announced. Further, while the contest was a mandated responsibility and not the responsibility of the National Office, nevertheless the National Office has taken upon itself the task of attempting, with the co-operation of the Post Office, to find the stories. Any results obtained will, of course, be immediately circulated by means of the newsheet, ITEMS, which you are receiving weekly.

It is suggested in the editorial that, "an investigation of NFCUS spending is in order. It is up to the member universities to investigate one." There is an annual investigation of NFCUS spending by the Conference, attended as you know by responsible representatives of all the member universities. It is this meeting which allocates funds for the coming year. In the case of the debating prize, referred to at length in the editorial, "money mismanagement", can be ultimately traced to the Toronto Conference at which the delegates passed the following resolution: "Ottawa/Queens: Be it resolved that the National Finals be held in accordance with the CUSA Constitution, and that the winning universities." The \$200 was subsequently 11th on the priority list for projects. It was on the basis of this resolution that the team be awarded \$200 and be sent to Europe to debate with other executive meeting in March was forced to act. The action taken was, and we still feel, the best possible under the circumstances. A number of considerations involving the Travel Department and the travel situation in general had arisen between the time of the Conference and the Executive Meeting, thus rendering the interpretation made the only possible one. It is worth noting, finally, that the prize money of \$200 to last year's winners, while originally intended as expense money for the European tour, has now been placed first on this year's priority list and will most certainly become available at some time within the next few months.

I hope that I have managed to clear up a certain amount of confusion by this letter, and I trust that you will exercise the trust placed in you by the students of U.N.B. by helping to correct the errors of fact which have been made.

With sincerest best wishes, I remain,
Your sincerely,
Peter G. Martin,
President, NFCUS.

Our Reply

We feel that in any respect Mr. Martin has missed the point of the editorial "Order out of Chaos", printed in the October 26th issue of The Brunswickan, and has, in the end, substantiated the claims of the Brunswickan — i.e. that the NFCUS is inefficient and needs to be rejuvenated before it can expect the support and needs of the students of this campus.

We feel, and still feel, that there is a need for a national student lobby. The NFCUS is the only such organization at present. We appealed for action which would make the NFCUS an efficient and operating body. Present NFCUS inefficiency can be seen in the examples cited:

- (1) Mismanagement of the CUSA debating final. Although the actual debates may have been handled with expert administration the finals are not over until the winners have been given their just reward. This reward has not been given and it would appear to be the inefficiency of the NFCUS.
 - (2) The loss of a portion of the Art Exhibit. This has been substantiated by Mr. Martin's letter.
 - (3) The loss of the Short Story Contest entries. The question can be asked, "Why were these stories not sent by method of operating in something as serious as this competition?"
 - (4) An investigation of NFCUS spending is in order. We do not question the legality of the NFCUS expenditures but would like to see a more sensible allocation of funds. If money is to be spent on a debating prize then these funds must be guaranteed before the prize is advertised. Granted a large portion of the NFCUS revenue is taken up in administration costs, but it would be reasonable to ask that some of this revenue be used to finance projects in the NFCUS programme. These funds and the accompanying programme have been absent for some time.
- We do not condemn the NFCUS executive alone in this. If projects are mandated and the mandates are not fulfilled then the respective universities are responsible, to a point. It is still up to the national office to see that these mandates are carried out.
- Sir, we feel that your letter provides proof of NFCUS inefficiency and request that during your year in office you attempt to rectify some of the faults of the organization. If you can accomplish some improvements then you will be doing the NFCUS and all Canadian university students a great service in bringing the day when the Canadian students have a national representative body that nearer.
- Yours sincerely,
The Editorial Board of The Brunswickan.



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DEBATING are usually held in Halifax, and UNB would normally send one team.
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