

letters

Student At Large

I am deeply concerned about the propriety of the Students' Union executive in their conduct during the NUS referendum. They are both actively supporting NUS and running the election. They are presuming to be judge and jury. In the advertising the Students' Union has published there has been no reference to the crux of the issue in a money referendum. Should we increase our SU fees so that they can send \$20,000 to the NUS Committee in Ottawa. I believe that we should use this money to provide better services to students e.g. day care centres and parking problems.

Perhaps the most important point, though, is the SU forums committee brought Pierre Oullette in for a forum. Our money shouldn't be used to campaign against our interests. On Thursday, unless you vote no, it will cost you \$20,000 so student union radicals can play games and discuss boycotting of California grapes. We can do better.

Rollie Cook
Arts

Dear Mr. Cook:

I'm touched by your concern for the NUS issue, however there are some incorrect statements in your letter.

The Students' Union is not trying to be judge or jury of anything. The NUS forum was conducted by the NUS committee funded in part by NUS and the Students' Union. The Anti NUS Committee was invited to take part. Oullette's presence was funded by NUS, not by the SU as your letter states.

In my opinion (even though it may be biased) this referendum has been one of the most objectively posed I've seen.

Equal monies have gone into both sides' campaigns, and the NUS Committee has even funded a "No" campaign by inviting it into their forum.

You are entitled to your negative opinion about NUS, however, even though it may be slightly misinformed.

Thanx Ed.

Young Socialists

On October 9, the students at the U of A will be voting on membership in the National Union of Students. This referendum gives students an opportunity to join a national student organization, which through uniting the broadest numbers of students possible across English Canada, can become a powerful tool in defending the interests of students.

The Edmonton Young Socialists urges all students to vote YES in this referendum.

Never has the need for a strong national student union been so pressing. Students across the country are under attack as a result of federal government policy. Unprecedented levels of education cutbacks; crises in housing; high unemployment and discrimination against women and non-white students are all eroding our right to a post-secondary education.

Our ability to counter these attacks is enhanced by our linking up with students across the country through NUS affiliation. Without unity, we will remain dispersed and thus less able to win our rights.

Voting for NUS affiliation on every campus is important; but it is only the first step. NUS must develop a program and a strategy to defend students' needs.

On this score, there is much to be done. While NUS has set up important information distribution channels on the cutbacks, student aid, housing and other issues of concern, NUS has yet to mobilize students in action to defend their rights. Its main action, thus far, have been lobbies with the federal government.

The lobbying strategy of NUS will not work. Nothing less than thousands of students organized across the country can combat the government attacks. For example, last fall in Quebec, it took a strike by 100,000 students to force the government there to grant a 12% cost of living increase in loan allocations and to abolish the parental contribution criterion.

The Young Socialists call upon all students to become active builders of NUS, to win NUS to this kind of effective student action perspective.

Vote Yes October 9!

Student At Large

On Thursday, the student body will vote on the referendum concerning the student body's entry in to NUS.

A proliferation of signs decrying "\$20,000 for NUS?" has appeared. The question raised by these posters, (i.e. that \$20,000 is too much for NUS) is ridiculous. NUS is a nationwide organization of students looking out for the interests of students. If tuition fees are raised by 10%, and it seems that such is in the breeze right now, that means almost \$1,000,000 out of the student body (assuming \$50 increase per student) if rents increase by 10%, that means some \$160,000 out of the student body per month (assuming conservatively that the average student is paying \$80 per month rent).

The \$1 a year that students will pay to have a large and powerful organization stand behind them to defend student interests is paltry compared with the sums mentioned above. NUS is a nationwide, non-profit student-run organization that lobbies the government at federal level to push for better housing, better and more financial aid for students, and federal policy in general that recognizes the existence of students as human beings.

Walter G. Aiello

more letters, see page 4.5

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