

news

N.B. students participate at CFS conference

by BRENDA PAUL
Brunswick Staff

A "complete, total failure" were John Bosnitch's words in describing the Canadian Federation of Students National/Provincial meeting in Ottawa last week-end.

The CFS conference which opened Friday the 25th saw 2 delegates from each province (excluding Québec) and a number of CFS staff members meeting in a slightly decrepit Y.M./Y.W.C.A. conference room. The little-adhered to "tentative agenda" covered such theoretical questions as the "re-structuring", "congruency and constitutional matters" and "executive structures" driving home the fact that the CFS needs a radical change.

UNB's position at the conference (as of yet, they are not a CFS member) was made clear by Bosnitch who, in the initial minutes of the conference, reprimanded the organization for the unorganized and poor facilities which included a lack of translating services and an overabundance of CFS staff members rather than student representatives themselves.

Erik Roy of the Université de Moncton was the Student's

Alliance's other representative and he shared Bosnitch's concerns. He analogized the ideal CFS organization to the Canadian Federal government where a strong central stronghold is essential as well as strong provincial leadership to deal with regional affairs.

Bosnitch maintained his position on the entire "re-organizing rather than re-structuring of the CFS" or the only other alternative "dissolving the organization."

"Only 3 provinces are officially organized CFS components, Nova Scotia, Saskatchewan, and British Columbia and of those SUNS (Student Union of Nova Scotia) is on the verge of pulling out."

Bosnitch went on to point out the present disadvantages and inadequacies of the CFS which he sees as based on finances rather than on the "embodiment of students' interests."

A strong unified student organization is a viable idea according to Bosnitch, however, "every group (province) has to be an integral part" and 3 provincial CFS affiliates does not provide this. Problem areas lie first and

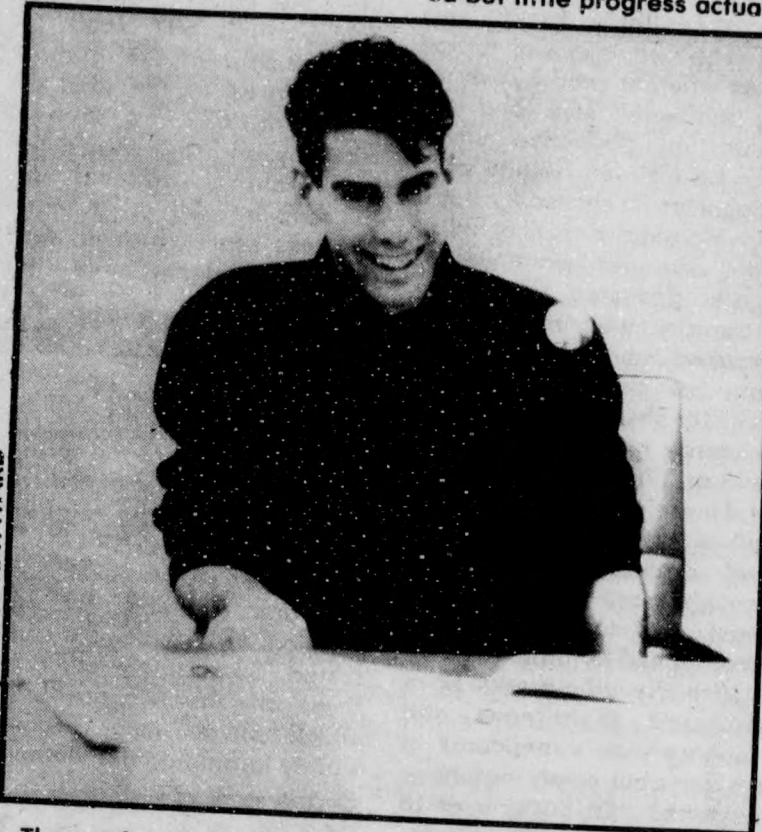
foremost in funding and the "students' democratic voice." At present, a \$4.00 per student fee is paid to the Federation as a requirement for joining which in UNB's case would amount to \$24,000., an "exorbitant" waste for few if any CFS advantages.

as delegates adjourned the meeting. Since the inception of the CFS which held its first Annual Meeting in May of 1982 after evolving from the AOSC (Association of Student Councils) and NUS (National Union of Students), much revamping has been discussed but little progress actually

"I really don't know," Bosnitch asserted. What they do embody according to Bosnitch, is an organization that holds frequent, all-expenses-paid conferences across Canada to discuss their "re-structuring." Their accomplishments? - Every motion at the week-end conference moved by Bosnitch did not receive a seconder including the motion that "CFS centralize and re-organize" its components. Instead, he was assured that a committee would be established and recommendations made. Throughout the entire week-end conference lasting a total of 30-odd hours of round table discussion and debate "5 or 6 motions were actually passed", none of which addressed the main problem of the CFS inefficiency as an organization.

Erik Roy summed it up when questioned about the purpose of UNB and the Students' Alliance collaborating with the CFS. "Students as a collective unit have more power and therefore more of a voice in determining government policy which concerns us."

In the meantime, Bosnitch is adamant that the CFS in its present structure is not beneficial to UNB students.



Photos by DAVE HAYWARD

The conference's main objective, to "gain credibility and increase numbers" ground to a halt Sunday night

made towards widespread acceptance of the CFS.

What does the CFS offer to UNB students?

SRC spring elections - the race begins

12 seats up for grabs

by CHRIS CHAPMAN
Brunswick Staff

There will be a general election for the Students Representative Council on Wednesday, March 30, announced Chief Returning Officer Timothy Lethbridge. Council must still approve the election, but Lethbridge is confident this is merely a rubber stamp.

Constitutionally, the Spring general election should have been held sometime within the first week of March, which has just passed. Lethbridge however, sees a need, especially at this time, to change that regulation.

Because an election is now overdue, he expects the SRC to pass the motion without much trouble.

Unfortunately, the money allotted last Fall for the running of elections has run out, and Lethbridge will apply for approximately \$2000 to run the upcoming vote. This figure is based upon thirty candidates entering, and has eliminated advance polls because of the financial constraints.

Election budgeting was done by the previous administration, based on conservative estimate of two candidates per seat. Lethbridge explained that when the Administrative

Board reviewed the proposals, it chopped the estimates by close to fifty per cent. As a result, the Fall general election depleted most of the funds.

Thirty six candidates ran in that election, and Lethbridge hopes to see just as large a field in the forthcoming contest. Twelve positions are open on the SRC; there are vacancies for all faculty seats except computer science and forestry at present, and three Senate seats are up for grabs. The C.R.C. noted if no one runs for the Law, Graduate Studies, Nursing, Science, and Physical Education positions, those students will have no representation on the council.

Lethbridge urged everyone

interested in running for a council seat to do so. Nominations are now open, and will close March 16.

Spanish Ambassador to address students

Spain's ambassador to Canada, Don Antonio Elias, will be the guest of the University of New Brunswick's Spanish department March 4 and 5. This visit has been scheduled to coincide with a meeting of the Atlantic Provinces Hispanists at UNB.

His excellency will give a public lecture, Some Aspects of Spain's Foreign Policy, Friday, March 4 at 8 pm., Room 139, Carleton Hall. This lecture is being sponsored by the departments of

Nomination papers are now available in the SRC office (SUB 118) and must be handed in at closing, on March 16.

economics, history, political science and Spanish at UNB and the Canadian Institute of International Affairs.

Other events on the two-day program to which the public is invited include the opening by the Spanish ambassador of an exhibition of paintings and photography by Spanish-Canadian artists at the Art Centre in Memorial Hall at 5 pm. Friday.

At 9 am. Saturday, Peter A. Bly of Queen's University will

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