

THE NATIONAL VOICE OF THE STUDENTS

Origin

As anyone can tell by looking at this paper, DAL and that means you—is a member of the National Federation of Canadian University Students. But wipe that look of complacency off your face! If you're disposed to say, "So what?", this page will supply the answers. After all, you're paying 50 cents a year for the privilege of belonging. You might as well know a little about it.

It all started way back in 1926 when a group of prudent young men recognized the need for a national student movement. And no sooner said than done — NFCUS came into being. Of course the idea hardly spread like wildfire, and for a number of years the federation showed heap little smoke.

But its ideals were bound to catch attention, and the federation eventually made itself known on a number of campuses. The need for

a federation which would present a united student front, which would speak up in the interests of students, which would promote co-operation and understanding and make itself heard in international student affairs, was a manifest one. In somewhat more elegant form, these needs were also the principles on which the federation based its existence.

Students' unions were growing up at the same time in a number of other countries, but few others had to overcome the barriers, geographical, cultural, and linguistic, which stultified the growth of the Canadian federation for many years. The set backs which NFCUS encountered only accentuated the need for a national federation. It is, in fact, overcoming these barriers which is the principal aim of the federation. Its motto is "Unity in Diversity".

NFCUS was laid low during the depression, and again during World War II. It sprung to life in the chaotic era after the war, and NFCUS as we know it really dates from then. Since that time it has expanded considerably to meet the needs of the student community.

NFCUS and You

Georgian Trophy

NFCUS has concerned itself with the problems and interests of Canadian students in general. It has taken active steps to introduce and promote scholarship plans. It has attempted to unify students across the Dominion by convening annually to discuss mutual problems. It has made an effort to establish contact with student organizations abroad, hoping in this way to improve international relations, at least on the university level.

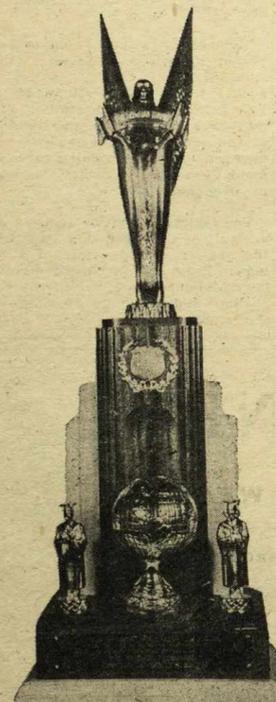
Students have been encouraged to develop their talents and interests in creative writing, art, and now photography. The entire program has been designed to appeal to and benefit as many students as possible. They don't always succeed, but they try. No group can boast perfect results.

Before students complain, or pass lightly over the work of NFCUS, they should do a little digging on their own, and decide what the organization offers on the national scale and in the member units. Membership rests with the vote of the students, reason enough for understanding the organization to which they belong.

Possibly students are justified when they ask, if they think to ask at all—what has NFCUS done for me?

Possibly they might find the answer or part of it, if they asked themselves, what have I ever done for NFCUS?

The Federation has great potentialities. The more students NFCUS represents, the greater the potentialities become. The question which should be asked is not what has NFCUS done for me personally but what could it do. The NFCUS should not have support on the grounds that it is a "great" Canadian organization. It isn't — BUT — it could be.



Pictured above is the Georgian Trophy which is awarded annually by NFCUS to the individual university NFCUS committee which has made an outstanding contribution to the federation. In 1955-56 it was awarded to the Dal committee under the chairmanship of Dennis Madden, who graduated last spring in Law.

An Interview With Pat Fownes and Ed Harris

Here Are The Facts

Regional President



Fownes

National V.P.



Harris

Pat Fownes and Ed Harris are two of the wheels in NFCUS. Pat is the head of the federation in the Atlantic region; Ed is national vice-president for internal affairs. Both were elected at the last national convention held at Quebec City during the past Fall. Pat holds Law and Arts degrees from Dal and was admitted to the Bar of Nova Scotia last week. Ed is a Dal grad in Commerce and will get a Law degree in May; last year he was awarded his C.A. and won the Governor-General's medal for placing first in Canada.

The Dalhousie Gazette assigned one of its star reporters to corner Miss Pat Fownes, the NFCUS Atlantic Regional President, and Ed Harris, the Vice-President for National Affairs, and get the inside story on the National Federation.

Q: What is the purpose of the National Federation?

Ed: Canadian Students have a great many common interests that can best be promoted by an organization created to represent them. These interests include almost every aspect of student life and may be grouped under three general heads —

- (1) National Affairs
- (2) International Affairs
- (3) Conferences, exchanged and student contacts designed to promote national unity.

Q: Do similar organizations exist in other countries?

Ed: Yes. Virtually every country in the world has its own national

union of university students. The International Student Conference, of which we are a member, is a means of co-operation and interchange of information between more than 60 member national unions students.

Q: What is the membership of the National Federation?

Pat: 25 Canadian Universities with a total student enrollment of over 55,000 comprise the present membership. The only major university still outside the Federation is McGill and prospects for their coming into the fold seem quite bright.

Q: How many members does the National Federation have on the Dalhousie Campus?

Pat: About 1500. Every student who pays council fees at a member university is entitled to a NFCUS Student Identity Card and to all the privileges that go with it.

Q: How is the National Federation governed?

Ed: The chief governing body is the National Congress, which meets annually and is composed of representatives of every member university. Between congresses an elected National Executive Committee, assisted by a permanent Executive Secretary, directs the administration of the National Federation's policies. Our National Office is established at Ottawa. The elected executive consists of 7 members—a full time president, four regional presidents, a vice-president for international affairs and a vice-president for national affairs.

Q: How are the Federation's operations financed?

Pat: Each member university is assessed on the basis of 50c per student for the first 1500 students and on a somewhat reducing scale for larger enrollments. There are some other miscellaneous sources of revenue. This gives us a total budget of slightly over \$20,000, out of which we must finance our national congress, our national office administration, our executive meetings, our international representation, etc.

Q: What are the major national projects currently being undertaken?

- Ed: 1. National Scholarship Campaign
2. National Seminar
3. Regional Conferences and Student Exchanges
4. National Short Story Contest
5. National Photography Contest
6. Corpuscle Cup Contest
7. Survey of cultural organizations on Canadian camp
8. Student Discount Service
9. Regional Scholarships
10. Life Insurance
11. The NFCUS Travel Department.

Q: Why do we need a Regional President?

Pat: The Atlantic Region alone comprises some 10,000 students scattered over four provinces and in ten different universities; it is im-

possible for National Office alone to satisfy the needs of the local NFCUS Committees for information and assistance and to co-ordinate their efforts in such ambitious undertakings as the national Scholarship Campaign. To indicate the volume of activity at the Regional level, I have sent out a total of 7 Regional memos and 8 National memos in the past four months; as well, I write each member university individually on an average of once a week. Two specifically regional projects that require my attention are the annual Regional Bursary. As well, the National Federation has found it desirable to decentralize administration to some extent; mandating projects to individual universities has been one way of achieving this end; the inclusion of Regional Presidents on the National Executive has been another.

Q: What has been the Federation's stand in the field of International Affairs?

Ed: Our representatives at international student gatherings have consistently advocated —

1. A high level of co-operation and interchange of ideas between university students of different countries of the world.
2. A level of understanding and appreciation of the aspirations and needs, both material and spiritual, of university students in other countries.
3. The right of university students everywhere to pursue their studies unhindered by censorship, political influence or other governmental restrictions on academic freedom.
4. The equal right of all students possessing the necessary academic qualifications to a university education without regard to race, religion, colour or economic status.
5. The promotion of international student travel.
6. Support of the work being done by World University Service in the field of international student relief and education.

Who Runs The Federation's Program For 55,000 Members?

How many people do you think it takes to run a programme for 55,000 members? NFCUS does it with a paid staff of three—a rock-bed minimum for a programme as extensive as that of the federation. An executive secretary, one stenographer, and a full-time student president, comprise the whole staff of the federation.

And did you know that the budget of the federation is only \$20,000—amazingly low, when you consider that the Students Council has a budget of over \$30,000 for its local programme alone.

The structure of the federation is about as streamlined as its functions permit. Each member university has its own NFCUS committee, which handles the programme at the local level. The universities are broken up into four distinct regions for administrative purposes. Each region has its own regional president, and the four presidents sit on the National Executive. Also members of the national executive are the full time National President, the Executive Secretary, and the Executive Treasurer. Also members of the national affairs, another one for International Affairs, and the immediate past president of the federation.

The major policy - deciding body of the federation is a national congress which convenes annually in the autumn. Each member university sends a delegation to the National Congress where the programme for the following year is worked out. All members of the Executive except the Secretary-Treasurer are elected annually at the National Congress.

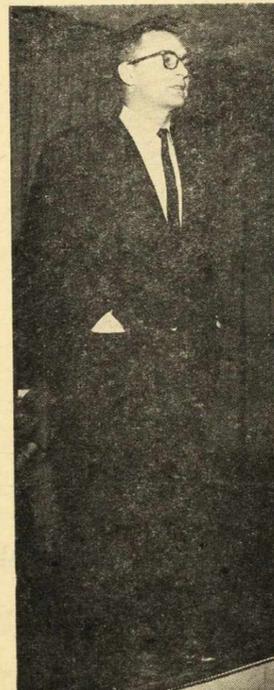
The University of Manitoba is included in the Western Region grouping. Other universities in the Western Region are Saskatchewan, Alberta and UBC. This year's Regional President is Ray Kutz of the U of S.

The Ontario Region, which includes eight universities, has nearly half the total membership on its campuses. The largest region in terms of the number of universities is the Atlantic one, with 10 members. The Quebec region is smallest of the lot, with only three member universities.

The president of NFCUS is a man with whom nearly the whole Dal Council is now familiar, Walter Tarnopolsky, B.A., M.A., LL.B., who visited here last month. Tarnopolsky, age 26, was Saskatchewan student president last year, and for 1956 and 1957 held the position of NFCUS Vice-President in charge of External Affairs. His election was by a unanimous vote at the 21st National Congress which met in Quebec City October 14-18. His main duties are those of public and external relations and the preparation of special national projects, such as the scholarship campaign. Andre L'Heureux, the Executive Secretary, is fully conversant both in English and French, and has besides, an MA degree to recommend him.

His duties are to correlate the activities of the various local committees, to carry out the directives of the national congress, and to look after the federation's correspondence and publications. One stenographic assistant aids him in his work.

The national secretariat is located in a one-room office at 375 Rideau Street in Ottawa. Office space and expenses are shared with the NFCUS travel bureau, located in the same chamber.



Tarnopolsky

MEMBERS

Following are the member universities of the National Federation of Canadian University Students:

WESTERN — University of British Columbia, University of Alberta, University of Saskatchewan, University of Manitoba.

ONTARIO — University of Western Ontario, Waterloo College, McMaster University, University of Toronto, Queen's University, Carleton University, Universite d'Ottawa, St. Patrick's College.

QUEBEC — Sir George Williams College, Bishop's University, Universite Laval, University of Montreal.

ATLANTIC — Dalhousie University, University of King's College, St. Mary's University, St. Dunstan's University, St. Francis Xavier University, Acadia University, University of New Brunswick, Mount Allison University, Universite St. Joseph, Memorial University.



Wednesday 29—In a hackney-coach to the Great Hall, the way being most horribly bad upon the breaking up of the frost, so as not to be passed almost. Nothing of import so to the Stables wherein is housed the Coffee-house. A great throng mingling and milling in the entrance way, low moans emitting from the gaming rooms. Thinking to determine the cause of this disturbance, I pressed forward whereupon I was approached by two gracious ladies dressed in grey. Espying me they smiled upon which I perceived their teeth were pointed and thus I turned and fled. Home apace most glum thinking that women are now admitted to the noble profession of barbering. Methinks I shall still have my purges and lettings by Mr. Sweeney Todd.

Friday 31—My wife out with her dancing master Tawny to walk in the fields to frost-bite themselves to the College-by-the sea. Therein a great confusion. Everybody attending to the inner pages of the Spectator. Obtaining a copy, I quickly saw the reason. The great Dr. Samson to cry out against me. To him, I object not but that slaving cur Sobwell accusing me of incontinence. That man's lubricities have caused a labefaction of morality throughout our whole area.

Monday 3—Abed all day in a vile temper. Of the evening to the Bear Garden therein to witness the contest of the Tabbies and the rapine, lupine crew from the town. A show of unbridled savagery little resembling the usual diversions presented therein. Of a sudden one Tappin of the Tabbies almost decollated in a joust. Wishing to see no more I took my leave, wondering at so strange a spectacle and pondering the reasons of its inception. Should a man lead his livelihood to the slaughter-house? Home and to my chambers. Therein my wife rifling my purse. A brisk caning deterred her. I must buy a stronger lock, Hovel wench never forget the many tricks of their nefarious trades and I fear I shall never beat it from her.

Tuesday 4—Up very betimes thinking to walk to the Great Hall, but first to the Coffee-House. Therein a great throng but nobody only apprentices at the Bar, among them the Loose Crass Son of an old acquaintance. Didst notice also many mendicants women of the town begging for alms. T would by a degrading thing for women of quality but little fear of that in the instance. Approached by one of these creatures, methought she was a jennet, I rebuffed her curtsy. Thereupon one Peeping Tom Donaldson, didst also supplicate and make entreaties. I listened not. Thence to the Pigma Sty. Therein none but lawyer Coughing and Grape Shot. In the corner, brooding, one Prolix Ramble (he do wander mightily) the chief among these. There being no mulled sack I took my leave.

letters to the editor

Dear Sir:

You, sir, are a blockhead. In what I may charitably assume to be your total ignorance, you have mistaken the principles of morality and journalism, as applicable, in particular, to an organ of student activities. I refer to your lunatic policy of the continued publication of salacious writings by Mr. Peeps, whose character I had occasion to reflect upon in a previous communication.

My attention has been drawn to a slanderous implication regarding the character of Mrs. Fustian; and I must protest most strongly against a practice which permits the good name of a lady to be smirched by the low jests of coffee house loungers. Mr. Sobwell tells me that he has close personal knowledge of Mrs. Fustian, and that, far from the tendency to stridulation implied by Mr. Peeps, her voice is "ever soft, gentle, and low", which,

as the poet observes, is "an excellent thing in a woman".

I must confess that I find myself in some measure of agreement with Mr. Peep's observations on xenodochy. We are beset on all sides by barbarous and pernicious nations; and our activities should be directed rather to the improvement of our own morals, than to the cultivation of alien vices by the exaggerated patronage of for-eigners.

We have fallen, sir, upon an age more vicious than most, and it is your duty not to reflect this depravity, but to reflect upon it. I trust, therefore, that I shall have future occasion to commend you for an improvement in the moral tone of your periodical, which is at present so manifestly debased. In anticipation of this,

I am, sir, yr. obedient servant,
John Samson.