

SRC will discuss national union of students soon

By BRIAN DINGLE

The Students Representative Council has yet to decide whether or not UNB is going to join the new National Union of Students (Union Nationale des Etudiantes). SRC External Assistant, Alex Mersereau, says he is going to bring his opinion concerning this matter to the SRC in the near future.

The union began in early 1972 and universities from all over Canada were invited to attend a conference in Ottawa in November, 1972. UNB, although invited, did not attend.

It was during this conference that representatives of universities from the Atlantic Provinces and Quebec, including the conference chairman from Loyola, walked out over the issue of representative voting. The representatives from universities in Ontario and the West were calling for one vote for every five thousand students in the university.

The next meeting was held at Dalhousie University in Halifax, N.S. in May, 1973. UNB was represented at this meeting by Mersereau. The National Union of Students (N.U.S.) was formed and claimed a membership of approximately 100,000 students.

Mr. Mersereau pointed out that Student Union Movement in Canada first began in 1926 at the University of McGill, Montreal. Here ten universities from across Canada came together to form the National Federation of Canadian

University Students.

This union ended in 1940, mostly because of the war, and then re-formed in 1946. At this time fees were introduced and a permanent secretary was hired in 1951.

In 1964 the National Federation of Canadian University Students broke along language lines. Universities in Quebec joined together and formed the Union Generale des Etudiantes du Quebec and universities in the rest of Canada formed the Canadian Union of Students (C.U.S.). C.U.S. folded in 1969 and Mersereau said the reason was mainly because "...it came to be considered fairly radical and drifted into non-student issues."

Mersereau said that the next meeting of National Union of Students is to be held in October in Edmonton, Alberta and UNB must soon decide whether or not to join it.

Ten thousand killed

BAGDAD — The London Sunday Times reports that tens of thousands of people were killed or maimed in Iraq two years ago from eating grain treated with mercury. The grain was intended for use as seed only but some of it was stolen from the shipment and sold on the black market. The Times says that the government hushed up the catastrophe to avoid unfavorable publicity.

NUS has decided to operate on a one vote per institution basis now, said Mersereau.

Mersereau also explained the structure of the union, the central committee handles all the business and is instructed by the general assembly. The central committee is composed of one representative from each province. The central committee also instructs the staff of NUS New Brunswick is represented by Jim Hefferman, President of the SRC of Mount Allison University in Sackville.

NUS maintains an office at Carleton University in Ottawa.

Mersereau said the purpose of NUS is to present student issues and opinions to the federal government and other national organizations so as to have an effective representative student voice in national affairs.

NUS is presently investigating such things as: financing post secondary education, student employment, bilingualism, housing and student services.

The fee for a university to join NUS is \$30 per student. This would cost UNB approximately \$1500 per year.

Many universities have already joined and are showing intentions of joining. Some present members are: University of Alberta, University of British Columbia, Carleton, Dalhousie, St. Mary's University, Mount Allison University, Mount Allison University and Nova Scotia Agricultural College.

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Comment

Help needed on committees

By the STUDENT SENATORS

Over the next two weeks, the Senate will be naming students to its various committees. Since these committees are open to all students, it is hoped that any interested people will come forward and reveal their interest. At present, the members of the various branches of the student government on both the Fredericton and Saint John campuses are canvassing their elected representatives to see if anyone wishes to serve on any of the committees. But this does not mean that individual students cannot be appointed to committee. To the contrary, they are very welcome.

The Senate committees serve many functions in the life of the university. Different committees cover many varied facets of the university, including admissions, regulations, scholarships, academic and campus planning, and many other areas. In all, twenty-two committees exist. At present not all need new students, but many do. Anyone with an interest in a

specific area, or someone who might simply like to get involved in the decision-making process of the university should come forward. All appointments are made for one year and reappointment of students is possible.

The academic Senate is a branch of University government whose decisions affect us all. As such, it is important that good people get involved in the affairs of the senate and its committees.

Anyone with any interest, if only to find out more about the Senate and its committees, should contact me, or any other of the Student Senators, so that we can explain the duties and responsibilities of the various committees, and show what can be done to help. It is also important that we know those who are interested right away as these committees will all be receiving the names of their new members very shortly.

Yours truly,

Brian Forbes
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