

National student organizations criticised

Dear Editor:

The CUP article "Anti-NUS Policy Maintained" in your Feb. 6 issue throws a smokescreen around the issues involved in building a national student organization. It also constitutes another attempt by CUP to split the Canadian student movement.

A mass-based, democratic, and activist national student association should be established to coordinate national strategy and resist the attacks made by the Canadian state against students. NUS was intended to be such an organization. However, its attitude toward one of the regional organizations, ANEQ (Association Nationale des Etudiants du Quebec), has not indicated a willingness to build a national united front against government attacks. Rather, NUS has pursued a policy of refusing to develop ties with ANEQ. In doing so, it has exploited differences between anglophone and francophone students in order to better consolidate its position in English-speaking Canada. This is a blatantly unprincipled and opportunist strategy which serves to split Canadian students at a time when the need is for unity.

Part of a resolution passed at the Third National Congress of ANEQ (Sept. 27-28, 1975) reads as follows (free translation):

"The Third National Congress considers that the construction of a truly pan-Canadian organization

must be supported by the concentrated efforts of Canadian and Quebec students through their respective organizations. The Congress, moreover, deplors that relations with NUS have not been developed and judges insufficient the reasons the NUS has used to unilaterally cancel the joint meeting intended to establish official relations between ANEQ and NUS as well as other provincial student organizations. In cancelling this meeting, NUS, OFS, CUP, and AFS have refused, in short, to establish even informal links with ANEQ. We judge this action as unfriendly and inopportune at a moment when it is necessary to build unity of action against the common enemy. The Congress gives full powers to the Central Council to reply to the NUS letter in the spirit of unity and with confidence that it is in the interests of Canadian and Quebec students to break out of their isolation and get together. The Congress also gives a directive to the Central Council that it enter into contact with provincial student associations in Canada and that it work in the path of unity and not of division".

Not only has NUS been carrying out anti-student activities but Canadian University Press (CUP) has recently entered the battle, and not on the side of the students. The last CUP Conference was held in January at the English-language McGill University even though this

gave support to various circles there who refuse to join forces with other Quebec students in ANEQ. In short, it served to split Quebec students and, ultimately, Canadian students on the basis of language. CUP even had the rudeness to hold a public debate on the pros and cons of ANEQ as an organization representative of Quebec students, an action calculated to exploit differences between anglophone and francophone students and win Canadian support for the McGill anti-ANEQ group. The ANEQ representative was deliberately mis-translated. These tactics, when they were discovered, were denounced by members of several delegations from the rest of Canada.

CUP continues, however, to attempt to mould Canadian student opinion against ANEQ and, therefore, against unity of Quebec and Canadian students, as indicated by the Brunswickan article. It now hopes to use anti-communist propaganda to split students and interprets the actions of ANEQ in terms of "battles between political ideologies". Canadian students will certainly not be side-tracked by this type of manoeuvre.

The issue is not one of this or that political party. It is a question of building a national student association which is led by people dedicated to serving other students rather than to propping up their own egos and future job prospects. The association must be based

among the students and democratic. This will require an activist approach, not sitting in some office and waiting for people to drop in. The association must also unite students on the basis of common interests, not divide them on any basis. ANEQ meets all these requirements. We should learn how they did it and carry out a similar program across Canada. If that means getting rid of NUS then, by all means, let's get rid of it and unite with students across Canada in organizing to resist attacks on our standard of living.

Richard Brown
Forestry 5

Games room necessary

Mr. Derwin Gowan
News Editor

Dear Sir;

This letter regards the recent revelation of the disbanding of the games room in the basement of the SUB. In the February 6th issue of

Poor taste criticised

Dear Editor:

I read with awe the article on Jack Mbiza in last week's (Feb. 6th) Brunswickan. I'd have never thought it possible that anybody would stoop so low as to write in such poor taste on a matter of much concern (or should be) to everybody.

To all who know Jack and appreciate some of his predicaments reading your article made it even clearer why Jack couldn't take it any longer. I cannot help but add that it's the attitudes and the likes of you that further depressed Jack.

I'm shocked. How much more inhumane can one be? To treat Jack's mishap with such feelinglessness and thoughtlessness and use the issue for your artistic misadventures clearly shows lack of taste. How insensitive, you obviously couldn't care less, why bother.

Kindly find yourself other material to quench your perverted sense of humour; Jack's disappearance is of a much more serious nature to be dabbled with frivolously.

Themba Simelane

the Bruns you reported that the room was to be changed to a "coffee house type lounge". This means, according to the SRC vice-president, that some pin ball machines would be moved to the coffee shop and the lower locker room of the SUB would house as many pool tables as possible.

Absurd, completely absurd. One (1) coffee shop and two (2) lounges are enough for one SUB building. Wiping out the games room will take away the entertainment and passtime of many students, mainly non-resident, of the campus. I believe the last pool hall will be the one in the Nashwaaksis shopping plaza, which is rather far to walk to shoot a relaxing game of pool.

Mr. Kennedy voiced the belief that the space could be better used as a lounge, a unique one at that, and hopefully more profitable than the costly games room. What is more used, a lounge serving only coffee most of the week, or the well trodden, usually filled games room? What in the minds of students, is more useful? Presently the room is inadequate as a games room, we should have more tables, twelve foot and eight foot, and snooker balls, another ping pong table, more space, and to increase the profit (sic) from the pool operation, a pay by time played schedule (The games room at Acadia University is much larger, with many 12' and 8' tables).

Well, we better decide shortly which we prefer, and somehow (suggestion box) let those great figures of wisdom and godliness know or we'll find ourselves with only two (2) pool tables and 'some' pin ball machines.

Submitted by
Pete Stillwell



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