

"Women must get union status"

The Atlantic region is treated by the people of Canada and by its own people as an economic, social, and cultural unit. We, as students in the Atlantic region, must therefore organize ourselves to better understand, and transform the environment that has been imposed upon us.

We must organize in a united manner to fight the problems which affect all of us. Housing and unemployment are only two problems which affect students directly. To solve these problems we must understand them in the context of the Atlantic economy as a whole. We must develop a consciousness and an understanding of the history, economy and culture of the Atlantic region. We must examine the amount and type of occupations we can enter in the Atlantic region after graduating from a Maritime university. We must study and challenge the causes of the structural underdevelopment which do not create enough jobs for university-trained individuals.

The Atlantic Federation of Students Councils is an organization created on the weekend of October the 18th in Charlottetown. It is an organization created precisely to deal with the regional problems that affect students in the Maritimes. The Federation is composed of students councils now — CUS's downfall. The Federation understands that we must get large numbers of students involved. We must strive for Union status, to de-emphasize the role of students councils, and to get more individuals concerned with the project of the Federation. The Federation must serve the self-determined needs of the students. It must deal with the quality and purpose of their education, and the control they have over it, as well as such problems as housing and unemployment.

An Atlantic Federation of Students can begin to do the research to study the problems of the economic region and the effects such a depressed area has on the student population. Such research is not being done now on the campuses, and can only be done in a coordinated way through such a Federation. there can be a division of labour throughout the Maritime campus to research other topics directly related to

students e.g. one campus researching course unions, another Senate restructuring, another residence rules, etc. The only way this research can be carried out so there is no overlap and so the material, once published, can efficiently get out to the students is through a regional organization such as the Atlantic Federation of Students.

Action must be carried out on the various topics researched. Strategies and tactics cannot be adequately worked out by inexperienced people. People who have experience organizing students — who understand such varied techniques as from the use of the school newspaper and leafleting, to the use of strike action, can and are being employed as full-time staff to explain to campus groups how to go about organizing about particular issues and raising the level of consciousness of the students so they will have an interest in controlling the decisions which affect their lives. Fieldworkers can give impetus and inject new ideas to schemes which otherwise might never get off the ground.

Maritime provincial governments and university administrations treat the Atlantic area as a single region, in spite of provincial government financing of education, e.g. UNB was set up as the only university in the Maritimes to have a Faculty of Forestry; Dalhousie the only university with a Faculty of Medicine. The other universities in the Atlantic region have not attempted to duplicate such facilities. If we are ever going to oppose the arbitrary decisions made by such bodies which affect the lives of the Maritime university students, we must cooperate in a much more integrated way than we are now,

with our present system isolated students councils.

Coordination can be arranged through the Federation on such things as speakers' tours, teach-ins, workshops, and seminars.

We can put coordinated pressure on universities for courses on the Atlantic economy and culture. Such courses do not exist now, but if the universities were there to serve the students, they would exist. We have to demand that they exist. The Atlantic universities should press for the establishment of a Maritime studies institute to study the problems of the structural underdevelop-

ment of our economy, to study the problems and outline possible actions for our oppressed groups—the blacks, Indians, and women.

An Atlantic Federation of Students of and by itself cannot carry out these programs. It is only a structure. The Atlantic Federation of Students is not a substitute for study and action on the campus — it is only an aid to coordinating the research and a help in instigating the action. You, the students of the individual campuses must carry these responsibilities out.

Cathy Walker,
Fieldworker,
Atlantic Federation of Students

Exams mean nostalgia for some

Approximately 800 University of Prince Edward Island students will be writing the one-semester examinations scheduled for December 16-19, it was learned recently from the University's registrar, Michael J. Hennessey.

The examinations are scheduled to be written in different locations on both campuses and timetables have been posted on all notice boards for the past few weeks.

"One of our minor problems," Mr. Hennessey said, "has been to decide whether or not to use the thousands of old PWC and SDU examination booklets we have on hand. There appears little sense in throwing money away simply because these booklets have the names Prince of Wales or St. Dunstan's on them. It has been

suggested that these booklets be used at UPEI until the supply is exhausted, and this is what we shall do."

"This will no doubt leave us open for a few snide remarks," he continued, "but the amount of paper on hand runs into thousands of dollars. And, as our computer succinctly put it, "We can afford the odd snide remark; we can't afford more paper!"

The Registrar emphasized that classes were not being cancelled during the examination period. The final date for classes is Friday, December 19.

NOTE: To correct an unfortunate impression left from last issue: Christmas exams written are not compulsory in full courses, although all students will be evaluated by their individual professors.

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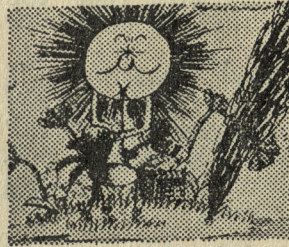
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