

Editorial

The opinions expressed in this column do not necessarily reflect those of the staff of this publication, or of the Student Union.

CFS- The Canadian Federation of Sulkers. Well, ok that's what it should be called!

As a member of this organization, I find that each year I become more and more embarrassed of its boring and down-right whinnying attitudes. Now, I now I only pay \$4.00 to join, but if I could get my \$4.00 back, I would be glad to give up the few benefits I receive from my "membership" in order to not be associated with this group.

"Membership" is a funny word. How did I become a member? I was not asked to join, I have no say in the decisions of the federation, and I have great suspicions towards the federation, but I guess I must have signed up sometime or another.

Have to start off with what the CFS calls a great victory which they were responsible for: NO GST ON ENTERTAINMENT! I have heard this line from the CFS so many times and I always wonder if they really think that they were responsible for this. \$4.00 is not bad for that kind of entertainment.

Now that is only the first of many campaigns which they are spending our money on. Actually, at \$4.00 per student, and 400,000 students are "members", that adds up to \$1.6 million. Wow! I guess a million and a half does not go very far these days.

One of their largest campaigns now seems to be still campaigning on the 3% tax on student loans. They call this a discriminatory tax when actually it is only a user fee to help stop students from abusing the loan system (since the number of people defaulting on their student loans grows each year). When you think about it, a one time tax is not bad compared to the interest you could be paying on these interest free loans. (you don't have to pay interest as long as your are in school).

Another problem this student federation seems to have is in the area of summer employment. For some reason they feel that the government owes every student a "good", well paying, summer job. Where do they ever come up with this idea? Maybe they should hold our hands too. What is wrong with going

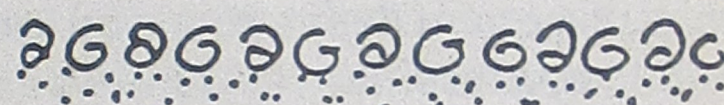
out and finding a real job?

Anyway, I do not have the time or the room to go into any more detail about the CFS, but I must say, I do support the "services" side of CFS. This is the area where our money should be going. Such programs as Student Saver and Travel Cuts are very useful for students (although there is no Travel Cuts office on PEI). Instead, they waste students money on trying to feel like big shots who "advise" the government.

One last thing, maybe the leaders of this federation should try to understand that the things they ask for from the government cost a lot of money and that the cost of such programs goes up each year, much like our student health plan which has risen by 100% in the last 4 years. (Funny, I have never heard a complaint about this).

Not waiting for a free lunch,

Cory Large
Editor

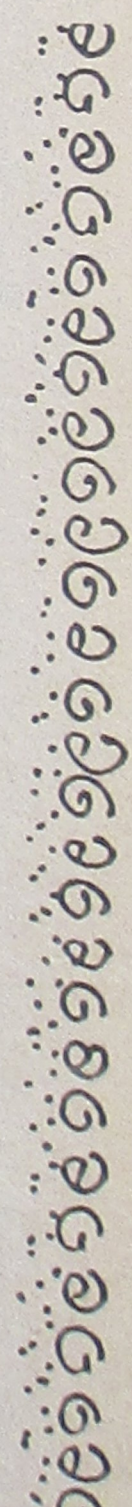
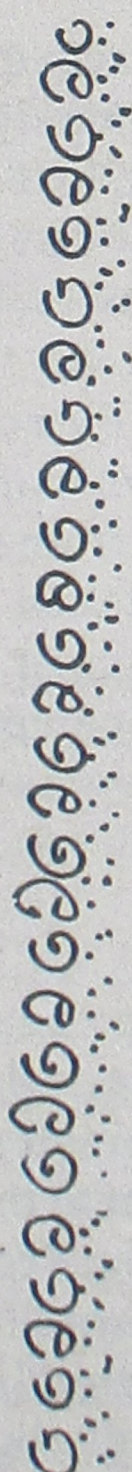


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