

# Letters, We Get Letters...

Editor:

I would like to comment on the upcoming referendum to cancel UPEI's membership in the Canadian Federation of Students. I for one am ambivalent about how I would vote, and would like to see more information and less flim-flam from both sides.

I shall attempt to paint the picture of what's going on, as near I can make it out. The reasons to stay are twofold: the CFS's various student travel and purchase discounts can save a student more money than he or she puts into CFS in dues if he or she makes any effort at all. Also, whatever the quality of their lobbying, the appearance of unity CFS gives us, as well as their ability to kick up a fuss in the event that anything ticks them off, probably has kept tuition fees lower than they would have been with no organisation at all. On the other hand, the No side has brought forth some very serious allegations. If even half of them were true, it would indicate that CFS is incompetent, is fanatical, has screwed up priorities, wastes money, uses thuggery and undue harassment as a lobbying tool (when it bothers to lobby on our behalf at all), and presumes to speak for students on moral issues at the expense of protecting our financial interests.

What disturbs me is that neither side has made any attempt to address the other's position. The posters around campus are reminiscent of paid political advertisements, "sound bites" designed to manipulate people into voting the "right way" through selective reporting of facts. This is all well and good, but it doesn't help in making an informed decision. CFS has made no satisfactory response to the No Committee's very serious allegations of ineffective and misdirected lob-

bing. Nor have they an explanation for what appear to be very questionable financial practices. Just because they save us a few bucks at various retail outlets does not mean we should excuse them for spending our money unwisely. If the CFS does not make a plain, candid, and fully verifiable answer to these charges forthwith, then I shall be forced to conclude that these allegations are all true, in which case I will vote no.

The Student Union for its part, has been very forthcoming with negative tidbits about the CFS, but I have yet to hear a peep from them about what is to replace it. I would be very leery about voting to go off on our own with no federal student's lobby at all, especially in these days of downsizing and fiscal restraint. What does the Student Union propose to replace the CFS with, if anything? And if we are joining a new federation of some sort, what services does it offer, and what is its reputation like compared to the CFS? These are all questions I would like to see addressed, by both sides, forthwith.

Stephen DeGrace

**THANKS TO ALL  
OUR  
VOLUNTEERS  
YOUR'RE DOING  
A GREAT JOB.**



To the Editor:

Last week's letter to the editor commented on the quality of CIMN's spoken word programming. Mr. Stuart expressed dissatisfaction with a particular programmer's choice of words. The management of CIMN was distressed to learn that one of our listeners felt that our programming wasn't satisfactory. We endeavour to provide intelligent and thought provoking programming, so we appreciate your comments and concerns. If there are any future comments, please contact the CIMN management directly -- after all, one doesn't call the radio station to complain about the newspaper.

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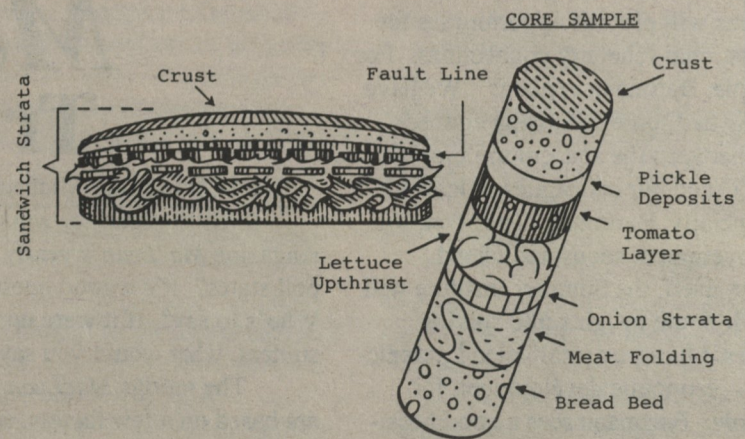


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*Fig. 6. Sandwich Geology*



*Bite into a Subway Footlong and you'll uncover layer upon layer of delicious meat and tasty fixin's, surrounded by fresh-baked bread. It all stacks up to a great sandwich.*

**SUBWAY**

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