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CUSomer  
Is...

# THE RED & WHITE

Not  
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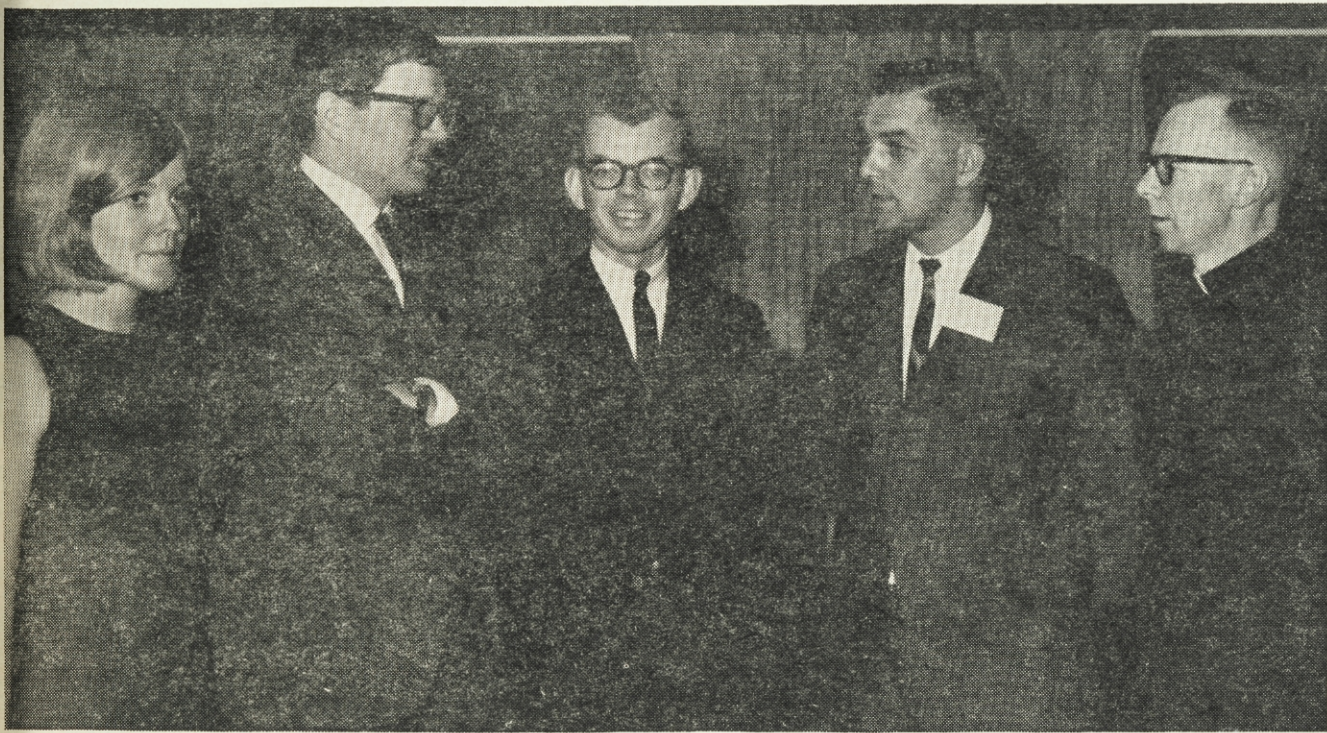
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## S. D. U. Drops Out of CUS



The above picture was taken during the Association of Atlantic Students conference held at St. Dunstan's last weekend. From left to right are Carol Ann Power, SDU CUS Chairman; Doug Ward, National President of the Canadian Union of Students; Charley McMillan, SDU Students' Union President; and Alex B. Campbell, Premier of P.E.I.

### Referendum Decides Fate

By MARK MacPHERSON

On Wednesday, October 26, the St. Dunstan's University Students' Union voted 89 to 78 to withdraw its membership in the Canadian Union of Students. Achieving the necessary quorum of 125 voters, 25% of the student body turned out to cast their ballots for or against the retention of membership of the SDUSU in the national association of Student Unions. The referendum, as stated on the ballot, read: "In your opinion, should the SDU Students' Union retain membership in the Canadian Union of Students."

St. Dunstan's has now joined an increasing number of Canadian universities who have chosen to part ways with CUS. The universities of Alberta, Loyola, Bishops, Memorial, and Mt. St. Vincent have expressed their dissatisfaction with the Union by withdrawing, all within the past eight weeks. At SDU, the call for the referendum was the result of a heated debate at the October 12 semi-annual meeting of the Students' Union. Over 190 students attended the meeting and heard both sides of the issue presented by speakers from the floor.

#### MIXED VIEWS HELD

Nevertheless, those who supported CUS's departure at St. Dunstan's will have the satisfaction of knowing that an additional \$500.00 will be added to the Students' Union coffers at St. Dunstan's, instead of being sent as membership fees to the Ottawa-based secretariat. Those who supported the retention of membership will appreciate the significance of the Student Union's loss of association with the 170,000-member Canadian Union of Students, and the benefits which are derived by this affiliation.

#### A TRAGIC MISTAKE

When asked about her reaction after the results of the referendum were announced, Carol Ann Power, CUS Chairman at St. Dunstan's, stated simply, "The students have made a tragic mistake. Small universities such as St. Dunstan's derive considerably more from membership in CUS than they put into it through membership fees. My only hope is that next year interested and well informed students will undo the damage that has been done by the decision to withdraw from CUS this year."

#### PUBLIC FORUM HELD

The silent campaign continued, and on October 25 a public forum was sponsored by the Executive of the SDUSU to debate the issue further. Carol Power, CUS Chairman at St. Dunstan's and Tom McMillan, past chairman of CUS, were the principal spokesmen for the retention of membership. Philip Macdonald, Senior Class President, and Charley McMillan, President of the Students' Union, led the attack against CUS and in favor of withdrawing membership. The controversy was climaxed by the actual voting, held in the Library and officiated by the SDUSU executive, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 in the afternoon.

#### RESULTS INCONCLUSIVE

Despite the importance of the referendum, the results were inconclusive. The majority of 11 out of the 167 votes cast were not considered by many to be decisive. The Senior Class, with 60 voters casting ballots, was the only class to surpass a 50% turnout, with 50.5%. In the Junior Class,

### Regional Conference of CUS [AAS] Held

About 80 delegates from 18 Maritime Universities, Colleges, and Technical Institutions finished their three day conference of the Association of Atlantic Students last Sunday afternoon at St. Dunstan's University.

Almost every aspect of Students' Union activities was considered by the gathering, and several unions were mandated to make studies on specific programs.

Topics which received special consideration were universal accessibility (free tuition for those students who are academically qualified); students representation on University administrations; Student Council organization; campus police; inter-varsity entertainment circuit; yearbooks; field secretary (full time employee to assist councils with organization and finance); and provincial organizations.

### Treasure Van Plans Underway

Treasure Van is coming to St. Dunstan's University November 7 and 8, it was announced by Mary MacInnis, head organizer of the project.

Treasure Van, a two day sale of international artifacts representing more than thirty world cultures, is a project of the SDU WUS Committee. The proceeds from the sale will aid students in foreign countries and will help to sponsor other CUS projects throughout the world.

Miss MacInnis told the Red and White that "the success of this sale depends on the support of all the students as well as the support of the general public. It is not necessary for anyone to purchase the items on display, and the the WUS committee at St. Dunstan's hopes that everyone will at least come to see the many interesting and exotic articles that have proven so popular with students all over the world."

Last year, under the chairmanship of Paul Kelly, the Treasure Van sales at St. Dunstan's were among the highest in the Atlantic provinces in proportion to the student population.

### DOUG WARD INTERVIEWED

Among those in attendance at last week's AAS conference was the national president of the Canadian Union of Students, Doug Ward. Apprised of the rather precarious situation of CUS on this campus (specifically in regard to Wednesday's referendum), Mr. Ward had a few comments to make. Of the many statements made by the CUS president during his half-hour interview with the Red and White one remark stands out as being especially pertinent.

"CUS," he said, "is not a commodity. You cannot buy or sell CUS. If, for your 65c a head, you want 65c back, then it's a pretty bad deal."

What, then, is CUS? At its origin, CUS was oriented toward unity between the scattered member campuses, he said. But after a while, the emphasis changed from mere unity to a concerted drive toward a larger hearing for student opinion, not only on affairs pertinent to one's own campus, but on matters concerning the nation as a whole. On campus, a drive was spearheaded to give the student a greater voice in university administration. On the national level, CUS conducted the Canadian Student Income and Expenditure Study; with a view toward ultimate universal accessibility for all those capable of obtaining a higher education, briefs were presented to various agencies of the federal government. More recently, suspecting that a federal-provincial conference would degenerate into another wrangle over finances and that education would again find itself buried at the bottom of the pile, a telegram was dispatched to both the federal and the provincial governments informing them of CUS's suspicions, and

suggesting that, if such were the case, they might well find themselves with 140,000 very angry university students on their hands.

But CUS, of itself, is a non-entity. It derives its existence the President stated, from all the scattered student unions in Canada acting in concert. And the minute a student union becomes no more than what Mr. Ward termed "an umbrella dropping off funds into various pots," then CUS is just that much smaller. As for the union itself, the use of a computer could be purchased more cheaply and would do the job much more efficiently.

What is a student council? The voice of the study body organized and acting? Or merely an embodied collection of tubes and circuits? Mr. Ward asked.

If it is the latter, get rid of it: it is an encumbrance. If it is the former, then, in God's name, let it stand for something. And, since nationally oriented CUS is almost the only off-campus representation the student has, should the student council decide, either on their own or by referendum, to confine themselves to their own little sphere, the voice of the student will be choked off and stifled as thoroughly as though he had never existed, Mr. Ward stated.

Perhaps CUS has not had as much effect on education in Canada as some people would like, said Mr. Ward. But what can be expected? CUS is not the Ministry of Education—it cannot sponsor bills. This much, however, CUS can do, he emphasized: in the name of the Canadian university student, CUS can yell loud enough, long enough, and insistently enough that eventually somebody is bound to listen.

gress provided the student leaders of the various participating universities to discuss specific problems, and to share information on solutions to these problems.

"It seems," he said, "that most Councils are experiencing financial difficulties of one sort or another. Our delegation found that our methods of meeting these problems were not unlike the other colleges, but we received additional tips which should benefit us in the long run."

A subject of great discussion and controversy was the relation of the various Councils to AAS and to CUS. St. Dunstan's has subsequently decided to withdraw membership in the Canadian Union of Students. A public forum was held Wednesday night to provide the proponents of both sides of the question to debate the merits of membership before the student body, at which time the withdrawal of membership in the AAS was also considered, a regional branch of CUS.

Down from Ottawa were two members of the CUS Secretariat to meet with the delegations. Doug Ward, National President, and Rick Waern, Associate Secretary for Student Cooperatives, left early to visit other Maritime campuses.

Members of the St. Dunstan's delegation at the Congress were Carol Anne Power, CUS Chairman; Tom McMillan, Editor of the Red and White; Gerald Praught, Treasurer; Phil MacDougall, SU Vice-President; Monica Clow, committee; and Dianne LaRose, committee.

Carol Anne Power was chief organizer for the conference.

On the Executive of A.A.S. are Lawson Hunter, President (UNB); Aurele Theriault, Secretary (Moncton); Mike O'Sullivan, Vice-President (St. Mary's); Charley McMillan, committee (St. Dunstan's); and Michael Theriault, committee (College de Bathurst).

### ST. DUNSTAN'S OFFICIAL CEREMONIES POSTPONED

Rev. Dr. R. G. Ellsworth, vice-president of St. Dunstan's University, announced Wednesday that both the special convocation exercises and the opening of the new Duffy Science Centre slated for Tuesday, November 1, have been postponed indefinitely.

The announcement came following word that Governor General and Madame Vanier, who were to receive honorary degrees at the convocation, would be unable to attend due to the Governor General's illness.

At first it was thought the Duffy Science Centre would be opened as planned, but last

night's announcement also postponed that function.

The announcement was made by Dr. Ellsworth in the absence of SDU president Rt. Rev. G. A. Macdonald who is in Ottawa attending the annual conference of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada.

No word was forthcoming concerning a possible future visit by the Vaniers or of the opening of the new science centre. Dr. St. Clair Duffy, a generous benefactor of St. Dunstan's, and Mrs. Duffy were to have attended the conference.