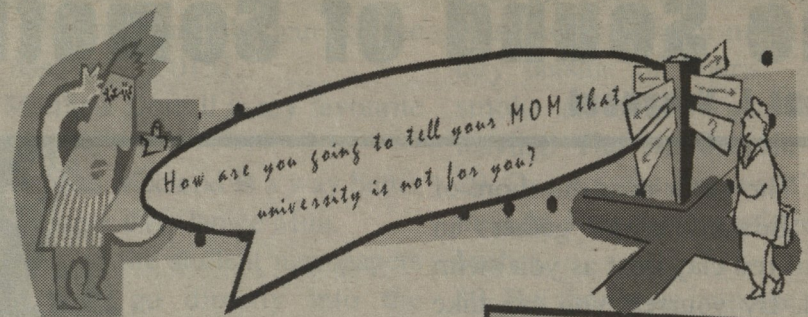
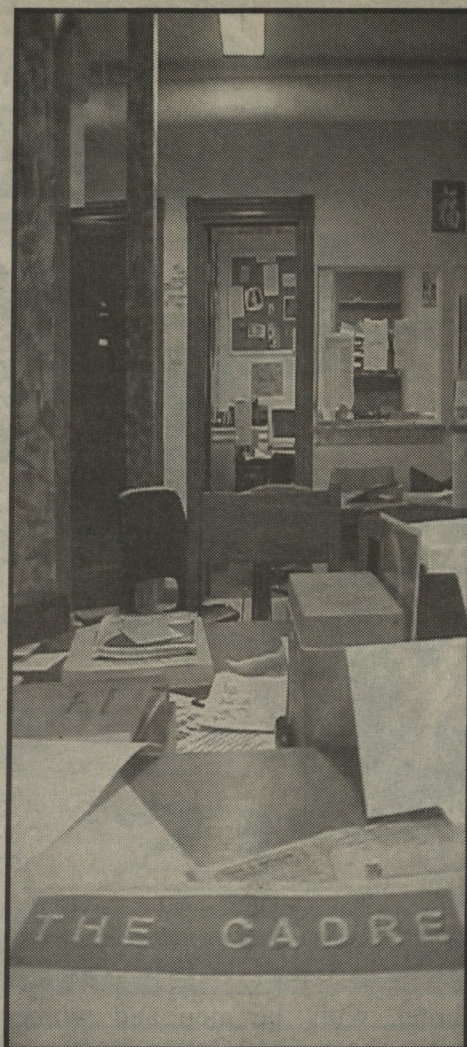


the Federal Minister and his gang of fixers, and at the Potato Board representative, and his gang of fixers, and you will try very hard to see the difference. But if you leave the foyer of the hotel and listen as some of the 400 potato growers in attendance at the closed-door question and answer period with the Federal Minister talk to each other in the parking lot, you will know the difference immediately. "We're still fucked" You will hear one say. "We're fucked."

If you are a potato farmer and your pick-up truck is lining the parking lot of the Rodd Royalty hotel on the outskirts of Charlottetown, where the Minister spoke, you are probably not convinced. You are probably not the only one milling about in this lobby, in this place. Following the exit of the Minister. You are probably flanked by Potato Board Members, and Superfarmer representatives. You are probably thinking about the first such emergency meeting called after the embargo, where the Irving corporation, the Granddaddy Superfarmer of them all, stood up and demanded immediate compensation; before all others. You will probably think of Cavendish Farms. Another of the great giants in the potato business, Cavendish Farms is also the owner of the infected field; you will, no doubt, remember this. You are probably standing there dreaming of your father, and your field, or maybe the past. But in your dreams you are not wearing a suit or holding a clipboard or negotiating, or going home to consider a vote on this latest proposal to pry back open the American gates. Or considering whether this proposal is even real, not a lie. In your day-dream you are probably somewhere green, where the water is ever in sight, and you are alone in a field; with all that wealth, all that history.



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