

LETTERS

THANK YOU

Dear Editor,

Now that the results of the UPEI Student Union elections are final, I would like to congratulate all the winning candidates, especially Philip Brown, my personal opponent. I would also like to thank all those who worked on my behalf, as well as those who supported me.

I feel that the election was significant on two counts. Firstly, there was a high voter turnout which indicates a renewed interest in the Student Union. But perhaps most importantly, there was a more aware electorate. Hopefully, we, the Student Union, can channel this interest toward a more successful year next year.

In summation, I would like to say that as far as I am concerned the axe is buried. What is important now is that we put personal differences aside and work to get the Student Union back on the right track.

Sincerely,
Ivan MacArthur

BAD DECISION

Dear Sir,

The recent decision by the Senate to shorten the spring semester by one week has been met by the students with some cheers and some indifference, but more so with shock, disapproval, panic, and even anger.

The suddenness with which this change was imposed has unavoidably disrupted many lecture and test schedules, and every student's schedule for paper and exam preparation. Faculty members now have the choice of cramming the same amount of lecture material into a shorter period in a less thorough manner or leaving the material out altogether. Students may be unable to do a thorough job on research and

absorption of lecture material.

This is not an advantage in the sense of a lighter work load. This is a deterioration of the quality of each course affected. Accumulated over several courses it amounts to a downgrading of every student's degree and a decline in the standards of the university. I don't know about you, but I'm here to get as comprehensive an education as possible, not a cheap easy ticket through life.

Assuming the March 14 SUN editorial to be true, it appears that a persistent few representing a limited number of students were able, through questionable means, to get this motion through the Senate on the grounds that UPEI students, and in particular Business students, are at some insurmountable disadvantage in the summer employment market. This apparently, is due to our arrival on the scene one week after students from other universities. What other universities? Holland College finishes long after UPEI. If you are referring to mainland universities, then how small a portion of our university population will be seeking work on the mainland? Are these the few for whom this change was intended to benefit at a cost to all other students? The way I see it, any student who is ambitious in his or her pursuit of summer employment is out making applications and attending interviews three to six weeks before the semester ends. What difference will one week make, especially since the commencement of most summer positions is usually in May.

Many students resent not having had any chance

to voice an opinion concerning this issue before the decision was made. Why didn't the SUN make an issue of it during the period in which the proposal was rejected repeatedly? Here was a chance for "Campus Comment" to sink its teeth into something meaty, which would evoke some controversial opinions and elucidate a common viewpoint. I and several other students feel the student Senators misrepresented us in this matter by voting in favour of the motion.

Does this school not have an obligation, in fact, a legal contract to provide each registered student with the full number of lecture and laboratory hours outlined in the university calendar? A student taking five courses will lose fifteen hours of lectures and some, an additional twelve hours of laboratory time as a result of this change. That's the equivalent of one half of a semester course. Residence students lose the value of twenty one meals and seven days lodging. I feel as if I am being grossly short changed. If one had sufficient time (which is now at a premium), money, legal aid, and intestinal fortitude, could one make a claim in a court of law in order to recuperate these losses? How much money is the administration going to save as a result of this change? Will we ever see the benefits of these savings?

To conclude, I suggest to the Senate that next time

you are confronted with a decision which will have such a profound and wide spread effect, that you confer with students and faculty before hand, in order to act in the best interest of all the members of this university.

Yours truly,
Brian Masson

THANKS HERE TOO

Dear Editor,

I am just dropping a letter of thanks to everyone who supported me in the past student union election.

I would especially like to thank Patti Bradley, my scrutineer, Kim Beattie, Cheryl Judson, John Carson, Chuck Gallison, Brian King, Jackie MacNeill, my agents, Joe Sanlei, Peter Wilson, and Trish Rossiter, who all helped me with my ideas and speech writing. I would also like to express my gratitude to the residents of Marian, Bernadine, and Blanchard, the International Students Association, everyone I met in the Lounge in the Library. These people all gave me a warm reception and had time to listen to what I had to say.

Last, but not least, I would like to thank and congratulate my opponent, Scott Thomas, who ran a great campaign. It is obvious by the closeness of the vote that everyone felt as I did, that there was two quality candidates. I hope Scott will continue to put his time and effort into the Student Union and work closely with me.

Neil MacKenzie

IMPORTANT LECTURE

APPROACHING

10th Anniversary Lecture

8:00 p.m., April 2

Steel Recital Hall

Edgar Gallant, Chairman, Public Service Commission

The Federal Government is one of the largest employers of university graduates in the country. Consequently, the University is delighted that, as one of its lectures to celebrate its tenth anniversary, it will have as speaker Edgar Gallant, Chairman of the Public Service Commission, winner of the Vanier Medal, the most prestigious award for public administration in the country, and a man of vast experience in many levels of the public service. He has been chairman of the National Capital Commission, secretary of the Council of Maritime Premiers; he has served in many departments of government, and with NATO.

All students who would like to know more about careers in the public sector are strongly urged to hear Mr. Gallant.

PROTESTANT CHAPLAINCY

CHAPLAINCY SERVICE IS AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS ON

CAMPUS AT THE CHAPLAINCY CENTRE ON TUESDAYS FROM

2 - 4 p.m., ON WEDNESDAYS FROM 2 - 4 p.m., AND ON

THURSDAYS FROM 7 - 9 p.m.