

# CIMN Frozen

## Student Union Halts Funding

by Kent Driscoll

Due to an executive decision by the UPEI Student Council Executive, the equipment budget for CIMN campus radio was frozen on Thursday January 25. This decision is not final, but according to UPEI Student Union President Amber Allin, "We wouldn't have passed this measure if we didn't believe that council was behind us." The council will receive a chance to express their opinion during an emergency meeting which will be held on Sunday January 28, where CIMN will receive an opportunity to state their opinion.

This measure by the Student Union Executive puts into question CIMN's chances of becoming an actual broadcasting radio station, for the equipment that was to be purchased from the frozen funds was the equipment which would enable CIMN to broadcast to the greater Charlottetown area.

Both sides cite communication as the major problem in their relationship, and these communication problems are what have led to the extreme measures by the Student Union. President Allin characterised the relationship as a "total communication breakdown". CIMN Station Manager Amanda Hill, on the subject of communication stated, "While I'm forced to be politically correct. . . [the two organizations] have different philosophies."

Student Union Vice President Internal Tara Inman is the executive member responsible for communication with CIMN, but President Allin does not lay blame on her. In Allin's words, "We are behind Tara's handling of CIMN one hundred percent."

The differences between the Student Union and CIMN became noticeable at the Student Council meeting on Sunday, January 21, when CIMN presented their "Plan of Action". The Plan of Action is a document which states a number of points that CIMN and the Student

Union must follow in order to make CIMN an open air broadcasting station, which would be available on open airways. As it stands now, CIMN is only available on AM in Bernardine and Marion, as well as on FM cable.

The Plan of Action contained several points which Inman characterised as "disturbing", but none were more disturbing than the negotiations CIMN were holding with C. Reimer, a religious broadcaster. CIMN was negotiating with this organizations to air 10 hours per week of religious programming for a yearly fee of approximately \$27,000. CIMN was planning to use their increased revenue to hire a full time station director. The disturbing part is the nature of some of C. Reimer's broadcasting, which was described by Amanda Hill as "anti-abortion and homophobic". However, CIMN would have the option to chose which broadcasts they would air.

While CIMN was not planning on broadcasting the particular programs which were of a homophobic nature, support of a company that promotes this type of agenda remains disturbing to the Student Union Executive. Tara Inman stated "We were horrified to learn that CIMN was negotiating with such a company," and Allin followed by saying "We were not aware of the nature of C. Reimer."

A further problem with CIMN's Plan of Action is their proposed budget. According to Vice-President Operations Finley Martin, "Some of their numbers just don't fit." In response to budget questions, station manager Amanda Hill claims "These are just some numbers I made up myself, more or less a guide."

Despite these setbacks, the CIMN executive is optimistic that the station will be able to go open air in the near future.

# New Machines Serve UPEI

by Christopher Michaud

Don't let the headline fool you into thinking automatons have invaded the hallowed halls of UPEI, and are making the decisions and teaching our classes. . . that is another article.

Actually, as you may have noticed on your daily trip to the vending machine to purchase that oh-so-needed chocolate fix, UPEI is now served by new vending machines. Okay, so the machines may look the same, and still swallow your loony once in a while, or drop you a half empty bottle of pop. Gulf Vending, a subsidiary of Seaman's Beverages, is out, and Western Vending is in.

According to Blaine Jensen, Director of Student Services, Western Vending is in, and in to stay. . . for now. After several years of service at UPEI, Gulf Vending and Seaman's Beverages no longer service the vending machines on campus. At the end of November 1995, UPEI held a public bidding competition, something the university has not done in a number of years. This competition was held to decide who would service the vending machines on campus. Seaman's and Western both submitted proposals, as well as another company, and Western won.

Western Vending and Coca-Cola Canada submitted a joint proposal, with Western handling the snacks and candies, and Coke supplying pop and Fruitopia beverages. One of the

changes is having Coke and Pepsi in the same machine. Coke agreed to this change because Pepsi sells well on campus. What does all this mean to us, the students who feed these machines on an hourly basis during exams? More money! Isn't that a first?!

Under the terms of the new three-year deal, UPEI makes more money by way of returns. The return rate increased thanks to the new contract, and the revenue from it goes directly into student funds. These funds include the Library Endowment Fund, and the Memorial Bursary Fund. With the new contract, UPEI can probably increase the amount of money in these funds, a big reason for the signing of Western Vending.

So what happens to Seaman's Beverages? "We consider Seaman's Beverages and Rundell Seaman as good friends of the University. It was a difficult decision, but when it comes to business decisions, we have to deal in business," said Blaine Jensen. "It all comes down to how much money UPEI can make, and student services."

The sheets for comments on the vending machines go directly to Western Vending, and they appreciate student comments on how they are doing. This is apparently a new market for them, and they are interested in hearing from students. In all, it should be a good three years, and don't be afraid to call for that lost loonie.

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