

# Timely Commentary From Our Student Reps

## Art Reddin on the Board of Governors

I'm writing this in an attempt to clarify what happened at the last Board of Governors meeting. Although you suggested that the agenda was contentless, it seems to be the purpose of the Board to simply "rubber-stamp" through reports of decisions made by Board Committees. I doubt if the members could do otherwise, being unknowledgeable of all relevant information.

Anyway, here's a blow-by-blow account:

**ROUND ONE:** The meeting started with the election of the chairman. ST. Claire Trainor was nominated and seconded, it was moved, seconded, and passed that nominations cease, and Trainor became chairman. First Round goes to the mothers. Lack of chairman nominations indicated a lack of capable men. Nominations had to be chosen from the nine government appointees from outside the university community (according to the University Act). St. Claire Trainor is five times worse than Baker - "we can't go to the people, we have to act as the governing board", students and faculty are "misguided in their action", "ill-informed".

**ROUND TWO:** Debate opened on whether the meeting should be closed to the public. Reddin and Ozmon spoke for an open

meeting; Trainor, Pineau, and others spoke against. The vote was 13-4-1 to have the meeting closed. Round Two to the mums- an indication of things to come. It became evident during the meeting that "confidentiality of information" was simply an excuse to hide Board members' ignorance of information and events relevant to the issues discussed.

**ROUND THREE:** The Board received reports and passed recommendations from several committees. The Finance Committee, in particular, received much critical questioning on the 1974-75 Auditors Financial Statement, but like other business this too was passed by large majority. Ma Barker's Round, split decision. Although they demand a great amount of time and work, committees are more representative of the university community's wishes than the Board is, with a student, faculty, and layman appointed to each. Baker is not particularly powerful in Board meetings but holds his power by getting around the Board, as an ex officio member of the committees and by keeping controversial information hidden (as in the Financial Statement). As impossible as it sounds, Baker is preferable to the Board - in fact, he is less bigotted and thick-headed than about two-

thirds of the Board.

**ROUND FOUR:** Debate opened on the strike situation. Den is Clough made an unexpected announcement that he had made an offer that day which the arbitrators expected the union would accept. St. Claire Trainor urged the Board to do nothing and let the negotiations continue. Heated debate ensued on the necessity to settle the strike immediately and on the action the Board should take if negotiations broke down. The referendum results which showed the university community overwhelmingly in support of the union's demands were read, and several powerfully-worked motions from the Arts Faculty and Faculty Association were reported as was Woozy's statement that the student union would take "drastic action" in the event of negotiation breakdown or stalling. Proposals which were, in effect, stalling tactics were over-ridden by the decision of the Board to meet immediately if negotiations broke down. A small but important victory. Fourth Round scored a draw. Clough's new offer before the meeting prevented the issue from coming to a head and stopped our ammunition from being used to its full effectiveness, but it did seem that the strike was finally about over.

Well, what can I say in conclusion? First, it seems clear to me that the appointed Board members are abominable; few are worth salvaging. Although they are supposed to represent the Island community, they are, in fact, the wealthy. I wouldn't hesitate to recommend having them replaced by people who are at least willing to stand up for what they believe, or to recommend having the Board replaced by another governing structure.

Secondly, unless the present situation is eradicated we will continue to be governed by a body which is neither particularly concerned nor informed about the desires of the people it governs.

And thirdly, I want to thank all those who voted in the referendum as it was a most effective weapon. Since I don't believe the results were published yet I'll give them here:

STUDENTS		STAFF		FACULTY	
Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
83%	17%	95%	5%	80%	20%
260	55	80	4	16	4

Of the total university community slightly over 85% were in favour of the motion. Incidently only one vote was cast by the Board of Governors - they were 100% in favour of the motion.

Arthur Reddin

## Ray Shalala on the Budget Committee Procedures

Without wishing to enter into an extended controversy, I think that, if all justice to myself and the Budget Committee, I should make some small explanation of the role we have played in the assessing of funds available for use by the several committees in the student union. We have been subjected to considerable controversy in both media on campus...some bantering and some serious. I do not think that students have really been given an opportunity to judge whether we have been trying to protect their interests or have simply been acting as Scrooges.

As you must concede, Students Union has limited amounts of funds to spend; and if we go beyond the limits we have set for ourselves; we are indiscreet and will have to pass on a deficit to succeeding student administrations and future students. If we stay within the limits, it appears that we are subject to some abuse. We have some fixed income

to work with, for example a reasonable estimate of Student Union fees, also we have some income which is variable but which may be estimated, for example Panther Club profit. We have certain expenditures that we can estimate with reasonable certainty, for example; insurance, staff salaries, Year Book, etc. and some that are variable but which must be paid, for example fuel for the Barn, garbage collecting, cleaning, telephone charges, repairs to the Barn, etc. We must estimate these and other items. Some activities may show a profit or a loss (for example, the Film Club, expected to show a profit last year actually lost over \$1000) The year before last Winter Carnival lost over \$2500. We must, then, make an estimate and hope that it is reasonably close to the final figure. We have done our best.

By accepting the position of Treasurer and working with the Budget Committee, I

believe that I am obligated to the Student Body, by whom I am entrusted with the administration of funds, to try, to the best of my ability, to conserve their money wherever possible and to see that it is spent in the way deemed most advantageous to the student body...and not to overspend.

In co-operation with the Budget Committee, appointed by Student Council, we took what we figured to be the estimated income and from this subtracted those items which we considered as inescapable. What was left over, we felt could be distributed among the various clubs who had submitted their requirements, mostly CIMN, the Cadre, and the Photo Club. We, the Budget Committee, do not believe that we can conscientiously plan for a deficit.

We understand that each campus activity believes that its role on the campus is the most important and that its budget is the one

which cannot be cut but we of the Budget Committee, feel that the difference between estimated income and fixed costs should be the funds available for estimated distribution and I wish to point out that it was the decision of the Budget Committee, bolstered by the approval of the Students Council (which is the group elected by the Student Body) which allotted the funds. This was not, by any stretch of the imagination, a personal vendetta of mine on any group, which seems to be the indication of the reports which have reached the student of U.P.E.I.

Should there be any further discussion of these matters, it would be appreciated if the matter be taken up with the Student Council or the Budget Committee, of which I have the honour to be a member; before slanted or prejudiced statements are circulated.

Sincerely Yours,  
Ray Shalala  
Treasurer, UPEISU