

# Love proposes lounge improvements

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U.P.E.I.

By Ruth Edgett

It's going to take more than the cheapest liquor prices in the province to make the Panther Lounge as popular among UPEI students as some of Charlotteville's other night spots, says Heather Love, business manager for the Student Union.

She told the SU Council at its bi-monthly meeting Monday night that even though the lounge on the ground floor of the Barn has been holding its own, it certainly isn't living up to its potential in sales. She proposed the hiring of a full-

time manager-social director and improvements to the Lounge in an effort to turn the sales picture around.

Each year, the SU undertakes one large project, and Love said since no other suggestions have been put forward, she wants hers considered. The changes in the management of the Lounge would increase Student Union revenues which could be put toward other services and eliminate the need to raise student fees, she said. As well, a full-time staff person in charge of the bar and scheduling main events would leave council members free

for other projects more closely related to representing their constituents.

Love's proposal seeks \$9,000 from this year's Student Union budget to supply a full-service bar with a dish washer, ice machine and glassware instead of the plastic cups that are currently in use. That money would also take care of changes in lighting, tables and decoration. She stipulated that the money be appropriated only if the year-end budget balance can accommodate it.

Following budgets would include salary allocations for a 36-week position. Love

said she estimated the salary and benefits at between \$9,000 and \$10,000 for an employee who would either take summers off or find alternative employment in that period.

The proposal was well-received by council members, but a motion to allocate immediately \$9,000 of the budget balance after March 31 was defeated by councillors who said they wanted more time to gather information and consider the project.

Love told the council she can see the potential for sales. She cited sales figures for the past six years which fluctuated between \$40,000 and \$70,000 until 1981-82. But when the Lounge was renovated after a fire in the

summer of 1982, liquor sales jumped to \$117,000. Love said the only logical reason she can see for the astronomical boost in sales is that the renovations made the lounge more attractive. If that is the case, a few more improvements could improve sales even more, she said.

The business manager said the new full-time position would pay for itself if sales increased by \$23,000 or \$140 a night, next year. With physical improvements and a person to devote full-time efforts to booking bands and main events, such an increase is possible.

Jim Mutter, vice-president internal, who is currently in charge of booking bands, said he would welcome the

change. He said the job of gambling Student Union money on bands that he hopes will attract crowds is a high-pressure one that could use an experienced person who would be in that position year after year.

But some council members were worried that a position of 36-weeks in duration might not be able to keep the same manager coming back. Love said she believes council could find the right person who would find the job a challenge and be eager to return to it each fall. She suggested a bartender who worked at tourist operations in the summer might be interested.

The student newspaper of the University of Prince Edward Island

## The Netted Gem

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Tadaah! Introducing the superlative, the dedicated, the imaginative, the suicidal, the one-and-only Winter Carnival Committee! Front: Janice Campbell, Cathy Genge, and David Doiron. Back: Mary McCarville and Bertha Roberts. See pages 3 and 7. (Photo: Grimmer.)

### Astronomy Flash:

Sirius, the Dog Star, is drawing closer to Earth at the rate of nine miles a second. Someday, astronomers say, we could be in Sirius trouble!

## Canertech to UPEI: Give us your hot air!

By Carolyn Ryan

Big brother will soon be watching us — that is, if a computer controlling room temperatures all over the university can be said to be anyone's brother.

The \$235,000 computer control centre is the main product in a half-million dollar energy-saving package meant to make UPEI a "showcase" of energy enlightenment, according to Jacques Michaud, president of Canertech Conservation (NB-PEI) Inc.

Last Wednesday, university president Peter Meincke signed an agreement with the crown corporation whereby Canertech supplies the capital for nine energy-conserving measures and the university pays the bill over five years at prime interest rates, out of the savings accrued from those measures.

As Meincke puts it, "It almost sounds too good to be true."

The process started last August with a complete energy audit of the campus, including looks at lighting, heating, and ventilation systems. Then the consulting consortium, which includes two Island firms, made twelve recommendations to the university administration.

The university had three choices, according to Meincke. It could have ignored the report, it could have paid the \$22,000 cost and made the implementations on its own, or it could have accepted the aid Canertech offered.

Needless to say, the last choice was taken, Officials hope the whole system, including the computer monitor, the installation of weatherstripping and storm windows in needed areas, the modification of ventilation equipment and the central steam boilers, and the replacement of some lighting elements with more economic ones, will be in operation by October or November, 1984.

Canertech is what Michaud calls a "unique crown corporation with a mandate to offer professional energy management services. "It has existed for only a few years, so UPEI will be the first institution in the region to assess its promise of "bringing entire energy systems up to optimal operation." The company is presently doing a study at the Confederation Centre of the Arts in Charlottetown.

Michaud thinks Canertech's program can save the university \$160,000 a year, and is quick to note that once the savings have paid off the initial investment of \$500,000, all future savings belong to the university.

In the event that the university does not save the half-million in the scheduled five years, he says, the remainder of the debt is cancelled.

Also, because of Canertech's position as a crown corporation with the Ministry of Energy, Mines, and Resources as a shareholder, the interest rates will

be better than UPEI could have negotiated itself.

The computer control centre is something Don Coles, director of the Physical Plant at UPEI, has been wanting for a long time. Besides maintaining temperatures, the microprocessor unit could be the "first step in a more comprehensive unit at a later date" which could incorporate security control, entrance, and fire alarms, as well as ventilation and air conditioning.

The local consultants, Coles Associates Ltd., and Richardson Associates, Ltd. of Charlottetown, used the latest in known technology to design their system, but were hampered by the layout of the UPEI campus. "There are only 65 things you can do to a building," said one spokesperson. "The problem is you've got a lot of smaller buildings."

The work, expected to start soon, will proceed by tender, and any Charlottetown firms with the proper capabilities will be given consideration.

But will this mean that traditionally cold places, such as the main study carrel area on the second floor of Robertson Library, will have their temperatures increased to acceptable levels?

No, says consultant Doug Coles.

"We can't guarantee an increase in comfort," he admits, "but we can guarantee that if you're uncomfortable, it will be cheaper."