

THE UPEI SUN

VIKING EDITION

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GRINDING GEARS

by Heather MacDougall

Of the people who come to universities like U.P.E.I. there those who feel that the academic machine which gobbles precious scholar collars is beginning to run down. Everyone wonders why the machine doesn't fix itself by remote control. However, saying that the problems of the university should be solved by the institution itself is a very vague answer.

What is the university? Do the facilities and location make the school? Certainly the bold stone buildings, the oak shaded avenues, and the old lecture

halls all add to the academic atmosphere, as do the pyrex potted laboratories, the hum and click computer terminals, and the stacks and shelves, abstracts and encyclopedias. But are the classroom and cafeteria what make the university? As we build more buildings and catalog more equipment, will the university continue to improve? If we remove all these things, is it doomed to die? A true academic institution is not only what is sealed in brick and mortar. When we enter its door, something must stop us and

tell us something before we breeze out the exit. Formal education should not be defined by mere physical buildings of high schools or universities. Its true definition must rest with people: the pupil and his teacher. Without a co-operative relationship no education exists and what we call "education" is a farce. In the high schools, teachers will always have an audience because our social laws compel everyone to take a basic course of study. Although this form of education is truly a

privilege, few regard it as such. Thus, some students become interested; some do not, but all must attend class. Some teachers inspire; some do not, but all are given equal time. The university relationship is a little different, however. It is assumed that students are here because they want to be here. The students choose and pay for the courses they wish to take and therefore wield a certain control over the quality of education they receive. For example, a professor

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