

Women's Centre or Help Centre?

By Colin Bassett

For many students of UPEI, the first year of university is also the first year away from home.

In this new environment, these students are quite likely to encounter any of the many problems that today's students do face, be it drug abuse, alcoholism, stress caused by this new environment, home sickness, financial difficulties, sexual abuse or harassment, or pregnancy. These instances are not rare.

The point is that once a student finds that he/she is faced with a problem, the next obstacle is finding help. A student in unfamiliar surroundings runs the risk of just letting the problem fester, rather than seeking help, even though there is a building on campus that can offer services and liaisons to services which would help the students.

The services of the Women's Center are available to both males and females who find themselves in any of the above predicaments.

The dilemma here is that many male students are most likely unaware of the fact that men and women alike are welcome to the center, and even if they were, most male students may not feel very comfortable in seeking guidance at a place called the Women's Center.

This is not to say that UPEI needs a "Men's Center," nor does it imply that the services offered at the Women's Center are more applicable to male students. It does imply, however, that if

the doors are open to both sexes at the Women's Center, it would make more sense to change the sign to better represent the center's services. Perhaps renaming it the UPEI Student Help Center.

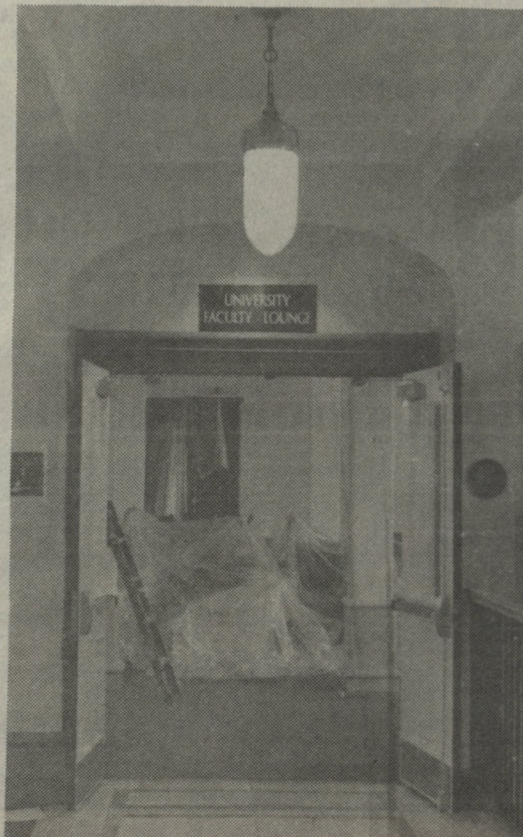
An informal poll of female and male students support this transition.

Female students were asked "if you were in need of help, would it matter what the name of the Center was called where you sought help?" All of the women asked revealed

that there was nothing in a name.

Male students were asked "If you were in need of help would you feel comfortable in seeking help at the Women's Center located on campus?" All of the men replied no.

Although a very unscientific poll with a relatively low cross-section of the campus, these answers do reflect popular opinion. The change of the sign would be a step in the right direction.



Faculty Lounge, undergoing major facelift - photo K. Patterson

The Cadre
welcomes
anyone
who is
interested
in informing
UPEI.

A meeting will be held on Thursday, October 30th at Main Building Rm 6 at 5:00 PM. No experience necessary. No shirt, no shoes, no service.