

# Editor's Message

Dear UPEI Students,

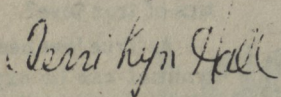
I didn't think the day would ever come but its here, the last issue of the semester. Its been a long hard year at the Gem but I would like to think that we've made an impression on the students. We've tried a few new things this year as you all have noticed, and for the most part we have met with great success. Sure there have been complaints, but no matter what we do or how well we do it, there will always be somebody who thinks we could have done it better. UPEI is a very small university and I think it is fair to say that it is also a very conservative university. We have taken a chance by printing articles which editors in the past have not even attempted. Yes, this might be a little fool hardy, but I assure each and every one of you that it was not my intent to offend anyone. There are many things which we do not feel especially comfortable talking about, but does that mean we should ignore them? I think not. We have tried to cover issues like homosexuality and female sexuality to the best of our ability. I would also like to point out that for every one of you that complained about the subject matter or language used, there were three people who commended us for it. Students do not want to read textbooks in their spare time, nor do they want to read the Globe and Mail, for the most part. Some people have been trying to mold the Gem into either of the above. It is not our duty to cover the news like the Globe and Mail or to write in a textbook like manner. It is our duty to print articles which are of interest to students, and to write in a language that students can understand. Articles do not have to be educational in order to please students, and sometimes the articles which some feel are offensive are the ones the students want to read. Once again I would like to say that we did not intent to offend anyone, and I feel that the entire Gem staff did a damn good job this year considering our limited resources and fossil-like equipment. Hopefully this year's Gem has been an eye opener for some.

I would like to thank everybody who has contributed to the Gem this year in any way. This includes all the paid Gem staff (you all did a great job), layout volunteers (we couldn't have done it without you), all you regular contributors (your hard work is much appreciated), and most of all you, the students of UPEI who read the paper. I also would like to express my thanks to the Student Union for making the Gem possible. We would have never made it through the year without all your advice and support.

Remember, the Gem belongs to the students of UPEI. If you don't contribute you are only hurting yourself. But if you want a really great student newspaper we need everybody to pull together and work hard. I think that we accomplished a great deal this year but there is still so much more to do. The plans I have for the future of the Gem cannot be accomplished without the help of the students. If you volunteered this year, we love you! but if you didn't, please make a point of it next year. Every contribution, no matter how great or small, makes a significant difference in the quality of "your" student newspaper.

Good luck with your exams, have a wonderful summer, and see you in the fall. To all graduating students, good luck with your job search and don't forget the good ole university that made it possible!

Respectfully yours,



Terri Lyn Hall  
Gem Editor

## Letters to the Editor

I have read with disappointment the letter by Lloyd F.J. MacDonald in the previous issue. The letter is a misrepresentation of the facts and an attempt to rally student support for a non-constructive agenda.

As a member of the Computer Advisory Committee (CAC), I would like to explain the recent measures taken to reduce the workload on the central computing facility and relate these to an arising need for policy realignment.

During the past couple of years, computer usage at UPEI has grown at an exponential rate. This is most noticeable in Novem-

ber and March. This year, November's level caused considerable system stress as witnessed by many complaints from students about unacceptably slow computer response. As the March peak approached, it became clear that a capacity shortfall could only be avoided by taking immediate action to reduce the VAX workload.

The Director of the Computer Centre brought this concern to the Computer Advisory Committee. It was this committee (not the Director, as Mr. MacDonald states) which identified and authorized the following "emergency measures":

- Access to electronic mail

was disabled for first year course accounts. While experimentation with Mail is common, there are no courses which require it (and most students will readily acknowledge its use to be "leisurely").

- Access to the Swing and Bulletin utilities were withdrawn from first year accounts. These utilities are not required by any courses (and very few first year students use them).

- The LATEX typesetting system was made unavailable to first year accounts. The production of typeset material is an expensive unnecessary luxury (the vast majority of quality reports pro-

duced by government and industry are produced by word processing, not typesetting).

- Further issuing of personal accounts was suspended. Most universities do not support personal accounts.

It should be emphasized that these measures must not be construed as long term established policy. It should also be pointed out, that performance statistics have since shown that the measures were effective in preventing a capacity crises.

The reasons for some measures being applied to first year student accounts are not intended

Continued on page 5...

The Gem  
The Gem  
The Gem

**Editor-in-Chief:**

Terri Lyn Hall

**Production Editor:**

Dave MacKinnon

**Advertising Manager:**

Jim McGrath

**Photographer:**

Sue Rigney

**Typesetter:**

Simon T. Berge

**Chief Technical Liason:**

John Doucette

**CUP Editor:**

Matthew Willis

**Graphics Editor:**

Liam Whitty

**Feature Writer:**

Candi Mackie

**Circulation Manager:**

Ian Wood

**Layout Personnel:**

Kheng-Wee Wah

**Submission Policy**

We reserve the right to edit submissions due to taste and/or space limitations and not to print submissions that are submitted after the deadline of Monday at 3:00pm. Submissions to the GEM become the property of the GEM unless other arrangements have been made. All submissions can be submitted to the GEM through the GemSlot on the office door in Main Building Room B06 or through the VAX to account GEM. (We cherish typed submissions.) Those which are libelous, racist, homophobic, or attempt to incite violence or hatred toward a particular person or group will not be printed.

Any member of the university community can make a contribution to The GEM, but the editor also reserves the right to print submissions from outside the university community.

The staff of the GEM can be seen in their natural habitat in their basement office in Main Building, room B06. We can also be contacted by voice by calling 566-0629, or leaving a message with our secretary at 566-0530.

The GEM

University of PEI  
550 University Ave.  
Charlottetown, PEI  
C1A 4P3