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*The Cadre* is the official newspaper of the UPEI Student Union.  
2,000 copies of *The Cadre* are printed 10 times per semester.  
There are meetings open to anyone Mondays at 5:00 in Main 06.

The deadline for submissions is Friday at 5:00 PM.

The opinions expressed within *The Cadre* do not necessarily  
represent the views of UPEI or the UPEI Student Union Inc.

Letters to the editor: mdorrell@upei.ca

## Editorial 8: Michael is Hungry and Stuck in Traffic

At home, he's been eating almost nothing except peanut butter and fried banana sandwiches. Sometimes he paints thin stripes of strawberry jam back and forth, crisscrossing the peanut butter. Both his frying pans, many utensils and a few scattered patches of clothing are caked in a gluey banana resin which fixes to nearby objects with a ferocity that suggests it too might have been unlucky in love.

Lately he has been extremely concerned about the onset of balding. Its become his habit to inspect his hairline when stuck in traffic, like he is doing now. Michael has been trying to avoid doing this so often because *its not as if traf-fic jams really need to be any more stressful do they, for Christs sake?*

Once, when he was about eight years old, Michael's family went camping in the foothills. On the second day of the trip Michael was fighting with his brother and losing, so he let his family get ahead of him. Somehow he wandered off the path and became lost immediately. His father found him half an hour later, sitting against a tree crying. The blue cap the passenger in the Toyota wears reminds Michael of this for the first time in years.

The bananas hanging from the supermarket shelves were an unspotted uniform yellow. They might have been cartoon bananas, they were so perfect, hanging cleverly between the endless excitement of row upon row of cereal boxes. Seeing bananas displayed in this new context was so profound that Michael, then and there, embarked on a enthusiastic healthy eating plan which lasted well into the next aisle.

He is listening intently to the radio, trying not to think about the cashier at the grocery store and the way she accidentally slid her fingers across the palm of his hand, the one holding exact change. Michael is listening to a country song and not thinking about the girl's eyes, or the way she thanked him for shopping, or that she can't be more than a year older than his daughter.

He is thinking about the groceries in the trunk. If he timed it right, he might be able to flip the latch for the trunk, jump out of the car, run to the trunk, grab the bag with the bagels and the cream cheese, and be back in the car before the traf-fic ever noticed he was gone. Instead he sits tapping the steering wheel, moving forward in tiny erratic fits, Michael pops the cinnamon breath mint into his mouth and tries to make it last.

Matthew Dorrell,  
Editor-in-Chief

*The Cadre* invites all students, staff, faculty and Cadre readers to submit to *The Cadre* Christmas issue. All submissions (fiction, non-fiction, poetry, etc.) are welcome, with the exception of news, sports and the like. Submissions need not be Christmas related, though we really do like Christmas. And eggnog.

Personal stories are preferable to stories about millionaire tycoons whose hearts are forever changed by the true meaning of Christmas, though this OK too. *The Cadre* also appreciates candy canes, chocolate oranges, turkey stuffing, fuzzy hand-knit sweaters, and drunken uncles. Even fruit cake.

Deadline for submissions is November 30th.