

# Island Welfare Assistance needed

By Gary Fisher

After six months of inactivity on the part of the government of P.E.I. a group of concerned citizens got together last Monday night in the Chaplaincy Centre to highlight the recommendations of the Ministerial Commission of Inquiry into Welfare Assistance and to decide what can be done about the report now.

This inquiry was suppose to A) become aware of and document the different claims made against those people receiving government assistance, B) to discover what the public response is to welfare recipients, and C) to determine what can be done in order to improve the living conditions of those people who are receiving government assistance. After 19 public hearings (more people attended these meetings than have attended any previous government inquiry) the members of the commission submitted their report to the government in August 1980.

The recommendations of this commission fall very short of the proposals which will bring the welfare recipient up to the living standards of the majority of Islanders. However, they are an improvement over what exists at the present time. What this report clearly demonstrates is the need for change, in order to insure that the recipient of government funds can remain alive.

The group of concerned citizens, although not entirely happy with all the recommendations within the report, view the report as a step

towards removing the burdens that have been placed upon these people. At the meeting they were told that this step had been taken away.

A high ranking official had informed the organizers of this meeting that "the government has shelved the report" and that "the purpose of the commission was to clear the name of the department." This attitude on the part of the government may be okay when dealing with inanimate things, but this report deals with the welfare and survival of fellow Islanders. The group decided that it could not allow the government to take such a diabolical approach in their treatment of any Islander and has decided to take action.

The course of action that the group has decided upon is a traditional one. They are asking individuals and groups to get in touch with their elected representatives in order to ensure that the government will not be able to forget this report. By contacting their individual MLA's and the minister Jim Lee, this group hopes that it will be able to bring this issue to the forefront again. The group is also seeking the support of various organizations throughout the Island in the hope that through their organizations they can gather additional strength.

It is about time that the university comes down of its high horse and becomes actively involved in the community. It is time that both the faculty and students of this university stood up to be counted. We can no longer hope to remain hidden away in our ivory tower but must enter

into the real world. If we fail to support people in need of food, how can we expect people to support or even understand our needs. Both the president of this university and the president of the student union have stated that UPEI has to become more involved in the community. The university has been presented with the opportunity to return to the community and play an active role within it. If the president, faculty and students of this university fail to become involved in the plight

of the poor of this province, then the university no longer exists. It is just a figment of our imagination, and if you can sit by and let people go without food then by God I wish that you were only a figment of my imagination.

If this article has caused you to question yourself, then get out there and do something, get this university to take a stand, become involved

and come to the next meeting on March 9, 8:00 in the Chaplaincy Centre,

## SUN bowls over CIMN

by M&M

The SUN staffers were their usual brilliant selves at the Bowl for Millions contest on Sat. and, as was predicted, were victorious over the "motley crew of CIMN radio gutter snipes".

The fantabulous five captained by Paul "Daddy Long Legs" Robinson consisted of Mike "The Arm" Armitage, Gary "Strikeroo" Fisher (who incidentally had the highest score much to the surprise of his sponsors). Marie "Went for a loop" LeLoup and last but not least "Marvelous"

"Swiftly" MacFadyen, Scott "Twinkle Toes" Jay, Margaret "Juicy" Archibald and Marjorie "The Mascot" Archibald.

The Student Union's executive ability did nothing to help their bowling score: They lost to both the Sun and CIMN (doesn't that say something?). Captain "Hungover" Sue Parloo did her best to stand up and lead the team, but gave up and went back to bed. What else could Sue be expected to do considering that she had to help the following team:



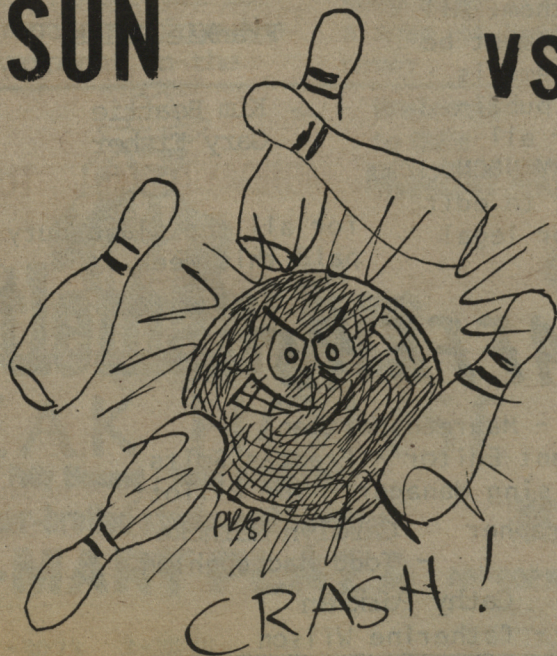
Photo by Kerry Kearns

left to right: Gary Fisher, Marsha Smith, Paul Robinson Paul Robinson, Marie LeLoup, Mike Armitage.

SUN

vs.

cimn



Marsha Smith who stood up for her name and broke the 100 point mark...but we won't say by how much.

The CIMN losers could not face their loss and some insisted on telling people that they had won. Patrick "Gutterball" Kelly tried valiantly to lead his team to victory, although even his best was not enough with such a team. The team members were Garth "The Mover" Coughlin, David

The late Philip "Cement Head" Brown, Jackie "Not Much Better" MacNeill, Joanne "Fall on Her Knees" Baglole and Phyllis "Bop Perfect" Noring. When Captain "Hungover" woke up, she was surprised to learn that it was 5 pin and not 10 pin bowling.

It is fair to say that a "fun time" was had by all, although some had more fun than others. Oh well, gutter luck next time CIMN and Student Union.