

NEWS & FEATURES

Regional conference to be held on student aid

Students will meet to discuss crisis in students' financial assistance.

BY BRUCE DAVISON

UNIVERSITY EDUCATION IS SLIPPING out of the reach of many ordinary people. Tuition rises ten percent a year, students' debtload grows to unmanageable levels, but at the same time the maximum amount of money available to individuals through the Canada Student Loans Program (CSLP) has not increased in ten years.

Since the maximum personal amount under the CSLP was set at \$3360 in 1983-84, U.P.E.I.

tuition has risen 83%. It is with signs of declining access in mind that representatives from student associations from all over Atlantic Canada are meeting next weekend to discuss student aid.

The Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) Atlantic Student Aid Conference is going to be held on February 12th and 13th on the Dalhousie University Campus. The purpose of the conference is to examine the current situation with student aid and possible solutions

to a basic problem -- how to reform student aid in ways that will make education more accessible to students, or at least to maintain present accessibility.

In the past few years a variety of student aid reform ideas have been proposed. Many of these are scheduled to be discussed at the conference. Among these are income contingency, the process where students would repay student loans at a rate dependent on their income level; privatization, when student

assistance programs are turned over to banks; and various other proposals. Most Atlantic Members of Parliament were also invited to the conference although only one has, at press time, confirmed his attendance. While the conference is not expected to solve the crisis in student aid, some discussion on the problems faced by students couldn't possibly hurt.

The UPEI School of Nursing wins award

Award promotes young nursing school

BY YVONNE MACKEAN

AT A RECENT CONFERENCE, THE UPEI School of Nursing was the recipient of an Achievement Award from the Canadian Nursing Students Association (CNSA/AEIC), Atlantic region.

The National Conference of CNSA/AEIC was held January 19-23 at UNB in Fredericton. UPEI School of Nursing was represented by official delegate Angela Stewart and associate delegate Robin Hewitt. The theme of the Conference was "Nursing: The Next Generation". The Conference consisted of guest speakers, the passing of CNSA/AEIC resolutions and other business.

The Achievement Award was voted on by the other thirteen Atlantic nursing schools. These schools include diploma and collaborative

nursing schools. The criteria for the award included communications (national and regional), finances, promotion of CNSA/AEIC and fundraising. When the winner was announced, "the look on our faces would have been priceless" says delegate Angela Stewart. Both delegates agreed that they were overwhelmed when they realized that their school had won. The Dean of Nursing, Margaret Munro, said Angela's "eyes were shining" upon her arrival back at the School after the Conference.

The Dean was very impressed with the award. This regional honour puts the UPEI School of Nursing on the map. The school opened September of 1992. It currently has 33 full time first year students (6 part time) and 24 second year students. The faculty consists

of 6 full time and 3 part time staff. The degree the School offers is a four year Bachelor of Science in Nursing. The program has lecture and practical work. It is a community based health care program. First year includes work with elderly people, clinical labs, tutorials, and hospital experience. The second year includes work with young families, as well as surgical and pediatric work at the hospital. The school has been well received in the community. The patients "love it" says Angela.

The most beneficial aspect of winning the award is the publicity. The award promotes the School of Nursing. This is very beneficial because the school has only been operating for two years. The Dean says this is why winning is so impressive. Angela says the award also helps promote CNSA/AEIC. It is like a family

for nursing students. It helps Island nursing students feel connected to off Island students of nursing, which is especially important since the UPEI School of Nursing is the only nursing school on the Island.

The School is also hosting the CNSA/AEIC Atlantic Region Conference in October of 1994, where they are expecting fifty to eighty participants. Also of note are Angela's plans to run for a position on the CNSA/AEIC Atlantic Region executive. The school will be "peddling" PEI Nursing clothing as well. Anyone wishing more information on the School of Nursing can locate them in the Steele building.

Congratulations to the School of Nursing on their Achievement Award!



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