

# QUO VADIS

Let me congratulate the Cadre on starting a debate on the future role of UPEI.

In P.E.I. two statements regarding the university come up from time to time and must be faced. One is that it would be cheaper to send our students to a mainland university than having a university on the Island. The validity of this statement cannot be ascertained easily. It depends on an analysis of social costs and benefits which in turn depends largely on human values that cannot be expressed quantitatively. For example, what kind of community do we want in P.E.I. and would the quality of that community be enhanced by the university? -- One could equally state, and perhaps with greater justification, that we do not need a provincial government; that it would be cheaper to be governed from Halifax or Fredericton. Again, it would be difficult to bolster this argument in quantitative terms only. Nevertheless, Prof. Nagarajan has shown the economic importance of the university, in its present form, in purely quantitative terms, i.e. how university associated spending filters through the Island community. A recent article in the Halifax Chronicle Herald points out the great economic importance of St. Francis Xavier University to Antigonish. -- At any rate, it seems that the argument for an Island university rests very much on the accrual of social benefits from the university to the Island.

If, for example, we do little more than prepare young people for export to other parts of Canada, somebody might argue convincingly that this could be accomplished better elsewhere in Canada.

This brings us to another statement sometimes heard in connection with the university. It is indirectly connected with the first, and says that the university does not get sufficiently involved with the Island community. A couple of years ago the Faculty Association was so concerned with this problem that faculty members were asked to list all kinds of actual & possible community involvement, including leadership of boy scout troops. I believe that there is sufficient informal involvement of faculty in the community. But I think more formal involvement is needed through extension work particularly in our primary industries.

Without a doubt, food and fibre, which includes not only farming and fishing

but also related supply & processing industries, are the mainstay of the P.E.I. economy. In this P.E.I. is unique within the Atlantic region -- food and fiber, and particularly agriculture, play a much smaller relative part in our sister Atlantic provinces. Interesting career opportunities in the food and fiber section of our economy are bound to arise -- the average age of our farmers is close to 60 years. Yet there is next to no interest among P.E.I. high school leavers in an agricultural career (as ascertained in a study by Prof. Nagarajan). Not one of the many universities in Atlantic Canada confers a degree in agriculture. The Truro Agricultural College provides the first two years of a degree course. Demands for a full degree agricultural course in Atlantic Canada are heard from time to time. No doubt, some would like to see Truro become another small university in this region. Perhaps the best we

## Hand it Over

Although it's been said many times many ways -- (boycott G.J.'s) -- have we in actuality been doing this? From my own experience as an attender of this "very elite club", I would say that the place is dying and should have been dead long ago (as far as UPEI students are concerned). However, this factor undoubtedly, has an effect on the life of our student body here at UPEI. In the good ole' days, it was a way of life for most students either legally or illegally (when 21 year restriction applied) to socialize after classes, before hockey games, after football games, etc., at the happy haven called G.J.'s. This had its various effects such as late sleepers, drunken girls, etc., etc. But one aspect of this flocking to Jim's had its good effect on the student body. This gathering of students did tend to unity. But who wants to attain a unity at the cost of 90¢ a beer (\$5.00 a night).

I think if we are rational, we can see that we are losing our spirit. It is obviously shown by the supporters of the hockey team for example. If I remember correctly, there were buses rented for two or three away games last year. Yet this year, only one student signed up to travel to U. of Moncton. I am quite aware that the schedule is set up differently. But, hockey is not the question to be dealt with here. It is somewhat

could hope for is to have Truro Agricultural College affiliate with UPEI. With the help of the Canada Agriculture Research Station, directly adjacent to our

campus, we might be able to provide the last two years for degree students from Truro. This would not be an ideal arrangement, but it would at least put part of the action in Atlantic Canada agricultural education where it belongs, namely in P.E.I.

We would then have a faculty of Agriculture (perhaps joined to science) & it would have to play an important part in agricultural extension. The lack of university involvement in agricultural extension in Atlantic Canada can be demonstrated with reference to CANFARM -- the Canadian Farm Management Data System with headquarters in Guelph Ontario. Each province from Quebec westward has a university cooperating with CANFARM -- but not one university is connected with

obvious, from my point of view, that there is a necessity for alcohol in order for students to socialize. We are quite aware that the "spirits" are generally quite "high" at the regular Thursday night Pig 'N' Whistles. For most students the Pig is a regular event and it is obvious that most enjoy themselves or they wouldn't return week after week. Is it not possible for a liquor license to be obtained for more than once a week? Why should we spend money at any club such as G.J.'s which is constantly ripping off their customers by charging high prices? The present law stating that a liquor license is made available only once a week or on special occasions is somewhat in need of revisions, I would say. -- If this is our need? -- Why should a license not be made permanently or at least twice a week?

The voting age in the province of P.E.I. is presently 18 years. So this means that most students at UPEI have a vote. And is it not correct that we will be having a provincial election pretty soon (the spring)? Think about it! Why be ripped off? Why not but beer 2 or 3 nights a week from Earle and the boys at 60¢ instead of at a club. By doing this we would at least be supporting our university financially and "spiritually" instead of creating millionaires out of club managers and owners!! -- Think it over!! --