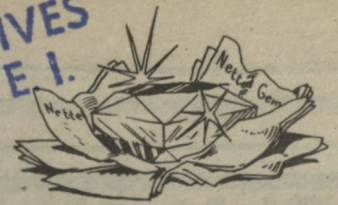
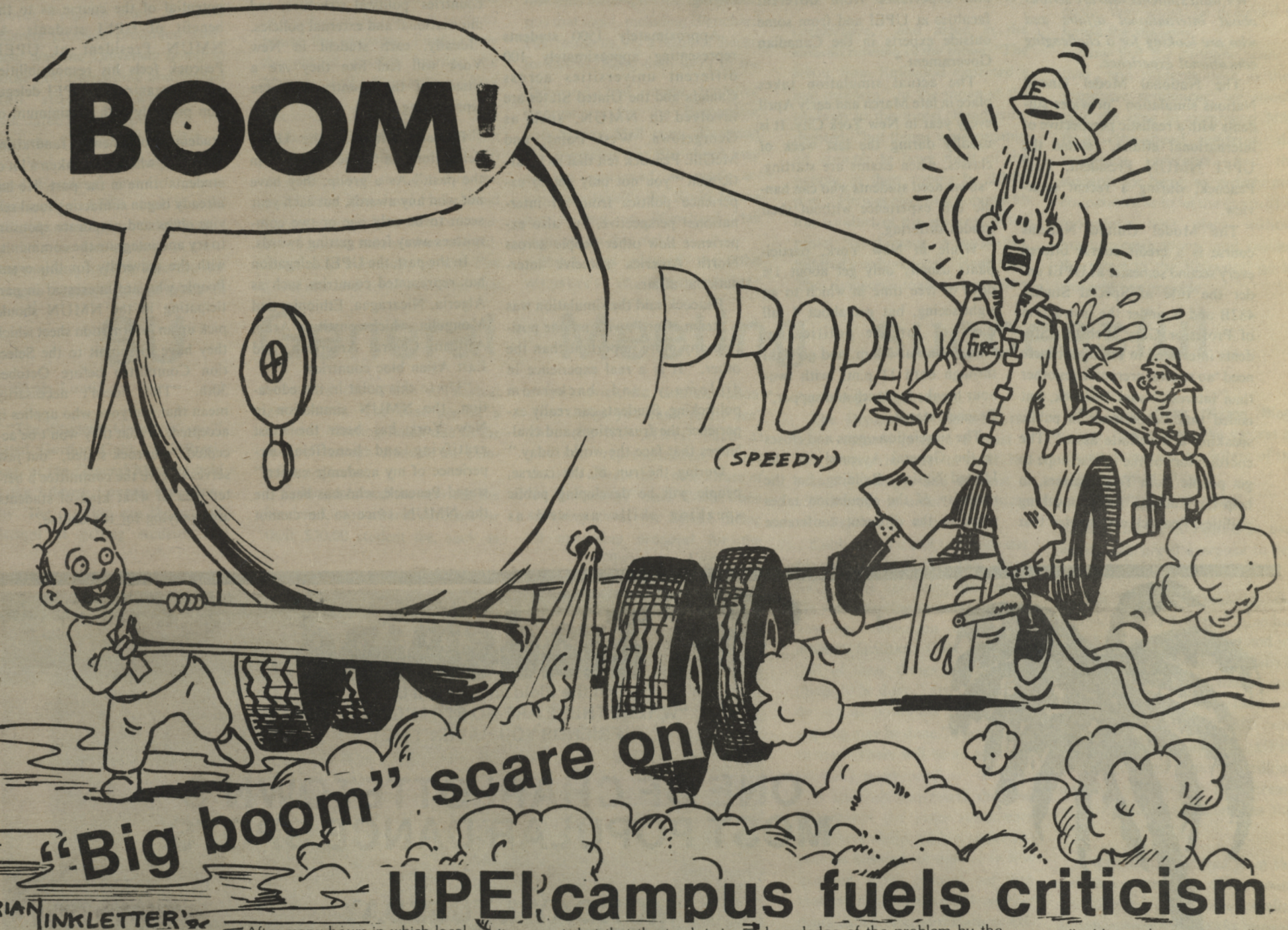


The Netted Gem

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U.P.E.I.



Issue No. 8 university of prince edward island October 25, 1985



UPEI campus fuels criticism.

I was walking home last Thursday afternoon, the 17th, by way of the Blanchard Hall field. As I passed through the Marian and Bernardine Hall parking lot, I noticed two propane trucks parked there. That's it. I kept on walking. Little did I, or many other students who walked by those trucks that afternoon know that their lives were in danger by doing so.

At approximately 1:00 p.m. that afternoon, a Speedy Propane truck with about 750 gallons of propane in its tank, while filling the residence's tanks, experienced a propane leak. Security was notified immediately about the leak, however, no evacuation from the Bernardine and Marian Hall residences took place until after 4:00 p.m. that afternoon. The fire department was not notified until approximately 4:30 p.m.

After many hours in which local Speedy Propane employees attempted to burn off the propane left in the tank, two Speedy Propane officials from Waverly, Nova Scotia, who had travelled to P.E.I. when they heard of the gas leak, plugged the leak in about an hour and a half.

The same type of incident took place on August 8, 1982, causing an explosion in back of the Ponderosa Steak House on University Avenue. The 1982 explosion resulted in about 3 blocks of the city, both businesses and homes, being evacuated. At this time, experts from Moncton had to be brought in to Charlottetown to plug the leak.

The truck was rumored to have been confiscated after the U.P.E.I. incident, however sources say that

it was not, but that the truck is in Moncton undergoing a company inspection. The Fire Chief, Fire Inspector, and Fire Marshall, were unavailable for comment on this matter.

The students who were eventually evacuated from Marian and Bernardine Halls were housed at the Kirkwood Motel for the night. Director of Administration and Finance, Dennis Clough, said in an October 22 phone interview that the university was "not really sure yet," who would foot the costs of the motel bill, because they had "just got the invoice in yesterday."

The scene has sparked criticism throughout the university about how the situation was handled. The major concern was over the fact that students were not evacuated and the fire department not called immediately upon

knowledge of the problem by the Security Department. In a phone interview with Chief of Security, A.J. MacLeod, about the incident, he replied that there "is a meeting going on this morning about it."

Students are upset over the occurrence, and are demanding a full investigation. At the regular meeting of the Student Council last Sunday, a motion was brought forth for Gordon Cobb, SU President, "asking for an explanation of the events," said Carolyn Ryan VP Academic. Ryan further added that Cobb, "is going to be looking into it."

It is rumored that the University is conducting its own investigation into the propane leak and the way in which it was handled. In a recent phone interview with UPEI's President Eliot, he stated that "the Fire Marshall is conducting an investiga-

tion," adding to his statement, "we are cooperating with him." President Eliot felt that cooperation with the Fire Marshall was the best way in which the university could get to the bottom of the matter. The Fire Marshall is currently "interviewing staff members who have anything to contribute to his report." Eliot commented. The Fire Marshall, Ron Kennedy, was unavailable for comment on this matter.

As this week goes on, there will be many more discoveries about the cause of the propane leak, and how the situation was, and should have been handled. **The Netted Gem** is currently working on a follow-up story concerning the conclusions of the reports, and meetings, which are taking place this week about the incident.

by Sheila Lund