Challenge Of The Eighties

or

"What are they doing at that Planetarium?"

By Derrick Webber

One of the quietest events on campus has to be the university's new fund raising campaign, "Challenge of the Eighties." This campaign, the second in UPEI's history and the first in 13 years, seeks to raise over five million dollars for the renovation of three of UPEI's most antiquated buildings: Main, Cass, and the ailing Arena.

The Board of Governors began the campaign over the summer, setting up headquarters in the now monetarily-defunct UPEI Planetarium. Toronto fund raising firm Ketchum Canada Inc. has been hired by the university to do the planning and organizational dirty work.

Several prominent Islanders and alumni have been enlisted to head the canvasing; Charlottetown lawyer Alan Scales has been named General Chairman, with Rundell Seaman (Seaman Beverages) co-ordinating on-Island contributions and J.R. MacDonald organizing off-Island.

Challenge of the Eighties hopes to raise $5.2 million for renovations over the next five years, $500,000 of which is to come from the faculty, staff, and administration personnel of the university itself. The rest is to be contributed by individuals and corporations in PEI, the other Maritime provinces, and Ontario and Quebec.

As the fund increases, students can look forward to some much needed renovations taking place in Main, Cass and the Arena buildings. Here's what's planned:

Main Building: This is the building in the saddest shape of all. Structural changes have to be made to its 124 year-old frame and plans include a 25% increase in floor space, with 5 new classrooms, a language lab, conference room, and new entrance way. The existing faculty lounge will be expanded, and new mechanical, fire, and electrical systems will be installed.

Cass Chemistry Building: Some modernization work has already been carried out in Cass, and Challenge of the Eighties looks to finishing this work, along with installation of an elevator, proper chemical storage facilities, a research laboratory, and first-year student laboratory.

The Arena (Rink): Already a wall has fallen out of the rink and been replaced. In the next five years the plan is to add a 20 foot extension, providing an additional 1000 seats, plus replacing the insulation, mechanical, and electrical systems as well, and, hopefully, the walls.

According to campaign spokesmen, response to the Challenge campaign has been good, especially from the on-campus staff, faculty, and administrators, who were approached first for contributions. This group has already raised 48% of its goal amount for the fund.

Students are also expected to contribute to the fund through our Student Union, although the university is only just approaching us now. At the Veterinary College of Ontario, the student union decided to add as much as $50 onto student union fees for that institution's fund raising campaign, but spokesmen for UPEI's fund assures us that the UPEISU is free to decide what amount, if any, it wishes to donate. A general meeting between the SU and Lawson Drake, on-campus chairman of the fund, took place on Sunday at the UPEISU council meeting.

The renovations to campus buildings is meant to be completed by 1991, after which the university has planned even greater things. In the long range, funds collected through Challege of the Eighties will be used in the construction of a long-awaited fitness and recreation Centre, plus improvements to Duffy Science building and even the university-owned Student Union Building (the Barn).

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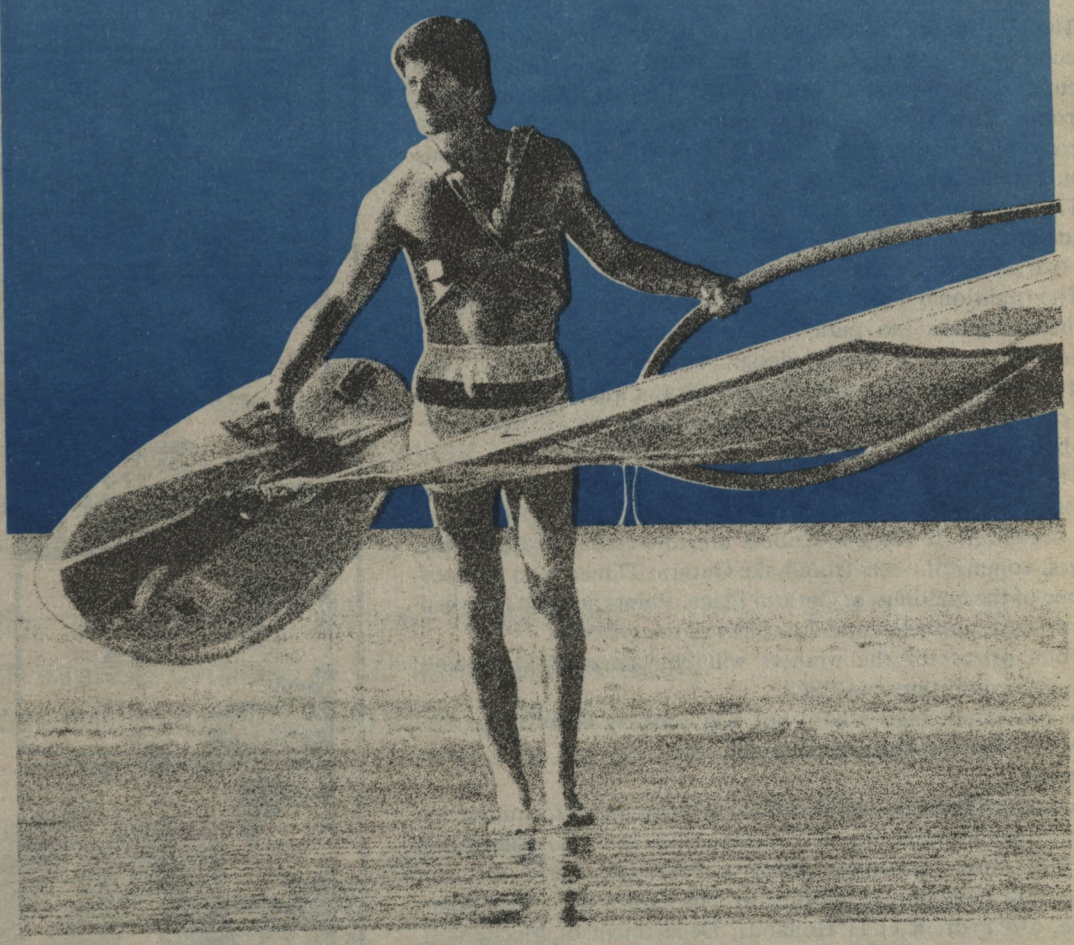

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