

### Women's Studies

# A group, a course, and a lecture series

By Karen McLenithan

They're not making a lot of noise, nor visibly changing the structure of UPEI, but the UPEI Women's Studies Group remains strongly committed to its goals.

According to Psych professor Beth Percival, the Group's purpose is two-fold. It aims to provide community awareness of women's contributions, thereby strengthening interest in women's issues. As well, the Group sees itself as a vehicle for promoting Women's Studies at UPEI.

Last winter, Professor Percival learned that the

Secretary of State had budgeted two and a half million dollars to create five new Women's Studies chairs, in one university in each region of Canada.

She organized a meeting of ten UPEI women: professors, researchers, and staff from the library, Extension services, and the Athletics Department.

They investigated the possibility of a Women's Studies Department coming to UPEI. When it became apparent that the Maritime chair was going to Mount St. Vincent in Halifax, the group looked to its own resources

to decide what to do next.

As a result, the innovative, "Family of Women" credit course began this fall, the first interdisciplinary women's studies course offered at UPEI.

The course topics range all the way from women's traditional roles to the changing political aspects of women's experiences. Yet, the team teaching is done entirely on a voluntary basis. The group would like more funding so that it can employ a paid co-ordinator for its activities.

The UPEI Women's Studies Group is promoting its message to more Island women by co-sponsoring (with CRIAW, the Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women and CCLOW, the Canadian Congress on Learning Opportunities for Women) the Voices of Women Lecture Series. Grant funds were awarded to bring well-known women to Charlottetown to speak on women's issues.

On November 8, Anne Hall will speak on "Women and Sport", while on November 29 Maureen Forrester of the Canada Council will share her concerns about "Women and the Arts".

Beth Percival believes that since "most academic disciplines focus very little on women", our experiences, our research, and contributions, Women's Studies is the only way in which to acclaim the female heritage.

According to Percival, Women's Studies is a rapidly-growing field, both in Canadian universities and abroad.

Women's Studies pulls together the incredible wealth of material by and about women, and highlights the unacknowledged assumptions or gaps of knowledge about women's contributions in the various academic disciplines.

What about next year?

It is too soon to tell what direction the group will take, says Percival, but we can be sure its members will continue to represent the woman's perspective at UPEI, and to publicize and promote its growth.

# Scott asks for Sports Centre fund-raising to start

By Carolyn Ryan

Will UPEI have the money to attract a Sports Complex when it's the Island's turn to host the Winter Games, in 1992?

The UPEI Student Union has set up a committee to take a look at the present situation, and possibly start fundraising as early as next spring.

Student Heather Scott raised the question at Sunday night's Council meeting, saying, "I've just paid \$300 to join the East Coast Gym and I am perturbed about the lack of athletics facilities on this campus."

UPEI has been waiting a long time for a new gym, pool, and rink, among other things; the present Alumni Gymnasium was condemned this summer and required renovations before inspectors allowed it to be used.

However, funding is slow in coming, and some sports-minded optimists have pinned their hopes to the 1992 games, which have yet to be awarded to P.E.I. New facilities will then have to be built, but where is still a debatable.

Scott says the only way UPEI can improve its chances of grabbing the one-third federally-funded complex is to start raising money for it now, to show commitment to the project.

Otherwise, she says, either Summerside will get the Games or the City of Charlottetown will locate any

construction either on the old Railway station site downtown or next to the Simmons Sports Centre.

Council decided to strike a three-person steering committee, with Scott as chair, to "investigate the possibility of an Athletics Complex, with a long-range goal of fundraising".

Scott says blueprints have already been drawn up for the university of the Complex, and were recently submitted to CMHC for re-appraisal of cost, so work could possibly begin as soon as funding is confirmed.

If the existing plans were carried out, the Rink and Barn, as well as the Fisheries Building next door to the Barn, would be demolished.

Therefore, Councillors also struck a committee to examine the question of a new "University Centre" with space for both classrooms and Student Union activities.

"These are two separate directions, so I don't think the committees should be combined," says Student Union General Manager Heather Love, a member of the new University Centre committee.

(Some questions were raised, by the way, about where the skiing events would be held in a PEI Winter Games. Councillors couldn't decide if officials would hold the events in another province or build a mountain.)

### Soviets continued from page 3

Conflict also blossomed when listener Michael Zinck brought up the question of propaganda in Soviet media and communiques to the West, especially in connection with next summer's "International Festival of Youth" in Moscow.

"I don't like it when giving your views is called 'propaganda'," said an annoyed Akhtamzian, saying when Western nations do it, they call it an exchange of opinion.

"Using this word only insults the party you're talking about," he added.

Mal'kov earlier in the day had objected to allegations that the Russian peace movement was state-organized or even repressed. Both speakers said their country's peace movement is more informed than most Western movements, including Canada's, since Russians "get substantial news items on the worldwide movement every day on the TV and radio".

Two years ago, says Akhtamzian, Sweden and Finland asked to go through the USSR on their cross-continent peace demonstration. He says hundreds of thousands of Russians joined the marchers along the way, waving banners calling for "no nuclear weapons in the East or in Europe".

"My son is an activist for peace at the Moscow University," said Mal'kov in passing.

What is needed, seemed the consensus of the panel discussion, is more personal, individual contact between citizens of the superpowers, directors of organizations within the countries, and government leaders. This would hopefully eliminate some of the suspicion said to be a major cause of the present nuclear proliferation.

"The Soviet Union does not want war," said Mal'kov in a morning press conference. "Who knows more about the effects of war? In World War Two we lost 20 million citizens, and saw the wiping out of 1700 towns and uncountable families. Our economy was set back twenty years, and our landscape left in ruins."

He paused. "Canadians and Americans have not had an experience exactly like this."

One of the chief values of this lecture tour, says co-ordinator Andy Robb, UPEI Chair of Canadian Studies, is the chance to see people of a different culture as "sensitive, intelligent individuals we would not otherwise have had the opportunity to meet."

In thanking the two men he said, "We're talking to each other, not shooting at each other. And I think that's productive."

# Fall Fest Update

- Smurf Game: Panther Lounge, Sat. 5-7
- Handicapped Hockey: Rink, Fri. 1-3
- Loser's Pub: Panther Lounge, Friday 9-1
- James Ready Nite: Panther Lounge, Sat. 9-1 (special prices)
- Co-ed: Starring Dave Shephard Big Band, at the Charlottetown Hotel starting at 9. Tickets \$8 couple.

Our apologies to the writers of View from the Top this week. Most of your article will appear in the next Gem, November 15.



# LETTERS

### Thanks for blood

Dear Editor

Many thanks goes out to all who participated in UPEI's most successful Red Cross Blood Donor Clinic — to both donors and those who volunteered their time and services at the clinic.

Thanks as well go to Andy Dean of Saga Food Services for the food he supplied to get donors back on their feet. Our quota this year was

120 units of blood, which we filled with no problem. 155 donors registered, of which only 18 were rejected.

Aileen Matters  
Student Rep on  
Blood Donor Committee

### A gripe

Dear Editor:

I think that the Brain Drain article written by Jim Lai is a pure load of crap. I mean, why can't this guy write something serious? Has he no

self respect?

If you're that desperate for material, why don't you get me to write for you?

He probably wrote those fantastical fables. The jerk must be schizophrenic. His stories are so disjointed, it's not funny.

My biggest peeve is this — in his stories he has used my name. If he uses it again he'll regret it, and that's a promise.

Yours truly,  
Alix Kreap

# Netted Gem

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The staff of Canada's best student newspaper this week are: Nancy Ross, Jill Warburton, Kaberi Dasgupta, Robert Bodrog-Goodland, Melanie Clarke, Bob Stanley, Jonathan Orlovski, Sandra MacDonald, Lori MacLeod, Ross Hartinger, John Dougan, John Pendergast, Michael Zinck, Tony Sauer, Lori Anne Heckbert, Jim Lai, Brian MacLeod, Carol Doiron, Ron Lewis, Phil Stanyer, Glen Boswall, Brian Linkletter and our beloved editor Carolyn Ryan.

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