

With all of the commotion around this campus in the last week it may be that I am getting slightly paranoid but it seems strange to me that the Minister of Education and the Premier have declined to get involved in the proposed Academic changes. It makes me wonder about the timing of the release of these proposals. If they would have been released before the elections would the Premier have been more interested? It also seems strange that the Minister of Education is not actively involved in what could will be the most important educational issue in the history of P.E.I. I have always been under the impression that it was his job to get involved in these matters.

There has been a fantastic amount of student concern and participation in this area but no real feasible proposals have yet been made by the students. I urge those of you who have ideas

to contact the Student Union with them. Every idea will help the S.U. put together a package of proposals which will be acceptable to both students and administration.

Since we have been receiving no help from those whose job it is to be involved in this matter, which will affect not only the university but the whole Island, we have to help ourselves. We now have to join together as one and defend our right to education. The best way to start is by going to the general meeting of the Student Union on Wed., Oct. 20 at 12:30 in the Student Lounge of the Library where proposals will be discussed.



LETTERS



Dear Editor:

I am writing this letter out of sheer concern for our basketball program at UPEI. It is well known that Dave Nutbrown left U.P.E.I. and that no basketball coach was hired to replace him. It has been my understanding that one and one-half coaching positions are to exist in total for Hockey and Men's Basketball at UPEI. Last year, Jack Hynes was part-time hockey coach and Dave Nutbrown was full-time basketball coach, so there were one and one-half positions. Jack is again back on a part-time basis, but Athletic Director Ed Hilton is the new Men's Basketball Coach. In reality, only one-half a coaching position exists this year, as apposed to one and one-half.

I understood the controversy last year regarding Jack Hynes only wanting to be part-time coach because of his job requirements at Holland College, and this is

fine. But still, there should at least be a part-time basketball coach for this season. I have absolutely nothing against Ed Hilton, but I believe he has too much to do already as Athletic Director and putting this job on his shoulders will only make matters worse.

Players have been scrimmaging now for a couple of weeks, and Ed has not been making too many appearances at these scrimmages. He has probably worked a full days work as Athletic Director before scrimmages even start, so maybe he does not feel like going to them.

A coach whose only job is to coach basketball would be there at all scrimmages, as Dave Nutbrown was. These scrimmages were very competitive as all players wanted to impress their coach. There is a very slack atmosphere at scrimmages this year, and that is why a few high-quality players are not going to try out.

There are other concerns that myself and others have as well: (1) Not enough recruiting has been done. This has been true for years, but having a full-time coach will result in more recruitment because he has more time. Recruiting takes a lot

of time with often no results. (2) Most players did not know who was returning until they arrived in September. There was an obvious lack of communication to the players and this is no good. A full-time coach could do these things. (3) A coach has to spend a lot of time with his players to get to know them and also to get their respect; this also takes time, and our Basketball and Hockey programs both lack in this area.

We all know Chris Summer, Skeeter Mower, Vinnie Dipinto, and Guy McIssac all left UPEI, and they must sit out a year before they can play at another university. I would make a large bet that at least three of them would be back if a new head coach was hired in the spring. Instead, they are going to waste a year.

Last year our Hockey, Soccer, and Basketball teams were all rated in the top ten in Canada during their seasons. Based on this fact, here are some reasons why UPEI was dumb in not hiring a new basketball coach. It is much easier to recruit the year after being in the top ten since players will come to you, and it

will not cost as much to get them. If the upcoming basketball season is poor then I bet one fo the following three will be done by UPEI for next year: (1) Hire a coach who will recruit but who will have to pay to get quality players after a poor 1982/83 season.

(2) Continue to do no recruiting and have poor or mediocre teams. (3) Drop the Basketball program. The obvious choice we hope for is number one, but if that is their choice then they will look stupid for not getting a coach this year when our Basketball program was starting to get respect from abroad.

I conclude by saying that UPEI has to get its priorities straight. I realize money is tight, but as far as I am concerned, strong sports programs are more important than an 18% raise to faculty or a music department that costs about \$20,000 per yearper student to educate. I wish the Basketball program success this year, and I hope Ed can do a job like he did when he stopped in under similar circumstances to coach the football team in the 1970's.

Yours sincerely,

A Concerned Fan