

What more do you want?

There seems to have been an awful lot of abuse directed at this, our university newspaper, lately. Abuse about its name (the Netted Gem) and abuse in the form of "What gave you (the editor and collective staff) the right to change the paper and cut out all the 'good stuff', such as the 'View from the Top', the Business column, and so on?"

First, let's deal with the name. Nobody said there was anything wrong with The Sun, but it was not a unique name, and that was the main reason why it had to be changed.

Why call it The Netted Gem? Well, can you think of anything else that is as identified with Prince Edward Island? (We are the University of Prince Edward Island.) If so, give us your suggestions.

Before going on, we feel that our editor Denise Richardson should be congratulated and commended for all the hard work that resulted in giving UPEI something they can finally call a newspaper. Part of this task unfortunately involved editing the famous works of the Business, Engineering, and Economics Societies.

So, what gave us the right to do this? We, the staff of the Netted Gem, have the right to edit anything we feel is in poor taste and unfit to be printed in the paper. This is not meant to take away from the obvious purpose of these columns, which was to be funny. And they are funny, to a certain extent. However, in the form they have always taken, they have no place in a newspaper.

The staff of this paper has agreed that there should be a lighter side, as well as the news portion, to any good paper. These columns would be more than welcome to be printed, but only if they used a little more diplomacy and a little less slander. We are sure that these weekly or bi-weekly columns seemed harmless, but sooner or later, someone would have been offended, and the blame would have been placed, legally, on the paper. As of now, for our protection, they're either cleaned up or out of the paper.

If you don't like the paper, do something about it. After all, it is your paper, so get off your butts and give us some help. A handful of people can't meet the needs of the whole university. (We do, however, do a damned good job.) If you want more, stop complaining and start contributing.

LETTERS

We've got trouble

It seems that every week in this paper there is an article about the peace movement or nuclear war.

Well if you're looking for something different this week, you're straight out-of-luck, because this is another one of those articles.

If you happened to see the movie "The Day After," on ATV Saturday night or Sunday on NBC, you would have seen a horror picture.

The setting was Kansas City, Missouri, and the story took place probably this year or next year.

The horrific story showed what would happen in the event of a nuclear war.

But as stated at the beginning, it actually underemphasized the destruction.

If you've seen the picture, and are human and realistic in any way, you should have been a bit scared, no matter how macho you are.

The thought of being vap-

ourized doesn't scare me as much as dying a grotesque, slow death from radioactive fall-out.

That's what will happen if (or should I say when) Halifax is hit!

Face it! If there's a nuclear war, the entire northern hemisphere is screwed!

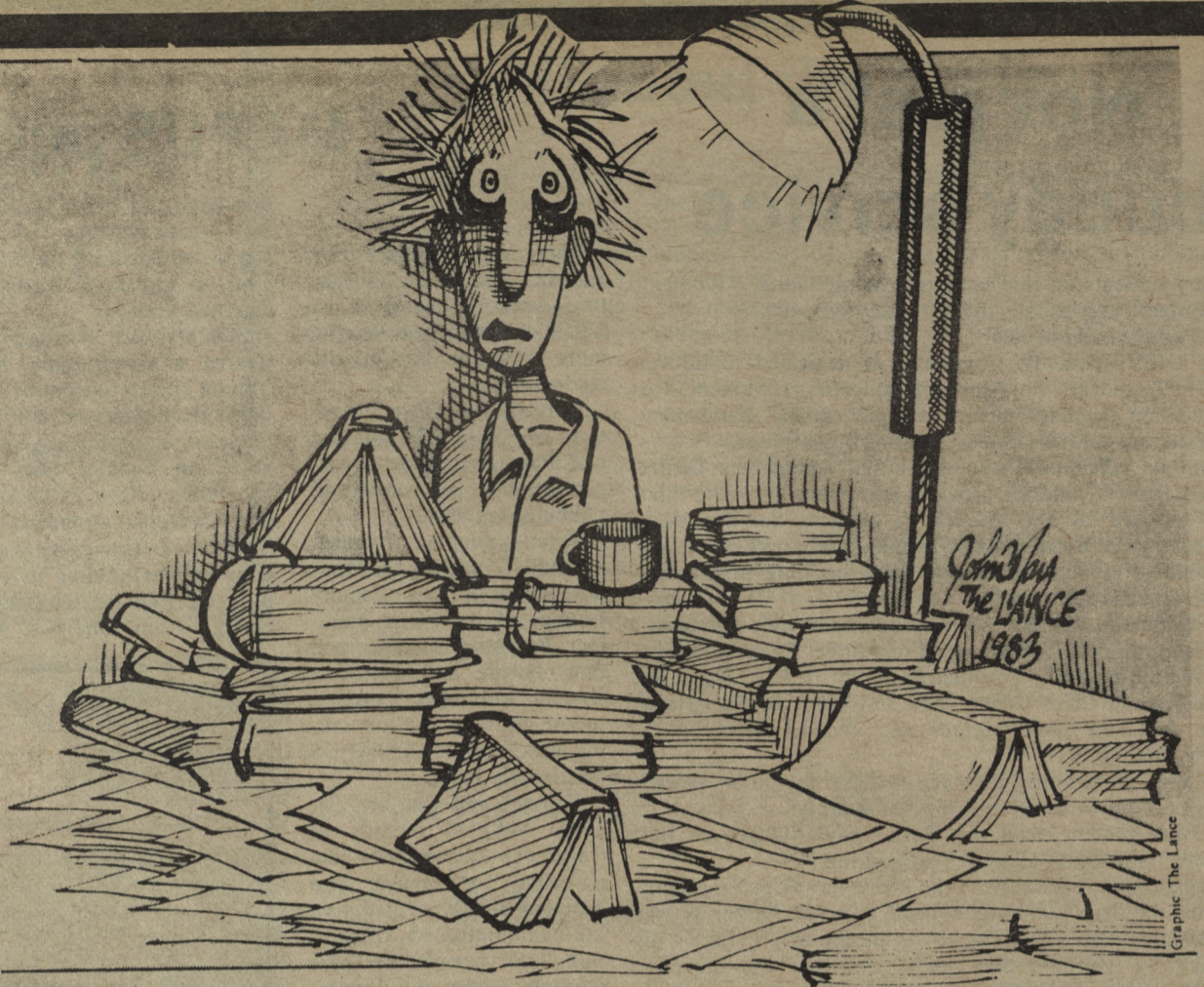
If you don't get vapourized, blown up, burnt to death, or die of fall-out, you'll probably starve to death, or get murdered for your last bag of peanuts.

I was pretty upset by the picture, so I decided to go to the discussion group in the Chaplaincy Centre Monday night.

Professor Von Dreger had a slide show of some peaceful pictures and talked about living life for now.

The subject of peacemakers came up and I expressed my point of view, saying they really are not going to stop those jerks in the Pentagon from turning their keys or pressing their buttons.

Von Dreger replied, saying the real benefit was to make the marchers content with themselves and, although it may not bring global peace, it will bring inner peace.



"Aah...who needs it?"

That's a positive way of looking at it, but it's still not going to keep my or your ass from being blown off.

One thing that came out of the meeting, besides a warm feeling inside, was a decision to replay the movie in Duffy Amphitheatre this weekend or early next week.

It will be announced later on CIMN and on posters, so if you haven't seen "The Day After" or if you want to see it again, make sure you attend.

I don't have any answers to the problem, but if you think of anything that might influence the government even just a bit, bring it up in the discussion period afterwards.

If you have any comments about nuclear war, or the movie, please reply to Letters to The Editor, c/o The Netted Gem,

If we don't...get fried first!

Gus Hillstrom

Vet college

I would like to respond to some comments made by Dean Thompson in your November 3rd issue of THE NETTED GEM. The article was supposed to be about the impact of the New Vet College on U.P.E.I. as the two are integrated.

The article states, Thompson says "the arts and science faculties can only benefit as increasing numbers of students will enroll at U.P.E.I. for pre-veterinary studies." This is wrong because, under the present Vet College arrangements, U.P.E.I. is not allowed to introduce any courses in agriculture since these would affect enrollment as N.S.A.C. and other places. Unless Thomp-

son has reduced EDUCATION at U.P.E.I. to prevent TRAINING then the statement is untrue.

Thompson also states, in the article, "the increased expertise in veterinary medicine and aquaculture will be a boost to the economy of the four provinces." This is a misleading statement because the issue is not the Atlantic economy, which would be as well served no matter where the Vet College was set up. The issue at hand is: how will U.P.E.I. survive as a liberal arts and science UNIVERSITY when it is lumped together with a non-university TRAINING CENTRE - namely, the Vet COLLEGE.

Thompson makes the "motherhood statement" about "graduates TRAINED TO SERVE in the agricultural and fishing industries." He does not say whether or not they will be educated in the process. Such a statement would have had a bearing upon the issue of whether or not such TRAINING is compatible with an EDUCATIONAL institution (i.e., trained vet could easily work for a corporate agricultural firm and destroy the nature of farming on P.E.I. but an educated person would never use his vet training as thoughtlessly - seeing money as his major motive - a "company man" so to speak). We all agree, with Thompson, that training is fine, however, that is not the essential difference that sets universities apart from colleges and job training facilities (or programs) as institutions of higher learning.

Finally, "Thompson does admit that the college increases the university's focus on applied (training) as op-

posed to the more traditional liberal arts (and sciences)." Thus he verifies the one great fear (and danger), should U.P.E.I. and the Vet College merge. The ultimate threat to the university has thus been verified "from the horse's mouth", so to speak.

He adds that this change in focus would change the public perception of U.P.E.I. but, he says, this "could be a plus where Atlantic provinces residents are concerned." Once again Thompson digresses from the issue of the impact of the Vet College on liberal education at U.P.E.I., only to tell us that we would be better

off if we were seen as a training centre rather than a university (replete with the standard - or as he derogatorily puts it, "traditional" - liberal arts and science focus.) Any ordinary businessman on P.E.I. could have provided us with the kind of expertise represented by this misconceived statement; an expertise that cost "megabucks."

It is my belief that the Vet College, itself, is no threat to the University as long as it remains apart from the academic structure of the University and as long as it does not detract from the Provincial higher education budget now and in the future. The only real threat to U.P.E.I. that I see is the commonly recognized ignorance of the administrators. They are charged with the responsibility of upholding U.P.E.I.'s integrity but are willing to let it erode from a liberal arts and science university to a cluster of training schools or colleges.

John O'Brien

The Netted Gem

Staff

We are now a very proud editorial collective. Our competent and curious staff includes - News Editor Ruth Edgett, Copy Editor Sharon Leighton, Production Editor Carolyn Ryan, Arts Editor Jonathan Orlowski, Sports Editor Phil Stanyer, Editorial Page Editor David Doiron, CUP Editor John Dougan, Editor-in-chief Denise Richardson, and the vitally important Mickey Place, Aileen Matters, Derrick Webber, and John Pendergast.

The Netted Gem is the weekly student newspaper of the University of Prince Edward Island. Views expressed in the Netted Gem are not necessarily those of the UPEI Student Union. We reserve the right to edit copy for space, style, or legal reasons. Letters to the Editor must be typed double spaced and be submitted before noon on Monday. Letters exceeding 500 words in length are prone to cutting and much abuse by the collective staff. All letters must be signed by their author(s). Our office is located on the fourth floor of the Main building. Our telephone is 892-4121 Extension 387. The Netted Gem is a member usually in good standing with Canadian University Press.