

And lo! there appeared on those wicked walls...

DRAGONTALES

Traditionally, when you saw graffiti scrawled on walls around the university, it was either a mindless stringing together of obscenities or a mindless stringing together of unpopular political sentiments.

Depending on your upbringing and degree of rebellion against "the system", you either ignored it, averted your eyes in sudden distaste, or took up a spray can and joined the campaign.

A few merely laughed.

But lately, there's been a different kind of graffiti materializing on walls around UPEI, and people are experiencing quite different kinds of reactions to it.

You must have seen it, appearing in chalk on bulletin boards and walls in buildings like Kelley and the library. Big, yellow and white, neatly-formed words, saying things like "Repent of your sins, believe in the Lord, and you shall have joy and peace."

Radical stuff, this. To students around here, it's shocking. "This is a university, not a Baptist church," they snarl. "What does that nut think he's doing?"

When confronted with a message like "Repent and you shall share in the Kingdom of God," their mouths drop open, they gasp, and watch for other people's reactions.

Honestly, it's enough to make you laugh!

Which, by the way, is another common reaction. "Religious fanatic," they chuckle, and walk away, confident that others will be laughing too.

The whole effect is a spreading oil spill of goey black disdain, making such messages an object of ridicule, and surely defeating the purpose of the author ... whoever it is. (Tell me, is it you? Or your little brother? You're not serious!)

But there's a chilling or warming sense, depending on your tastes, that whoever it is, is completely serious in this mission.

To some people, that's alarming. Canadians have been so ingrained with caution and reserve that any expression of personal beliefs like this scares them. The only times they feel allowed to break this down is when participating in grass roots politics or hockey games.

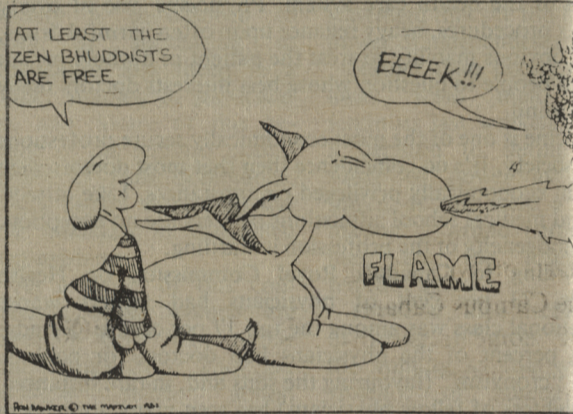
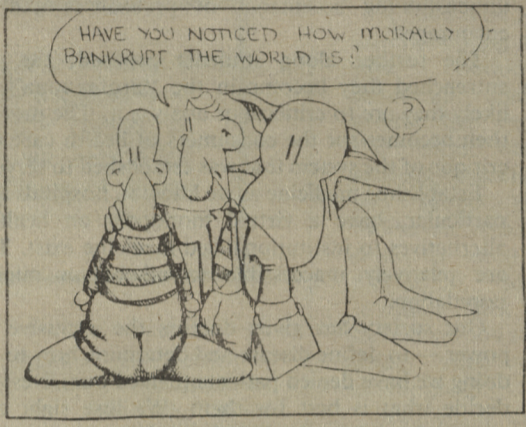
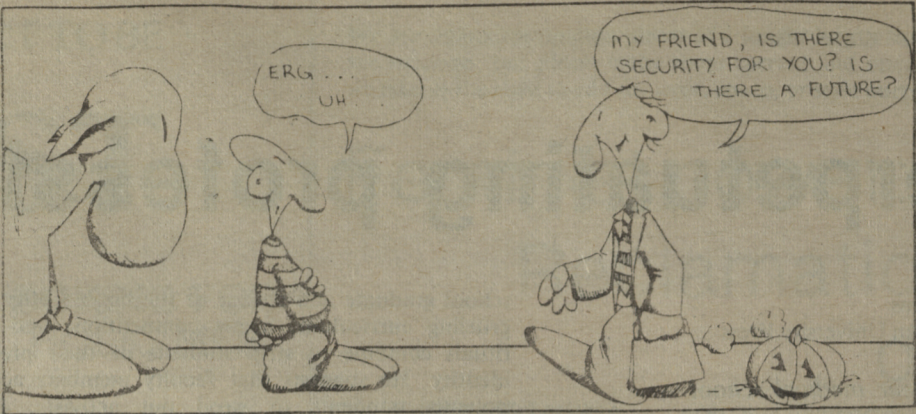
To others, it's great. "It's good to see someone with enough guts to do something like that" one staff member commented.

The mysterious Scribbler Scribe is even answering criticism in his own particular way — with more chalk messages admonishing "mockers of the truth" (see room B-05 in the Robertson Library).

Frankly, at first I was a little spooked by this, and others share my feelings.

One girl pinned down my vague unease by comparing the situation to "Oh God II," where a child conducts an advertising campaign for God in the semblance of George Burns, and is thought to be severely disturbed.

We looked at each other for a second, then simultaneously smiled and said, "Naw"



Try it ... you'll love it

Going to university is more than just studying, at least for most people. As far as I'm concerned, extra-curricular activities and the social aspect of university life are just as important as the intellectual aspect.

Getting involved could be the smartest move of your university career. You can meet new friends, gain new experiences, and start to feel like you belong. But this is obvious, at least to most of us.

Of course, there are those people who you can talk to until you are blue in the face, but they just don't want to get involved in anything.

There are so many things one can do at this university.

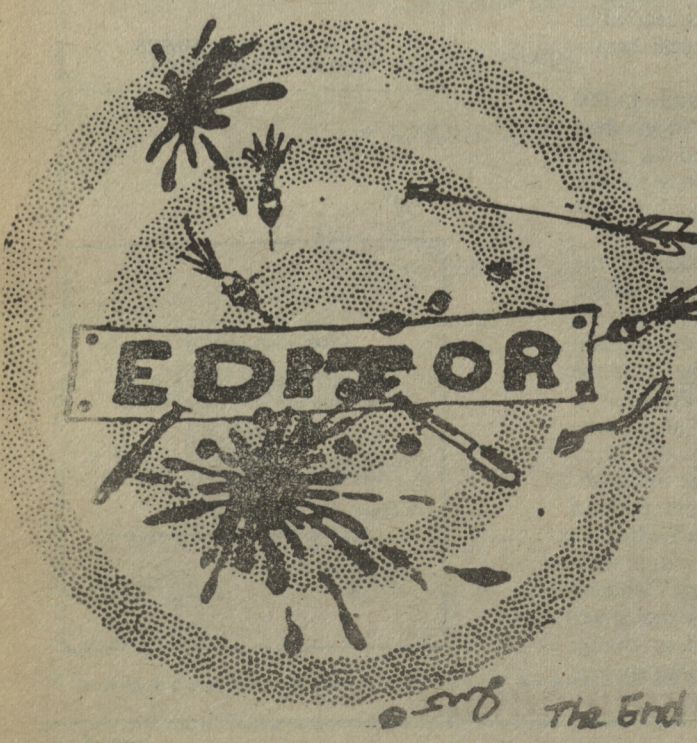
There are all kinds of organizations, clubs, and societies on campus, not to mention the Student Union (CIN Yearbook, Newspaper, and lots more.)

If these aren't up your alley, why not just attend a once in a while?

There are a lot of people who work very hard, long hours to bring you all these things. For example, the Winter Carnival Committee have given it their all to bring you a terrific week of events.

So why get involved for a change and gain some memories instead of regrets?

The Winter Carnival starts January 30.



The Netted Gem

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Staff

Yes, we're still alive, though depleted in numbers this week (something we hope changes very soon). Held captive in the *Netted Gem* office this week are John Pendergast, Ruth Edgett, Jonathan Orlowski, David Doiron, Leah Parker, Gus Hillstrom, John Dougan, Parker Grimmer, Sharon Leighton, Howard Beattie, and editor Carolyn Ryan. We try to count our blessings, but we wish you'd come up and be counted as one of us, too (staff meetings Wednesday at 6 p.m.)

The *Netted Gem* is the weekly student newspaper of the University of Prince Edward Island. Views expressed therein are not necessarily those of the 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 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 now a full member in semi-good standing with Canadian University Press.

NESTLINGS

