

Yet another introduction

Outside the window, snowflakes are gently juggling with each other, milling around in white confusion and bumping off the sides of buildings before giving up and dropping reluctantly to the ground

That was for all the English majors out there. Don't worry, I promise not to do it again.

Hello. I'm the new editor of your newspaper, and my name is Carolyn Ryan.

That's right, I called it *your* newspaper, and for a good reason.

Because it is.

What's a student newspaper without students? Students to pick it up, read it, criticize it, and give a damn about what goes in it.

Now some of you may see the staff of a newspaper as a tightly closed clique, loftily deciding what to put in the paper each week according to personal likes and dislikes, and resisting all comers.

We aren't going to be like that.

Right now there are only a few of us doing this _____ (fill in adjective) job each week. Don you honestly think we wouldn't fall on our knees in gratitude if some new faces (with bodies attached) walked through that door? We would bless you, call our first-born children after you, climb Mount Stewart for you!

Getting back to your ownership of this paper — this means that you do get an input on what goes into it. A lot of you, have expressed wishes to see more humour in the *Gem*, and a return to the *Engineer - Business* rival columns.

Okay, you can have it, as long as we can find writers to accommodate you. That was the problem last term — no one submitted anything along those lines, so nothing was printed, and the word got passed around that we didn't want articles like that.

Of course, you must realize that we are legally responsible for anything we print, no matter who writes it. So, if an article contains something libellous, we have to cut it out — for our protection and yours. And we do insist that articles submitted as humour are funny. Otherwise, they would defeat the purpose.

If you keep it above the belt and don't get too carried away with four-letter words merely for the sake of four-letter words - fine.

Even if you don't have time to work on or write for the paper, please, oh please read it, just as you're doing now. You'll find out what's happening at UPEI and on campuses across the country, and it doesn't take very long.

You've read this. Now, honestly, the effort wasn't too painful, was it?

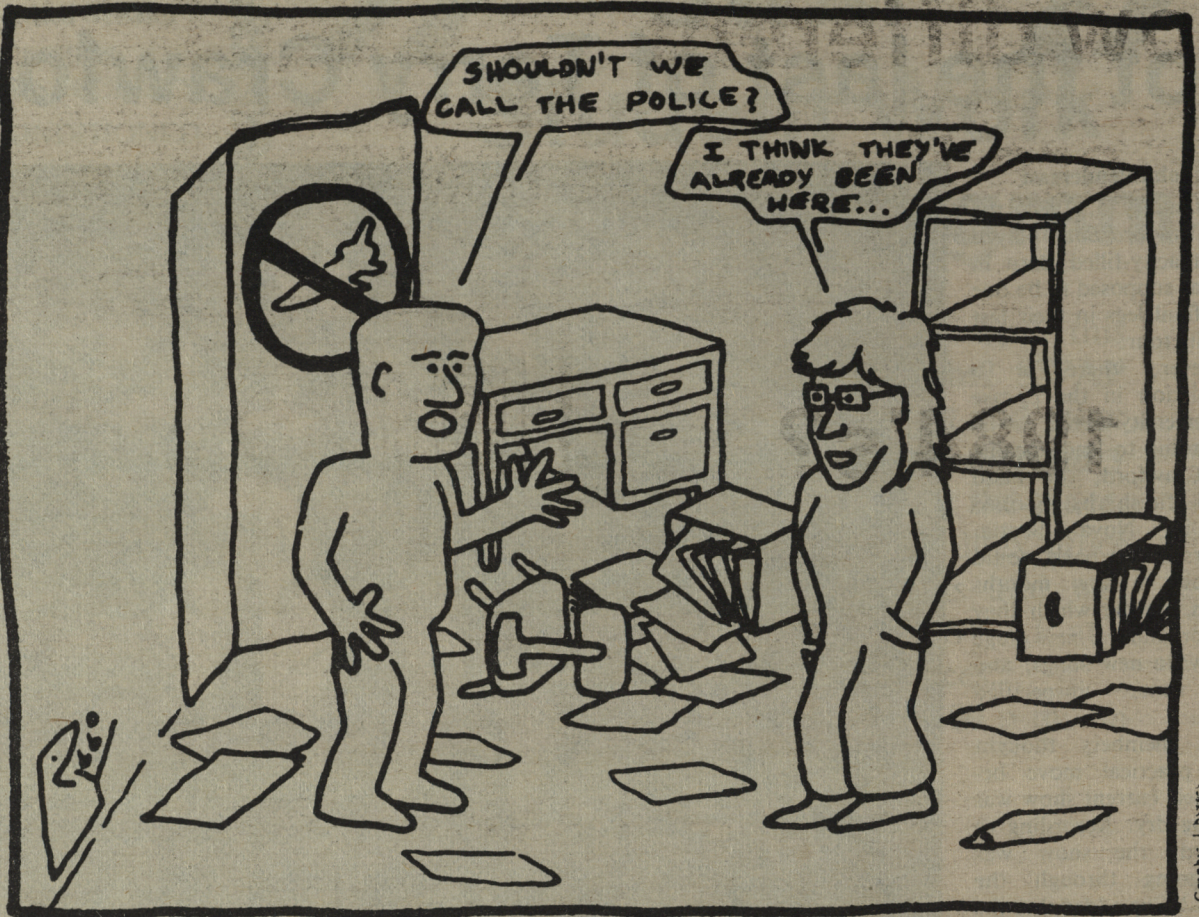
The Netted Gem

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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 Orłowski, 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.



LETTERS

Action deplored

Dear Editor,

This letter is designed to inform you and the campus community about an injustice committed against the residents of Marian Hall.

Upon returning from the Christmas break, many Marian Hall residents were greeted with an unsavory surprise. On first appearance it seemed to one resident that his room had unlawfully been entered and ransacked. He immediately noticed that his flags had been removed from his walls and his furniture was misplaced.

As it turns out, the UPEI Security Force is taking a new route in providing security to this campus. They have gone from ticketing parked cars to entering residence rooms and confiscating personal and private property.

It seems, as rumour would have it, that a member of the Force went from room to room in the dorm, removing flags from the walls, and packing them into garbage bags. After some discussion between the Director of Student Services, the Residence Manager, and the

Director of Security, the flags were ordered returned. Unfortunately, Security had not kept track of where they had obtained the flags.

Most of the flags have now been returned to their proper owners, no thanks to the UPEI Security Force. Residents of Marian Hall had to sift through the flags to find their own.

Ironically it seems that not all the flags in Marian Hall were "Hot", as was assumed. Many of them were purchased by the residents for decorative purposes. In my limited understanding of Canadian Law, it doesn't seem to me that it is a crime to own a flag. I also don't believe that this act is prohibited in the University by-laws.

It is 1984, and although I am already tired of the speculation we have been bombarded with regarding Orwell's novel, I can't refrain from making my own superficial comparison.

Jack Keefe



Arts Rep reports

As your elected Arts representative to the Student Union Council, I would like to take this opportunity to review for my constituents what I have been doing since my re-election in March of last year.

This being my Senior year at UPEI, I have been somewhat eager to participate in as many student activities as possible. Though many students on campus may think that a councillor's only responsibility is attending meetings on every second Sunday, this is not our only duty.

As a result of being a Council member, I have been appointed to many committees that require student input. Like my other colleagues, I feel that to represent our constituents we must remain active to allow our voice on specific student issues to be heard.

Some of the appointments I received this year were to the Search Committee responsible for the selection of our new Dean of Arts, and the Selection Board, which

must be available through the academic year for recommending job applicants to the Student Union.

I also had the opportunity to attend the CFS conference in Ottawa in November, 1983, at which I represented UPEI as a voting prospect member. The conference itself was an enlightening experience.

Throughout the semester I also took part in University Week and attended a number of meetings for both the Constitution Committee and the UPEI Women's Organization.

My participation this semester will, however, be minimal, for my coursework and work will allow little time for extra activities. Therefore, my time will allow more opportunity to answer questions concerning student affairs as well as anything related to the Arts Faculty.

Also, at this time I would like to extend my congratulations to Carolyn Ryan, the new editor of the *Netted Gem*. As a fellow councillor, Carolyn, in my opinion, will be an added asset to our university newspaper.

Thanks for your support and have a great semester!

Margaret Archibald
Arts Representative