

AIDS Project Director Resigns

After interviewing UPEI Student Union president Lisa Murphy, it has been brought to my attention that there are many factual errors and inconsistencies in the following article:

Student Politics: AIDS Project Director Asked to Quit

Wolfville N.S. (CUP) – An AIDS awareness campaign, run by Nova Scotia's student federation will go on, despite the dismissal of its coordinator.

The federation's AIDS Education committee asked Sid Tobias to resign as executive director of the National Post-Secondary AIDS Education campaign in late August, after being dissatisfied with his work.

The project, funded by the Federal Department of Health and Welfare, is based at Acadia University and produced this year, among other things, a plain-language pamphlet on HIV/AIDS and prevention.

Students Union of Nova Scotia chair Lara Morris said the federation still stands behind the pamphlet.

"It's written by students, for students and written in everyday language, which is why we're behind it, and why it was funded in the first place," she said.

The pamphlet will be distributed to students at Atlantic colleges and universities this year, and the project may expand to the rest of Canada.

Morris said the pamphlet itself was fine, although she noted that federal officials had complained about the language used and the pamphlet's layout.

"(Tobias) wasn't fired for the pamphlet, he was fired for his conduct around the pamphlet," she said.

Murphy says, and I agree, that it is very important for the students to hear the true facts about this issue.

First of all, the AIDS awareness campaign was not solely run by the Nova Scotia Student Union, although they did administer this campaign. Universities throughout the maritimes had input into the production of the pamphlet.

The next problem with this article is the statement that Sid Tobias was dismissed. Tobias, who was the executive director of the campaign, resigned, he was not fired. The AIDS Education Committee asked Tobias to resign after supposedly being dissatisfied with his work. This was not confirmed because the discussion between the committee and Tobias, prior to his resignation was completely confidential.

"Students Union of Nova Scotia chair Haramonis said the federation still stands behind the pamphlet."

Supporting the pamphlet was never the issue.

According to Murphy the pamphlet was never the question. SUNS, not the "federation" always did support the pamphlet as much as they do now.

Murphy agrees that the language in the pamphlet is graphic, but she adds that this leaves room for no misinterpretations.

It is more dangerous to be misinformed. We must be armed with education.

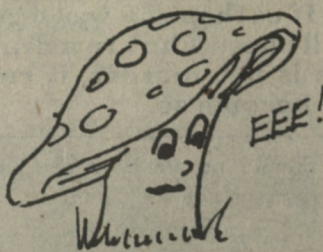
In the original article, it states that federal officials had complained about the language used in the pamphlet. Murphy says there was a slight problem with the layout and presentation of the pamphlet, however there was no mention of the language used.

Murphy says that the issue of the pamphlet must be kept as it was meant to be: a means that allows for students to talk with students candidly about the issue of AIDS. "It is unfortunate that we are forced to deal with such a horrible disease, but it is more dangerous to be misinformed." Murphy says we must be "armed with education".

"Tobias wasn't fired for the pamphlet, he was fired for his conduct around the pamphlet."

It is important to note that Sid Tobias was not fired, he was asked to resign for reasons of confidential nature.

By Terri Lyn Hall



Letter To The Editor

Dear Editor:

This letter was written as an attempt to try and clear up some misapprehensions about Marian Hall; it is also an attempt to clear the air in the building itself. The name of Marian Hall has, over the past few years, meant a great

deal to many students at UPEI. Many people have considered us to be little more than party animals, prospective alcoholics who last barely a year at university before moving back to the sticks for a lifetime of UIC benefits. Some others know us only by the reputation we have as goons, labels that were stuck on by opposing hockey teams and their followers. These misapprehensions, unfortunately, do have some basis, but they are somewhat unfair. If you're not ready to take a hit in a rough sport like ice hockey, then you have no business on the ice. As well, there have been students that have made the Dean's list four years running who managed to do so while living in Marian. I do not deny that there have been substantially more first-year washouts, but no more proportionately than any other residence or apartment complex.

I am trying to clear up these misconceptions for a reason; they have to be straightened out before we can attempt to clear the air with Student Services. We consequently hope that this will help clear the air in the building itself. There was a time when we liked to think of ourselves as being Loud and Proud. Two years ago, the pride that we had in ourselves and in our building went beyond Marian Hall house parties. Last year wasn't bad, either. This year, we have a problem.

The basis of the problem lies in the fact that some folks' ideas of what residence should be are not concurrent with those of other folks. One must understand that a residence like Marian is one that is occupied by young adults; the age of the average Marian Haller is about 19 to 20 years of age. By law, therefore, Marian Hallers are adults. One of the main problems is that we are not treated as mature members of society. For most young men attending university, it is the first step on the road to independence; this means that now that he's on his own, a young fella staying in residence wants to enjoy some freedom. He wants to have a good time, now that Mom and Dad are no longer looking over his shoulder. He doesn't want authority figures putting him to bed when he's had a fair bit to drink; neither does he want them barging into his room at 12:00 on a Saturday night to unplug the stereo (he feels that if his neighbours don't see it necessary to complain about loud music, then nobody else has the right to do so). He doesn't need them needlessly hanging

over him while he's partying with his friends; he doesn't want them walking around the halls and making themselves look conspicuously authoritative when there is no need for them to. Most of all, he doesn't need to be treated like a child; he doesn't look kindly upon being subjected to lectures, and then invited in for cookies and punch immediately afterwards. He doesn't look kindly upon being mildly scolded at 9:30 on a Saturday night for being loud, when he knows that he can be as loud as he wants, since Quiet Hours don't take effect until midnight. He realizes, mind you, that they are being sincere, and are trying to do a good job. He doesn't want them to vacate the building entirely and let it be torn apart; he would just like them to show a little discretion in their dealings with residence matters. In short, if he had wanted parental figures, he would have stayed at home.

We respect the role that Student Services has in residence throughout the year. We know that they do a great deal more than organize ski trips or bowling tournaments. Residence, however, is a great deal more to those who live there than just somewhere to sleep between study periods. It is our home, and it belongs to us as much as it belongs to Student Services. It is strange that, as adults, we have surprisingly little say as to our freedoms and restrictions. It is strange that our House Committee can get overruled on matters which are ultimately their decision. Why, for example, can we not borrow the House's stereo equipment when a) we showed competency in using it in the past, and b) the House Committee itself gave its consent?

There is no doubt that there has to be some rules and restrictions enforced; it is how our society functions. Neither is there any doubt that we have to act sensibly, in accordance with these rules. There is, however, some doubt as to the capability of some of those with authority to use some common sense in enforcing these rules. We're not asking for a major upheaval in the system. We just want some freedom to move around and have some good, clean fun, without the danger of getting lectured or spanked. Essentially, we need some respect as competent adults.

Thank you,
Marian Hall

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