

UPEI News Briefs

Real research in Family and Nutritional Science

Dr. Dorothy Berglund, a new faculty member in the Department of Family and Nutritional Science, conducted research on how pre-menstrual syndrome (PMS) affects couples' relationships. Her research involved comparing dyadic adjustment, or a couples' ability to effectively relate to each other, and coping methods between two groups of couples.

In one group, the women indicated that they suffered from no PMS symptoms while the women in the other group expressed mild, moderate, or severe symptoms. Not surprisingly, when comparing dyadic adjustment, Berglund discovered that the couples in which the woman suffers from PMS always showed more distress; especially during the woman's PMS time.

UPEI Frenette receives award for physics

UPEI Physics major, Danielle Frenette, was recently notified that she would be one of the recipients of a impressive, three-year national award. "The Women in Engineering & Science Scholarship" is given by the National Research Council of Canada to support top quality women scholars in under-represented disciplines of science such as physics.

Under this program, Frenette will be given the opportunity to work for three, four month sessions at one of the NRCC research laboratories. She will also be paid an annual salary of \$10,000 throughout the year.

Nursing students concerned about looming RN shortage

A 1997 study by the Canadian Nurses Association indicates that admission levels to nursing programs are now lower than they have been in decades. In 1987, 7,801 students graduated in Canadian nursing programs as opposed to only 5,505 in 1994. To add to the problem, the average age of a practising registered nurse in Canada is 48 years old. By 2011, it is predicted that there will be a shortage of between 60,000 to 110,000 RNs in Canada.

The Canadian Nurses Student Association [CNSA] are concerned about the looming crisis and are eager to avoid the shortage. At the 1999 CNSA National Conference in January, two UPEI nursing students were elected to serve on the organization's Board of Directors: Sean McIntyre as Vice President of Education & Research Director, and Melanie Blanchard as Secretary. This is a remarkable accomplishment considering only nine students from across the country are elected each year.

UPEI welcomes CIDA official as International Development Week speaker

Feb. 1, 1999, marks the beginning of International Development Week. To celebrate the importance of cooperation with foreign countries and to promote awareness of international development, the Centre for International Education at the University of Prince Edward Island is coordinating a visit by Janet Zukowsky, Vice President, Canadian Partnership Branch, Canadian International Development Agency.

"International partnerships provide valuable new opportunities," says Dr. Vianne Timmons, Dean of Education and UPEI's International Liaison Officer. "Canada's post-secondary education system is respected world-wide. However, we need to effectively communicate the benefits and potential of the country, province and university to our international colleagues."

As a senior executive with CIDA, Zukowsky works to foster and support relationships among Canadian businesses, educational institutions, organizations and governments and their equivalents in foreign countries. Before assuming this position, she was the Canadian High Commissioner to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean from 1990 to 1994 and the Director General, Operations Services Branch at CIDA from 1986 to 1990.

While on the UPEI campus, Zukowsky will give a lecture to students and meet with university officials, faculty at the Atlantic Veterinary College, members of the Faculty of Education and representatives from the Institute of Island Studies.

CASA director gets creamed

By KRISHNA LALBIHARIE

WINNIPEG (CUP) -- Canadian Alliance of Student Association (CASA) National Director Hoops Harrison received a rather unsavory welcome in Winnipeg this past Wednesday when a masked trio struck him in the face with three pies.

"I'm just a person and a student, and just because I have different ideas and views and just because I work for CASA doesn't mean that I'm not a person or that I'm evil or wrong," said Harrison, who was meeting with the University of Manitoba Students Union (UMSU).

The incident occurred midway through a meeting of the UMSU council where Harrison had been scheduled to speak about recent CASA lobbying directives.

The three assailants, masked in black balaclavas, entered the meeting room, pied Harrison and subsequently exited within seconds.

While the identities of the pie-throwers is currently unknown, the Manitoban received a letter from a group called the Manitoba Student Liberation Front (MSLF) that claimed responsibility for the pie-ing.

"CASA and its National Director have done nothing to address student concerns," reads the letter.

"[CASA] has demonstrated over and over again that it is good for nothing except to be a shameless apologist for the oppressive Liberal government. The Millennium Scholarship Fund, of which the sell-outs at CASA are so very proud, is nothing more than an excuse for government to avoid its real responsibilities, namely to provide direct funding for post-secondary education."

The Canadian Millennium Scholarship Fund (CMS),

announced in last years Federal Budget, has been criticized by students groups and activist organizations for focusing more on scholastic merit than financial need.

"The Millennium Scholarship Fund, once disbursed, will provide aid to only a tiny fraction of those who need it. It is nothing more than a carrot for the government to dangle cynically before the faces of needy students, in order to say that it has done something," concludes the MSLF letter.

Millennium Scholarship Fund chair Jean Monty recently evaded a pie-ing attempt, although the MSLF letter makes no direct connection to that event.

University of Manitoba Campus Police are currently investigating the pie-ing incident, but no formal charges

have been laid against anyone.

Other notable pie-ing victims of recent months have included Microsoft CEO Bill Gates, actor Sylvester Stallone and San Francisco mayor Willie Brown.

UMSU president Chris Kozier says that UMSU will consider laying charges if substantial evidence can be accrued through an investigation.

"I would just like to apologize on behalf of UMSU to Hoops. I'm embarrassed beyond words," said Kozier.

Harrison is not so concerned.

"In retrospect, I'm very pleased about the event, because it says louder than I could ever say how ineffective these tactics are. It accomplished nothing as far as I'm concerned," said Harrison.

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