

MacLean's on UPEI: THE FINAL CHAPTER

by Christopher Michaud

For this last edition of the *Panther Prints* in the 1995-96 academic year, this is the last you will hear about *MacLean's* magazine's ranking of Canadian universities. In my last article on this topic, I conducted a survey that was made available to the students of UPEI to find out what they thought about their university.

Below are the results of my survey. I would like to thank all the students who filled out the survey. I decided to use averages to make this a lot clearer for all to understand.

1. All respondents were full-time students, mostly from the Arts or Sciences faculties, with one Business and one Music student responding.
2. 65% were paying their own way.
3. 50% were living at home, while the other 50% was split between sharing or living on their own.
4. 40% worked more than 15hrs/week, 76% working to survive.
5. 76% would plan to continue their studies here if tuition continued to increase, many because they felt they would have no other choice.
6. 55% felt professors understood they worked and had demands other than classwork.
7. 66% found themselves falling behind in classwork, because of work and other reasons.
8. 76% felt UPEI was not as bad as *MacLean's* said it was.
9. 76% did not approve of forced early retirement of UPEI tenured professors by the University.
10. 100% did not approve of the plan to have these professors replaced by 9-month replacements.
11. 66% were against the vice-presidential position for UPEI.
12. 100% did not think UPEI's monetary resources were being used properly, i.e. student-oriented.
13. It was an even 50-50 split on whether or not students felt their degree would be worth something once they had to hunt in the job market.

Here are a few of the comments that students had to say about their answers to the survey:

1. "Ha! What spending money?!"
2. "What have you done for me lately?" (#11)
3. "Too much ineffective administration."
4. "Fire the whole damn bunch. Burn down Kelley and raid the cafeteria."
5. "Hopefully, but probably not." (#13)
6. "The University is a bonafide Island high school." (#8)

In my survey, I also asked that students list and rank their professors. The results were very indicative of how students felt about their university. Most professors averaged very well.

In a previous article, I wrote about the forced early retirement action of the University. As some students are probably now aware, we will be losing some very good professors at the end of this year, including Father Cheverie, Professor Ledwell and Professor O'Grady. These three professors scored the highest averages (9.6, 9.4, 9.3, not in any order). It is an immense shame that these three well liked and respected members of this University's faculty will be leaving us. You would think that the University would be asking them to stick around instead of, well, you know. The University should be ashamed to lose these professors, and any others, at a time when it is trying to improve its image and reputation.

To end this article on a good note, see you all next year. And to *MacLean's* magazine and their poll of Canadian universities, I offer them two things. One, we like our university, leave it alone, and two, a one-finger salute to their polls. Thank you, and good night.

Provincial Government is Screwing Seasonal Workers

Opposition Leader Pat Mella accuses the Liberal government of a mean-spirited attitude towards students and seasonal workers.

Ms. Mella says the defeat of a resolution she introduced into the Provincial Legislature means the government is denying an increase in the minimum wage to students and seasonal workers employed this summer. The resolution sought to implement a two-stage increase in the minimum wage -- 20 cents per hour effective June 1, and a further increase of 20 cents per hour on September 1. The government has opted to withhold any increase until September.

Ms. Mella says the two stage increase would be fair to businesses and would have benefited students working this summer who are facing increased costs for tuition fees at educational institutions. The two-stage increase would also provide a more immediate increase in pay for all those in the

province working at the minimum wage. Many of those employed at the minimum wage level are involved in the service industries and the peak employment government has deliberately chosen a time frame that will prevent those employed over the summer from benefiting from the wage increase. "I think the timing is unfair, and I believe it was chosen deliberately by the government to deny an increase in the minimum wage to those employed this summer. The two-stage increase would also have provided a better adjustment period for businesses.

The Leader of the Opposition also points out the timing preferred by government breaks with the norm in the province. Citing the examples of 1993 and 1991 she says changes in the minimum wage normally take place early in the year.

Prince Edward Island has the lowest minimum wage in Canada, and the rate of \$4.75 per hour has not changed since 1991.

Election Results

President:

Chris Burns - By Acclamation

VP External:

Chris Grey - By Acclamation

VP Internal:

Wendy Venema - 173 Votes

Tara Inman - 138 Votes

VP Finance:

Lindy MacKenzie - 151 Votes

Curtis Clark - 148 Votes

Ombudsman:

Mike Klenavic - By Acclamation

TOTAL No. of Votes VPI - 314 VPE - 308

TOTAL No. of Voters - 306