

EDITORIAL



Do They Know It's Christmas?

I was frantically trying to get to work on time (for a change) the other day when a rusty old blue van cut out in front of me. I began to mutter something rather unprintable just as I noticed a spanking brand new bumpersticker on the dented chromium of the bumper in front of me. "DO YOU HAVE YOUR SEARS CHRISTMAS WISHBOOK YET?" Well, I managed not to ram that person's bumpersticker up their (you know what!), but it did set me to thinking about business's biggest sales period of the year - CHRISTMAS.

Don't think for a minute that I am out to get Sears, but they DO make a great example of turning Christmas into Ca\$hmas!

Every year, Labour Day rolls around and people rush into their local Sears outlet with "The Sears Christmas Wishbook Notice" clenched in their sweaty palms. It has become a part of the pre-Ca\$h-mass rush to find out what will be the "Ultimate Gift" for the season. Undoubtedly, you know that this year the truly great gift to give your loved one is a \$20,000.00 pool table... or a \$2000 outdoor barbeque... or a \$4000 fur coat (a less expensive model). It seems that Sears would like to do us a favour by making the less expensive gifts appear to be less sincere. Somewhere amongst the "Merry Widow" outfits and lizard skin shoes, is there a *real* gift, one that has meaning and thoughtfulness? I wish I knew.

Then again, shopping malls are equally gauche. The Christmas decorations were up before Remembrance Day at the Charlottetown Mall last year. The festive colors and the garish "XMAS" signs began to appear in the shop windows, and customers instinctively began to shop early "so as to beat the Christmas Rush". It has taken business years to indoctrinate society with such beliefs, and the effort seems to be paying off very well.

However, the biggest players in the Ca\$hmas game are the toy companies... "Watch for the Cabbage Patch Twins for this Christmas." My sister is hoping to increase her patch this year to three from two. This year's models include TEETH and even EYEGLASSES!!! Perhaps next year we will see Cabbage Patch dolls with their very own social diseases...

So where does it end? Loto-649 seems to have the answer — double the number of games, double the take. I'm sure that Sears could manage a "Summer Wishbook", and Coleco could work on Cabbage Patch Triplets.

And what about me? I'm going to follow that rusty blue van to Sears and order my own gift from the Wishbook right away. The \$20,000 pool table has to be ordered by the end of October (No C.O.D.'s, please) so as to arrive for Christmas delivery, and I'd hate to miss a good game of billiards.

Danny Mullen
Staff Member

ACCLAMATIONS

Do you realize that there were only two elected positions for this year's Student Council, Student Executive, etc.? What in heck is going on here? Only the President and the V.P. Operations had to prove themselves to the student body in order to gain their seats in office. All of the rest just showed up at the right time to hand in their nomination sheets. I am not saying that the acclaimed people

are incompetent; in fact, I know some who are not, but acclaiming all those people to their seats certainly says something about student interest in political affairs.

I've heard lots of people complaining already about the way the Student Union runs itself. It's your own fault!

Once you start to take it upon yourselves to get more involved in the affairs of Stu-

dent Government, will you then earn your say.

Apathy is rampant on the Island, and you people are only contributing to the status quo.

THE NETTED GEM

U.P.E.I

Volunteer Network

By Jonathan Orlowski

"The U.P.E.I. Community Volunteer Network is a number of volunteer services open to any member (students, staff, faculty) of the U.P.E.I. community," said Inge Dorsey, co-ordinator in an interview with the **Netted Gem**. Inge also commented that the program "is co-sponsored by the Student Union and Student Services."

"The main reason why we are bringing this to the attention of the students is because it will, hopefully, get students to volunteer a few hours a week in relation to their future careers. For example, a social worker at Anderson House, or a developmental psychologist at the

child day care. These people receive valuable experience within their fields.

This Volunteer Network will act as a liaison or contact point between the students and the community, trying to dissolve some of the stereotypical views the community has about students.

"The contact point for students and community members is with either Sister Alma MacLellan or Reverend Leslie Jay at the Chaplaincy Centre, or at the Chaplain's office at Student Services in the Main Building," explained Dorsey.

The list of volunteer services is not ready as of yet, but the list will appear in next week's newspaper.

Mulroney # 1 Among Students

by Robert Bodrog-Goodland

In a recent opinion poll of Ontario university students, 46% said they considered Prime Minister Brian Mulroney as the most capable among the three party leaders.

The campus study showed Liberal leader John Turner well behind with a mere 26%, while NDP leader Ed Broadbent was preferred by 23%. Five percent were either undecided or indicated no preference.

If the poll is taken to reflect youth opinion across the country, this would definitely indicate a marked shift to the right among the nation's young people, who, according to many sociologists have been recently returning to

more traditional and conservative minded values.

According to a Decima poll this past spring, out of approximately one million first-time voters aged 18-22, over fifty percent supported the Progressive Conservative party in last September's federal election. These strong trends have raised eyebrows on all sides of the political arena, as the three parties realize that if they hope to remain formidable contenders five to ten years down the road, it's essential that they appeal to the country's youth today.

The Ontario study, conducted during the second week of September, is considered accurate to within plus or minus three percentage points.

THE BREAKDOWN

The Question: "Among the three federal party leaders, who do you consider to be the most capable?"

Mulroney	46%
Turner	26%
Broadbent	23%
Undecided	5%

Mini Quiz

Since we know that all of you university students love tests and exams, we will now present to you a very short, one question quiz.

"Too easy," you say? We don't think so, since we know that many of you fail this simple test every day...

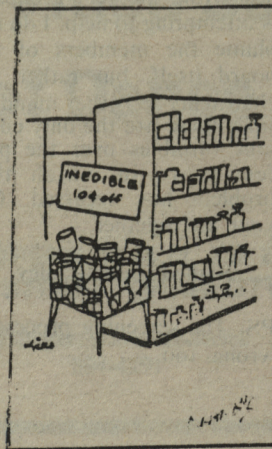
Here it is: What is maroon, white and green, 90 cm tall, 58 cm wide and has bred itself all over campus? Big Hint: some of them have round, white "helmets" on top of them.

If you don't know by now, then you may be one of persons who fails this test everyday. Our elusive object is known by many names. If you think that you know what it is, put your answer here _____.

... "Time's up, put down your pens!" The correct answer to our quiz is a "Garbage Can" (pronounced "Garr'badge kanne"). Have you ever heard of one? From the looks of certain parts of the campus, many people obviously do not know of its function. These "garbage cans" are designed to hold garbage. The university grounds are designed to look elegant and clean. Do not confuse the two.

The University is "home" to many of us. To the rest of us, it is a second home. We do not appreciate all of you near-sighted people who mistake the grounds for garbage cans. There are plenty of cans all over the campus — use them! I hope that you do not fail this test the next time you take it.

Don Lane



THE NETTED GEM

The staff consists of: Carol Doiron, Jill Warburton, Jim Lai, Jonathan Orlowski, Don Lane, James Connolly, Bill Harwood, Danny Mullen, Ron Lewis, Howard Beattie, Bob Stanley, Robert Bodrog-Goodland, Mike Zinck, Heather K. Marlene Cole, Margo Chase, Mel Wilson, Brian Linkletter, Shelli Wheaton, Rob Kelley, Nils Connor, G.R. Boswell, Karen Coughlin, Jane Armstrong, and Sheila Lund, Editor.

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