Dear everyone,

As you know from the cover-story from the January 14th issue of the Panther Prints, Chris Burns resigned his position as President of the UPEI Student Union. According to the UPEI Student Union constitutional job description, in the event that the President is absent due to: being away on a conference, resignation, impeachment, etc, the Vice-President External, Chris Gray (myself) shall assume her/his duties. This makes me Vice President External-Acting President of your UPEI Student Union. As Vice President External-Acting President I will continue my duties as VP External which constitutes communicating with groups outside the university campus that the UPEI Student Union is involved with, including the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC), the provincial government (Higher) Education Department, the federal government, and many other groups and organizations, as well as being a member of the UPEI Student Union Council, and the UPEI Senate.

Some of the things that the Student Union is working on for this semester include: A CFS membership referendum, the state of the Building Fund Donation, revising the UPEI Student Union Policy Manual, updating the UPEI Student Union Constitution, and running various campaigns including: Stop the Cuts, Education Builds A Nation, Student Debt, Student Loan information, etc.

The Student Union has many committees and is always looking for volunteers to sit on those committees. Some of these committees include: Policy Review, Constitutional Review, Building Fund, SUB 2000, External, Internal, Finance, Budget, Organizational Review, Hiring Board, Handbook, Elections and Referendum, etc. The Student Union is also called upon by the university to find students to fill positions on many committees which may require a student representative including: Library Advisory, Student Disciplinary Appeals, Information Technology, Orientation, Research Ethics, Animal Care, etc. Anyone who is interested in getting involved with a committee either Student Union or otherwise is more than welcome to drop their name and number off to me at the Student Union and an I will try to match them up with a committee they might be interested in.

If anyone has questions concerning the Student Union, we (the executive) can be reached in a variety of ways: e-mail cjgray@upei.ca, jseller@upei.ca, ljmackenzie@upei.ca, or wvenema@upei.ca; phone the office 566-0530, or you can drop by the Student Union and surprise us for a visit (but remember all the members of the Student Union are full-time students and do not live in the Barn). The Student Union also has a notice board on the university computer network accessible through e-mail, and a web site accessible through the UPEI web site (http://www.upei.ca/~union).

Yours Sincerely,
Chris Gray
VP External/Acting President

After reading the article "Digging up Dirt on the Soc/Anth Department" I felt that I should address a matter in regards to the following section which appears in the Panther Prints: "Write news. Write opinion articles. Write personals Write sports. Write letters to the editor. We don't care what you write, just write." Does this mean you will publish anything no matter what the content? Jennifer Caseley's article has clarified this matter for us. She has taken "We don't care what you write, just write" literally. Otherwise she would have researched and consulted all of the parties involved in the article. One-sideness does little for journalism or professionalism in any area. Unfortunatly, people who are unfarmiliar with the Soc/Anth deparment, upon reading the article Ms. Caseley has printed, may believe what she has stated to be fact, and therefore they may assume that this deprtment is an awful one to be associated with. This is most certainly not true, and I hope that unsuspecting people do not take it to be so.

Marcia Peters

It is unfortunate that muck raking or "dirt digging" has replaced integrity and honesty as the new pens with which some journalists write. I will not reduce my comments to a tit for tat rendition of the morally questionable antics of the author or the logical inconsistencies which plagued the article. Many of my colleagues who know both sides of the story and as such are qualified to argue the facts, will do just that. That being said, I am going to take a more holistic approach in my analysis. More specifically, I would like to have an open discussion of two fundamental principles of journalism, as an injustice was irrefutably done at this level.

I harbour no illusions that I hold a monopoly of truth on responsible journalism, but such a knowledge is not necessary here. The reader can decide whether the maxim, 'consider both sides before passing judgement', holds any credence. Some of us have either forgotten this golden rule, or are simply willing to let sensationalism supersede principle. The second principle I would like to address, is courage. Nameless sources are a nice touch for a police thriller on cable, but lack credibility when casting aspersions on specific incidents which require substantiation. Ms. Caseley should study the methods and ethics of journalism and be better prepared before she puts her pen to paper in the future.

Ryan Mccarville
Student rep
Anthropology

The End of the Letters to the Editor.

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