

Editorial

YOU NEVER GIVE ME YOUR MONEY

It's not very often that this university population exhibits the internal compulsion to mobilize for anything much beyond going down to the Barn for a pub. It is also a rare occasion when students from this university have the opportunity to participate in a forum of international exchange. As it happens, this year these two distant phenomena have decided to line up, just to see what happens.

The event is the model United Nations Conference in New York. Unfortunately, and not for a lack of trying, the funding for this groups expedition has come up short. As if the individual and group preparations for representing a country at the United Nations has not been enough, the delegates have also had to deal with the constant concerns of financing their venture. It has been a challenge and a struggle, a very "real world" experience in itself. Financial support has come from a variety of sources including the Secretary of State benevolent individuals, the groups fund raising lottery and the Student Union. Once glaring gap in the area of local support has been the university administration. It seems that the "Administrators" have, in their finite wisdom, decided that UPEI's foray into international politics does not merit any financial assistance from their delicately balanced resources. Admittedly, we must understand that this is a time of financial restraint, but then with the same analysis we must also admit to the indelicate and unbalanced budgets of the "keepers" themselves.

Approached for any financial support at all, the guardian lions gave up no more than a few growls of beaurocracy concerning the lack of sufficient advance notice about this request. Well, pass the shovel because there's a lot more where that came from.

Tools and experience are an integral part of any education: science students need labs and equipment just as engineering students require surveying tools and related experience to compliment their studies. Arts students, on the other hand, do not deal with this kind of equipment; their "tools" are learned, and exist largely as acquired skills.

But Arts students do need experience, most relevantly; experience like that offered by participation in the U.N. Conference. Not unexpectedly, because of the size and location of UPEI, this kind of participation requires travelling and therefore expenses. It is however, a valid extension of the refinement and application of the tools learned here at UPEI. Arts students need the experience which is not always to be had within the often narrow halls of a small university.

Generally, we would expect that the wisdom of the high officials would not be quite so narrow as that of the environment. Sadly, our expectations of their capacity to manage a small university are being continually eroded.

It is truly amazing to see the administration at one moment wringing their hands about the lack of students attending this institution only to find them, moments later, give the back of their hand to a request which might be a step towards making the courses here more appealing. Is it any wonder therefore, that this university is having problems? Perhaps the administration should stop insulating themselves and pause to consider the reasons for which they exist. Otherwise, it won't be much longer before they are the only ones left sitting up on top of this hill.

At this time I would like to point out that, although there are undoubtedly many people who are not even aware that UPEI is sending a team of delegates to the U.N. Conference, I speak on behalf of the rest who wish the team all the best next week in New York. We are always especially proud to see UPEI students participate in events outside the community.

LETTERS

Dear Fellow Students,

The 1981-82 academic year is quickly drawing to a close. This year has been quite an experience for me, serving as the President of the Student Union, one I surely will not forget for some time to come.

Looking back over the year I feel that it has been a most successful one, due mainly to a lot of hard work by a lot of dedicated people. Being at the head of any organization necessitates that one take the blame for the mistakes that the organization makes and, if a good job had been done, one also gets to take the credit for it. In my case, I cannot take the credit because the success of the Student Union in the past year has not been a sole effort. I speak sincerely when I say that the hard work by the rest of the executive and the full-time and part-time staff of the Student Union has made the year so successful.

I would like to extend my thanks specifically to the members of the executive. Sue Parlee, Patti Bradley, and

Bruce Hickey, three of the nicest people anyone could even hope to work with. My thanks go out to Mickey Place and Clyde Bell for putting up with us over the year when we became difficult. My thanks go also to the Student Council who have stood behind the executive throughout the year and have given us the power to do the things we felt had to be done in order for the Student Union to grow and prosper for years to come. My congratulations go out to the President-elect John MacDougall, I wish him all the luck in the world and hope his year will be as enlightening as mine has been.

Finally, my fourth year here at U.P.E.I. has gone so fast. It has been, for me, one during which I have made so many new and lasting friendships that probably is the reason why I will remember it with warm feelings.

I Thank-You,

Terry Palmer
President

U.P.E.I. Student Union

The Sun

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