

# BOOK REVIEW

The new promotional booklet, *Canada's Newest Educational Thrust*, is a Public Relations publication in the best tradition of said type of publication. Nearly every statement is true in at least one context, but whether this truth supports the broad generalizations this book asserts is quite another. In particular, the statistics on student population

on page two are misleading. It says, in part, "Numbers are going up in the Island's university-student population. On the Island, the number of full-time students at the university level has more than doubled in the past seven years (1964)... Notice the increase. Current enrollment projections indicate there will be 2,500 students here in 12 years."

The fact of the matter is student enrollment has gone down in the last two years by almost 200. The year 1964 was, in all likelihood, the best year to take for statistical purposes. Prince of Wales College was in its first year of operation as a four year degree granting institution. In the booklet, "A Program and Plan for Growth 1970-1985", it projects a university enrollment by 1985 of 3,300 students. 1985 minus 1973 equals twelve years. No doubt both of these UPEI Publications will have to be revised as the years go by.

There is a rumour going around that it costs more to educate a UPEI student to the bachelor's degree level than in nearly any other Canadian university. This is a seemingly direct contradiction to the booklets statement, It costs less to provide undergraduate education

on the Island than to subsidize local students for these studies elsewhere. Perhaps by local students they mean people living 300 feet from the campus.

We all know that it costs a UPEI student from outside Charlottetown, living in town away from home, about the same amount of money per year to attend UPEI as it would almost any other Maritime university. If every UPEI student would be subsidized \$500 dollars to go elsewhere, it would only come to \$880,000 or a small fraction of current government grants. Perhaps the booklet defines subsidization as \$3,000 per year per student.

The booklet quotes from a study done by Dr. P. Nagarajan and Evan J. Douglas, "The University of Prince Edward Island is not only an important generator of incomes (approximately \$10,000,000) and employment (approximately 678 jobs with an estimated 1,860 dependents), and provincial tax revenues (658,300 dollars) but also attracts approximately 1.1 million dollars annually in autonomous funds into the economy and provides valuable services of various types in the local community."

Some people would question the significance as well as the underlying assumptions of the above figures. Other people would question the figures. It would be interesting to see the study in print. The above quote is only one of the many parts of the booklet, all of which are a concerted drive to justify UPEI's existence and 2.9 million dollar fund raising campaign. It seems you could not find better qualified people to justify UPEI than members of the UPEI academic community.

The booklet makes for enjoyable reading. It includes pats on the back (mostly subtle) for almost everyone, justifications, Island and Canadian patriotism and paradoxical statements that suit even the most discriminating illiterate. If you want a laugh filled evening or if you're an apathetic UPEI student you'll really find it worth while reading. Perhaps who is getting Canada's newest educational THRUST will become apparent after you've read the booklet. Members of the general public who are less educated probably don't need to read the booklet to find out who is getting the thrust—Just the experience of life will do.



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## JASON PEOPLE

Jason, a one-hundred per cent Canadian group, is composed of eight members; five of which are on the musical side of the act. The other three members are the handy-dandy road crew, who are responsible for setting up the equipment for the various gigs. There is only one female in the group, she is married to one of the other performers.

The band has been together for three and one half years and have been playing together fulltime for two years.

They are great people to talk with and are down to earth in their life-style. Jason live in a 17 room, 100 year old house near Hamilton, Ontario. The house is decorated entirely in black and white. The group emphasizes these

two colours a great deal, their official emblem is a black and white penguin and they do a set in their show in which they dress entirely in stunning black and white.

The group class their music as entertaining, preferring to avoid labels like Blues or Rock. The audience means a lot to them, they prefer a university crowd who are old enough to appreciate their show and the humor that evolves throughout the show.

Jason will be the feature band on The Miss Teen Canada Pageant to be aired on CTV, March 5. They will also be playing on a pilot show "ROCK" which will be a weekly show featuring Jason and four other Canadian groups.

Kathy Roach

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