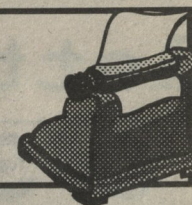


# letters to the editor...



## in response to artistic freedom

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to the letter on artistic freedom in the March 18 edition of the Panther Prints. First of all, commenting on a writing method is an English professor's reason for being, and not at all "out of place", as G.D. would wish to think. Secondly, the probable reason for the professor to comment on the G.D.'s friends' academic career likely has to do with the seriousness of getting kicked out of a university course. This isn't high school, where you get sent to the principal's office for being a bad little boy; you are in university now. Accept it. Also, like G.D., I too have a friend in that creative writing class. She tells a much different story. According to her, G.D.'s friends constantly disrupted the professor while she was lecturing. Note to G.D.'s friends: you are no longer in high school. It is neither amusing nor appropriate to interrupt your professor and be the class clown. You are in university now, and you are an adult; act like it. Secondly, my friend also informs me that the students were not being what G.D. euphemistically calls "over-opinionated"; they were being insulting and derogatory to other student's writing. This kind of "opinion" has absolutely no place in a Creative Writing course; the type of writing these students partake in is hard enough to share with others, and they don't need to hear ignorant comments aimed at their work. There is a big difference between an insult and constructive criticism; if you are not sure of this distinction, look it up.

However, my comments, like G.D.'s are based on hearsay. Therefore, I wish to address the more serious accusations made by G.D. in regards to the so-called lack of artistic freedom in the English Department. This indictment against my department is an utter fallacy. The English professors at UPEI live for "passion...individuality and originality" (to use G.D.'s words) in their classes. A professor of mine was delighted that a seminar I was to give was the opposite view of her lecture; it opens up the discussion to the conflicting views and theories that are the intrinsic to the study of literature. The professor is not God, and s/he will not fling to the burning lake in chains because you question them. Questioning is the point of class. By the way, students generally are comfortable in their understanding of the artists we study--this is why we take English. As well, I have been handed back more than one paper which has comments such as "although I do not agree with your opinion..." In papers, as well, it is very difficult to hide behind the skirts of anonymity, and these papers received A's not the F's that G.D. would like students to believe. Do you know why? The professors are ADULTS, that's why. In short, in all of my four years spent at this university, I have never, ever, felt my artistic and academic freedom threatened by the English department. As a matter of fact, without their encouragement, I wouldn't be an English student today.

DAMN PROUD to be an English student,  
Melissa Doucette

## CFS bias?

To the Editor,

I was disheartened by the March 11 Panther Prints, as it contained an advertisement by and for the CFS, "and" a blatant editorial in favour of the CFS from Amber Allin.

Don't get me wrong; in general, I actually like many of the positions that CFS takes on student-related issues such as the fight against the 3% tax on loans in 1991-92 (unfortunately, it does tend to stray on occasion...but that's not my point here).

My problem is that there is already a blatant bias of resources available to the two sides of the CFS referendum question. I happened to be walking around campus last weekend, and I noted that there were no anti-CFS posters. None. But I saw pro-CFS posters. Everywhere. In fact, I saw pro-CFS posters in parts of buildings that few students go to! (Eg. Stairwell, 2nd floor, Irving Chemistry). The pro-CFS folks are nothing if complete in their wallpapering of the University.

In the newspaper, we

saw a full-page ad extolling the virtues of CFS, presumably paid for by CFS, in order to convince UPEI students to remain in CFS. Obviously, there was no such ad by any anti-CFS group.

On top of all this, there was the "article" by Amber Allin, also stating how great CFS was. This was not labelled as an editorial, though it clearly was one. There was no anti-CFS counter to this "article". It is this "article" that particularly bugs me.

As the "official newspaper of the students of UPEI", the Panther Prints has an obligation of presenting or attempting to present both sides of any issue of interest to students. The fact that there is a referendum being called to question UPEI's membership in CFS suggests that there probably are some people who are dissatisfied with CFS.

It is your responsibility to ensure that their reasons why UPEI should not be part of CFS are given coverage, even if you disagree with their position.

Sean Maguire  
Political Studies

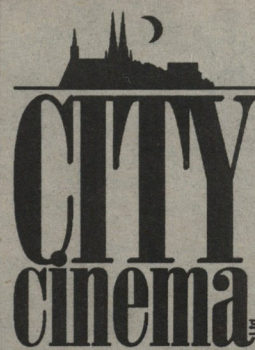
*Ed. Note: I agree with Mr. Maguire in that both issues of the CFS issue should be discussed, but, I would like to make a comment on that.*

*If the Panther Prints wrote an article on CFS we would have covered both sides of the issue. The good and bad points of CFS. I do not feel it necessary to comment on an ad, or an opinion piece written by a student of UPEI.*

*I would suggest asking the Student Union Council, specifically Chris Gray who as VPE is in charge of running campaigns why the Student Union did not run an anti-CFS campaign, if only to make sure students had both sides of the story before they voted.*

*But alas, all of this is in vain because the council decided to cancel the referendum and decided for us to stay in CFS.*

J.C.



**Great  
Movies**

*-Downtown-*

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