

# University, Especially Our Union, Must Decide Priorities



dave macrae  
editorial

In the midst of this present debate over fees, each and every student must ask himself that most fundamental of questions - Is he willing to take a cut-back in the services offered by the university in order to keep the fee increases down? If so, how big and what kind of cut-back is he willing to take?

It is unfortunate that the Student Union has never really applied itself to this question. Its attitude towards fee increases appears to be that students can't afford any, therefore any alternative is preferable. And it has done a good job of pointing out these alternative to the university and to the government.

It is about time we

asked ourselves just what we are willing to do without in order to keep the fee increases down to a minimum or, conversely, how big a fee increase we are willing to put up with in order to keep services to a reasonable level.

Some of the options we have include: closing the rink or the gym, shortening library hours, not replacing vacationing or retiring staff, closing the alumni or information office, asking (or even forcing) faculty, administration, and support staff to take smaller salary increases this - or perhaps even a salary freeze, putting a moratorium on expansion of this university (a new athletic complex or student union building). I'm sure that

any of us could add several things to this list without thinking too hard.

The point is, though, that we must decide what type of a priority to put on these various items. Is there any item in my list (or anyone else's) that should absolutely not be increased?

There are, of course, other questions which we have to ask ourselves such as How closely, if at all, should residence fees be related to the cost running a residence? or Can we get more money from the government? or Will anybody on campus accept a salary freeze for the next year? Typically, the student union has not answered any of these questions in any depth except the second. If you have any problems, it's always easier to run to big daddy for the answer than to solve it yourself.

What the Student Union should be doing right now instead of whining that students can't afford a fee increase (and anyone close enough to the issue to count knows this anyway) is to provide to the administration a clearly defined al-

ternative to the policies which they appear to be implementing. The same alternative should be taken to the general student population as well as to the government and the various unions on campus.

To put it simply, we should (and within 10% or so it would be a simple matter to do so with the information we presently have) hand to the university a proposed budget for the University of Prince Edward Island for the year 1976-77 and push for its implementation with all the power we got.

It is not even necessary to wait for the Provincial Government to act, for surely it would not be difficult to make several different projections, each based on a different level of spending by the Government.

Unless we are willing to do at least this much homework, then our complaints about inability to afford fee increases, however well founded and well-researched will have the air of a spoiled child who wants a glass of milk after having broke the bottle.



Dear Editor:

On behalf of the Canada Manpower Centre on Campus I would like to express my appreciation for the assistance you and the staff of the Cadre have provided this office in communicating with the U.P.E.I. student population this year.

I would also like to express thanks to Mike Hennessey and Maurice Rogerson and the staff of Radio Station CIMN for their assistance.

We appreciate the assistance provided to this office by both of these student organizations.

Yours truly,  
Joe Power

Greeting!

In the past few issues of The Cadre, an interesting array of concepts, opinions and understandings has been displayed concerning the spiritual society, etc.

What this indicates is that people, whether pro or con on the issues, are all aspiring to the 'truth', and thusly reality, and this has always attracted my attention as well.

I would like to propose a meeting between P.P. and the other contributors to this column so that we can all inter-relate on this subject in a more tangible medium. The objective, as I see it, is to examine our motivations and in the process increase our awareness.

I have reserved room #65 in Robertson Memorial Library for 4:15 p.m. on Thursday April 8 two days from the publishing date. If this is inconvenient to the participants, please tack a note in the upper right hand corner of the Robertson Library main billboard advising schedule alterations.

My perspective is simply one of objectivity. I am not presently an active Christian, an apathetic agnostic, or a confirmed atheist, but I feel that this anticipated

encounter could expose a lot of valuable reasoning toward my evolving aspirations.

Other interested individuals are welcome to participate. I know that awareness of purpose on our lives is a

mutual goal we are all striving for in the Process of human BE-ing.

This is an experiment. Let's just see what unfolds on Thursday.

Micheal H.



**IF YOU FIND MISTAKES IN THIS PUBLICATION PLEASE CONSIDER THAT THEY ARE THERE FOR A PURPOSE. WE PUBLISH SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE, AND SOME PEOPLE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR MISTAKES !!!**

The Cadre is available on campus at the Barn, Main, the cafeteria, Library, Cadre office, and Blanchard on Tuesday.

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