

## Health... What's it worth?

### UPEI Health Centre at Risk of Closing

By CINDY VENEMA

The latest budget victim to come under the microscope at UPEI is the Health Centre. As the expected budget cuts are slashing all the corners of UPEI's institutional structure it is no surprise to see the administrative scapel move towards the very well being of its students

Sharon Zimmerman, a nurse who has worked at the Health Centre for 16 years, feels that the university is hitting a very essential service. She emphasized this point by stating, "The university has a moral obligation, if not, a legal obligation to provide health services to the students".

The Health Centre is in jeopardy because Student Development has been told that they have to cut \$110,000 from their budget. Since most of their budget goes towards sala-

ries, they are looking at saving this money by not replacing Jack Blanchard who is retiring from counselling, and by cutting the approximate \$50 000 in funding the Health Centre currently receives.

Located in the basement of Marion Hall, the Health Centre treats students, faculty, and staff. Last year, 1995/96, the Centre saw 5431 patients. About 3124 or 58% of the patients were students; 183 were faculty; 820 were staff; and 199 were "other", such as daycare. These numbers, compared to the 1989/90 school year when 2470 patients visited the Health Centre show that the Centre is becoming increasingly popular.

Health Care is important, and having access to this service is essential. The problem for students that are living far from home, is that no Medical Clinic in Charlottetown is

accepting new patients because of a ceiling placed by the government and no new doctors are allowed to practice in the province.

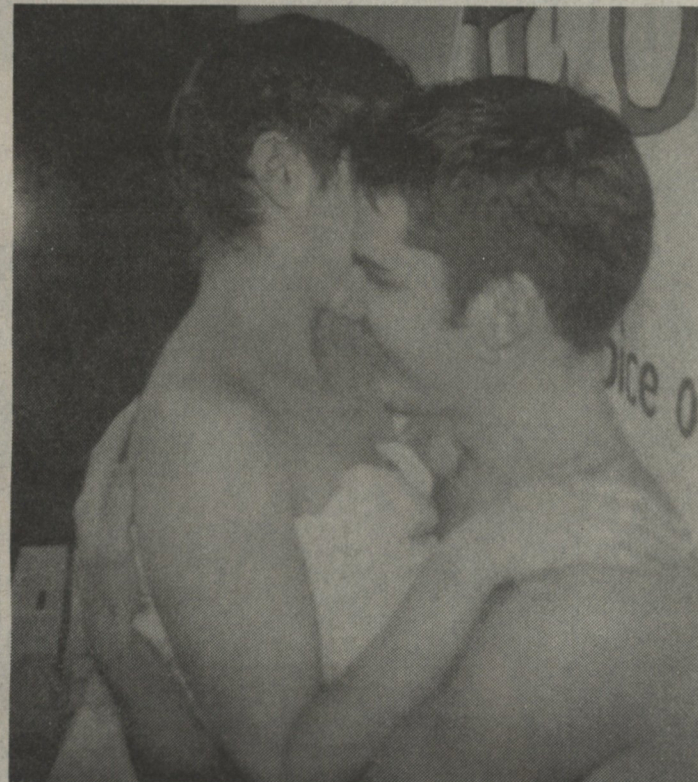
Student Development is looking at other possibilities in keeping the Centre alive. Blane Jenson, Director of Student Services, stated, "My opinion is that we have to save this service", agreeing with the importance of Health Care for students.

Jenson also stated, "We are working very hard to maintain the Health Centre, not to close but move cost off the main operating budget".

Which means that the Health Centre would have to start supporting itself.

Currently Student Development is paying for the nurse, the building, and utilities at the Health Centre, and

*Cont'd p.4, see "Health"*



SEX: it's back... see Page 17

## Government Helps Deaf Students Study Abroad

By AMANDA LABONTE

ST. JOHN'S, Nfld. (CUP) — The department of Social Services is helping deaf students in this province attend other post-secondary institutions as far away as the U.S. because Newfoundland schools can not meet their special needs.

A person is considered deaf when their only method of communicating is through the use of American Sign Language and they need to be provided with interpreters to understand what is being taught in a classroom.

But a lack of money pre-

vents deaf students from functioning to their full potential in an environment like Newfoundland's Memorial University because the school can't afford to provide interpreters for them.

"Interpreters are really hard to get," said Kelly Gillingham, a hard of hearing student from Memorial who has seen the complications many deaf students have to go through.

Students who are hard of hearing don't have the same problems as deaf students. In many cases, hard of hearing students can use electronic

devices or are able to read lips and so don't require the many services deaf students need.

But the Family and Rehabilitative division of Social Services has set up the Training Services Program so any disabled student who wants to attend a postsecondary institution able to meet their specific needs can apply to receive funding.

"Individuals who are deaf cannot obtain the services they need (in a university) in this province," Ken O'Brien of Social Services said.

The program has enabled deaf students to attend

liberal arts universities such as Galidette in Washington D.C. or technical colleges like St. Paul in Minnesota, which specifically aid deaf students.

O'Brien said it is cheaper to help pay for students to go to these universities than to try to provide the same quality of services locally.

Jeanne Cranford of the Newfoundland Co-ordinating Council on Deafness says that attending a postsecondary institution primarily for deaf students has other benefits that Memorial can't provide. She said it encourages social interaction with peers, who are also

deaf, which is an important part of going to university, particularly in the early years.

The main drawback is that students have to go away to further their education. However, it is the intent of the Training Services Program, O'Brien says, to provide the best possible opportunities to all disabled students.

"The underlying function of the program is to provide (all) individuals with an equal opportunity."

*Turn the page for more news and UPEI events*