

JOBS Cont. from page 1

grants going to regions where unemployment is highest.

But Macerollo said students do not make enough money through the Challenge programs to offset education costs. The average gross earnings for a student on a Challenge grant last summer was \$2,141, but education costs can run over \$6,000, said Macerollo.

"I don't care how many times they tell us how low the student unemployment rate was, I'd like to know how many of the students who did get jobs through this program were able to return to school on those wages. And if they did, let's see what their debt loads look like," said Macerollo.

Macerollo also disagrees with Charest's solution to the high school drop-out problem.

"A big factor for drop-outs is that they don't see university or college as options and financial barriers play a major role in that."

But Charest argues that Canada requires a skilled labour force and that the biggest problem for youth today is the school-to-work transition.

"I can't envisage a dis-

tant Canada where every young person goes to university. The great majority require a minimum level of training to enter the labour force. For certain people, post-secondary education is necessary. But as the system is designed now, we need to develop a skilled labour force," said Charest.

"They are trying to overshadow the whole purpose for the Challenge program with these extra millions for WOW (Work Orientation Workshops, the component for potential drop-outs)," said Macerollo. "The emphasis for the program has been and should be to help students earn money to go back to school."

But Charest says CFS is asking too much.

"I don't know where CFS ever got the idea this program was supposed to give students all the money they need to go to school and we don't pretend that it does," said Charest. "We are simply trying to create jobs that otherwise wouldn't exist."

CFS also criticized the government's emphasis on private sector participation in the program.

Private sector jobs pay significantly higher wages (\$2,772 average gross compared to \$2,099 in the public

sector and \$1,770 in the non-profit sector) but the private sector hires fewer women and pays them less than either the public or non-profit sectors.

Last summer, only 39.4 per cent of private sector Challenge jobs went to women, while women were hired for 55.8 and 61.6 per cent of the public and non-profit sector jobs.

But Charest said the government plans to increase its emphasis on private sector involvement from 28 per cent last year to 30 per cent for Challenge 88.

"We are not satisfied with the participation rate of women in this sector and we will pay more attention to it," he said. "But it requires a partnership; women must be encouraged to go after non-traditional jobs."

Macerollo said he plans to ask Charest to set up a national advisory committee on student employment so that

students could help evaluate and improve the Challenge program.

But Charest doesn't sound keen on the idea. "The last thing Ottawa needs is another committee," he said.

Intramural Bulletins

Aerobic Fitness

Get into shape with aerobic fitness. The classes that were very popular during first semester in the Vet College have now been moved to the gym to provide more space.

A certified fitness instructor will lead male and female students at both the beginner and intermediate levels. Registration will take place at the gym on the 25th, so don't just think about it; do it.

This week in intramural sports

The Alpine Winter Carnival Hockey Tournament will be wrapped up this week with two games on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday. There will also be one game on Wednesday and everybody is encouraged to come and cheer their team on.

Men's basketball will have the gym on Monday as Blanchard plays Bernardine at 10:30. At the same time on Wednesday, Marian will play the Mayflowers.

On Tuesday, the day students will face the Vets in

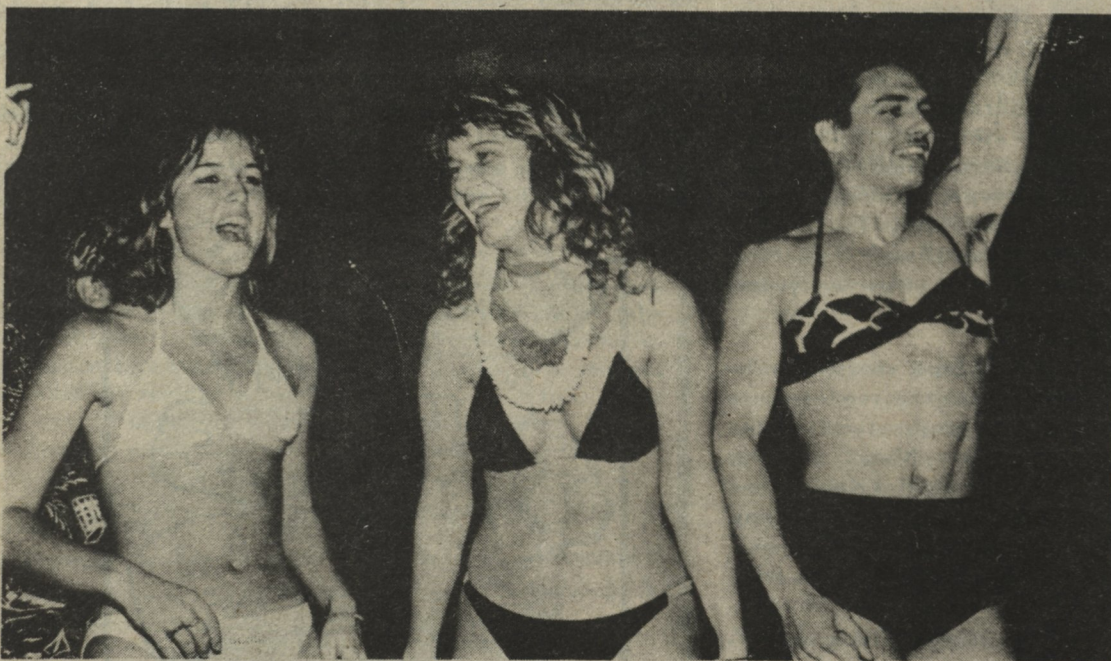
women's basketball at 9:30. Following that game, Bernardine's team will face Blanchard at 10:30.

Co-Ed Volleyball takes the spot on Thursday as the first year vets play Business at 9:30. At 10:15 the Engineers will square off against the second year vets on that night.

There is a reminder to everyone to watch for athletic posters that let you know how to make the most of your already-paid athletic fee.

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The Gem Captivating Caption Contest



Write a funny caption to go with the photo above. If your caption is selected as best by our judges, you will win the fine quality prized illustrated on the right and your caption will appear along with the photo in next week's edition of The Gem.

RULES: All students, Faculty and staff of UPEI except current members of The Gem are eligible to enter. You may submit as many different captions as you like. Previous winners are eligible to win again only after four issues of The Gem have passed. In the event that less than 3 persons respond by deadline time, no prize will be awarded and a different photo will appear next issue. If nearly identically worded entries are received and are judged to be the best, a random selection will determine the winner.

Prize: A finely crafted Sheaffer pen from Carter & Co. to help further your academic career. Retail value \$14.00. Impress your Prof. and be the envy of your friends who still write with .59 cent Bic's.

Due to an insufficient number of entrants in last week's photo caption contest, no winner has been selected