

# Provincial Science Fair Downtown this Year

University of Prince Edward Island Professors John Burka and Earl Wonnacott are the Co-Chairmen of this year's PEI Science Fair which will be held at the Confederation Centre of the Arts on Friday, April 7.

Dr. Burka, who is a Professor of Pharmacology at the Atlantic Veterinary College, reports he expects over 300 projects will be on display at this annual contest of scientific talents. Entries are pouring from school children from across the province, and Dr. Burka notes that this year the organizers are receiving regis-

trations from students in schools that have not participated in the past. There are three categories: Junior (grades 4,5,6), Intermediate (grades 7,8,9), and Senior (grades 10,11,12).

In past years the Science Fair was held at the University of Prince Edward Island, at first in the Gym, and later on (as the Fair grew in size) in the Duffy Science Building and in the Atlantic Veterinary College. Because the growing number of displays are attracting more and more viewers, the organizers decided to move the Fair to the Memorial

Hall and concourses of the Confederation Centre.

On the morning of the Fair, students are to register their displays between 8 and 9 a.m. Judging is from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. A banquet will be held for the participants at 4, and the awards ceremony which is open to the public, is scheduled for 5 p.m. in the lower foyer of the Centre. Public viewing of the Fair is from 9 until 4. Sponsorship of the Fair comes from the Provincial Department of Industry, with additional support from the Department of Education, and the University of

Prince Edward Island.

Further information is available from the Chairmen by telephone (Dr. Burka 566-0810,

Prof. Wonnacott 566-0688) or writing (UPEI, Charlottetown, PEI, C1A 4P3). Deadline for entries is March 31, 1989.

## Student Concerns

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to AVC? Other schools are much more affordable but they only accept one or two international students. AVC has nine seats available.

The little funding which is available for students from developing nations needs to be better publicised. The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) does make available scholarships for studies in Canada. However, the request for these scholarships must be made by the student's home government to the Canadian government. This needs to be better understood by both the students and the other agencies involved. There is a great deal of confusion over whether these scholarships really exist and how to obtain them.

Another factor which makes finances difficult for an international student is the limited work opportunities. If the student is permitted to work, it may only be on campus and may even be restricted to the student's particular field of study. Thus, the option to earn extra money while attending school is often not available to the international student.

An international student has several extra concerns which may not be obvious and may add to the stress of studying in a country so far from home. For example, on top of original planned expenses, the student is also very dependent on the economy of the home country. If the country falls into financial difficulty, there may either be a withdrawal of funding or the currency may be devalued so much that the student cannot pay the required fees and must withdraw from school. Imagine getting successfully through part of a program and then having to withdraw for financial reasons! It can be a frustrating and stressful situation.

A student will be concerned about what is happening at home for other reasons as well. Many events could happen which could directly affect a student. For example, a national disaster such as a hurricane or earthquake could cause harm to the student's family or put such a great stress on the government that funding may be discontinued. In the case of a refugee student, there is also a concern for the rest of the family which may still remain in an undesirable situation. This concern is compounded by the fact that it is frequently impossible to obtain information.

An international student must also deal with loneliness. This student has not only left everything familiar but also everyone familiar. There may even be a language barrier to overcome. Parents, family and often a spouse are left behind and may be seen once a year if the student is fortunate. Often it is a full

four years before the student can return home. Under these conditions, the student can become very depressed and it is important for friends to recognize this and provide the support that is needed. This again emphasizes the advantage of a small university like UPEI where a closeness can develop among the students.

The purpose of this article has been to recognize the unique difficulties and needs of international students. It is hoped this will lead to a greater understanding and thereby a greater concern for these students at UPEI. International students add a lot to a university such as their broader knowledge and the opportunity to learn about other countries and to learn about the people from these countries. We need to accept them into the university community and try to make their stay at UPEI as trouble-free as possible.

## Local Students Plan National Conference

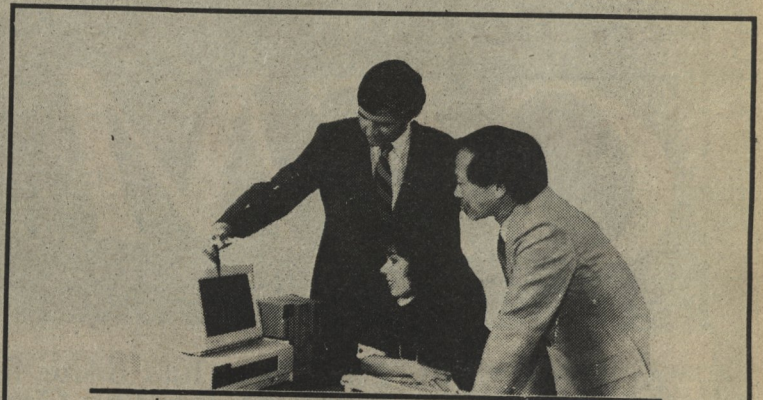
For the past six months, a small group of UPEI students have been working diligently preparing brochures, posters, and letters for a national conference to be held this summer from August 19 to 24 on the campus of UPEI. The students are part of the Canadian Catholic Students Association and are very excited to have the opportunity to host the upcoming conference. It is the first one to be held on PEI. Invitations have been sent out all across Canada and the expected attendance for the week long conference is between 80-100.

The theme for the conference is Dwell and Discover

and it focuses on the idea of self-development and personal growth. It is especially directed toward university and college students.

The week long activities include talks on Effective Expression, Suicide, and Self-Image. Also, an important part of the conference deals with the Myers Briggs Personality Type Indicator. In addition, an evening at "Anne of Green Gables" and a lobster supper are scheduled.

If you are interested and would like additional information please contact Sr. Alma at the Chaplaincy Centre 566-0345.



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