

## Lucky To Be A Student At UPEI!?!

Here I am again, and this week I have decided to focus on the Business Office. If your one of those students who is independently wealthy, or who's parents are rich, you probably don't have much of a problem with the Business Office. As for the other 99.5% these things.

Many students these days finance their education with the aid of a student loan or a bursary because they can't afford to pay the high costs of learning on their own. The Business Office is just so understanding of this point. In fact, if your loan or bursary doesn't come in until after registration you can get a 'permission-to-pay-late' form. Sounds good, doesn't it? But, like most things in life, there is a catch....you get charged \$5/day for 7 days until your bill is paid. So, if your loan is over 7 days late, you get to have a whole \$35 added on to the tuition that you already can't afford to pay. Then there's the extra tax added on at the bank after graduation. Thirty-five dollars may not seem like much, but it would pay for a textbook or even close-to-a-weeks worth of groceries. After 4 years this can add up to 280 dollars.

I do see a place for late fees. For those students who have the money, but just don't bother to pay. They may want to spend the money on other things, like boozing it up, and pay later. I don't believe that this would be a common occurrence.

Another fault with the Business Office is that none of them seem to know what their doing. I've asked questions of the people at the window and they often have to go searching around for someone who knows the answer, or they just fake it and give a negative response. I have had to explain several times to a couple of them how student loans work (ie: it's sent to them first, not me). If you want to get in touch with the loan office in your hometown, go to the Registrar's Office, the Business Office won't have the phone number. If they do, it will probably be the wrong one.

Not all of this, of course, is the fault of the individuals working in the B.O. It's the place as a whole. I also understand that they are very busy, but how about training people before sticking them behind that window. Teach newcomers how loans work, and tell them that if they have a problem to ask a superior. If your a student who's been here for a least

one year, you could try to explain to them how different things (ie: loans) work, but from my experience, they won't believe you.

What I'd like to see happen at the business office is:

1. Learn how the loan programs for each province are operated and share this with all of the employees. This way, they will be of more help to confused and/or frustrated students who are worried about or looking for an incoming loan.

2. Know how to get in touch with the right people, in any province, in searching for an overdue loan.

3. Have the people at the window be humble and admit when they don't know the answer to a

question, or are unsure how to do something. This way, they, the student and a superior can work together to find the answer.

4. If students have a good reason to pay late, give them a permission-to-pay-late form, and DON'T charge late fees.

5. For the sake of students who can't pay during the day on registration day due to: classes, transportation problems, banking problems, or some other good reason, allow them to pay in the evening when the part-time students are registering. This would mean leaving the full-time student material in the gym until close up that night.

And finally I would just like to say that I have always felt that the Business Office, like other office's on campus, are supposed to be here for the students. Sure they are here to collect money for the university, but doesn't that money go toward helping students by paying professors, staff, building costs, ect.... The people at the Business Office should be willing to help students how ever they can, even if it means putting themselves out a little. I think this is true for anyone who works on the campus. If you don't like students and your not here to help them, and the university as a whole, then why are you here? Maybe it's just another job.

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## Soviet Aircraft Intercepted in the Beaufort Sea

OTTAWA - A Soviet aircraft was intercepted early on the morning of January 26 when it entered the Canadian Air Defence Identification Zone over the Beaufort Sea.

According to the North American Aerospace Defence Command (NORAD), the aircraft was a Soviet Ilyushin Il-20 series reconnaissance and electronic intelligence gathering aircraft, com-

monly referred to its NATO designation of "Coot".

This incident marked the first time this year that military aircraft of the Soviet Union have been intercepted, identified and tracked off Canada's shores by Canadian interceptors under operational control of NORAD.

The intercept was carried out by two CF-18s from 441 Tactical

Fighter Squadron based at Canadian Forces Base Cold Lake, Alta. They were operating out of their Forward Operating Location at Inuvik, N.W.T.

The Soviet aircraft remained over international waters and at no time did it penetrate Canadian airspace, according to NORAD. Their closest approach to land was approximately 80 kilometers from shore.

## AUPC 1990

The UPEI Physics society was represented by 5 delegates ( the largest number ever from UPEI!) at the Undergraduate Physics Conference held at Mt. Allison University Feb 2-4. The focus of the conference was superconductivity, with a few sessions on nuclear physics and fusion in magnetic confinement of plasmas. Several students also made presentations on different topics. One of the highlights was the guided tour of Radio Canada International's short wave Facility. The other highlight was the volleyball tournament in which UPEI finished a strong second place.

The hosts (Mt. Allison Physics Dept.) were very gracious and helpful, and very well-organized. The conference was started on the right foot Friday night with a wine and cheese reception at President Well's residence (there was also lots of beer!) and there was a banquet Saturday evening in honour of all the participants.

All in all, it was a very well-organized, and very enjoyable event, which provided many opportunities for interactions (academic and social) between speakers, students and field researchers. The AUPC 1991 will be hosted by the Physics Dept. of UNB in early February. We encourage all Physics students to seriously consider attending and

reaping the benefits of that event. Our sincere thanks goes out to the UPEI Physics Dept. for financial support and the UPEI Biology Dept. for loan of their van for the weekend.

Cathy Blue, Robert Gojmerac, Mark Walker, Jeff Guignon, Nadim Missaghian.



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The staff of the GEM can be seen in their natural habitat in their basement office in Main Building, room B06. We can also be contacted by voice by calling 566-0629, or leaving a message with our secretary at 566-0530.

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