

Unique Canadian Studies

by Wilbert Ready

A Canadian Studies Program has been established at UPEI with the first courses being offered in the fall semester of 1981.

The goal of this program is to provide students with a sound and in-depth understanding of Canadian society and culture. It is organized on an interdisciplinary basis, that is, it integrates many of the traditional subject areas or disciplines such as science, history, sociology, political science, business and literature into a single program. This is done so that the student will be exposed to the ideas and approaches of experts from a number of different fields while studying a single program.

Andrew Robb, Chairman of the History Department and director of the Canadian Studies Program, says that by incorporating the different points of view in various fields, students will gain a richer and more comprehensive appreciation of the Canadian experience.

Following is an overview of the program of studies to give an idea of what it involves.

Students formally enter the program in their third semester. A student's first year should be devoted to completing courses that are prerequisites for entry into the Canadian Studies Program. For entry into the program, students must complete a total of twelve semester hours of credit from two of the following departments: Economics, History, Modern Languages, Political Science or Sociology.

In the second year students are formally admitted into the program and must complete the core course; The Atlantic Region which aims to introduce the student to the interdisciplinary approach in Canadian Studies with the Atlantic Region as the focus of attention. Students must also complete twelve semester hours of approved Canadian area electives.

In the third year, students take the core course,

The Canadian Experience which is designed to provide an opportunity to examine the development of Canadian culture from the perspectives of a number of distinct disciplines. Twelve hours of approved Canadian area electives must also be taken.

In the final year of the program, students are required to take two core courses, Canada and the International Community and Research-Tutorial and Seminar. The first is a comparative analysis of Canadian Culture and community from a historical, contemporary and futuristic perspective and also involves an examination of Canada's place and responsibility in the world culture and community. In the latter course students prepare, under close faculty supervision, a major graduating essay. An additional six hours of approved Canadian area electives are also taken in the fourth year. Upon completion of the program students will graduate with a Bachelor of Arts Degree with a major in Canadian Studies.

As well as taking twenty-four semester hours of core courses in Canadian Studies and thirty hours of approved Canadian electives, students are required to have an understanding of French. The minimal requirement is completion of six hours of French or successful completion of awritten competency examination. The completion of a French Immersion program is also desirable. Students in the program are also required to maintain an average of 65% in the Canadian area courses. Students are also encouraged to combine a major in Canadian Studies with a major in some other area.

Robb stated that desired enrollment in the program would be about twenty students to allow for close contact between students and faculty.

Because the program will give students a broad and multi-faceted awareness of Canada's past and present the Canadian Studies graduate will be well prepared for a variety of career opportunities in such fields as

government service, law, teaching, politics, journalism, business or research and archival work. Canadian Studies majors also will be well prepared for graduate studies in a variety of disciplines.

The program will be

partially funded by a "seed" grant from the McLean Foundation in Toronto.

Students who may be interested in this unique program can feel free to contact Andrew Robb in Main Building for more information.

Bottom of Barrel

by Maureen Hartman

"It's coming regardless of whether we like it or not. If the university does not get more money, services will have to be cut. If we keep cutting back, our image will go to the bottom of the barrel."

Those were the words uttered by UPEI Student Union president Philip Brown at a press conference held Monday afternoon in the Barn. Brown was speaking out against the proposed 10.3 percent tuition hike forecasted for the coming academic year, 1981-82.

In a report released January 14, the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC) recommended a 10.3 percent increase in operating assistance for ongoing activities in 1981-82. Operating assistance increases of 11.0 percent and 10.0 percent are forecasted for 1982-83 and 1983-84 respectively.

Since tuition increases are usually tied into the same area of the operating assistance increases, UPEI students can look forward to paying over \$95. per course next year, an increase of almost \$9 per course. Compounded with an expected 20 percent increase in book prices for next year, students will have to spend another summer

scrounging for funds, and the university can look forward to becoming an institution for the elite, as it once was.

Brown felt that a reasonable increase would be below \$5 per course, but he would have to wait for the official word from council. The press conference was originally called to make public the official stand of the student union, on the MPHEC recommendations. However, Sunday's snowstorm cancelled the SU meeting for that night to draft an official stand. A tentative meeting is set for 2:30 Friday afternoon.

"I hope the provincial government looks closely at educational needs on the Island," said Brown. "If we can keep tuition fees low, that means more Island students will be educated on the Island and therefore later work on the Island."

The SU is also concerned with cuts in courses, according to Brown. If necessary, the SU will plead with the Board of Governors not to cut back in courses.

The MPHEC turned down a request from the university for \$12,250,000. assistance for a sports and recreation complex, a new computer, Main building and Cass chemistry renovations.

Brown said that he did not foresee an increase in student union fees for next year.

Woman Attacked

on Campus

Can you believe it? A woman was attacked on our UPEI campus. The incident occurred Monday afternoon, January 19, at 1:25 p.m. in broad daylight. Isn't our campus even safe during the day? The injuries sustained as a result of the vicious attack were not severe. Who is to say that the next victim will be so lucky?

Her description of the assailant was vague as the attack took her by surprise. She saw the assailant approaching her suspiciously, but was unable to avoid the attack. He jumped on her and knocked her to the ground. Leaving her bruised and shaken, the assailant ran away on all fours.....