

## Affordable Post Secondary Education

by Mary Boyd

The federal government has bought the line that Canadians are living beyond their means. Therefore, the logic goes, we have to cut our spending as the only way to deal with the debt and deficit. As a way of doing this, finance minister Paul Martin handed Canadians the Canada Health and Social Transfer (CHST), which will cut billions of dollars from public services and social programs.

Under the CHST funding for health, post secondary education and social assistance will be rolled into one block fund. Funding for these three programs will be cut by \$7 billion in the first two years. There are no strings attached to the provincial expenditure of the federal cash transfers. Provinces can spend these transfers on anything. In the short term health, welfare, and post-secondary education may have to compete with each other for their rightful share. In the long term, as federal cash transfers diminish, there may be no federal money for any of those programs.

The CHST will not be implemented until April 1, 1996 and the Action Canada Network (ACN) believes that it is impera-

tive that changes be made to the CHST before that date. Federal-provincial negotiations on the allocation of CHST funds and on its principles and objectives are now in process and must be opened up to allow public consultation.

The deficit and debt have little to do with spending and much more to do with high interest rates and unfair tax policies, both of which benefit the wealthy and the corporation. By continuing to cut spending, the federal government is actually making the debt worse. More spending cuts take more jobs out of communities. Teachers, hospitals workers, municipal government workers, child care workers, and those who deliver other vital programs will lose jobs. This in turn causes a loss of revenue to governments and communities. Public services will become available only to those who can afford to pay. In the opinion of the ACN, cuts in federal transfers only defer the problem to someone else who is less able to pay. The ACN, the Canadian Health Coalition, various unions and a host of community organizations invite students and all citizens to stand up against cuts in federal transfer payments. Two-tier systems of health care, post secondary education and the removal of protection for welfare recipients are the wave of the future unless the CHST is amended.

## Rookie Debaters Win

by Steve Ellis

Don't even bother trying to argue with Susan Vatcher or Chris Burns, you will not win. That was what their opponents were saying after each round at this year's Atlantic Regional Novice Debating Championships, held at Dalhousie University from September 29 to October 1.

Mr. Burns and Ms. Vatcher blew their competition away, taking first and second place in the individual points competition, respectively. They also took the team title, beating a strong team from St. F. X. in the final round.

The pair were not expecting to do as well in the competition as they did. "The atmosphere at UPEI is so relaxed," said Vatcher, comparing to the competitive nature of teams from outside of the province. "We don't even have a faculty advisor."

The two were quick to point out strengths of their partnership. "[We] to argue about anything with anyone" said Vatcher, a second year Masters student at the AVC. "We also have a wide range of knowledge," commented Burns, a first-year Arts student.

At the next competition, the duo be separated. The Queen's Invitational Tournament, held in Kingston Ontario will see Burns paired with someone else as Vatcher will be unable to attend. The tournament is being organized by Edw Lank, UPEI alumnus and former UPEI Debating Society President. Lank is presently pursuing his Master of Science.

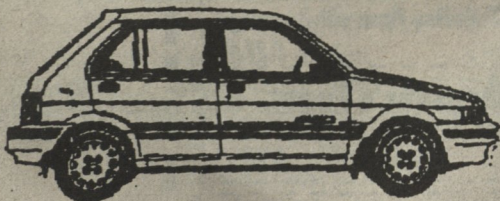
The UPEI debating society meets twice weekly at the Alumni Gym. Tuesday, meetings are at 7 pm, and Friday meetings are at 1 pm.

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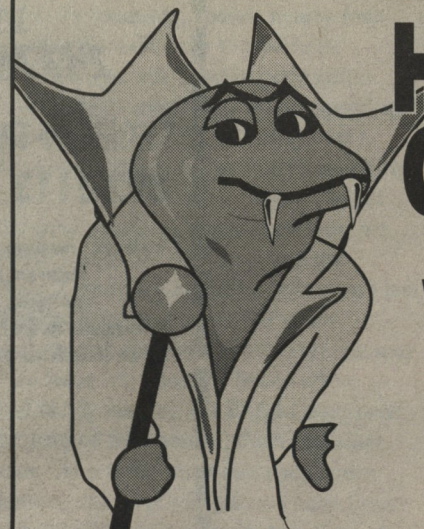


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