

Stay tuned to the Netted Gem for thrills (seriously!) and chuckles and ... hee heehee. Just wait until next week!

ARCHIVES  
U.P.E.I.

## Our Student Union constitution revisited

By Carolyn Ryan

The UPEI Student Union Council is discussing a new constitutional package.

The condensed, clarified, and pruned constitution is chiefly the work of current SU President Jack Keefe and past Councillor Ronalda Murphy, who have been examining the old constitution for a year.

That document, which is still in effect, has been described as "a mess", "a patchwork of amendments", "full of redundancies", "illogical", "inconsistent", and "poorly written".

When Keefe was elected last year, a rewritten constitution was one of his main priorities.

Murphy too believes in the importance of a defining document for the SU, having called the constitution "(the SU's) reason for existing".

The new document will be discussed and refined by Council over the next few months, and then must be approved by a two-thirds majority at a general assembly of the UPEISU.

In places major changes are proposed for the structure of the Union; for example:

- Class representatives on Council will be dropped. Council will attempt instead to represent students through the faculties, with one rep for each 200 students in a faculty, and not less than one per faculty.
- The Vice-President po-

sitions will be altered drastically. Instead of the present VP Internal and VP External, we will have a VP Academic and VP Operations.

The VP Academic will coordinate research, sit on Senate, coordinate sub-organizations, and generally promote the involvement of the SU in academic matters, a function which Keefe calls "progressive".

The VP Operations will oversee the newspaper, radio station, yearbook, external and internal advertising, Panther Lounge operations, and Social, Fall fest, Orientation and Winter Carnival Committees.

- Student representatives elected to the Senate and Board of Governors will be automatically impeached for missing three consecutive or four total meetings of their respective bodies, a clause which now applies to Councillors regarding Council meetings.
- The position of Ombudsman will be established, tentatively as an elected position, to "endeavor to aid any member of the UPEISU who encounters difficulties with the University and/or with the UPEISU."
- The membership category of "honorary members" of the SU

will be dropped, leaving only "active members", who are taking more than two courses at UPEI each semester, have paid SU fees, and can vote and hold offices in the UPEISU; and "associate members", who are enrolled in less than three courses per semester and can neither vote nor hold an elected position.

Many more changes are included in the new constitution, and will soon be dealt with by Council. Students are encouraged to take an interest in the process and suggest ways to improve the new document, through Councillors or at Council meetings.

To conclude, here is a list of objectives of the UPEISU, as proposed by Keefe and Murphy:

- To represent its membership as required.
- to promote and direct artistic, literary, educational, social, recreational, and sporting activities at the University of Prince Edward Island.
- to promote unity and goodwill amongst its members.
- to advance the cause of higher learning in Prince Edward Island.
- to afford a recognized means of communication and co-operation between the students of the University of Prince Edward Island and all other bodies acting within the University and the community at large.

## Student Disciplinary Committee Judged by a body of your peers

By John Pendergast

Student Disciplinary Committee Chairman Mike Trainor wants to remind students that the S.D.C. is still a functioning organ of the student body.

Since January of this school year, the S.D.C. has been in operation with four newly-appointed members: Ronalda Murphy, Robert Hanf, Karen Blacquiere, and Steve Zakem.

The Committee's duties consist of providing a judicial aspect to student discipline. It works in conjunction with floor dons, campus police, head residents, and campus security — any of whom

might bring complaints before the S.D.C.

A typical hearing includes the Chairman of the S.D.C. and four student representatives (two of whom live in residence and the other two being non-resident students).

Cases heard by the S.D.C. concern anything that deals, for example, with property damage on campus, rude behaviour at student events, or abuse of floor dons and head residents.

Anything involving the Canadian Criminal Code is out of the jurisdiction of the S.D.C.

Fines and penalties given to an offender might include

a suspension of privileges or anything up to a \$100 fine.

However, the offender can testify in his own defence and is able to appeal his case before the S.D.C.

Mike Trainor would like to remind the student body that appearing before the S.D.C. does not carry an automatic stigma of guilt.

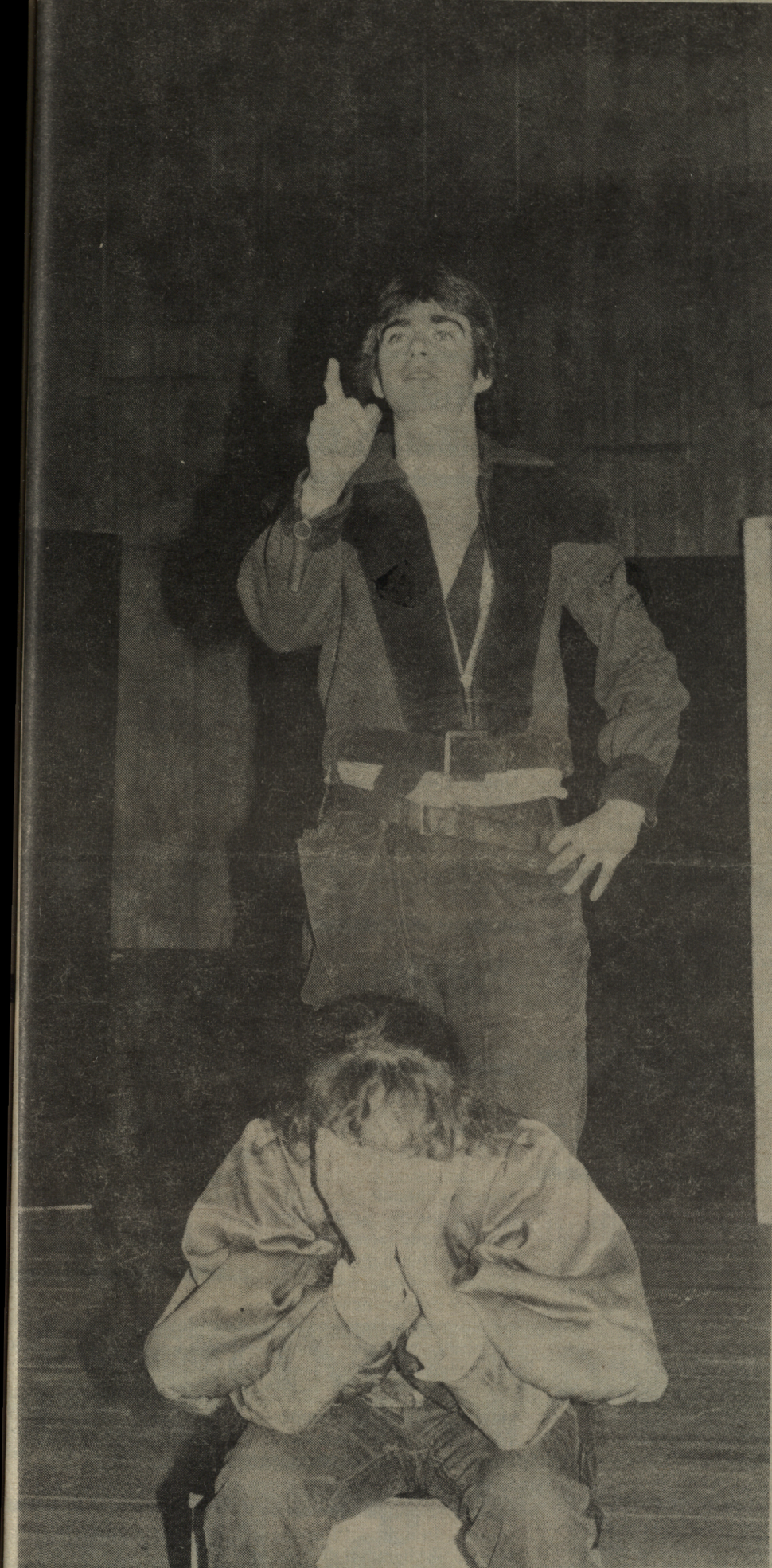
In his opinion, all the facts are weighed before the Committee issues a verdict.

Spectators are welcome to view a hearing in progress.

The basic aim of the S.D.C. is to keep law and order among the student body and thereby provide a service to the student.

### Word of advice:

Never frighten a flower arranger. After all, what good is a petrified florist?



You have three more nights to catch the UPEI Theatre Society's version of *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, at the Steele Recital Hall at 8 p.m. Above, Jamie Brehaut and Nancy MacLure enjoy themselves in the title roles of this comedy of death, written by Tom Stoppard and directed by David Moses. (Photo: Grimmer)