

Gambling machines not recreation for all

The debate continues...

The UPEI Student Union (S.U.) presented a motion at their meeting on Oct. 17 to remove the gambling machines in the Panther Lounge. It was defeated by one vote, with two abstentions.

The gambling machines are recreation for some, but an addiction for others. The issue was brought to the S.U. by a few addicted students. They thought that the machines' presence in the lounge is not fair to those students who are addicted to gambling. They believe that, because the students pay for the pub, they should be able to enter it without the temptation of gambling.

Todd King, President of the S.U. wanted it to be an issue of ethics, not one of money. "...the revenue that is generated is not that much. I'm more concerned about the ethics of it than the money."

Are addicted students being excluded from the right to use the student pub because of the temptation? Should the minority of addicted people rule whether or not the rest of the student population can use the gambling machines in

the student pub? Not according to the results of the S.U. vote.

Todd King doesn't think the revenue is worth excluding addicted students from the pub that they help pay for.

One fourth-year student believes that the machines should be taken out. "The expense in the end to treat the addicted people is more. If it were up to me I'd take them out."

Nathalie Land, also a fourth-year student, believes that the machines should be there for those students who enjoy gambling as a recreation. "Alcoholics have to go into bars without drinking," she says.

For most, the gambling machines are just recreation.

"A lot of people like to drop in their extra change" says another student.

The council debate was lengthy and its decision was reached with a very slim majority, but for now the machines will still be in the lounge for most students to use.

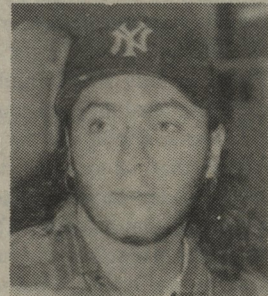
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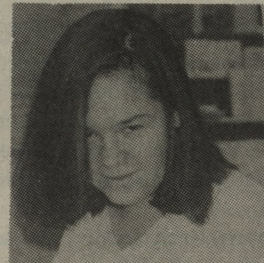
Who are you voting for?



"voting Liberal because the Conservatives have not done too much and it is time for a change"
Krista Perry, 1st, business



"voting Natural Law Party because this is a groovy way to do it, Doug Henning's ideas on reducing the deficit"
Geoff Genge, 3rd, philosophy



"Green Party, because trees are important to you"
Colleen Easter, 3rd, science



"undecided, still looking at Liberals and the Conservatives, have not seen any party that has interested me"
Kelly Rafter, 2nd, psychology

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