

# The Island Yankee

By Suzanne Williams

It has taken me over a month to sort out the reasons why I travelled six hundred miles, across the US/Canadian border and the Northumberland Strait, to attend school here at UPEI.

Having come from a suburb in New Hampshire about the size of Charlottetown where fads and popularity were all that mattered, I was struck by the notion that I had to get away. This was not the typical I-need-to-get-away-because-my-family-is-driving-me-crazy, but it was because I was slowly being killed by others' ideas.

In the first semester at my previous college, I was scared away by many things, including an alleged rape in my own dormitory. The president and his staff couldn't care less about the students, some students couldn't be ruder, and it was necessary for students to live on campus.

I finally got sick of the rules and the rudeness and the general carelessness toward one another's feelings, so I up and left and found things not so different here.

Which, in a roundabout way, starts my story.

I attended a high school of about 1400, where there were couples locking lips in every hallway. I have noticed that one fact remained clear in every instance: all of these couples contained a short girl with a skinny body.

What is this saying? Do tall girls or girls with "not-so-perfect" figures matter? Why did these couples have to flaunt the fact that they have relationships in other people's faces? Why were these boys piling up, tongue-tied, for a cheerleader when there were girls who never had a boyfriend, girls who wanted one but never had a boy ask her out? Having been the outcast for years, I have done much pondering over this. It comes down to one primary thing: the media.

On television, is there ever a pimply girl advertising any product, let alone a face cream? Have overweight women ever been depicted as anything but flighty and moody? Does the uglier woman ever get the man?

Of course not! Why try to make everybody happy? It's impossible!

It's no wonder why many sitcoms are cancelled after the first season.

Beautiful women, skinny women. Nobody wants a fat, unattractive pimple-faced woman.

These many stereotypes, cranked through the TV waves, are slowly helping to increase eating disorders, suicides, and divorces.

To the "moody", "ugly", "fat" person, most of her hope by now has been shattered by numerous men who refused even a slow-dance for five minutes to a simple song. Life

seems not worth living for a girl of nineteen who has never been on a date considers herself an ugly old maid. She will crawl into herself and will away the only existence she has ever known. She will day-dream about the perfect world, where people are practically robots because all is happy. She will lose all her dreams, do poorly in school, exist merely on the fact that she hasn't killed herself yet, though she may have tried numerous times before. Does this sound crazy? Unfortunately, it is true, for I am that girl.

What has happened to the saying we have heard all of our lives: "Don't worry; you'll soon be noticed by what's on the inside"? All that is on the inside by now is self pity and unshed tears. The people speaking have survived and been noticed for who they were, but what about those of today, who have been treated harshly all their lives because of what is on the outside? People seem to be so disgusted by what is on the outside that to see what's inside wouldn't be worth the time of day.

Some people have dated since before they were teenagers, which makes me wonder: did they ever have a childhood? Sadly enough, with the help of a little electrical box with simple dialogue and pictures, many of us have not.

## Magic 93 adopts "All Don Henley format."

By Rob MacIsaac

In response to suggestions from listeners that programming needed a new edge, Charlottetown's premier radio station, Magic 93, will switch to an "all Don Henley" format beginning next Tuesday.

"We're not like the other stations," said station program director, Herb Dunsford, in a recent interview. "We rarely experiment with new types of music because, well, it's just too risky. Our demographics are telling us that people really don't want to hear original music anyway. They want something they can sing along to, day after day, and we deliver."

The new format, tentatively named "All day, All Henley", will see the station fill up to 96 per cent of its play list with memorable, radio friendly hits performed by recording artist Don Henley, the man behind such ballads as "The End of The Innocence" and "Not Enough Love in the World."

"I think we've hit on something big here", Dunsford explained. "People identify with Don Henley and his music. He's a real person with hopes and dreams, just like the rest of us. I mean, show me one person that doesn't know the words to 'The Boys of Summer.'" Dunsford then proceeded to sing the first verse of the song, to further prove his point.

Dunsford added that the station "probably wouldn't bother playing any of that Eagle's crap," referring to the popular band that Henley belonged to before launching his successful solo career in the 1980's.

*\*\* Warning...Rob's gonzo newstyle of reporting doesn't necessarily reflect the entire truth and sometimes skips the facts entirely just to write an article in The Cadre. We admire his dedication and his talent as a writer but we scratch our heads everyday wondering who on earth are his sources. Read with care, dear readers. -Ed.M.H.*