

# The Cynic Becomes Constructive About the Elections

The election on the near horizon is a real and a vital one, as I stated in last week's edition of the Cadre. This article is intended to present the positive side. Last week's council meeting, if it proved the constitution contradictory, ineffective or a plain mess, is a question is, however, whether or not a Student Union is really needed. Student Unions arose out of the discontented years of the sixties remains as it is now, with hardly anyone willing to enter into the election than the need is apparently gone.

The Student Union needs to be revitalized. It must rediscover what its original purpose was and revamp the old foundations. It does have another choice though. This is to dissolve the Union and use the energy and money to channel in other directions that would be more effective. One example of a more effective way is to implement the idea of course unions within each department thus involving student power into issues of academic concern. With the faculty the union could then become stronger than the present system where students and faculty are disunited but neither are effective in working out problems with the administration. The administration, as well as having far greater power have another advantage as well. They have time on their side. A student council is in office for one year. If the elected council proves to be a problem to the administration, they simply wait the year out until a new council comes in. Perhaps this indicates that terms of office should be extended over a greater time period.

The crucial problem, however, seen by past and present presidents of the Student Union is one of lack of student involvement. There is relatively little spirit at UPEI on the part of the majority of the students. Part of the reason is a lack of communication between those in office or already involved and those who are not informed therefore not interested. Jane Mac-Cormac and Mickey Place have been hired to do the office work. The executives while they are needed to

do some should spend a large part of their time mingling with the students. There is a need for mass solicitation on an individual level, that is to reach people as soon as they arrive. Once a Freshmen is involved chances are the involvement will last. To do this would require a big push, when Orientation week rolls around, to stress involvement, to welcome them, to touch them personally. This mass solicitation would require the people who are heads of committees, members of committees, and council members to be around for orientation thus participation in orientation must become a mandatory duty. If this action resulted in a redefining of the councillors role so much the better for as the role stands today the only thing councillors must do is attend meetings.

Another way is to improve this lack of communication is to have at least one proctor from every building to sit on council. These people are in constant communication with students of every year.

There are still other routes open to future members of the Students Council. A student upon entering into university pays \$40. Student Union fee. The student then goes to a student union event and lo and behold discovers that in order to attend this function he/she must dole out more



money. If he/she questions what else there is that doesn't cost more money than he/she could get involved in the radio station, the newspaper, the council, or run for an executive position. This involvement, if not for the good of the university would then be for the good of the individual.

What ever happened to the debating club. Is it defunct? Whose obligation was it to see that it functioned? If it was associated with the Student's Union as it is today spends entirely too much time counting costs.

Consider offering your-

self for an elected position for the Student's Union has considerable assets that have been built up by a lot of people who have devoted an incredible amount of energy into it. Don't shrug shoulders and say it should be abolished because to you it serves no purpose. Go into it positively and try to do more than what is necessary to do a "good job". In a few years there may once again be a necessity to have a vehicle for protest and/or entertainment and then what would we have to build on.

Louise Mould

## SU Nominations-Open Until Wednesday

### EXECUTIVE

Executive positions are open for President of UPEI Student Union, Vice President, Communications Officers, Comptroller and Treasurer.

Positions are open for 9 representatives 1 Education 2 science and 6 arts Reps. (based on last semester enrollment)

Positions are open for 3 senate members.

The duties and responsibilities of Executive members, councillors and senators are outlined in Article VI of the constitution.

Nominations close on Feb 12 at 5.00 PM voting will take place on Feb 19, 1975.

The duty of a student representative in any elected position is to

recognize and practice the UPEI SU declaration of a student.

4. playing a full part in the life of the community as a citizen.

The student has the right to establish democratic, representative student associations. Realizing that educational reform will not come in a vacuum or without a continuous examination and possible arrangements, the associations must be free to ally themselves with other groups in society with similar aims.

Students who are elected are student leaders. These students have a responsibility to education, UPEI and their fellow students. This means any one who is considering running must be prepared to be vocal, informed and active.

If this declaration is a farce for anyone; if it appears idealistic and irrelevant; if you don't know student rights or are unaware of present violations in this university community then someone needs to ask some questions.

Student executive members should be prepared to be open to adjust very quickly and change.