

SU violates BOG health by-law

BY BRODY MORRISON

Most of a student's time is spent worrying about papers and assignments. One student's main concern, however, is her teeth.

Carrie MacDonald, an arts student at UPEI, is very concerned with the fact that her wisdom teeth need to be removed, as her dentist tells her if they are not then they may get infected and cause extreme pain.

"The fact that my teeth needed to come out scared me but not as much as what he told me next," MacDonald said. "He told me it would cost approximately a hundred dollars a tooth to get the surgery done." MacDonald explained that this would mean over three hundred dollars that she just does not have, as she already pays tuition for a full course load and rent.

MacDonald became very concerned and phoned the Student Union in hopes that the health plan she had purchased, administered by the SU on behalf of UPEI, would cover these expenses. She was shocked to discover that the plan does not cover any dental costs.

"I am not happy with this," MacDonald said. "I think that I pay enough money already. Dental insurance should have been covered in my health plan." She continued to say that "a lot of other universities cover dental and I don't see why ours should not."

Tim Adams, UPEI SU's explained that health plans which organizations purchase, can cover a large percent of dental costs. "Many companies offer dental, some [offering] 80 percent, some 90 percent of coverage."

MacDonald is sure that she is not the first student faced with this sort of problem. She says that the UPEI SU should make a change of policy and insure that students are fully covered. She pointed out that her only alternative is Social Assistance, adding that she uses "alternative loosely."

"I refuse to go to welfare for dentistry work, I would rather pay higher union dues".

UPEI SU Janice Broderick admits that she is aware that the health plan does not cover dental work, but that it "does cover accidental damage to teeth." Broderick said that as a student she would like to see dental in the insurance plan, but as President she has some serious reservations at to the increase on student union dues every student pays in their tuition, adding that this sort of change would have to get consensus from the students by vote or referendum.

Dianne Stevenson, the administrator for the insurance package explained that the current plan is up for renewal this month, and that it ends August 31, 1998.

Stevenson also pointed out that the health plan is administered to "supplement your provincial Medicare, [and] not replace it."

The Board of Governors (BOG) has initiated a by-law that states that "all full-time students must have an extended health insurance plan above and beyond provincial health care." This implies that the SU is clear violation to BOG by-law.

Minister of Health, Mildred Dover said that dental coverage was not provided for those above the age of 18. This shows that the SU is in violation of the BOG by-law.

Stevenson explained that dental coverage was considered by the council but was struck down because of the apparent high costs of adding it to the health plan. MacDonald still wonders if the SU and the council reviewing the health plan had the right to violate BOG by-law.

MacDonald is still waiting for proper coverage, and sees the small investment in an improved health plan as a worthwhile one.

Women celebrate music

BY BRODY MORRISON

It was a cold night on campus Thursday March 5, however many people were gathered in to the Dr. Steele building to listen to some contemporary music played in honour of International Women's Week. Some of the music that was played was composed by women, and men. It was a night of celebration and awareness, celebrating that included women playing music by both male and female composers. Awareness, in that women do and can compose excellent Music although they are mostly ignored throughout history. Most of the music played was indeed composed by men, but as Wendy Shilton said "we played that music not because we had too but because we like it".

The building was filled with both male and female music enthusiasts who were happy to come and listen to the male and female musicians. The whole purpose of the evening was to make sure people were aware that there is wonderful music being com-

posed and played by women. Although the recital was largely performed by people from UPEI it was clearly a community effort and was a tremendous success. The entire recital was ended with a 16th

century German Chorale named Harmonia Mundi in which the song says "...Remember in this moment, of friendship love and joy. That music made together may help our hearts align."

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