

Something old, something new

Six polling stations open on Wednesday

By KAREN RAWLINES

Poor voter turn-out has plagued the UPEI Student Union elections annually. This fall's by-elections, for example, brought out a mere five per cent of UPEI's full time students to the ballot boxes.

In an effort to remedy this, the SU is stationing polls in six areas across campus for Wednesday. Students will be permitted to vote in their respective faculty's designated building.

In the past, voting has only taken place in the Breezeway of Robertson Library.

Fourth year anthropology student Joanna Williams has never cast a ballot during her years at UPEI.

"I've never voted," she says. "It's always been in the breezeway, and I just don't end up in that area."

Pauline Tran, UPEI SU VP Internal thinks that the extra polling stations will

serve the campus well in increasing the numbers who get out to cast their ballots. She realizes the small risk associated with this new technique, but feels it's for the best.

"I think because it's the first time, it'll be a little tricky," she says. "We're just getting the ball rolling." She adds that the SU hopes that future elections will also offer this benefit.

It's difficult to predict how well the stations will work in getting students out to vote. Although they may offer the convenience that many desire, the polls may not overcome the general apathy.

Williams, for example, admits a general indifference to the whole affair.

"I'm just trying to get through my courses," she says. "I just want to graduate."

Students are reminded to bring their ID cards order to cast their ballots.

Student Union general meeting: a breeding ground for controversy

By CYNTHIA DENNIS

Students who happened to be passing through the Pit last Wednesday during the UPEI Student Union annual general meeting may have noticed a variety of things going on.

First of all, the whole meeting, equipped with its official agenda, had the atmosphere of something resembling a high school pep rally, as opposed to a forum for discussion. A majority of the approximately 125 students in attendance were either there to cheer on their friends or to boo their enemies. Some just happened to be eating lunch.

Aside from the mixture of feelings that permeated throughout the crowd, there was an abundance of commonalities between the platforms presented by the candidates.

There were plenty of people actually running this year, apparently more than last, but everyone had basically the same initiatives: increased communication between the Student Union and students, and decreasing costs in a number of areas.

Numerous references were made to the still somewhat ambiguous "tuition freeze," and very different opinions on the matter were given by presidential candi-

dates, Laurie Boswall and Stephen Hann.

Unfortunately, in some cases, students witnessed candidates using questionable tactics in an attempt to win some votes, i.e. shooting down their opponents initiatives while not saying much of anything on their own behalf.

Despite these minor incidents, most of those who are running seem to be maintaining great "sportsmanship," wishing their competitors the best of luck, while encouraging people to "just get out and vote," regardless of whom they support.

When it came time for the question and answer period, the tension had noticeably risen.

Trish Daley approached the microphone in order to make her case against the controversial posters plastered across campus by S.U. presidential candidate, Andrew Peppin.

Daley wondered "whose voice [Peppin] felt he was representing when [he] put up posters like this..." at which point she produced a copy of the well-recognized sign that reads, "free nude photos."

Peppin attempted an apology, but Daley continued to question him.

"Isn't it true you applied to med. school next

year?" she asked, apparently concerned that he would not be able to fulfill his term should he be elected.

Although Peppin attempted to respond to this question, the debate was quickly intercepted by current SU president Matt Gray, who is doubling as Co-Chief Returning Officer.

This would-be run-of-the-mill general meeting, has generated a great deal of attention, even gracing the front pages of *The Guardian*, and there are a variety of responses to the "goings on."

"I think she just had a problem with him not the posters," commented one student on-site at the event. "It was just to catch attention. It caught mine, then I laughed."

Lisa Arsenault also attended the meeting.

"The attack on Andrew was unnecessary," she says. "Not that I agree with his posters." She went on to say that "there were a lot of good points made and the candidates seemed to have a good knowledge of student affairs, but I'm still undecided on how I'm going to vote."

Shannon Pollard, was not at all impressed with the meeting. "I was very disappointed with the response of the candidates. I don't think that the qualifications are there."

Polling Information

Advanced polls

Monday March 15th 6-9pm Breezeway

Tuesday March 16th 6-9pm Breezeway

Regular polls

Wednesday March 17 9am - 5pm

Arts.....Main (lobby)

Science.....KCI (1st floor)

(Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Engineering, Foods and Nutrition, Math, Physics)

Education.....Memorial (1st floor)

Psychology

Music.....Steele (1st floor elevator)

Nursing

Business.....Kelly (2nd floor in front of 237)

Veterinary Medicine.....AVC (by security desk)

Thursday March 18 9am - 5pm

Breezeway