

The Cadre stresses that material printed in the Opinions section represents the personal ideas and views of the writer and that this material not necessarily represent the opinions of the staff and volunteers.

## Discuss:

In addition to the already painful lot of bills and debts that are being accrued by most students on campus, we find that the common textbook has risen to heights worthy of nosebleeds.

These "Bundles Of Organized Knowledge" are becoming the bane of most students' academic existence. Beyond the typical budgets that students are forced to balance (encompassing tuition, lodging, transportation and beyond), now we must allot a more-than-sizeable portion of cashflow to the bookstore. The dollar may see its value hanging around its ankles, but the fact remains that the prices of texts are rising at rates not concurrent to the economy.

Somewhere along the line, publishing companies and the government joined forces to put a giant "kick me" sign on the collective backs of students. The tax on texts alone is enough to force an extra month of the Mr.Noodles diet.

It's ridiculous to believe that students are capable to afford these necessities on top of tuition that is showing no signs of lowering its mighty figure.

The Cadre invites students to voice their opinions on the costs of studenthood and other issues. Write letters to <newspaper@upei.ca>, or slip them into our mail slot in Main Bldg, room 06. Letters must not exceed 400 words in length. Any letters in excess will be truncated by a curt slash (""). Letters must include the writer's true name, though a pseudonym may be used for publication. Also, the writer's telephone number, E-mail address, and student ID number (if applicable) should be included.

## Truer Than Fiction a formulaic tale

With a pair of stylish platform loafers, the student strode confidently across the classroom. Ignorant of the clatter she created by nudging into a stray desk, the student surveyed the room briefly before settling into a seat of the back row.

It was the beginning of a new year at university, and the student was eager to make a good impression on her intellectual yet amicable professor. Her course load was not forgiving, but it did not intimidate her. She had Mead Five Star First Gear school supplies, and the finest Pilot pens money could buy. Nothing could go wrong.

She had arrived early to find a good seat, and now busied herself with organizing the looseleaf in her clipboard. She doodled her initials on the upper right-hand corner of the sheet, then delicately scripted the course name and number. From her jaunty briefcase-type bookbag, she removed the required textbooks for the class. They had set her back a substantial sum, but it was all in good fun. It was school, and the peripherals of the educational process made her giddy. She had told Mumsy and Papa that she wished to pursue post-secondary education for its academic merits. It was all too rich, she laughed. She felt dreadfully wicked for milking them of all their superfluous funds, and laughed more. This student was there to see and to be seen. Little else mattered.

O, the bustle of campus life! The many horizons to investigate! The student was jolly with her choice of university. It was where all her closest friends had gone, and she just knew that they were bound to have adventure after adventure in her hot red Camaro, cruising down the Avenue. University was the place for her, and she felt confident that she belonged there.

Slowly, more individuals entered the room. They didn't seem like her type of person. They spoke of issues that affected them rather than the catalog with the swankiest slacks and trendiest t-shirts. She turned away in disgust, and focused on running her manicured hands through her freshly fixed coif, wondering if she should leave early, or if she should call up Cubby on her cell phone.

"Maybe I'll just, like, page him," she thought.

Soon, a professorly looking woman entered. She passed about a syllabus, and dove into the subject. The student had a hard time paying attention. There was a weekend impending, and although it was four days before Friday, a weekend was something fairly important. She had to consume as much fermentation as possible from then until Sunday, because her roommates would be trying to sleep.

"Like, I don't know why they work two jobs anyway, y'know," she mused quite frankly, pursing her plum-hued lips. "It's not like there's a sale at the Gap or anything. I mean, it's *tuition*. No big whoop."

Slowly but surely, she forgot the tedious little things of that ilk that had danced into her mind to the beat of "Ghetto Superstar," and let her big eyes glaze over. It was September, and that meant that she was due to get her roots retouched. There were more pressing things at hand than the minor inconveniences of finding ways to feed herself, of paying for outlandishly high-priced textbooks, of trying to keep the roof over her head for the wintering months.

The student eventually noticed the class filing out of the room. The class must have finished. She followed them out, hoping that nobody had dinged her car parked so close to the building, and went home to give herself a facial.

And she lived ignorantly ever after.

## Grab your muzzle UPEI, here comes the thought police

BY BRODY MORRISON

Love 'em or hate 'em, you are not allowed to listen to the Reform Party on campus. Do you want to expand your mind and hear what they have to say? Sorry--go somewhere else. Do you have a bone to pick with Reform policy? Keep it to yourself--you cannot debate it at a Reform campus event. When I first came to UPEI, I expected to hear differing viewpoints that would expand my perspective of the world. So much for fostering open-mindedness: the university recently decided that an alternative side to Canadian politics is not welcome. You will not be allowed to hear the Reform Party viewpoint on your campus. The UPEI administration must believe you cannot think for yourself, that as soon as Reformers open their mouths, you will be brain-washed. For much of the summer, young PEI Reformers have been organizing an Atlantic Canada university tour for three of the youngest Members of Parliament--all of whom are Official Opposition critics. But when the Reformers tried to book the "Breezway" and the "Pit" to have an information and recruitment table, they were shut out. The MP's will not be allowed to 'solicit' in the Breezway or speak in the Pit (a public area), unless accompanied by another political party. UPEI is enacting a policy of "No solicitation on campus," a lame excuse that will effectively ban a UPEI Youth Reform club. The last time I checked, 'solicitation' was more than welcome at UPEI. I have a VISA mug to prove it.

I also have a cool poster that I purchased in the Breezway last fall. According to our acting president, this past solicitation was done without his--or the administration's--permission. Yet my first year at UPEI, the entire Breezway was filled with 20" TV's, Sony Playstations, free CD's, and various credit card companies. They even made room outside the Breezway to accommodate the overflow. I would suggest to Dr. Lawrence Heider, our acting president, that his office immediately send security to the Breezway: solicitors are attacking the minds and pocket books of your students. Dr. Heider, consider yourself informed. I will make sure you are informed of any further violations. No need to thank me. In the meantime, Reform Youth will not give up. The party's main youth coordinator contacted the president a second time to ask permission, or at least documented proof of this 'anti-solicitation' policy. What did our President say? "I do not owe you a letter, or any further explanation." Why would he not back up his policy with paper? I invite our acting president to send this policy to our student newspaper; at the very least, he should explain to you, the students of UPEI, why this university is discriminating according to political affiliation. I wonder what policy he will enforce next? Perhaps a speech code? Perhaps he should refer to the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The freedom of speech and association is still there, if he would look. Tsk Tsk Tsk.

## GIVE SOMEONE A SECOND CHANCE.

Discuss organ donation with your family.

THE KIDNEY FOUNDATION OF CANADA