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produced an Atlantic Universities Athletic Association champion in three of the past four years and a squad that was ranked fifth in Canada at the end of last season. It helps that Peter Gordon of Whitby, Ont. – an all-Canadian and a great natural talent – is on the team, but the UPEI story is more than a one man show.

It begins with Morrison, with an extremely practical recruiting strategy and an inviting academic standard.

First the academic standard: At UPEI, a high school graduate can get in with a 60 per cent average, the lowest in the country at such an institution. For a coach, that's a tremendous advantage and Morrison is quite frank about what it means.

"Realistically," he says, "we haven't gotten any kids here that had a 75 per cent average who could play university basketball. By the same token, I basically haven't recruited them either. If you has a 75 per cent average and could get into U of T or Western or McMaster, and those schools wanted you, you're not going to come down to this part of the country. That's just common sense."

"We're accused of getting kids into school who can't get in anywhere else. Well, it's true. But that doesn't mean that we're letting people in below the standards. It just means we don't have a 70 percent average requirement to get in."

The Island produces only one or two prospects a year, so Morri-

son the one-man recruiting force must find most of his talent elsewhere. He has simplified things considerably by concentrating almost exclusively on Toronto because the city produces such an enormous number of players each year. After a likely PEI type is identified – someone with great basketball skills and limited academic ones – Morrison lets his charm take over.

"If there's somebody that I'm really after for next year, then starting any time after Christmas, I'll either write to them or talk to them once a week," he says. "Sometimes more often." Once he had to convince them about both the place and the program but with UPEI's recent success, the basketball pretty much speaks for itself, especially since Gordon came to town three years ago. Morrison, now in his seventh season, also counts on alumni returning home to Toronto and spreading the word.

Selling the Island and the academic institution are slightly different propositions. He tells potential students that they will have the opportunity to know their professors well and that even players who haven't made the squad have always (with one exception) stayed to complete their studies. He tells them about the friendly people, about the tiny student body and about how, despite (if they're black) being near unique, they will have no trouble breaking the ice.

"To the best of my knowledge, there's no racial overtones here at all," Morrison says. "None of these kids have ever encountered

anything along that line, at least they've never let me know."

"Things go very, very, well for them socially. Very well. I don't tell them that. I leave it to the rest of my guys to tell them that. But they do very well. They're not left out in the cold."

What the coach says seems to be true, thought there is normally some severe initial culture shock. Once Smith realized that all that red dirt was a province, he says it took him a few months to feel comfortable. And his story is typical.

"The mentality of the people is different," he says. "They're pretty rural. They only care about things that happen on the Island. They don't care about

things that happen outside the Island. But the people accept you. They're really friendly."

"Now I have trouble when I go home. You go to a club here and everything is white. And I guess the attitude of people her is really different. They're really easy going. You can walk up to anybody and say hi and they'll say hi back to you."

"You get back to Toronto and you're always cautious. When I go home and I go out, I feel alienated. I don't know how to go up to a black girl and talk to her."

"It's just different. It's like two different worlds."

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to teacher." This makes it possible for bright, aggressive parents to seek out the best schools and within them, the best teachers, thereby obtaining an advantage for their children over those whose parents aren't so bright or aggressive. A lax system also produces a broader and more pernicious form of inequality. Educated parents will see to it that their children learn a good deal, at home if necessary. Children whose parents are uneducated will lose out. In general, the more easygoing the school system, the more it reinforces class barriers.

To change all this would require a stupendous national ef-

fort. Teachers would have to be retrained, texts rewritten, provincial education departments and school boards turned upside down, budgets and school taxes increased. Many teachers would have to be paid better, others would have to be dismissed. It would call for hard work from politicians, parents, and above all children. Those fighting for reform would be widely damned by educational bureaucrats as back-to-basics bigots. It would be a bitter struggle and would last at least a generation. I don't think we would be up to it.

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## Editor's Note

The Gem will now be holding information meetings on Tuesdays at 4:00pm, not at 6:00pm, as per last semester.

If you have any questions or comments about the Gem, would like to know more about how you can contribute, or want to help with layout, and eat some terrific (free) food, then come on down!

Here are the editor's office hours, as were promised last week:

Tuesday and Thursday 11:30 – 12:30, 1:30 – 2:15

The editor can also be reached at 566-2218, and messages can be left with the Student Union.

Let's keep those submissions coming, to make this semester of The Gem its best ever!

Sincerely,  
Terri Lyn Hall

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### Submission Policy

We reserve the right to edit submissions due to taste and/or space limitations and not to print submissions that are submitted after the deadline of Monday at 3:00pm. Submissions to the GEM become the property of the GEM unless other arrangements have been made. All submissions can be submitted to the GEM through the GemSlot on the office door in Main Building Room B06 or through the VAX to account GEM. (We cherish typed submissions.) Those which are libelous, racist, homophobic, or attempt to incite violence or hatred toward a particular person or group will not be printed.

Any member of the university community can make a contribution to The GEM, but the editor also reserves the right to print submissions from outside the university community.

The staff of the GEM can be seen in their natural habitat in their basement office in Main Building, room B06. We can also be contacted by voice by calling 566-0629, or leaving a message with our secretary at 566-0530. We also have an ambitious News Editor that loves to get mail, our address is:

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