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# **Panther** **March** **12, 1996**

*Vainly fighting apathy in UPEI Students Since 1969*

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produced at UPEI  
by students, for  
students*

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## **Referendum Overthrown Elections Act Passed**

by Amy Gallan

The results of the UPEI referendum to leave the Canadian Federation of Students have been overturned. After discovering that old voters lists were used, and that there was no secrecy at the booths, CFS wrote a letter to the Student Union threatening a legal suit if the results were to be used to break away from the organization.

By using an old voters list, and the lack of secrecy at the booths, the Student Union had used undemocratic methods. So the Student Union, disappointed, yet focused on being fair and also in the face of a lawsuit, overturned the results. After doing so, they adopted the Prince Edward Island Elections Act to ensure that the same mistakes do not happen again. The Student Union is allowed to hold another referendum in six months. On March 8, six months notice was given to CFS, and so another referendum will probably be held in October of this year.

There was much disturbance caused by the adoption of the Elections Act. Rumours flared that the Act had not even been read by the council before it was adopted. This, the Student Union admitted, was true, but as SU President Amber Allin said "There was no time, the act was an emergency measure to get us through the next general election."

Another problem that people had with the Act was that much of it does not pertain to the University. In fact, some of it would discriminate against certain university students the right to vote. For example, the Act stipulates that the voter must be eighteen years of age or older to be eligible to vote. However, there are

students at UPEI who are not eighteen years of age. The Student Union, however, maintained that this would not cause a problem, as some things in the act could be changed to suit the needs of the university.

Chris Burns, the Student Union's ombudsperson, indicated that the Election Act will ensure secrecy at booths, and a good voters list. Burns also stated that "There were incredible inconsistencies between our constitution and the election by-laws." This, he explained, led to the undemocratic methods used in the last referendum.

Allin said that the Student Union was very disappointed with forced overturn. However, she noted "The point is to do it right. It's better to cut our losses now. . . We made a mistake and now we must fix it." The PEI representative from CFS was unavailable for comment for this issue.

## **Labeling Profs as Sexy: Is It Wrong?**

by Cindy Venema

Sex sells. And rating public figures, such as professors, on a level of sexiness, helps these sales. But is it correct to exploit the professional role of the professor for entertainment purposes?

The question on the sex survey asking the students to rate who they thought the sexiest female and male professors on campus were seemed like light entertainment; however, some of the "winning" professors thought otherwise. Their initial reaction to the survey was first embarrassment, and then uncertainty as to how they should respond to such a poll.

Sex is a grey issue, and there is a moral line that should not be crossed. This line varies from situation to situation, and the line that the Panther Prints challenged was the line between the

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## **Notice to all UPEI Students**

A proposal for increasing the Student Union fee by three dollars will be presented to the Student Union council on March 24, 1996. This increase is being proposed due to the projected decrease in enrollment and its subsequent effects on the Student Union's operations for the 1996/97 fiscal year.

As well, a proposal for a new ten dollar semester refundable donation to be collected from all full-time students was tabled at the 24, 1996 meeting of the Student Union Council. This donation will be collected by the Student Union on behalf of the Capital Campaign for the renovations to the Cass Chemistry Centre.

An information session to discuss both of these proposals will be held on Wednesday, March 20 from 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm in room 111 of the Robertson Library. The council meeting is also open to all students and will be held in room 210 of the Kelley Building at 7:00 pm.

If you are unable to attend the information session and the council meeting, please discuss your concerns with your councillor.