

Letters to the Editor

This letter was sent to the Gem for publication. Students should find it very interesting.

On the evening of March 6/90 I was listening to the local t.v. program "Compass" and I couldn't believe what they are saying - the essence of the program was that the students are going to be kicked out of the UPEI residences for approximately one month next year so that athletes from the Canada Winter Games can be accommodated during their stay on PEI, and two to three weeks are going to be added to the University school year to make up for the loss to the academic program.

Mr. Connolly, you have been selected by the citizens of PEI to be our voice in matters regarding education. Your job title does not include assisting Island tourism, the economy of Charlottetown, or the world of National athletics in general. We the people have put you in your position because at the time of the last election it seemed that you would be a good representative of whatever Department the Premier chose to use you in. From where I stand, you are doing a hell of a poor job when you allow University student to be pushed out of their place of education merely to accommodate what amount to public entertainment. Where has your common sense gone when you will allow mere games to come ahead of a young man or women's career preparation program, just to provide short term amusement to a few citizens of Charlottetown and what ever number of stragglers that might come to the Island from the mainland.

If it is necessary for anyone to be housed off campus, then house the athletes in local Charlottetown homes. Don't do this to the students who will be faced with additional travel and economic problems and with the fact that even if they are able to arrange short term housing, it may not have the privacy that is required for serious study. Bear in mind the Games are after all ONLY games, whereas the students are working on their careers, have paid for a certain amount of education and should not be cheated out of one minute of it.

This is serious business, these students are working on their futures in a mature and adult manner, yet our Dept. of Education thinks nothing of cutting into their year like cutting a deck

of cards, withdrawing a packet, removing a bunch of cards, and putting what is left at the bottom of the deck. This is a hell of a way to run an education system, and is symptomatic of the low regard the Government of this Province has for the educational system in general.

You may think that it is no big deal that two to three weeks will be added to the end of the University year, but a large percentage of student work during the Summer months to ear enough to continue their education the following year. Many of these student hope to get jobs in other Provinces. What chance will these students have in the job market if they arrive at the job site two to three weeks late? By allowing this damaging

the year that the Games are in, but you are potentially removing from many students the opportunity to continue in the following year due to the lack of money. Oh yes I know they can always fall back on student loans, but you and I both know that they are not always available to every student, and when they are available, they often are not enough to pay for all the requirements of the University year.

However, disregarding the availability of student loans and their percentage of coverage, what right have you or anyone else to force student to borrow more than they would have normally needed just so you can be a patron of the games? It is not right that the University students should have to

subsidize these games. If the citizens of Canada want Winter Games, then let them bear All the cost themselves. Not one moment of the students Educational time, or one penny of their money should be used in the pursuit of these games.

Mr. Connolly, this is serious business - and is not a matter that can be glossed over, or the buck passed on to someone else. In the end the people of PEI have chosen you and you have accepted the job of over-seeing the educational system of PEI. The people of PEI expect you to do your duty and rectify this travesty before it goes any farther.

Yours Sincerely,
Charles P. Cavanagh

Lucky To Be a Student AT UPEI!?!?

Due to the onset of midterms, this article had to be delayed for a couple of weeks. The first three articles pointed out problems that I saw here at UPEI. Of course, despite these I do feel lucky to be a student at UPEI.

Some have taken offence to my last three articles, but if people don't point out things that aren't working the way they should, how would we ever see improvement?

Here are, in my opinion, UPEI's good points:

1. The most obvious has to be the new field house. It has racket ball and squash courts, a well equiped weight room, a running track, saunas and many more wonderful things.

2. The size of UPEI. Because UPEI has such a low student population, professors have more time to spend with students on individual problems. Also, other staff members can get to know many of the students on first name basis, making their jobs easier and the students feel more like they matter. Small classes allow people to get to know the majority of their classmates.

3. Bernadine Hall is a nice place. We have kitchnettes on each floor, cable tv, and lots of Hall spirit.

4. Speaking of Bernadine Hall, a real benefit are the two ladies who take care of the building, Mary and Brenda. They are always friendly and eager to help students with any problems. I can't speak for the other two residences.

5. Campus improvement. The vet college, food center and new field house have given UPEI a new look since I arrived in my freshman year. Main building has been renovated and looks like a completely new building. Along with addition of new buildings and repair of the old, the campus has retained an old fashioned, scenic look.

6. Our sports teams.

7. The library. The staff are very helpful and friendly. We

have at our disposal a wide variety of books, journals and other reference material. What isn't available the library will either order or obtain through an inter-library loan.

I'm sure that UPEI has many other good points as well, such as school spirit. For these reasons, as well as my affection for Prince Edward Island, I do feel lucky to be a student at UPEI. Of course, it does, like any other campus, have it's problems.

CC

Editorial

Dear UPEI Students

I arrived at my office last Monday only to be met with numerous complaints and crude letters about last week's supplement on Gay/Lesbian issues. Do you people do anything but complain!!!

To be honest, I'm absolutely disgusted. Look at this from my point of view. In the past we have run articles which were crude (but funny), and people complained. We've printed funny cartoons, and people complained. We omitted cartoons last week, and people complained. We've printed articles which were obviously offensive to women because people complained. We've printed supplements on women's issues, and men complained (but didn't want to write anything on men's issues). We've printed sports, and people have com-

plained the Gem has too much sports. We've printed fewer sports articles and people have complained that we don't print enough sports. We print what U.P.E.I. students submit and people complain that there is nothing worth reading. We don't print anything on the rights of minorities, like homosexuals, and people complain that the Gem is afraid to tackle any of the issues that are out there. So for two weeks in a row (Oh no!! God forbid!) we've printed issues that cover homosexual issues, to try and make up for the times we ignored them, and people complain!!! What do you people want anyway?!? Maybe you would like to come in to my office and help put the paper out each week, and then have to listen to people com-

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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.

The GEM

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