

To Seek Out New Life

by Christopher Michaud

The University of Prince Edward Island is leafing through the job wanted ads, looking to hire some qualified personnel to fill some vacancies.

The Department of education has been operating for the last little while with an acting Dean of Education. The University's Search Committee is presently interviewing the Final Four, having created a short-list for the position.

Last week, on Monday, March 11, Dr. John Portelli of Mount Saint Vincent University gave his public presentation on "Taking Education Seriously". One of his major points was the relationship between theory and practice, and the role of the Faculty of Education in this relationship. He considers teaching to be an unneutral

activity, and that voices need to be heard for "The implicit to become explicit." Dr. Portelli also explained that "Teachers must be aware of the risks of teaching. Teachers must guide and stimulate." He considers teaching to be an interactive and cooperative activity, and that teachers must not fall into the "either/or" trap.

On Wednesday, March 13, Dr. Vianne Timmons of St. Francis Xavier University gave her presentation on "The Demands of Teacher Education: Rising to the Challenge." Dr. Timmons related in her presentation to the experiences of her university and the problems it faced when, due to cutbacks to teacher education departments, they had to somehow "resurrect" their programs and keep them alive. St. FX had to re-establish the credibility of their teacher education

program within the community and work with a shortened two-year program. In their successful attempts to save their program, they addressed such problems as student demands, institutional demands and how to meet those demands within the restrictions and time frame they were given. They also had to answer the need to know not only how to teach but why to teach.

On a different note, as I was sitting listening to these presentations, I noticed how both presenters talked at length about a two-year program. UPEI has been thinking about canning the one-year B.Ed., but nothing had been said about a replacement. This is of some concern, especially to students who will need more than an Arts or Science degree to obtain good jobs in the teaching field. President Epperly, in attend-

ance at the presentations, answered my question and I give you her answer: There will be either a one or a two-year Bachelor of Education program at UPEI. They are currently looking at replacing the one-year with a two-year program, which would be more beneficial in the long run to students. Breath easier, folks.

There are two more public presentations scheduled for this week, on March 18 and March 21, in Robertson Library Room 105, starting at 3:30. These presentations are open to the campus community, so if you are interested in getting a first peek at the new Dean of Education, come on down. All are welcome. Seating is limited. The video tapes of the presentations should be available shortly.



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