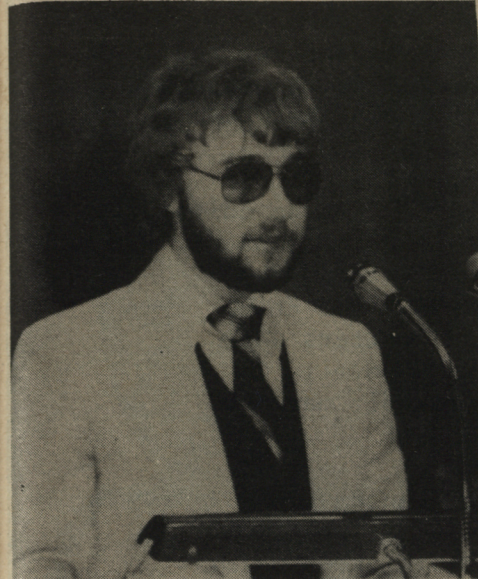


'STUDENTS PAYING MORE FOR LESS'

Students informed on cutbacks

PRESIDENT KEVIN GAUTHIER

Premier Bennett Campbell has decided that UPEI will receive an increase in government funding of 8.6 percent, a figure in line with one recommended by the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission. This marks the first time in several years that the provincial government has followed the Commission's recommendations.

Unfortunately for UPEI

students, the government also accepted another Commission recommendation that called for tuition fees to rise with the cost of living. Student Union President Kevin Gauthier has expressed mixed feelings about the announcement.

"It's nice to know that the government is finally taking the MPHEC seriously but I am not at all satisfied with the funding announcement.

The main thrust of all our work has been to make the point that tuition fees are high enough now. It looks as if nobody is listening."

The MPHEC recommended to the Council of Maritime Premiers that funding for Maritime universities be increased by 8.75 per cent, with an additional grant of .75 per cent for certain universities who required extra assistance. Included as well was the suggestion that tuition fees be

indexed. "Of course, we weren't happy with the Commission's recommendation in the first place," remarked President Gauthier, "because it meant students would end up paying more. It's unfortunate that the government decided to accept a recommendation that we opposed from the very start."

Provincial governments across the country are imposing serious cutbacks on all universities, a trend that has drawn severe criticism from students, faculty and administration alike. Ontario recently awarded a 5 per cent increase, and similar announcements have been made in other provinces. In the Maritimes, Nova Scotia universities have been hardest hit this year, with the province increasing grants by only 5.5 per cent. President Gauthier termed the N.S. announcement "absolutely unbelievable".

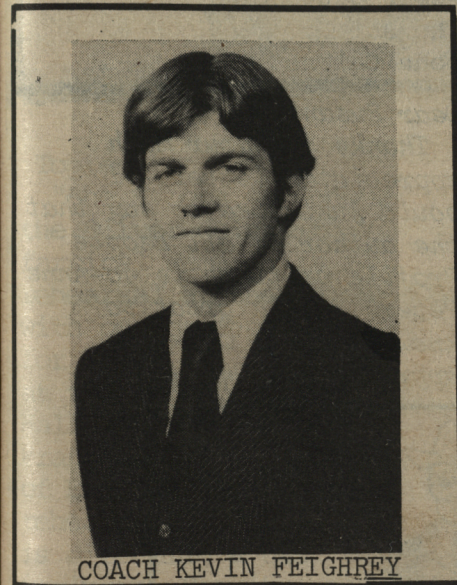
"I cannot imagine how anybody who is familiar with the plight of universities today could consciously impose such short-sighted, careless non-planning on a resource as valuable as this." The MPHEC is currently meeting with the N.S. government to arrange a more acceptable plan.

UPEI President Peter Meincke has said he is pleased that the P.E.I. government accepted the recommendation of the MPHEC. The announcement will still require the university to tighten its belt, he said, but no programs are expected to be cut. As far as tuition increases are concerned, Dr. Meincke remarked that some sort of "a trade-off between an increase in tuition and quality of education to the student", would have to be made, indicating that tuition fee increases will be kept to a minimum. Mr. Gauthier stated that "the Student Union will be working very closely with the administration to ensure that tuition for next year will be as low as possible."

"All in all," said President Gauthier, "it looks like another expensive year ahead. The government apparently still does not believe that we are paying enough for education."

Currently tuition at UPEI is among the highest in Canada. With a normal course load, students pay \$750 per year to attend university. The Student Union President has pointed out that this expense is compounded by "the cost of textbooks, which is galloping along at a ridiculous rate, the cost of residence which will undoubtedly increase, transportation for non-Islanders who come here, clothing and all the regular expenses everybody must pay, and discretionary expenses such as entertainment, etc."

It is not yet known when the university Board of Governors will make a final decision regarding increases in tuition and residence rates. The Board usually finalizes a budget before the end of the semester in order to have the information ready for new students next year.

**What's New Coach
COACH OF THE YEAR**

COACH KEVIN FEIGHREY

was on. When Ed Hilton made the announcement that Feighrey had the job, only weeks before the start of the fall semester, people were saying things like: You gotta be kidding, Kevin who? and Great, but who do we have to play for him?

Within weeks, Feighrey had assembled Larry McGhee, John Guilford, Jude Kelly, and other talented basketball types from the Maritimes and elsewhere. These players were to become number one in our hearts, and close to number one on the court, due to the young coach's expertise. It was evident early in the year that this team was not a fly-by-night operation. It was a class outfit that had a chance for upsets galore, given the right time and place.

After losing our opener to Acadia by a mere seven points, and being downed by the defending national champion St. Marys Huskies in Halifax, the dynamic Panthers captured two, one a laugh over Mt.A. and the other a squeaker over the St. F.X. X-Men in Antigonish.

After Christmas it was all uphill, running off win after win, including

another victory over X here in Alumni Gym. From there it was on the playoffs, and a confident feeling going into the playoff game against the X-Men - two time losers to the Panthers previously. Actually, that's all she wrote so to speak; the Panthers were beaten early in the game, due to Larry McGhee being coubled and sometimes triple teamed by the aroused X-Men defense.

What does all this prove? It shows that a rookie coach went up against the best teams and coaches in Canada, and more than held his own in the melee of the AUAA race. Granted the talent that Kevin assembled so late in the summer didn't hurt any, but the other top teams in the league had a wealth of talent also, and years of coaching experience as well, but the second place finish, the national ranking and the poise and intensity that the team and coach showed in the rough going easily merited the award.

The award is voted on by the other coaches in the AUAA, and it only goes to show the respect that they have for Feighrey's prowess as a coach.

Kevin Feighrey was named coach of the year in the AUAA. You remember that league don't you? That's the one with the Brian Heaneys and Steve Konchalskis and Dick Hunts. He was named coach of the year because he brought a team that everyone thought was doomed from the beginning, to a second place finish in the toughest league in Canada, and a number ten ranking in Canada.

At the beginning of the season, people were wondering just who would coach the team - relieved that George Birger had gone west, and taken everyone with him, the search