



Kampus Koncern

by joel hansen

CAMPBELL'S 'Two Attacks On Apathy'

At a "Cadre" news interview, Student Union President, Gordon Campbell announced plans to combat "student apathy" at UPEI on two fronts. Campbell's plans include the transformation of the structure of the Student Union from a presidential toward a parliamentary system and the "surfacing" of Student Union Officers from the basement of Memorial to the ground floor level at the "Barn".

Campbell cited over-confidence and laziness as the reason for apathy at the leadership level in the union: the presidential form, he claimed, "allowed for resting on one's laurels instead of active participation in the circulation of the student interest." The parliamentary form, if accepted by the union membership, will allow for the development of several political interest groups vying for power rather than a static elite subjected to no course of response to the students on a regular basis."

According to the plan, still in the developmental stages, the executive of the union would have to answer to the Council members through "confidence" motions, etc. If the executive did not keep its office "dynamic" they could lose their position and power very easily. "To counter-act this", argued Campbell, "an executive would have to keep Council and the student membership well informed of the issues in order that it survive. What would probably, and hopefully result would be the 'party' style of politics where the 'real' student articulation of interest would occur."

The president stated that it would probably be the fall before the referendum would be held on the idea of the "structural overthrow" within the union. He said that a great deal of time would have to be spent concerning the conservative elements within the union of the validity of such a reform of present structures of power.

"Even if the idea does not receive the support of the



majority of the union membership, the expression of opinions in this regard will help develop a political "consciousness" on this campus," stated President Campbell.

The moving of Student Union Offices from Memorial to the Barn is designed to make the executive more accessible to the Student Union membership.

The new offices will be located in the Day-Care Center, which will be moved cross campus to the present union offices. It will cost the union treasury in the area of \$500. to complete the move.

President Campbell claimed that he had already approached Council with the idea of the office move to the Barn and received adverse reaction. "However", he confidently noted, "I have yet to really put my case!" He said that he is currently preparing 'white papers' to present to Council on 'the two attacks on apathy' announced today.

He squashed any ideas of changing the location of CSUR, on campus radio, from Main to the Barn by stating that such a move was too costly at this time. "There is too much red ink on our books to be too extravagant in 1974," cautioned Campbell.

Another point of information was the establishment of a committee to collect inform-

ation on scholarships available to students at UPEI. The union would publish the lists of scholarships for the senior class for their own information. Campbell said that in a recent meeting with President Baker he learned that approximately \$20,000. goes unclaimed by UPEI eligible students annually. "The best idea is an attempt to reclaim the annual loss caused by lack of information and faculty-student communication," claimed Campbell.

Another attack on the scholarship problem suggested by the president is for professors to get solidly behind students who are interested in post-graduate training &, consequently, post-graduate scholarships. "Too many professors are uninterested when scholarship information is sent to them -- they usually throw the information in the waste can instead of pushing the information in their classes, seminars, etc.," argued Campbell. The

President urged all students at UPEI to become aware of scholarship availability no matter what their marks are like for, as he noted, "financial need is a primary criterion of many scholarships rather than abnormally high academic performance."