

Lieutenant Governor Visits UPEI

by A. Chisholm

According to the University Act, the official Visitor to UPEI has "authority to do all those acts which pertain to Visitors." As Lieutenant Governor, The Honourable Gilbert Clements is the Visitor to UPEI.

This title is admittedly very vague, so the Lt. Governor has been touring the university with President Epperly over the past few weeks to learn more about this position. The position of Visitor is largely ceremonial, with responsibilities such as hosting special functions, awarding the Governor General's medal, and installing the chancellor.

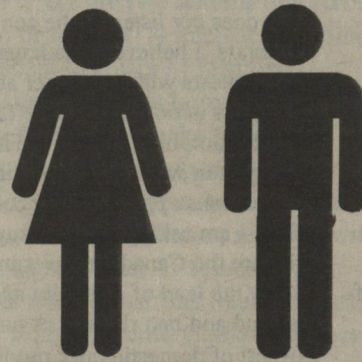
On Monday, November 13, The Honourable Gilbert Clements made his third in a series of familiarization visits to the university. His itinerary included meetings with professors, deans, and university staff. He also toured several buildings on campus, including a tour of the Barn with Student Union president Amber Allin. The Lt. Governor commented that "I have been here before, but had never had the chance to meet with the professors in detail, and it has been extremely interesting, I hope to be back again."

The title of Official Visitor is an honorary one, with a history dating back to the British traditions of Oxford and Cambridge. When Henry VIII created the Church of England and refounded Christ Church College, he was deputed the Visitor. The reigning monarch becomes the hereditary visitor; to this day the Queen is the Visitor of Christ Church at Cambridge. Professor David Buck once attended Christ Church, and he says that after dinner toasts are made to "The Queen, The Visitor of the House."

Buck also believes that UPEI is the only Canadian university to have an official visitor, although several universities do have Rectors. At Queen's university, the Rector is elected by the students to be their representative on the Board of Trustees.

President Epperly and Mr. Clements hope that the series of visits will help them to redefine the role of the Official Visitor so as to provide the university with as much support as the Lt. Governor can give. "If there is anything I can do to help the university, I'm prepared to help in any way we can," said Mr. Clements.

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Changes Continue at UPEI

by Lorne Caborn

UPEI continues its march through the nineties with yet another change in the front office, this time with the hiring of a new vice-president. A decision two decades in the making will finally materialize as the university becomes one of the last to have such a position. This move hasn't been without opposition, but it may be a necessary one if the university wishes to flourish into the next century.

While the title of vice-president may seem new to many, the position really is not. The last two presidents have each had assistants and Dr. Epperly is looking forward to the help. This help will come in many areas, especially planning, but reports will still be directed to the president herself.

The student representative on the Board of Governors, Wendy Venema, feels that "This school is at a point in time where there are many issues that need to be faced," and that hiring a vice-president is an important move for the university. The Student Union shares these sentiments as well, along with many faculty members.

Students, on the other hand, are generally less than enthusiastic, not because they don't see the need but because of fear of yet another rise in tuition fees. This fear is not supported by facts. Tuition fees are always subject to change at any given time but this new position will not cause a rise. The cost of the new position has already been worked into the budget, so any new

blows felt on the wallets of students will not come from this area.

The search committee hopes to come forth with a recommendation soon with two in consideration at the moment. Dr. John Crossley and Dr. Jim Sentence each presented their "visions for UPEI" the Tuesday and Thursday before last, and the hiring committee will have the final say. Opposed or for the idea, students will soon know how this new change will affect the future of UPEI.

Special thanks to Dr. Epperly and especially Wendy Venema for contributing their time and opinions about this issue.

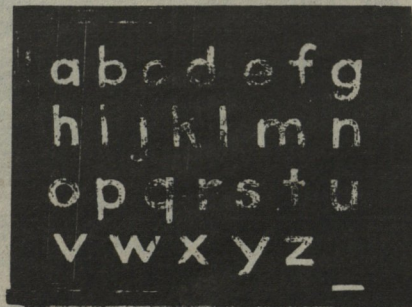
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