

P.M. Who? MEETING WITH THE NEW PRESIDENT

By ALAN SMITH (HOOT!)

Thursday, Nov. 10. At what turned out to be (from my perspective at least) a splendid performance of role playing, President-designate Dr. P.M. Meincke was ushered into Duffy Amphitheatre to face his first direct encounter with the Student Populous of U.P.E.I. Upon arriving, I am sure he didn't consider it to be much of a challenge to tackle.

Before the details, I must, at the outset, pay tribute to the noble efforts of our Student Union Executive in upholding the necessary protocol which goes along with such visits. Student Union President, George McGibbon, appeared satisfied for his opening statements to the general assembly, he felt quite at home at the podium.

A number of things might account for that, I suppose. Specifically I would suggest TWO which appeared obviously related: (1) Mr. McGibbon is now getting used to his position as president, and (2) his highly favourable remarks concerning Dr. Meincke's credentials, abilities and character were adhered to by a very limited crowd. A group comprised mainly of the same partisan supporters who continue to come to all student assemblies.

Yet, one would do as well to leave that neither here nor there. Let me first make a few comments on Dr. Meincke's address and then buzz off, oh.

He presented a very short address to a very scant representation from within the student body. Inclusive within his talk was the suggestion that here at U.P.E.I. we have available the conditions allowing for very "warm" human relationships. (Just in passing, he was later asked whether he had ever spent a winter on P.E.I. To this he had to reply no. I got the impression, however, that in the first instance, his thoughts were not meant to be with environmental conditions).

He went on to state that he considers the "quality of education" at our university a very high standard. Linking this with the community at large he stated that the university has to be sensitive to society and not situated in an isolated tower of its own. We have to be a responsible resource aid for the



problems of society. One example of this aid was mentioned in regard to the activities of our highly respected Business Department in the development of new business practices throughout the Island.

Dr. Meincke went on to caution, however, that we cannot become subject to various flaws of society in our interaction with it. We must affirm a certain rigidity of our own, as a university, if we are to-

function properly within an institutional framework.

The floor was open for questioning after this, intended, short address. He commented that there were many things which he had yet to learn in regard to the daily affairs of our student situation here at U.P.E.I. But generally, the questions he was asked to deal with were answered with great ease. His administrative background became quite apparent throughout the question period.



He acknowledged only a vague awareness of the problem the student body has faced in regard to the Landlord Tenant Act. But, for the most part, the questions were specifically directed towards the related problems he will face in moving into this new administrative position.

The question was raised concerning his teaching career. He affirmed that it is a "good way to stay in touch with reality" (!!!) but was not sure if his position would allow him the time to permit its continuance. He did express hope that it would, however.

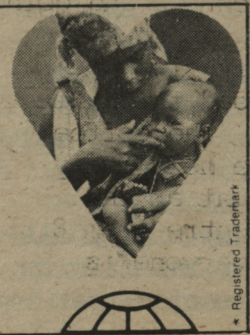
All in all, then, a very SO-SO meeting with our new President. I do wish we could get over these rigid formalities someone feels we must adhere to in these meetings, however. really, when you are dealing with an assembly of 35 to 40 people, why the hell do we need to address the others present through a microphone? It is my contention that things would become a hell of a lot freer in these assemblies of ours if all the formal crap was cut to a minimum.

I realize that order must be held! But easy does it on that argument O.K. Hopefully we're adaptable enough to speak out respectful of the others present. Mikes burn me -- even if these things are recorded. What's the sense in listening to a formal program, on tape, if the damn meeting is so tight and melancholic that nothing much is stated or asked? One would do just as well to sit in front of the T.V. set at the Panther Lounge for the hour! Now really, Dr. P.M. Meincke - I don't even know what his first name is!

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