

# OUR COMMENT

Well, once again I take pen in hand and try to pretend that I am actually an acting editor. I'm happy to report that our editor and full staff will be back to work next week. Sorry for the misunderstanding in last weeks editorial. When I stated that "our Editor, assistant editor and graphics took a few weeks off" it wasn't ment as a personal slight. There were a number of reasons why they couldn't work on a couple of issues, some of them being studies, personal, or health reasons.

Some, or most people feel that the editor is suppose to be an expert on all topics and for this reason they read editorials to see what the "expert" has to say. Since I don't consider myself to be an expert on any current topic I would like to (with the help of the CUP style guide) comment on some of the responsibilities of a newspaper and it's staff.

A journalist must take responsibility for whatever he/she writes and be willing to defend it. For that reason all stories should be bylined with the exception of rewrites and run-off-the-mill announcements or information peices. The SUN does this for its regular features but often our front pages and our news stories omit the names of the writer (usually an oversight).

Pseudonyms should never be used. If someone is concerned about repercussions from a story or letter in which she/he is personally involved, then she/he should either not write it, or let someone else write it.

Protecting a reporter from legal action is no excuse for leaving a byline off a story. Libelous material should never get past the editor. It's either true or false.

When there are not enough reporters to cover all events, (as usually happens at the SUN), the newspaper should not solicit or accept an offer from members or participants in any activities to write the story under another name. The impression must never be given that a staff member is writing a story if that is not the case. The SUN usually asks anyone (mostly students though) to write stories on any event taking place on campus. The reason for this is because our staff is small and nobody is designated as a "reporter". Most of our regular staff work on all aspects of the paper, be it writing, mailing, lay-out, ect.

Often, you, the reader, will see stories that have been written by another university paper. We are allowed to print these stories because we are a member of CUP (Canadian University Press). We are allowed to print these stories as long as we acknowledge the original paper, or writer.

In the case of an unnamed source, one has to be sure that the person is in a position to make an informed statement. If a person is defending or attacking an individual or an instution, they should not be allowed to go unnamed. Like the reporter, the source must stand behind his/her remarks.

Now these are a few of the things an editor must keep in mind (besides deadlines, lack of copy, shortage of staff and supplies, late hours ect...) each week. And then people have the nerve to complain, when the paper is an hour late hitting the stands!

# LETTERS

Dear Editor,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody who worked on my campaign during the recent Student Union elections. Whenever one starts mentioning names there's always the possibility of leaving someone out. But at

the risk of doing that, I feel nevertheless that there are certain people who worked very hard for me and to whom I owe a

great deal. So, thanks to Heather, Richard, Bert Gerald, Jimmy, John, Ray, all the girls who helped in Bernadine, the guys

HERMAN



"I've had a hard day, so don't make any smart remarks while I'm carrying a cream pie."

## the upei sun

The UPEI SUN is a member of the Canadian University Press (CUP) with exclusive national advertising rights held by Youthstream, 307 Davenport Road, Toronto, Ontario.

The UPEI SUN aims to be an independent newspaper published weekly throughout the academic year by the UPEI Union, printed by the Journal-Pioneer in Summerside and distributed throughout the campus and a few select spots in Charlottetown.

Contents are the responsibility of the editor. Opinions are those of the persons expressing them. All letters and articles must be signed even if the name is to

be withheld. Deadline for all submissions is Friday noon. Office hours are 9:30 to 12:00 and 2:30 - 5:00 Monday and Wednesday, 10:00 to 12:30 Tuesday and Thursday and most evenings. The staff meeting is every Monday at 7 PM in The SUN's office, fourth floor Main, East end. This small space is not sufficient to express our appreciation to those who worked on this week's issue:

- |               |                 |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Pat Ingham    | Claire Currie   |
| Al Ward       | Bert Boyd       |
| Ohm Moore     | Richard Webber  |
| John Neville  | Turtle & Burton |
| Marsha Gaudet |                 |

## staff

- Editor - J. Laurence Green
- Assistant Editor - Marsha L. Gaudet
- Lay-Out Manager - J. Gerald McKenna
- Photographer - Lee R. Donnelly
- Graphic Expert - Barry I. Chandler

who helped in Marian, and everybody who helped in Blanchard. If I've missed anybody, it's just because of lapse of memory, but I really appreciate all the help and support I got from everybody.

Congratulations to Alan for putting up a great campaign. Congratulations as well to the other executive members who were elected. The new Executive can and will work well together next year to take the Student Union in a new, more positive direction.

To all the Councillors and Senators who were elected, I sincerely hope that we may all work together next year and cooperate on matters of vital interest to the students. Bear in mind that the biggest threat to an effective, efficient Union is a lack of harmony and common purpose between the Executive and the various levels of administration. By cooperating and working together, we can avoid the common mistake of allowing ourselves to be

con't p. 5