

It's a close decision, but

UPEI students say "Yes" to CFS

By Carolyn Ryan

Students at the University of Prince Edward Island have voted to become full members of the Canadian Federation of Students. Of 22 voters, or 18.9% of UPEI's approximately 1700 full-time students, turned out February 8 to register a 5% assent to the national student association, which represents two-thirds of

all Canadian post-secondary students outside Quebec.

The "yes" vote came as a shock to pro-CFS campaigners, many of whom had given up hope due to a late-starting "no" movement which quickly gained momentum.

Twenty minutes before the results were announced, in fact, CFS Atlantic field-worker Mark Lenihan confessed, "I think we blew it."

Shortly afterward, he was

saying, "I'm frankly surprised, but very pleased."

"That's unbelievable!" Jack Keefe, SU president (and the only member of the executive who actively supported the Federation) said when told. "But it's the smartest thing students at UPEI have ever done."

The uncertainty began Monday, when a CFS information session in the Robertson Library student lounge experienced a mild

explosion.

Student Senator Kent MacKay vehemently opposed the "pro" position advanced by Keefe, Lenihan, and CFS-Services chair Brian Chadwick. The discussion soon degenerated into what referendum scrutineer Mike Trainor called a "a bear-pit session."

"And that bear-pit session sounded like 'no'," he adds.

The controversy continued Tuesday night during a

phone-in talk show on CIMN, the campus radio station.

In the heat of argument, hosts (and Student Union Council members) Ken Baker and Jim Mutter, who supported the "no" side, were accused by one caller of "Deliberately giving a negative impression of CFS."

Both opposed CFS on the basis of its political branch, which they say is ineffectual, non-representative of Atlantic interests, and unfocused.

140 voters agreed with them on Wednesday.

Despite the closeness of the vote, CFS-Services rep for P.E.I. Howard Beattie was happy. Holding that the "no" campaigners had "no real arguments", he said. "The more we talked rationally to people, the more negative were being drowned out."

He adds that membership cards enabling students to receive local discounts will arrive in a few weeks.

The UPEI vote is the fourth positive one in four membership referenda this year, according to Canadian Federation of Students chair Graham Dowdell.

"The students at UPEI are now part of a larger student voice. Their own political voice is stronger, and the collective voice of students across the country is stronger," he said in a telephone interview.

Jim Mutter is resigned to the defeat, saying that he hopes the Federation Central Committee representatives and the delegates from UPEI will work in the future to make CFS a more worthwhile organization.

MacKay too isn't taking the results too badly. He says simply, "They voted 'yes'. That must be what they want."

And Baker?

"It doesn't bother me a bit. The students have spoken."

student newspaper of the University of Prince Edward Island

The Netted Gem

Volume 1, Number 11

February 10, 1984



"Rocky Horror" a true riot

By Leah Parker

"The Rocky Horror Picture Show" played Thursday night at the Barn. That in itself is not an earth-shattering event.

However, anyone who stuck with the movie until the abrupt end, after only 2 1/2 reels, deserved a Purple Heart or a medal for stamina.

We all know that "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" is a movie that all participate in, whether it be throwing rice, or toast, squirting water (during one scene only), and yelling a few choice words, but the students of UPEI created a scene that could only be compared to another film: "The Day After".

It was literally a beer holocaust. Beer, pop, water, paper towels, toilet paper, newspaper, baby powder, beer cups and soggy toast/bread were hurled through the air with a vengeance with no one, yet everyone, being the target.

A few comments were

thrown about also.

For instance, one student said that she had waited three years to see this unparalleled film but instead witnessed an unprecedented (hopefully) madhouse.

Two other girls couldn't understand where the Campus Police got off stopping the film and throwing people out. During the movie they had not only been passing out the paper products to be thrown by others but they, the C.P.'s, were also flinging the paper towels and toilet paper around.

Perhaps it would have been more practical for the sponsors to have shown the film at Duffy Amphitheatre or closed the bar during show-time.

Will we see "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" again during our lifetime at UPEI? Will we understand it then? We sure couldn't on Thursday night because there was too much noise and confusion.

Griffith questions role of SU executive

By Sharon Leighton

If the Student Union Executive were to drop out tomorrow, would you notice?"

This question was one of several posed by Student Services Director Jim Griffith, who challenges the Student Union Executive's position on campus.

If the administration did collect student fees for you, would you pay them?"

Is it the business of the Student Union Executive to make a profit off its constituents?" he continued, referring to the effort to raise money for sales at the Barn.

The intention behind the granting of a liquor license was to shelter students from high off-campus bars. It was not according to Griffith, intended as a way of raising money for the Student Union.

Griffith thinks students are

being ripped off by the Student Union Executive.

At one time, he says, the focus of the Executive was on activity and involvement of students. UPEI became known as a friendly university. Now the Executive concentrates on making money.

The Student Union Executive is elected by the majority of students, says Griffith, but once in office, it does not represent the majority views of the students.

If, in the course of his work in Student Services, he wants feedback from students, Griffith does not go to the Student Union for it. A House Committee or a sub-organization, such as the Business Society or the Education Society, can give him more accurate information about the feelings of the majority of students.

One reason, in Griffith's view, for the lack of practical

achievement by the Student Union Executive, is a lack of continuity. Representatives make great plans before election. Then, once they're in office, they discover they dislike most of what last year's executive did, and set about changing it. By the time they've undone everything that was done the year before, it's time for a new election.

He points out that continuity is not impossible. The Barn is one concrete example of a firm, long-term commitment made by one Executive and supported by its successors.

The general avoidance of long-term commitments by the Executive is one of Griffith's pet peeves.

If Student Services needs the Student Union's cooperation for a program, they are often blocked by the Executive's protest that they can't make commit-

ments for next year.

Griffith has another problem with the Executive in his work. "If you send someone a letter requiring a response," he says, "you have a right to expect a response."

When he questions Executive members about the lack of such response, he is told, "I have to go to a Council meeting in two weeks before I can give you a response."

A two-week delay can cause major difficulties.

Trying to work with the Executive has been one of the biggest problems in Griffith's job.

"Our prime function, at Student Services, is to cater to the needs of the students," says Griffith. "The prime function of the Student Union Executive is to cater to the needs of its constituents. We should not be at loggerheads."

On Senate Reform:

It should be easy for the Senate to turn over a new leaf. After all, it has a lot of pages.