

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES BARE SOULS AND GOALS



Michelle Dorsey throws down challenge to UPEI students

"I dare you to elect me and impeach me!" Thus speaks Michelle Dorsey, one of the two candidates for the position of UPEI Student Union President for 1984-85.

She wonders how many people on campus know that they have the power to impeach an executive for doing a bad job, and calls it just one example of a general lack of knowledge on the SU that students are suffering.

"The Student Union has a potentially great impact on this university ... it just hasn't use it yet," she continues.

And she wants to try to change that. Michelle has held a seat on Senate and the SU Council for the last year. She was recently appointed a Senate Steering Com-

mittee on the Vet College and a SU Council inquiry committee on the same topic.

She also is the student representative for P.E.I. on a commission on humanism, and sits on a committee for the Chaplaincy Centre.

Michelle feels the President should be totally aware of what's going on around campus, listen to students, work for what they want, and provide a voice for all students at UPEI.

The position involves making sure everyone's pulling his or her weight at the Barn, says Michelle, organizing, carrying out, and participating in both Council and executive business and social activities.

The University was created, after all, by and for students. We

all have the power to swing things," explains Michelle. This is the reasoning behind her favourite slogan: that the ability to rally support and lobby belongs to the average student.

She firmly believes that there have been major issues on campus this year that students have either not know about or of which they have underestimated the importance. An example she gives is the Senate motion this fall to combine the Sociology and Anthropology programs into a single joint major (a motion that was eventually defeated).

Michelle thinks that, in order to get student to participate in the Student Union's many facets, you have to "do it by hand. General posters don't work." She feels you have to ask people personally at all levels, and not expect them to volunteer.

And, since part of the Presidential mandate is to be able to delegate duties responsibly, she plans to "get people to go out and make people interested."

Michelle concludes by stating that she intends, if elected, to change the general attitude around the university that the SU Council can't do things for more than one year at a time.

"We should be more than just caretakers," she affirms, "we have to be able to make long-term decisions and commitments."



Randy Gass pushes for information, representation, cooperation

"I want to bring the Student Union closer to students ... I don't like to see students alienated from it as they are now," says Randy Gass, the man who will be President of the aforementioned SU for 1984-85 if students choose him on March 7.

Randy is a third year Political Studies/Psychology major who doesn't feel the Student Union Council at UPEI is giving the representation of students it potentially could.

"it's more of a business than a service to students," he protests.

He holds that the SU Council's position as a body elected to speak on behalf of the whole student body is

critical, and those elected should never lose sight of that. In his opinion, the executive's approach to the administration and government will determine how much benefit can be gained from the contact.

Randy feels the President's major orientation should be academic rather than social, and that the university's maintenance as a broad function for education rather than an instrument of specialization should be a presidential priority.

"Also, the onus is on him to focus the other three executives in a representative capacity, ... and to urge Council to inform students and eliminate apathy."

Randy feels this

latter function was not adequately carried out in the recent Canadian Federation of Students referendum since "some students still don't know what CFS is."

"But now that we're in it," he shrugs, "let's see what we can get out of it."

Randy readily lists his goals for next year: 1) to hold more general meetings, perhaps once or twice a month, for information and feedback purposes, 2) to work toward getting representatives elected from both daytime students and the residence-dwellers, 3) to establish an ombudsman at the Barn who would be elected by students and have no reservations in dealing with, or even fighting with, the executive to solve problems students bring to him, 4) to bring the Student Union and Student Services into a closer alliance, so that students may benefit from the combined expertise of the two groups, 5) to work with the other executives to attempt to incorporate the \$4 CFS membership fee each student must pay next year into the present figure for Student Union fees.

Randy concludes, "I want a more accessible Student Union. There's now a gap separating it from the students that shouldn't be there."

He adds that with the students' support he feels he can definitely contribute to the services provided by the Student Union.