

# BUSINESS SOCIETY

## ATLANTIC BUSINESS CONFERENCE

The Atlantic Business Conference was hosted by the Acadia Business Society on Nov. 9th, 10th and 11th. The theme and topic of the conference was "Provincial Ownership of Natural Resources". UPEI was well represented in spite of the fact that there were only four of us, Stephen Murphy, president, Denise McGowan, secretary, Colleen Rossiter, Freshman Rep, and Ivan Mac Arthur, keen student!

There were up to ten members from each business institution in the Atlantic Provinces invited to attend. All the Atlantic universities including Cape Breton College were represented. The conference consisted of a series of lectures, lunches, social gatherings and most important, parties!

The lectures ranged from information on the technological and economical aspects of the extensive oil search off the coasts of Newfoundland, presented

by a Dr. Peters from Crosbie Corporation, to the legality of provincial ownership by Prof. Gardiner, lawyer-professor from Dalhousie University, to the short and long term economic effects of the search and strike of oil by Margaret Potter, economist with the Provincial Government in Halifax.

The lectures were all very interesting and informative, but everything was centered around Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. There was no mention of either P.E.I. or New Brunswick. When specifying where distribution channels of these energy resources were to be found, P.E.I. was not even taken into consideration. Pretty non-existent, eh??

Acadia Dean of Business, Dean Misener, gave the opening and closing lectures. In his closing remarks he stated that Business sectors from Atlantic universities were getting ripped off. At Acadia, for

instance, he argued that the Business programs were only receiving 4.5% of resources with an 18% student body enrolment. Students from Dal. informed us that they were receiving several new faculty members to improve their "20-25:1" student-prof. ratio. Oh what problems considering the present student-prof. ratio at UPEI of "40:1"! Now who's getting ripped off!?

We, UPEI, are practically the only university with department status. St. Mary's has a school of business, as has Acadia, and next year U.N.B. will have a school of business. It's not just at UPEI where business has become so popular - it's everywhere. But it's only at UPEI that little has been done about it. We at UPEI think we are "noted" for business. This is the same for all other universities. Therefore Business Administration must have faculty status. It must have more resources and professors if we are going to be able to compete with these other universities - now and in the future!!

We also have a tid-bit of info. for those people who have not bought their Business Society memberships and to those who had to squeeze a measly 3 bucks out of - not mentioning any names! At U de M. - University of Moncton - for those people who register under Business Administration it is compulsory that they pay \$15 for a

Business Society membership. Thus, they start off with an \$8000 budget, not bad compared to the neat balance of zero we have, or the \$100 balance that the Acadia Student Union gives their Business Society. Thus for want of more participation in the UPEI Business Society, I'm sure everyone would respond most enthusiastically to a \$15 membership - well, how about \$10 - well, maybe \$5, which would be a good deal!

Needless to say Moncton had a pretty fair \$800 weekend compared to our \$80 weekend.

Enough cannot be said about the conference. Dave Duplesis, Acadia's president, and their society did an excellent job of organizing it and ensuring everyone of a good time. Fun was had right from supper at the Anvil, with a few rounds of draft, to an evening of a disco Business Party, to a night and morning of parties with lectures the next morning, followed by a closing banquet and topped off with an exciting night of lively entertainment by the Windsor Jazz Band, whose ages range from 18 to 83! And of course then came another all night party. Next year the conference will be hosted by U.N.B. and this time we will be sending a larger delegation - right Seniors? This may be more possible than as it was suggested that the conference be held earlier in the semester.



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