

# Reading Time: Worth or Waste?

You are probably reading this article too slowly!

"The average college student reads between 250 and 350 words per minute. ... a good reading speed is around 500 to 700 words per minute (w.p.m.)." Here at U.P.E.I., there is an effective reading program provided by Student Services and taught by Mrs.

Manovill. The course is open to all students.

The course is a six-week intensive reading course that consists of a two hour seminar with personal interviews and group activities each week, along with at least three hours in the reading lab. The course's main goal is

to produce faster readers who still comprehend as much or more of the material they are reading. According to Mrs. Manovill, "It's not uncommon for students to double or even triple their reading speed." In fact she told me of a few unique students who increased their reading speed by a factor of four.

"The course doesn't teach

you to read a chemistry book at 500 words per minute," explained Mrs. Manovill. "It helps you read faster than you do now. Reading science books where you have to really think, you may only be reading 80 w.p.m. After the course, you may be reading the same material at 160 w.p.m. That's the advantage. I teach you when and when not to read faster."

The first week of the course consists of basic eye exercises and practicing to get your eyes in shape for reading. After just a few days of eye exercises and some peripheral vision exercises, I can already read a bit faster.

Mrs. Manovill indicated that once you can properly perform the physical processes of reading that you can really begin to step up your reading speed and still maintain comprehension.

I'm prepared to work at this course because "A student's progress is dependent upon his or her eagerness to apply themselves. The three

hours lab time per week is necessary. Most students try to get in more than that. I encourage them to get five hours a week in the lab," continued Mrs. Manovill.

The course is offered once per semester (including summer sessions) and has a very limited enrollment. The advantages of a course like this are worth the \$45.00 tuition fee for students. All students should consider taking this program while at U.P.E.I. If you are interested talk with Mrs. Manovill in the Robertson Library. You'll be thankful you did.

James Connolly

# Mound of Dirt Mystery

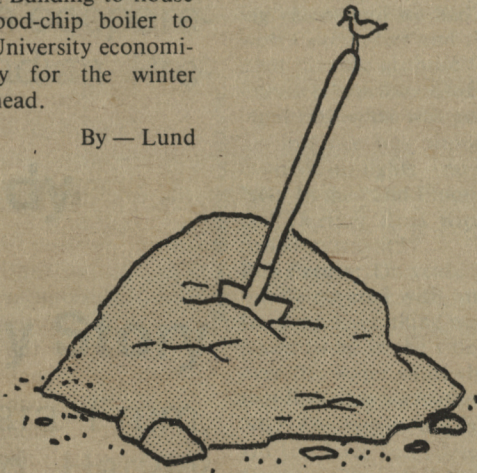
Over the past couple of weeks, a number of people have approached me and asked what kind of construction was going on behind the U.P.E.I. Utility Building.

There has been a great deal of speculation that the mounds of dirt represent a future sports field, or a new parking lot, which the Veterinary College has replaced in its construction: Wrong.

The mystery is over folks! After speaking to Dennis Clough, Director of Administration and Finance for U.P.E.I., I found that they are building an extension to

the Utility Building to house a new wood-chip boiler to keep the University economically cozy for the winter months ahead.

By — Lund



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presence but we question the necessity of checking bags," said student president Kelle Dunlop.

"It certainly had a dampening effect on the party," she added.

In the United States campus deaths as a result of orientation week activities are taken so seriously that 18 states now have legislation against hazing or initiation rituals on university and college campuses. Seven other states have similar legislation pending that makes hazing a misdemeanor punishable by a jail term of up to one year or a fine of \$1000.

This legislation was the result of lobbying by a group called the Committee to Halt Useless Campus Killings. The group's acronym CHUCK stands for the son of the committee founder's: Chuck Stevens. His mother Eileen Stevens has been lobbying universities and government to end initiation rituals since 1978 when her son died as a result of a fraternity hazing.

Stevens died of exposure and alcohol poisoning after he was stuffed into the trunk of a car with two other students and a six-pack of beer, a bottle of Jack Daniels and a bottle of wine. The men were driven around in the trunk of the car until they consumed the alcohol. Chuck died of alcohol poisoning and exposure later that night after returning to the fraternity house. Two other fraternity pledges were taken to hospital in critical condition.

A total lack of response from Alfred University where her son died, led Stevens to form the committee and begin researching the number of students who die at university in initiation or hazing rituals.

"I began to realize that these were no isolated accidents. They were premeditated planned activities based in tradition," she says.

Eileen Stevens is still active speaking at universities and collecting information about students who die as a result of campus "traditions". She says that since the time of her son's death in 1978, 29 students have died in the United States in similar incidents.

However, Stevens does say she is optimistic that students are becoming aware of the dangers of drinking competitions that force students to consume large quantities of alcohol as part of initiation to residence or fraternity life.

Both the student council at the University of Ottawa and Carleton University say they are placing an emphasis on non-alcohol events during their orientation week programmes. At Carleton though breweries have returned to the campus after being banned by the administration in February. The Student council lobbied successfully to have them sponsor events during orientation week.

For some people it's not the students who plan activities but rather the breweries that provide the beer, who

are to blame.

Gene Atkinson is a councillor with the New Brunswick Alcoholism and Drug Dependency Commission. She is upset with the amount of effort Moosehead Breweries puts into sponsoring events on the University of New Brunswick campus. Atkinson says that breweries are largely responsible for alcohol abuse on campus by equating alcohol with fun times.

"The breweries have a sophisticated type of advertising. They understand that most people develop a taste for a brand that sticks with them forever so if Moosehead can catch them in their first year, it's good for Moosehead," she says.

Atkinson is convinced that as long as it is good for business, students can count on breweries to sponsor orientation events.

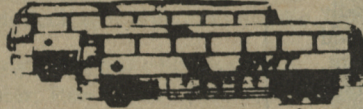
Last year Moosehead sponsored a cap-collecting contest at the UNB residence, offering the house that collected the most caps a colour television and a free night at the campus bar.

Deaths on Canadian campuses aren't restricted to orientation week either. Last year a University of Saskatchewan student died after falling down a seven-storey chute. His body was found covered with fire extinguisher fluid and whipped cream.

It's easy to see that change is needed but as Eileen Stevens tells her audiences, "change has to come from the students themselves."

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