

UPEI students not to join CFS strike

A. Schneider

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ACROSS CANADA GO to make themselves heard, students here at UPEI will be expressing themselves in a completely different way.

Lloyd Axworthy's proposals for post-secondary education have stirred up a lot more than just controversy. They also have stirred up anger. The proposals threaten to cut cash transfer payments in favour of giving the money directly to the students in the form of Canada Student Loans. These loans would then be repaid through a payback which tailored to the student's income and ability to pay.

If these proposals take effect, university tuition are to increase by up to two hundred percent. This kind of increase would see many potential students deciding to continue their studies, and those who do could graduate with debt of up to fifty thousand dollars for an undergraduate degree.

Obviously, changes of this magnitude are bound to upset the people they affect. Students across Canada were and are upset by the proposals. The Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) called for action by students across the country and held the now infamous demonstration at Parliament Hill where Axworthy was pelted with raw eggs and other offensive objects. CFS then called for a national student strike for January 25.

The UPEI Student Union's decision to go against the CFS call for a student strike on January 25 was made early in the debate over the proposal. The Student Union feels that CFS may have overstepped their bounds in calling for such radical action as a strike at this early date.

Instead of striking, UPEI students will be invited to call their Members of Parliament to voice their disapproval. The Student Union Executive is also planning on a social where they can talk to their constituents. Watch for details on the Student Union plans for January 25.

"Slum-like" residences?

UPEI residences make the news

Suzanne MacKean

RECENTLY, THE GUARDIAN REPORTED THAT THE conditions in UPEI residences are slum-like. Blaine Jensen, Director of Student Services, helped clarify the issue.

Last year the Committee Examining Residence Life (CERL) was established to look at residence life. This committee was formed to look at the conditions, specifically in Marian

residences. It should not have been possible to stand up to the standards of the University. Some of the comments regarding "slum-like" or "ghetto-like" came from the students living in Marian.

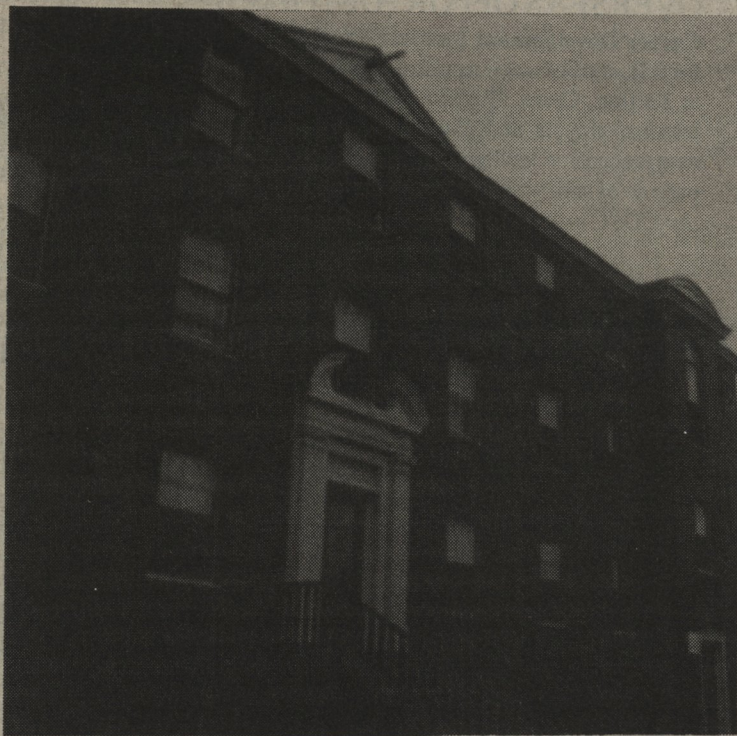
Jensen continues to say that the media has picked up this point but that it is the most important issue. The University with CERL, was examining its role in residence life at UPEI. Jensen says that with declining enrolment and financial problems, this role was being questioned by several people. Jensen believes that the University has a role to play in residence

life. These suggestions were listed as immediate, short and long term. The total cost of these was assessed at \$1.2 million. The renovations, and satisfaction of current resident students because of these renovations, were thought to fulfil the fourth objective.

The Board of Governors examined the report and agreed that the University has a role in residence life. According to Jensen, this is a wonderful realization. The Board then told the committee to look at the budget and try to find a way to get the money needed. The committee will soon be undertaking this task. Jensen hopes there will not be an increase in fees. He feels that if enrolment in the residences reaches 85%, renovations can be made. Currently at 77-80% the residences are breaking even. Other options include a long term mortgage.

Jensen is optimistic about the future of the residences, especially since the University has recognized the importance of residences. Jensen says without the recognition of the residences as a learning environment at the University, he would consider closing them. Jensen adds that the media picked up on the "slum-like" comment but neglected the fact that some changes have occurred since that comment was made. These changes amount to \$45-50,000 already. Two Marian residents admitted that there have been some changes since last year. The most notable change being some new windows. Next year's budget is expected to include replacing the remaining windows.

Jensen, as well as many resident students are hoping for the best for the residences at UPEI. The CERL Report is available for public examination, if anyone is interested.



The committee has four main objectives. These were: to determine whether or not UPEI should have a role in residence

life; if there are problems, and if so, what they are; what it would take to improve residences so that they could attract more students.

The committee said the University should have a role in residence life. Second, problems in areas such as operations, maintenance and budget control were identified. The regulations were acceptable, except for updates when necessary. The committee suggested some renovations. This year's suggestions comprised the completion of the third

Student shot on Dalhousie campus

The Carleton/The Gazette (CUP)

A DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY STUDENT HAS BEEN SENT to a 30-day evaluation in the psychiatric ward of the Nova Scotia Hospital after allegedly shooting another Dalhousie student.

Nusya Campbell, 28, was walking near the Halifax university in the morning of January 13 when more than one shot was fired in her direction.

"I've been shot!"

Campbell screamed: "I've been shot," and ran to a nearby house, witnesses said.

Her roommate, Lisa Corra, 26, also a Dalhousie student, was apprehended later that day and put in hospital. She has been charged with attempted murder and may be charged for carrying a firearm.

The shooting was allegedly over the disappearance of Corra's cat.

Campbell was wounded in the face and the arm, but the injuries are not considered life-threatening, said Halifax police spokesperson Const. Gary Martin. She has been released from the emergency ward at Halifax's Victoria General Hospital, said a nurse.

Martin Beaver, a physical plant employee, saw Corra's capture. He saw her sitting on the veranda of the English department house on Henry Street with a shotgun beside her.

"She was just sitting there having a cigarette," said Beaver. "She just walked down the steps, walked over to the police car and she talked to him for a minute and he put the handcuffs on her."

Staff at the department tended to the wounded Campbell until an ambulance arrived.

David Redmond, who owns the house next to the history offices, said the victim's face wound didn't look serious when she was being taken to the ambulance. He could not see her arm wound. She was moaning in pain, he said.

"As far as I'm concerned it's an isolated incident," Redmond said. "I'm not going to move."

Martin said he also thinks it was an isolated incident. "It's a clear example of a crime of opportunity. The assailant had a target and used it."

"It's weird, something like this happening at Dal," said one student. "It's not like it was a random shooting, though. It was just something between two people."

A counsellor from Dalhousie's Counselling and Psychological Services arrived within minutes of the incident. Counsellors are offering special sessions at the university to help students deal with the incident.

The Halifax Chronicle Herald reported that Corra's lawyer, Joel Pink, said Corra has been under a doctor's care for manic depression for five years.

Pink could not be reached at his office for comment.

According to the Globe and Mail, it is the second incident of violence involving Dalhousie students in the past few months.

On Sept. 11, Darren Watts, 20, was beaten into a coma by up to 17 young men who swarmed him when he went to the aid of a woman who was struck by a man outside a Dalhousie fraternity-house party. Watts eventually regained consciousness and returned to classes.

A youth and six men await trial on charges of endangering his life.