

# PANTHER PRINTS TO SHUT DOWN

By JENNIFER CASELEY

The Student Union has decided to shut down the Panther Prints, UPEI's only voice on campus since last year's closing of CIMN.

Budget cutbacks are stated as the main reason for the closing, but rumors around campus point to over-spending on a photocopier by this year's SU Executive.

"I can't believe it's finally over," said Jennifer Caseley, Copy Editor for the paper. "I thought it would never end."

After last year's decision to eliminate funding to CIMN, the Panther Prints was left as UPEI students' only outlet, the one place they could find out what was going on

around campus, and at other universities across Canada.

"The decision to cut the Panther Prints was an easy one to make," stated SU Acting President Chris Green. "Most of the Executive don't like the paper so we just said 'Hey! Let's cut funding to the paper. And while we are at it lets raise student fees by an unnecessary \$9.'"

Professors on campus are not surprised by the decision. E. Bunny feels that the Panther Prints was asking for it.

"When you print articles about departments that are having problems you should expect to be shut down. Even if the departmental prob-

lems are true."

The Panther Prints provides eight part-time jobs during the school year, and has the highest number of volunteers for any sub-org on campus. The Panther Prints has been increasing advertising revenue steadily over the past two years, and believes that the trend will continue.

"I'm saddened and shocked," said Kent Driscoll, Managing Editor, "we were hoping to become autonomous in the next year, I guess now it is too late."

Autonomy would have guaranteed the paper a direct levy from students so it would not have to rely on the SU for funding.

Students are shocked at the decision. They are unsure where to turn. Those most in need of help are the production staff.

Bruce Henry, Production Assistant, expressed his feelings on the closing of the Panther Prints: "I won't know what to do with all of my spare time. What will I do on Sunday nights? I will really miss the paper."

Mr. Henry may have to find a new way to fill his Sunday nights for the next few months, but in September when school starts up again Bruce will have lots to do.

The Panther Prints is shutting down for the summer and will be back again in the

fall just like it always is.

I am Jennifer Caseley, Copy Editor for the Panther Prints and everything that you have read to this point may or may not be real, just as the rest of the issues we've printed all year. If you believed any of the above, stay in school! I made up all of the quotes including some of the people. This is my last, I swear, issue of the Panther Prints. I have been around for too many years to count, and although I will miss the paper, I will enjoy remembering what it is like to sleep on Sunday nights.

Good Bye UPEI!  
Good Bye Panther Prints.  
I will miss you both. NOT!

## Student Parents hit hard by Budget

By DENISE RIDEOUT

ST. JOHN'S, Nfld. (CUP) — The Newfoundland government's decision to cut social assistance to student parents will double the amount of debt they have upon graduation say outraged student parents.

In last week's provincial budget Brian Tobin's government cut funding for social services recipients attending postsecondary institutions forcing recipients to take the maximum student loan available. Previously student parents on social services were provided with living arrangements but were required to get student loans to cover their schooling costs.

The old system generally kept total student debt lower for student parents, as it recognized the added strain of raising children while getting an education. But now the

government has said student parents must get the maximum student loan and social services will provide funding only if it is needed.

Joyce Aylward, a student at Memorial University and a mother of three, said she was shocked by the announcements made in the recent budget.

"Overnight the government turned around and effectively doubled the future debt load of the majority of student parents on the whole island," she said.

Aylward said the new ruling was unreasonable and she was disgusted at how the government tried to present it as a positive benefit for student parents.

"The government made it seem like they were helping us out by giving us a bigger student loan," Aylward said.

"But what they are really giving us is a bigger student debt."

Under the old system student parents only had to get a student loan of about \$5,000 for a full academic year. Now that will almost double to \$9,000 for two semesters.

Julie Fleet, another single parent attending Memorial, said the government cuts to social services recipients has gone against the many promises it has made to the women of this province.

In September 1995, Brian Tobin and ministers of his cabinet signed a non-legal contract with the women of Newfoundland and Labrador promising to help them overcome many of the struggles they have to face.

"We pledge to work for economic justice and to end the increasing burden of poverty on women and their chil-

dren, who are a majority of the poor," the contract read.

But Fleet said that the announcements in the recent budget go to show that the government does not always uphold their promises.

"Even though the contract was not legally binding, the government of this province still made a promise to us," Fleet said. "But now the government has broken these promises by increasing the debt load of single mothers."

Fleet also said she believes the provincial government has contradicted everything it has ever said about its policies towards social assistance.

"The government talks about getting people off social assistance and back into the workforce, but now it is making it harder for people on assistance to get an education,"

Fleet said.

Many members of the student parent society said they think the government has in effect hindered the future of many people in the province.

"Right now the government has built such an enormous barrier to getting out of poverty," Aylward said. "And statistics show that the only way out of poverty is through education."

Dale Kirby, provincial chair of the Canadian Federation of Students, said the provincial government should be prepared for a fight from single student parents in the province.

"If single parents are faced with a high debt after they graduate, there are going to be a lot of hungry and cold children out there."