

UPEI Health Centre: changed for the better?

By MARY ACORN

When change happens, it is not always well accepted. There are usually some people who think it's great, and then a large amount of people who don't know what to think. This is true for the changes that have taken place with the UPEI Health Centre.

Last year the Health Centre was operating under the umbrella of Student Development. It was open five full days a week with a different doctor working every day. The Health Centre served staff, faculty, and students alike.

Due to budget cut-backs, the Health Centre was changed drastically. The School of Nursing took over and now it's open four half-days a week and a doctor is on duty three half-days a week.

In addition, the services of the Health Centre are now for students only.

Sharon Zimmerman was a nurse at the UPEI Health Centre for 17 years before being let go during the management changes. She explains that she was very disappointed when the decision was made to change the Health Centre.

Zimmerman felt that the services there during her term were "well utilized" by staff, faculty, and students, and noted that faculty did not have to cancel as many classes to go to a doctor's appointment because they had the service offered to them on campus. She felt that it may have been a better decision to privatise the Health Centre

and to keep it running full time rather than cutting the operating hours and jobs.

The new nurse of the Health Centre is Mae Gallant, an employee of the School of Nursing. She feels that the centre's hours are sufficient for tending to students' needs.

Although several students have wondered why the centre was not open on Friday afternoons -- a time that is convenient for many individuals' timetables -- Gallant explains that in previous years these hours had not been busy.

During the afternoon that the doctor isn't in, Gallant and the receptionist, Pam McGuigan, are still on duty. Students can have a nursing assessment done during this time, but no diagnosis or prescriptions can be given.

The Health Centre has changed its focus from the reactive approach to prevention. The difference is that in a reactive setting a patient comes in with a problem and he or she is told how to fix it. With a preventive setting the emphasis is put on helping the client find a way to stay healthy. Gallant said that they hoped to make use of the different resources at UPEI for health promotion and education.

All of the services normally offered at medical clinics are offered at the Centre and test results are received within the same time span as other clinics.

The Health Centre is open Monday to Wednesday from 1:00 to 4:30 and on Thursday from 8:30 to 12:30. The doctor is available Tuesday to Thursday.

The poster worth a thousand words

UPEI SU elections peppered with controversy

By KAREN RAWLINES

According to Pauline Tran, the current UPEI Student Union Vice-President Internal, the student union is "the group whose philosophy is to unite the students on campus."

If Tran's words are accurate, this year's elections are already making that unity a challenge. Students at large are divided by heated debate surrounding the campaigns of various candidates.

"There have been a lot of complaints about posters," says Tran, who is also acting as Chief Returning Officer (CRO) for the election in conjunction with SU president Matt Gray. "A lot of people were offended and felt that the posters were derogatory and unprofessional. They basically feel that the posters mocked the election."

Tran says that as of the SU General Meeting held on Wednesday, March 10, five complaints had been registered about two different candidates' material. She adds that although there is policy with respect to poster usage, it is not explicit in limiting what may be circulated.

"Campaign material cannot disrepute the student union," she explains. "That's all there really is. It's open to interpretation."

Complaints lodged against the nature of the posters were taken by the CROs to the UPEI ombudsman, Ryan Pollard, and he has taken steps to inform the candidates.

The bulk of the tensions and controversy regarding the posters was brought to a head at the general meeting, where two individuals specifically singled out presidential candidate Andrew Peppin's material during the question and answer

period. His posters bearing the message "free nude photos...er, I mean, vote Peppin" have since been removed.

Stephen Lewis is currently the Vice-President Finance for the SU, and is again running for the position in this year's elections.

"I think that the quality of questions left something to be desired," Lewis said of their pointed nature.

But the outrage has continued.

Charlottetown's daily newspaper, *The Guardian*, featured a front page story about the general meeting. This has the opponents and

proponents of the poster (and the candidate himself) further riled up. A number of messages have been posted to the Student Union electronic noticeboard, defending and criticizing the debate.

The controversy may or may not be resolved after the polls have closed on Thursday, but the results will be very telling about students' concerns.

"The most effective way people can voice their concerns is to vote," Lewis says.

See page 7 for complete information on polling stations.

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