

# Sympathetic Vibrations

By A. Chisholm & J. Caseley

"A number of years ago a suspension bridge of Manchester in England was destroyed by its vibrations reaching an amplitude beyond the limit of safety. The cause was the regular tread of troops keeping time with what proved to be the natural rate of vibration of the bridge. Since then the custom has always been observed of breaking step when bodies of troops cross a bridge."

Ed note: taken from Practical Physics by Henry Carhart and Horatio Chute.

What the QUACK are they talking about??? Why, the Irish Descendants concert, of course. On September 7 at the Barn, Finley Martin, VPO hosted his first Pub of the year. Along with being the first pub of the year it was also the first exposure for Frosh, aka new students, to the rest of the student body.

So what did this auspicious event have going for it other than hordes of ahem... happy people? For those of you that have not heard of the Descendants yet, they are a group of party animals from Newfoundland who play a mix of traditional/maritime music. An unnamed man with a guitar opened the evening with the "Unicorn Song" and lots of other old favourites. The Descendants came on stage a bit after 10:30 and literally brought the crowd to a frenzy. People were singing, people were clapping, people were doing jigs. Special thanks go to Rebecca for her entertaining dance routines mid-show.

You may be wondering what our introductory paragraph has to do with the rest of this article. At several points in the evening, noticeably during "Barrett's Privateers", the floor was moving. One student was noted as saying: "I thought the world was coming to end. There I was in the bathroom, looking at the ceiling, and it was moving. After Barn events I have seen the room spin, but never during." While the engineers haven't said for sure, there must have been at least some structural damage done that night because light fixture covers were found on the floor of the SU offices the next day.

We have three complaints about the evening. First it was too short. The band started after 10:30 and finished before 12. Also, the band kept offering "sociables" to a dry audience. It is really hard to have a sociable (a drink, for you socially inept) when you don't have a drink. Not even pop. The third complaint (maybe grievance is a better word) is Country Line Dancing, we personally hate it and would like to see it banned at the Barn. Just a personal pet peeve.

However, those are minor complaints when compared to the whole evening. Overall, it was good semi-wholesome fun. It was great to see the Barn with a sold-out crowd. Many UPEI students underestimate the "fun factor" of going to the Barn and head for the bright lights of downtown.

## PARKING FEES HERE TO STAY

### By Lorne Caborn

A new year has begun at UPEI bringing many changes along with it. Of course the hottest topic among campus goers, or at least the ones that drove here, is the newly-imposed fee for parking. The University took a step into the nineties, leaving only two Universities (St.F.X. and Moncton) without parking fees. Many students believe, however, this is just adding further costs to an already expensive education.

Don Coles, a member on the board implementing parking, sees the fees as addressing the current needs. Last spring the Board of Governors instituted a fifty thousand dollar budget cut and the loss had to be recovered somewhere without passing too much of an imposition on the students. "It is not being instituted to generate extra income" insists Coles. He also pointed out that the fee is charged to users only, unlike some current fees such as the \$32 athletic fee which everyone must pay. Such a fee could easily be put in place for parking, but rather than another increase in tuition the Board chose the user fee.

Expenses for parking maintenance alone would necessitate the need for the new fee. Last year alone the University spent forty thousand dollars on asphalt for one of the lots. This figure didn't even include the painting of lines, snow removal and other year round expenses of maintaining the lots. Fifty dollars is low compared to other universities such as Dalhousie, where off-campus students pay twice as much for facilities roughly the same size as at UPEI, with three times the number of students using them.

Part of the money will also go to generating jobs for the student body who will be used as student police patrol the lots. Very few, if any, of the fees placed on the students are actually reverted back to the main populous. In today's economy any job created for students is definitely welcome. While the student body and staff alike continue to gripe about the fees, like it or love it, it's going to remain. Chances are, if you can't afford to drive, you can afford to walk. If this thought doesn't make you sleep any easier, remember, any fee still beats walking to class.

## Newspaper

# Frosh Week

by Brent Byrnes

Every one has a dream, and for some people, it is to go to University, graduate and get a job. For the "First Year Students", this dream is about to become a reality.

As I walked around campus and introduced myself to my fellow frosh (I'm sorry, FIRST YEAR STUDENTS), I watched others talk of where they're from, who's hot and who's not, and what their faculty is. I noticed one thing: I along with everyone else, was home. That's right my fellow "first year students" this is our new home. As I entered the campus, which is home to the Panthers, everyone from Bernardine president Jenn Matchett to Marian RA Chris Ferguson made me feel a welcome part of our new home.

Residence frosh activities started out with a bang. Or was it a song? The Lady Panthers of Bernardine serenaded Marian with a house song, albeit at 3:30 in the morning. It woke up the house and welcomed us to visit Bernardine anytime soon. After the show was over, the men of Marian gathered to discuss a way to exact revenge. "How do we get back at them?", house President Ross Williams asked. After long discussion we thought of something, so our neighbours better be ready.

With an 8:00 am wake-up call to commence our last guided tour of the campus, Sunday was a long and exciting day. After lunch the residences joined as one, and broke the ice with games, water fights, huckle buckle and the infamous Red Rover. The day carried on with freshman feeling as though we were the big fish in the sea. No one on campus was bigger than we were. Marian hall ended Sunday night with a traditional party. As the night went on new friendships were cemented as all prepared for a color war which would bring an 8:00 am wake up call, again.

Monday brought the beginning of a new day with a start of relationships and the end of friendships, temporarily at least.

From green to yellow, blue to white, teams were out to win, and they would do anything to accomplish this goal. If you didn't win at soccer baseball -- which wasn't often for blue -- or if you couldn't find everything on the scavenger hunt,

that is too bad because blue did. Notice a pattern here. At the day's end, the mike was turned on and lights were out for an outstanding display of harmony. From "Girl You Know it's True" to a solo act by Ajiri of "Water Runs Dry", things could not have been done better. There were people dancing on chairs while others swayed arm in arm, singing along. We had the Karaoke slamming and let everyone know the class of '99 was here to stay.

On Tuesday, the last day before classes, the wake up calls were over and the alarm clocks were set. And yes, the food was already tasting bad. With people becoming friends, Tuesday was a day of relaxing, hanging with the boyz, and girl talk for the ladies, while casino night was just around the corner. This brought the Panthers out of their dens, and into the barn for an evening of fun. With thousands of dollars going through people's hands, we were generous enough to spend/donate it on some really nice beer kits. The night was great, but Wednesday had Santini and we were ready.

Undoubtedly the greatest event of the week was "The Amazing Santini". He used Brother Love to heal his followers, and the guys lost, their, well...you know. The ladies enjoyed Tom Cruise's greatest dramatic presentation. Santini hypnotized us all with his magic, and we would like to thank him.

The Irish Descendants got the Barn jumping with traditional Maritime music as the wet and the dry, along with the new and the old, enjoyed a social with each other.

From the frosh perspective "New Student Orientation" just does not sound right. We should stick to the terminology of frosh and be part of the tradition that goes with it. The week went over rather well and we, the frosh, were glad to part of it.

The Sons Of Maxwell finished the week with outstanding songs that we all knew and loved. The frosh almost outdanced the wet, (not like the frosh were wet), but we did our best. We have a lot of spirit Baby Panthers, let's keep it up.