

UPEI attends CFS conference

By John Pendergast

Three UPEI students recently attended a CFS conference in Ottawa, in the hope of becoming better aware of what CFS can do for students on this campus.

The conference, which was held from November 7 to 14, was attended by SU President and Central Committee representative for P.E.I. Jack Keefe, Board of Directors representative for P.E.I. to CFS-SERVICES Howard Beattie, and UPEI delegate Margaret Archibald.

CFS discussed structural difficulties such as the election of a full-time chair, student aid, unemployment, and finally the touchy issues of amalgamation and congruency. The Ottawa conference also reserved one full day as a lobby session with the respective Members of Parliament for each delegate.

Other things were discussed at the conference, such as administration, liaisonship between students and the governing bodies of a university, and various tactics one could use in dealing with a particular problem. There was a con-

tinuous flow of information facilitated through the conference which filtered out to the delegates.

Does UPEI gain anything from an organization such as CFS? It should be noted that UPEI is currently not a member of CFS. Students must vote on entry into CFS before it can become a member.

If the UPEI student body were to vote to become a member of CFS, students would benefit from sister organizations such as CUTS (Canadian University Travel Service). CUTS representative Heather Crosby will be coming to UPEI on January 16, 1984 to discuss SWAP (Student Work Abroad Program). A variety of other programs are offered by CFS Services.

Few people in Canada have been aware of CFS because it is an organization that was formed in 1981 from two former organizations, NUS (National Union of Students) and the AOSC (Association of Student Councils). The current structure of the organization includes a Central Committee performing duties of the old NUS and a Board of Directors which carries out duties formerly supplied by AOSC.

CFS is a young organization with many growing pains. According to Jack Keefe, there is political fighting within the organization about whether CFS should take a stand on issues not directly related to students, such as the current peace movement. The Saskatoon conference in the spring of 1983 was marred by backstabbing and political intrigue.

The Atlantic delegates had their share of bad feelings toward each other because of internal difficulties. For example, Newfoundland delegates wanted a field worker, while Nova Scotia demanded a chairperson.

SU President Jack Keefe endorses UPEI membership in CFS and reminds students there will be a referendum held sometime in the near future.

Margaret Archibald was impressed with the order at the November conference. She also promotes a CFS membership for UPEI but would urge students to educate themselves about the organization before voting for entry.

Howard Beattie reflects his counterparts' opinions and encourages students to learn about and take advantage of services offered by CFS. He supports CFS's STUDENT-SAVER, which is a discount given to university students having ISIC cards, which can be purchased at the Barn for \$5.00. Students must bring a black and white passport-type photo with them when picking up ISIC cards.

The Netted Gem

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U.P.E.I.

Soc. / Anth. decision post-poned

By Carolyn Ryan

The men in business suits and ties who had come early sat in comfortable chairs around a long rectangular table and cracked a couple of jokes about how long it takes for Senate to come to a decision.

As two o'clock approached, the room filled and the student Senators settled themselves at the end of the table facing Chairman Michael Hennessey.

A delegation of twenty students and professors from the Department of Sociology and Anthropology filed in and sat quietly around the walls of the room. They seemed concerned, but subsequent events put an end to their fears.

During this eighth meeting of the Senate of the University of Prince Edward Island for 1983-84, Senators voted to consider a proposal by new Dean of Arts Verner Smitheram to retain separate majors in Sociology and Anthropology, while continuing to offer a joint major in the two areas of study.

At present, students can choose a traditional major in Sociology or Anthropology, or a joint major in Sociology-Anthropology which has

been offered on a trial basis for the last two years.

This fall, however, the Academic Planning Committee (APC) referred to Senate a recommendation made in the Smith Report on Long-term Academic Planning released in March of this year. If the recommendation were accepted, the University would cut separate majors in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, combining them into one major with either concentration in one discipline or equal concentration in both.

Staff and students, including about sixty-five declared Sociology or Anthropology majors, protested. A motion made in Senate on October 21 to implement the APC's recommendation was tabled rather than defeated. With no compromise in sight, the matter seemed likely to drag on for weeks.

However, soon after the November 18 meeting began, Smitheram introduced a proposed solution which had been composed in collaboration with the faculty of Sociology/Anthropology.

As he presented it, prospective majors would take introductory level courses in either Sociology or Anthropology, core courses and electives in their desired discipline, and a number of courses listed as Sociology/Anthropology. In this respect, Smitheram hopes to increase the number of cross-listed courses in the program.

The minimum requirement for a major in Sociology or Anthropology would remain the completion of fourteen three semester-hour courses in the department. The joint major requirement would increase to seventeen courses.

Smitheram emphasized that this proposal provides three choices for students. Their retention of all three majors increases students' chances of being accepted for graduate studies in their pre-

ferred disciplines, and should not jeopardize enrollment in the two departments concerned.

The Dean of Arts went on to say that no increase in staff would be required. He admitted that the proposed program of studies will require a high degree of collaboration between the two disciplines, but felt this would not be a major problem.

After Smitheram's presentation, Janice Keefe, a spokesperson for Sociology and Anthropology students, presented a petition on behalf of the students and gave a brief on their position. The brief supported the retention of three majors, stating as reasons the current large enrollment in the Department, the lack of demand for the joint major, and the high standards of proficiency shown by the current program at UPEI. Keefe stressed the need for an "increased variety of subject material to enable preparation for graduate and professional schools and the job market".

Senate next voted to untable the previous motion that the University offer one joint major in Sociology/Anthropology with either two separate subject concentrations or identical courses, in the 1984-1986 Calendar. Contrary to popular belief, Senators took a surprisingly short time to come to a decision. This motion was defeated.

In light of the new information received, Senate voted to refer Smitheram's proposal back to the Academic Planning Committee. On Monday afternoon, the APC referred it to the Faculty of Arts Curriculum Committee. From there it goes back to the APC, and then to Senate for final approval, probably at the meeting on December 2.

Volume 1 Number 4

Thursday, November 24



'Twas the night before Policy, and all through the Barn Senior business majors feel the crunch as Presentation Week begins. (Photo: Staney)

Keefe meets with Campbell in Ottawa

By Ruth Edgett

Student Union President Jack Keefe says one of his favorite functions at the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) conference in Ottawa earlier this month was a meeting with Veterans Affairs Minister Bennett Campbell.

Keefe and Campbell met on Lobby Day at the conference, which was a day set aside for student representatives to meet their members of Parliament and discuss their beefs.

Keefe told Sunday's Student Union meeting he and Campbell, the Liberal MP for Cardigan, discussed student unemployment, the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC) and student loans.

The Student Union President said he impressed upon Campbell the problems P.E.I. university students are facing when they try to find summer employment. He said he told the minister as many as two of every five students were unemployed last summer. He said the actual statistic is one in five, but some of those counted as employed worked only for short periods of time.

Keefe said he and Campbell also talked about student loans and the difficulty Prince Edward Island students are experiencing. He told an earlier general SU meeting that the provincial government is granting only \$1,700 bursaries this year to students who have obtained the maximum amount from their Canada Student Loans; and he said Education Minister Leone Bagnall has explained the government is attempting to cut down its expenditure on student bursaries.

The meeting between the MP and the SU president also provided a chance to discuss the relevancy of the MPHEC, said Keefe. He said Campbell supported the agency, of which some Maritime Universities are critical. Keefe said that while some universities complain the funding recommendations of the Higher Education Commission are never followed by provincial governments, the body at least gives publicity to the financial needs of universities. He said Campbell pointed out that if the MPHEC didn't publicize its recommendations every year, the public would not be aware of the funding problems universities are experiencing.