

# Panther Prints

University of Prince Edward Island

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October 22, 1996

## Students Object to Building Fund Donation

By Cindy Venema

Many students are unhappy with the new \$20 donation charged each year for the Building Fund, claiming they were not informed about this forced contribution. These donations are refundable, and many students are now taking back their \$20.

Approximately 410 students have reclaimed their money. Jarrad Bennet, a student living in Marian, when asked why he took back the donation, answered, "The Student Union totally cut funding to CIMN and now we are returning the favour". Another student, Heather Doyle in second year arts, said "\$20 is a lot of money, if it had been less then maybe I would have given it".

Many students are confused about where their donations are going. The answer is:



the Student Union's goal is to raise \$250,000 over a six year period, which will eventually be used for a new Student Centre. Council has been raising money for a new Centre for many years; however, because progress was so slow, the Board of Governors and the Student Union negotiated an agreement to fast-track the

project. The \$250,000 from the Building Fund Donations will currently go toward the renovations of Cass, but on April 30, 2002 the University will repay the \$250,000 for the Student Centre. In addition to the repayment, the university will support private fund raising for the Student Centre, with a goal of \$300,000. "Basically,

the students will be giving \$250,000 but they will be getting \$500,000 back" stated Chris Burns, Student Union President.

Many students do not want to give money toward a building they will never get to use. Cathy Gillan, UPEI's Development Officer, explains that the students do get to benefit from their donations. The money is going to Cass, and therefore the students will gain: modern science facilities; more space, because Math, Computer Science and Engineering will be moving to Cass; Psychology will be moved to a renovated Memorial; and Biology and Physics will be able to expand in Duffy.

This is not the first time that the Students have been asked for donations. In 1987-92 students were asked to give \$5/semester in order to raise \$45,000 for the renovation of

Main. These students did not get to directly benefit from their donations; however, UPEI students today do benefit.

Cathy Gillan also stated, "Getting a donation from the students was really important, because that lead the way for Faculty, Staff and Alumni". If students are now demanding their money back, then how will this affect the attitude of potential donators?

Many students are claiming that they are annoyed the Student Union hid this donation. However, the Student Union did publicize their plan to collect money. They provided information about the amount of the fee and its' justification in two consecutive issues of the Student Newspaper last Spring. They also held a meeting to provide extra information about the donation, unfortunately, nobody showed. The donation is also listed under fees on all registration information.

On March 24, 1996 the Student Union voted to enter into this fund raising agreement. "The Student Union has made a commitment to raise \$250,000 for the university" stated Chris Burns. But 410 students so far do not want to assist in helping raise this money. Now the Student Union is forced look at other options. Chris Burns admitted, "Student Council has to look seriously at levying the money, instead of asking for the money".

## Sesame Street Latest Victim of 90s Downsizing

By Jennifer Zaplitny and Tony Rose (The Carillon, University of Regina)

Budget cuts have changed the face of CBC programming over the last few years, but recently in a bid to ensure all of their programming is made in Canada, the mother corporation has taken one step no one expected: They downsized Sesame Street.

As of October 21, the Sesame Street many of us grew up with and loved will be no

more. CBC will replace the childhood standard with a new show: Sesame Park.

It will feature the Canadian muppets -- Dodi, Basil, and Louis -- in a park setting. The new show will be entirely Canadian with a few of the old American muppet segments used as filler.

October 21 will mark the first time in nearly thirty years that Sesame Street will not be with us. Our own children will not grow up with the same characters we learned to

count with.

Sesame Street was the brainchild of New Jersey television director Joan Ganz



Cooney. In 1966 a report showed that preschool children in the United States were watching 27 hours of television a week. Cooney reasoned that if young children were going to spend so much time in front of the television, it only made sense to attempt to educate them.

Cooney decided to create the Children's Television Workshop (CTW) and began researching their idea of an

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