

# CFS referendum date set: February 8

By Ruth Edgett

Despite worries that few UPEI students are interested, the Student Council has set February 8 for a referendum on whether the university should become a full member of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS).

UPEI is already a prospective member of the Canadian-wide organization which provides a variety of student services and acts as a political interest group or member universities. Under the terms of the prospective membership, a referendum must be held by February 8 to determine whether the university will continue as a member or whether its membership will lapse.

The CFS has been a subject of controversy among universities. Some feel the organization does not address the immediate needs of students and is more interested in political issues that have no relevance to

hardships faced by Canadian students.

Student Union President Jack Keefe acknowledges that universities have been dropping out of the Federation because they disagree with its direction. Some feel the organization is too politically oriented, and others see a contradiction between student travel plans its services section offers and the claim that its political section is working to better the lot of students who are unable to obtain the funding they need.

Keefe told the meeting he has resigned his position on the CFS central committee because his course load does not allow him enough time but he also told councillors his experience on the committee has lead him to characterize the CFS as "the single most frustrating organization I have ever been involved in in my whole life."

He said too much time is

wasted at meetings discussing the structure of the organization.

Nevertheless, he said, he is still in favor of UPEI joining the organization. Since this is the only university on the Island and there is no other interest group to join, it should become a member of the CFS, he said. In that way, it would at least have some form of organized body to represent its viewpoints.

But the major worry expressed Sunday by student councillors at UPEI was that very few students here either know or care what the CFS is and whether it can benefit them.

Under the Student Union constitution, the referendum must be held in the same manner as student elections. The results will be determined by 50 per cent plus one of the popular vote. In other words, if 10 students vote in the referendum, and six vote either yes or no to member-

ship, the issue will have been decided on those few votes.

As well, the constitution may cause problems for campaigning, councillors said. Although the CFS offers equal amounts of money to campaigns for and against membership, the Student Union constitution stipulates that campaigns are not to accept money other than that allotted by the Student Union.

However, Speaker Michael Trainor said the final decision on how campaigns are to be conducted will be left up to the chief electoral officer.

Councillors had another choice. They could have allowed the prospective membership in the CFS to lapse without a referendum. That would mean another student council a year from the expiry could obtain another prospective membership. However, the councillors agreed the final decision should be made by them rather than passed on to another council.

There was also debate on whether the referendum should follow the constitution, since the final decision could be left in the hands of very few students.

Some members suggested including a stipulation that 10 per cent of the student population must vote before the referendum would be considered valid, but it was decided such a departure from the constitution could lead to large problems later with the validity of the vote.

The only other choice is to change the constitution but that requires a general meeting of the student body with a quorum of 10 per cent, or 170 students.

A CFS membership would cost each UPEI student an additional four dollars a year.

## The Netted Gem

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Security enters residence

### Storm rages after flag caper

By Carolyn Ryan

When the topic comes up, some mutter darkly, calling it "Mariangate". Others make not-so-subtle references to 1984. In short, a number of residents of Marian Hall are extremely annoyed.

On December 19, 1983, when all of Marian Hall's 72 residents had left for the Christmas holidays, the UPEI Security force entered the building to look for flags stolen from the Charlottetown area in the last four months.

Director of Security Allan MacLeod says his men merely "listed" the flags and room numbers, but others disagree.

"I went into my room and all my flags were gone," says a student from the all-gale residence. "Then someone told me there was a pile of flags in another guy's room. They didn't even make a list of where each flag came from."

Head resident Mary Ross, who had not been notified of the search, was in another residence when the flags were removed. When she was told of the incident, she spoke to Director of Student Services Jim Griffith, who requested that the flags be returned.

"They were all back the following day," Ross says. Traditionally, according to

Griffith, rooms have been inspected over Christmas only to list damages, and only with two people present, one of whom must be the residence manager or a head resident. Otherwise, the student's privacy is respected.

Griffith agrees the members of Security were "presumptuous in the way they handled it" but says they "were acting in good faith."

MacLeod says that he acted on complaints passed on by the RCMP of flags missing in Charlottetown, Sherwood-Parkdale, and other municipalities across the province. University students are often prime suspects in such cases.

"If students don't voluntarily return stolen flags ... and we can prove that flags are stolen property, prosecutions will be taking place," says MacLeod.

Doubts have been expressed by residents as to how Security can tell a stolen flag from one that has been legally purchased, but MacLeod says, "There is a way."

Also, he adds, "If you can't prove that you haven't purchased (a flag) or had it given to you, you're more likely to be suspect of theft."

Earlier this year, in October, according to Griffith, ten or twelve flags

removed from the Charlottetown Driving Park were recovered when the RCMP contact UPEI Security. In that instance, however, Security went the Residence manager, who talked to the students involved and quietly got the flags back.

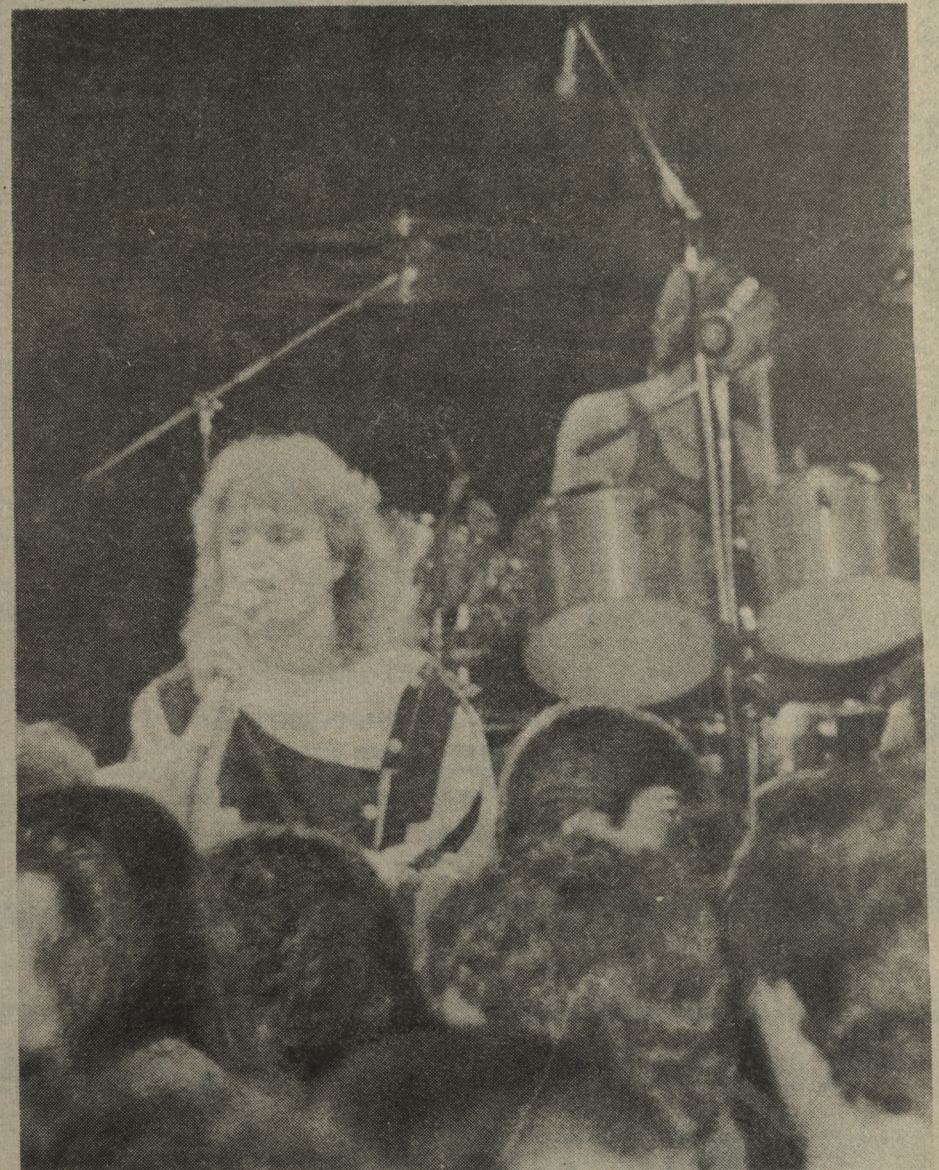
Griffith believes the incident may have focussed the attention of angry former flag-owners on the University, putting pressure on Security to act.

The result angered the owners of the thirty flags involved.

"I have eight flags, and ... none of them are stolen," says resident Jack Keefe. He believes further action should be taken in the matter, but did not elaborate.

In a letter to the *Netted Gem*, Keefe commented, "In my limited understanding of Canadian Law, it doesn't seem to me that it is a crime to own a flag."

Slowly, however, some residents are starting to put the flag-napping in a humorous perspective. One owner of five flags who initially had some trouble locating his brand-new Canadian flag, commented, "We're going to bill Security for the tacks — we didn't get them all back."



The Terry Crawford Band returned once more to an enthusiastic reception at the UPEI Barn. Lead singer Terry Crawford says this was one of their last engagements of the current tour. See story page 5. Photo: Grimmer.

No trees were killed to bring you this newspaper. However, several died in their sleep and donated their bodies to journalism.