

UPEI Council goes radical against underfunding

By Carolyn Ryan

"I'd like to see nothing short of a demonstration!" was one comment made as the Student Union planned a campaign against government underfunding.

"We're talking tuition increases of \$200 or \$300 for each student if these cutbacks go through," said Canadian Federation of Students rep for P.E.I. Cathy Campbell at Sunday's Council meeting.

She said the new federal government is planning to cut \$200,000,000 from areas directly concerning students at post-secondary institutions, and thinks students at UPEI should be more worried about it than they are.

750 Canada Summer Works jobs may be lost from Prince Edward Island alone, as the government announced cuts of \$85 million in the pro-

gram three weeks ago.

Campbell is gathering her forces to plan a massive media and awareness campaign after the Christmas break, aimed at students and government members through the Guardian, Journal-Pioneer, CBC, CFCY, CHTN, and anyone else she can think of.

She also wants the student Union Council to contribute significantly.

"Council is now judged on how good its Main Events are," said student Ombudsman Jacinta Gallant.

President Michelle Dorsey agreed, but said, "Our problem is that we don't know how to become politically involved."

She said the drive for serious attention will never work unless Councillors "can feel this inside, and get mad every time (they) think

about it."

"The easiest place to make cuts is in vulnerable areas," she said, and urges UPEI students to lash back.

Campbell would like everyone interested in helping with the cutback protest to leave their names at the Student

Union office so that an informal committee can work on the agenda over Christmas.

"Elitist education — that should be the heading of the campaign," said Senator Gordon Cobb, but was overruled by those who said some students at UPEI may not

know what an elite is.

"We have a smaller voice (than other universities)," said Cobb, so we have to make it more effective."

"Youth and energy are our greatest power," said Gallant. "This is the only way we will have any influence at all."

Some events planned may include visits from PEI Members of Parliament, prolonged exposure in campus media, and volunteers visiting all classes to speak to students on government underfunding to post-secondary institutions.

Ombudsmandate established

Two months after her election, UPEI Student Union Ombudsman Jacinta Gallant is looking for things to do.

"Is it my job to look for problems, and force students to be interested?" she asked Council on Sunday, saying she's been really frustrated in attempts to make her position known.

The lack of direction to her position is a handicap, she

says. Last year's Council incorporated the volunteer job in its new constitution, making the Ombudsman responsible for aiding students having difficulties with either the university or the Student Union, and this year's critics say the mandate is too broad.

Debate at Sunday's meeting eventually revolved around whether an Ombudsman should look for trouble or sit and wait for it to walk

in the office door.

"The biggest thing I'm doing now is walking around and meeting people," she said, adding that she's attended meetings of the Athletics Council, the Library Committee, and met with several administrators.

To help publicize the fact that students do have somewhere to go for help, Gallant wants to have pamphlets printed, and like Senator Randy Gass's suggestion that she use the radio station as a voice.

Council spent over an hour discussing Gallant's request for guidance, and Gallant will now gather together an informal committee to hash out a job description.

"We're not looking for anyone's head here," said Senator Gordon Cobb. "We should be attacking what certain structures and policies stand for."

To his suggestion that Gallant should actively look for irregularities in files and records, though, many disagreed.

"If students themselves don't see problems, why should we cause trouble?" said VP External Les Smith.

"You've done enough in letting people know the position is there," agreed Senator Norman Beck.

VP External Howard Beattie thinks Council is "naive to think there aren't any problems," and proposed that Gallant look for problem situations herself for the first while, to establish credibility and let students know she's available.

Council decided not to give the Ombudsman (Gallant prefers that name to Ombudsperson) a specific task for this year, though some wanted her to work on the library hours issue or cuts in funding for post-secondary education.

"The position should be allowed to evolve with no restrictions," said Gass, adding that this may mean Gallant has a lonely year.

Gallant appeared satisfied with the debate, saying, "It's good to know someone cares about what I'm doing."

Greater advertising, through CIMN, Councillors themselves and a Lucy booth (The Ombudsman is "In") after Christmas will help alleviate student ignorance of her, she thinks.

Student Councils says "yes" to housing fund

OTTAWA (CUP) — Picture yourself next year, bags slung over your shoulder, books weighing down on your back, searching vainly for a place to live.

Suspicious landlords slam their doors in your face when they realize you are a student who will likely wreak havoc on their linoleum. Housing directors shrug their shoulders at the few spots left advertised in their offices and you try not to panic when every call you make through the classified ads turns up nothing.

Even your mother won't let you back home. And when you fear you may have to spend your academic year sleeping in your friend's car or in the library, your spirits sink lower.

It doesn't have to be this way.

It possibly won't, thanks to a proposal passed at the Nov. 4 to 11 general meeting of Canada's national student organization, the Canadian Federation of Students.

General-meeting delegates at the seventh semi-annual get-together in Ottawa threw their support behind a plan calling on the federal and provincial governments to set up a national student housing fund so student councils could use the money to go into the real estate business.

The money would take care of downpayments for affordable student housing and allow student councils to offer spots to students that are lower than the market price, better quality and more suitable to students needs. Students would not have to continue their nomadic life in the beginning of the school year, wandering from place to place and looking for somewhere to call their own.

The plan also calls on CFS to enter into negotiations with the federal public works

minister to come up with specific Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation guidelines allowing the government to support student housing ventures. It asks CFS to store housing information in its files with easy access to student councils and distribute a guide to the real estate business for student politicians eager to purchase their own housing.

"Students have got to stop behaving as a band of disorganized beggars and start performing as a group of responsible dedicated members of society," says John Bosnitch, student council president at the University of New Brunswick, whose council proposed the plan.

"One way to do this is to start our own housing plan, which will allow student unions to take their natural role in helping students find housing."

Bosnitch says he hopes CFS approaches prime minister Brian Mulroney for his support of the plan soon and encourages students councils across the country to adopt the plan to fit their local situations. He is optimistic about 10 to 15 housing ventures undertaken by councils will spring up by September next year.

"I can see it having an immediate and positive effect on student housing crisis facing Canadian students," he says.

The UNB student council has already put the plan into practise. Unhappy with the university administration's response to the housing crisis in Fredericton, the student council sought to buy an old convent. After three hours in negotiations with the university board of governors, and winning the support of the local MLA, MP and the mayor, the council finally persuaded the board to buy

fund."

Bosnitch says the details of the plan will be hammered out likely in January, when the CFS 13-member national executive meets to examine mandates set at the general meeting. Bosnitch says he hopes to become New Brunswick rep so he can participate in the plan.

The building. It now houses

about 60 students.

"It's our contention that student unions should not have to go through the same sort of hell as we did to get student housing," he says. "The federal and provincial governments, as an incentive to investment and enterprise, should put money in a national student housing

Turbobusters breach computer at Acadia

WOLFVILLE, N.S. (CUP) — Two Acadia University students have been suspended for breaking into the computer system containing the school's exams and student marks.

Derrick Zinck and Chris Rizzuto, second year computer science majors, used their classroom training to gain access to private files stored in the university's main computer. The two spent 3 or 4 nights working on breaking the security code before gaining access to the heart of the system.

The computer centre staff suspected a security breach and advised all users to change their passwords.

Once Zinck and Rizzuto re-entered the system with the old password, the words "security breach" appeared on the screen. The two replied "and we're proud of it", and signed themselves "turbobusters".

The computer staff took this to mean someone was out to destroy the system and vigorously pursued them. Zinck and Rizzuto were tracked down in no time, and confessed to the security breach.

"Apparently they didn't take the hint or see the movie Ghostbusters," Rizzuto said when he learned the administration failed to see the humour in his actions.

"Students should have better things to do," said professor Steele. "They complain about workload yet they spend time on projects like this."

Rizzuto and Zinck deny they were trying to get at the faculty files, exams or student marks in the system, saying they only wanted to prove someone could break into the system.

They admit, however, that they were offered money to obtain certain exams. They say they turned down the offers.

Steele said he knew flaws existed in the system and getting access was not a difficult task. Since the break-in, operating systems have changed and passwords can no longer be tapped by the process the "turbobusters" used.

In addition to the suspensions — which last until January — neither Zinck nor Rizzuto will ever be eligible for an academic assistant position at Acadia.



Deadline? Nobody told me anything about a deadline!

Quote of the Week

"Well, we're all Christians. And if we're not, we should be."

— Student Union President Michelle Dorsey last Sunday, talking about some students' unwillingness to attend a seminar on Unemployment given by the Student Christian Movement.

This is our last issue for the term. Good luck in exams from all of us at the Netted Gem, and, although it's a little premature, have a very merry Christmas!