

AD Responds

continued from page 6

nor incidents do occur which harm the department's image. Athletes are warned of the responsibilities of being very visible in and out of the university community, and therefore are expected to act accordingly.

MacLauchlan maintains that no jobs have been threatened by the exposure.

"I don't know where that rumour got started," said MacLauchlan. He added that UPEI hockey coaches may be in the serious running for the coach of the year award. "They have done a wonderful job to bring the team along, and take them into the second half of the season the way they have." MacLauchlan insisted that, as Athletic Director, Mullaly is doing an excellent job.

Ron Annear declined comment.

Politics

By Jim-beau Lieyehah
STAFF GONZO

**Tuesday, Feb. 8th,
6:33PM-**

A chance encounter with the lead singer of I Mother Earth, on the track of the Field House, has netted me a free ticket to tonight's show. Much remains to be done before I indulge myself. So without any further ado, here are some political stories that caught my eye last week....

Sloshed On A Slush Fund...

The dirt just keeps escalating out of the Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC) debacle like cream rising on milk. The controversial Transitional Jobs Fund was created to combat double digit unemployment. In practice, however, it has been used to reward loyal Grit quarters while penalizing those that support the opposition... and PEI is all Grit. The fund awarded just under \$10 million to the Island over 3 years. Cardigan MP and Solicitor General Lawrence MacAulay led the way in showing what to do with the cash. Over half the money found its way to his riding, which just reinforces his status as Island Rainmaker. On a national basis, the money amounted to approximately \$72 per Islander. Another way of looking at it is the 469 jobs it has allegedly created.

That comes out to about

\$20000 a job. Hmm... Anyway you look at it, it pales against the \$5 a head that did it for Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Unemployment exists in both regions, as it does here. The only difference is that PEI is Grit and the Prairie provinces sent a combined total of one MP to Ottawa. A few key things need to be examined. The first is that Jane Stewart, whose head is on the chopping block, was an encouraging figure for all regions (like PEI) whose economy is cyclical (boom during one season...usually summer and bust the rest of the time). Discussions had begun on how to transform Employment Insurance (EI) to better reflect these types of economies. The idea being to both diversify the economy and expand benefits to better include seasonal workers. Certainly encouraging developments that had the backing of a minister (which is always essential in getting any initiative moving). But Stewart is wallowing now and if she survives, I expect her to talk quietly and walk around on soft sole shoes. The other component is that the Grits should not play Real Politik with the Prairies because there is real suffering going on there and with the agriculture sector in general. Free trade and our constant pursuit of lower prices has created a situation whereby our farmers are losing money by producing things like pork

and wheat. If this is not rectified, they will go out of business. And for a country like Canada, with the type of bread basket it has, a reliance on imports to satisfy our most basic need for nourishment, is a ludicrous situation. The solution is real easy. Throw some cash at the farmers, in the form of subsidies, to equal their playing field against international competitors. Cut Stewart loose so the government can get on with business. And stop lending money without checking the books.

Earth to Pam...

Barrett that is, Pam Barrett, Alberta Provincial NDP leader and MLA from Edmonton Highlands (are there really highlands in Edmonton and, if so, can one see beyond the Mall??). Seems that Barrett had an "out of body" experience that convinced her to leave politics. Things started out innocently enough with a trip to the dentist (who seems to have overcome a malpractice suit). But things got weird when she got knocked out for some routine dental work. Out in that dark, cold, void between life and death exists the compassionate side of Alberta politics. Whether the local anaesthetic triggered this allergic reaction or the stark reality of the prospects of socialism in Wild Rose Country, is irrelevant. What matters is that half the NDP caucus is

gone and the prospects for the party look grim as an election lurks around the corner. Ralph Klein is riding high among voters as he spends the booty, accrued from the rise in the price of oil, in areas like health and education. Raj Pannu, now the lone NDPer in the Alberta legislature, didn't seem surprised by the incident. He was concerned about Barrett's health, which seemed to be deteriorating with her weight, and unusually harsh circumstances that surrounded her. One way or another, Raj will be hard pressed to retain his seat and compassion will have a harder time penetrating the rock hard heart of Alberta Conservatism.



Strange Brew Brewing...

In Quebec. The Parti Quebecois (PQ) National Council passed a resolution over the weekend banning Canadian flags above all provincial institutions like schools, hospitals, and government buildings (to

Politics

continued on page

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