

# NEWS

## INTERVIEW WITH PROSPECTIVE NEW DEAN OF ARTS CONT. \*\*\*\*\*

objective here is to see from an administrators point of view what I can do to bring out all the talent (on campus) to the best of it's ability, how to improve the teaching situation- to make it possible for faculty to do their best. It's an exciting time because we're going through a lot of changes- and that challenge interests me.

SUN: I for one, being an Arts student myself would be interested in finding out the relationship of my degree to the Smith report, the revised president's report dealing with changes here at the University- and also to the Vet College question.

SMITHERAM: The Vet College is going to be a major item on the agenda for the next several years. The issue now, since its been established that we are having a vet college, is to find out how we should work together- How do we integrate our programs? I think there should be a significant Arts contribution to the program at the Vet College.

SUN: So you would be in favour of a core curriculum of liberal arts courses for the Vet College?

SMITHERAM: Well, a core is just one of many options. I think there has to be a liberal arts component to the vet program. I think we should make sure that our vets are not strictly technically trained but that they understand the contribution of the humanities to science.

SUN: So you're definitely in favor of supporting the liberal arts outlook at UPEI- you don't want to see it turned into a technical college?

SMITHERAM: Liberal arts and science are the heart of this university... if we let down that part of university training we would be doing a great disservice

to our students... We need people who understand the complexities of our world and who have a basis for critical judgement- who understand the human values underlying what they're doing, who are not totally oriented to efficiency in terms of their disciplines but in terms of the relevance of their disciplines to the human experience. If we lose that then the damage would be irreparable- We would be betraying the ideals going back to the two previous institutions (S.D.U. and P.W.C.).

SUN: What sort of procedure is in place now with regard to developing the Vet College? Is there some individual acting as a go-between developing programs? How are the programs and criteria going to be set up?

SMITHERAM: Right now Reg Thompson, the Dean of the Vet School, is probably the only one working in that dimension. He wants to come and talk to all of the Departments, but I've been pushing for a joint Board-Senate Committee to deal with all of the problems of integrating the Vet School... (We must) make sure that this gets off on good footing, that they're a real part of the University and not just something that's hung on to us at that end of the field. Dr. Thompson recognizes that in fact even in terms of the architectural decision- instead of building (the vet school) away from the University, he wants the new buildings actually connected to the existing buildings. I think that symbolizes what I would like to see achieved on the curriculum and on the faculty relations and student relations aspects. The students are going to have to think about that too.

SUN: Finally, the President of the Student Union, Jack Keefe, has suggested to me that perhaps the Smith report is being bogged down by Senate's bi-monthly approach to meetings. He further suggested that perhaps an

all-day forum would better help to finalize deliberations on the subject of change at UPEI. Do you support this suggestion?

SMITHERAM: Yes, I support the idea that we must deal thoroughly with this report and do so in a reasonable time. Even if it costs a few extra Saturdays I think we should get on with it because if you let it lag too long the motivation diminishes. People get the feeling that nothing is going to happen anyway and the momentum is lost. We've had a shock from the report that preceded it. We've had clear signals from this report and the previous one that we do have to make changes. We can't just dig in our heels and say "Oh well, it will all go away anyway." We do have to transform ourselves but I like the idea of the Smith report, of transforming ourselves from within from consulting with everybody. I don't think we can operate successfully on any level having somebody dream up a scheme and their trying to impose it on the rest of the University. We have to operate in a fundamentally democratic way... once we've made a decision I believe in moving resolutely forward towards achieving it.

(NOTE: Prof. Smitheram was approved by the Board of Governors on 25 Oct. and is now the new Dean of Arts.)

- Chris Robinson

On Friday Oct.21, six students from UPEI went to a leadership conference at the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton, N.B.

The conference ran from Friday Oct.21 to Sunday Oct.23 with lectures, discussions, and How To sessions.

Some of the people in attendance were Tim Ahill, Student President of Dalhousie, Mary Abraham, past member of Student Union U.N.B. and Dalton Camp, syndicated political columnist.

Those that attended from UPEI and Holland College felt that it was programmed more for student executive and for larger universities.

Margret Randell a poet, photographer and writer, arrived on PEI to give a press conference at UPEI and a lecture at Holland College Lecture Theatre on Monday, Oct. 24.

She has spent 23 years in Latin America and has lived in Nicaragua for the last three years.

M. Randell talked about the People, their problems, and their achievements.

She spoke on the political problem, how Regan and his policies have affected the revolution in the country, how other countries have aided the people: Non-government groups of Canada and the U.S. have been very supportive. An example would be the boat projects where boats are filled with materials needed in the Latin American country and sent down to be distributed among the people.

Pre-registration for full-time and part-time students for the Second Semester of 1983-84 will take place from 14 November to 2 December. Pre-registration material will be available at the Registrar's office, Kelley Memorial Building from Monday, 14 November.

The deadline for pre-registration will be Friday, 2 December.

NO PRE-REGISTRATION FOR EITHER FULL TIME OR PART-TIME STUDENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER FRIDAY, 2 DECEMBER.