

# The continuing saga of the blue poles

## *UPEI's security system continues to malfunction*

By Colin Bassett

It is not a secret among UPEI students that the blue poles security system has had its problems with reliability in the past. Students have complained that the response time is usually drastically inefficient, or that in some cases, there isn't even any response at all.

"Admittedly, there have been problems in the past," said Campus Police Officer, Wayne Squarebriggles. "However, they were purely mechanical."

The department said that the problem developed be-

cause it was previously not mandatory to check the poles on a regular basis. But after an experiment conducted on November 2nd by several concerned nursing students revealed problems with the poles, the campus police must now check the poles every day. This means that students should now expect to see officers activating the poles daily on campus.

"Our department is glad that what occurred with the nursing students was not an actual incident," said Squarebriggles. "We are grateful for the effort that the nursing students took in bringing our attention to the problems of the blue pole system."

He also added, "Safety and security are not only the responsibility of our department, but should also be shared with the university community as a whole. We need the input from concerned students, faculty, and staff in making our university as safe as possible."

Students who still question the dependability of the poles can take comfort in knowing that the Campus Security Department is currently under a Risk Management Review by an independent company from Halifax.



# Drag pageant sparks a furor at the Trent University campus

By Kate Archibald-Cross

PETERBOROUGH (CUP) - Comments made at the Miss Harvest Weekend Pageant, which is part of the Fall College Weekend, hosted by Trent University's Champlain College earlier this month have caused an uproar.

The pageant is a drag show which is an annual part of the weekend. Men dress up as women and compete for the title of Miss Harvest Weekend. Each contestant, or group of contestants, writes a biography that is read to the crowd as an introduction, and portions of these biographies have caused a great deal of concern.

A group of contestants, including residence don Kevin Robinson, stated in their biography that one of their pet peeves was "men who don't understand that no means yes, yes, yes."

At the beginning of the pageant, the master of ceremonies, a residence don at Champlain College, told the audience that the contestants had been drinking, had "lost their inhibitions and [were] horny as hell."

The event has sparked an angry response from both students and administrators at Trent.

"Joking about sexual assault is not funny [and] joking about child abuse is definitely not funny," Theresa McDonald,

a student who attended the event, said.

David Smith, acting president of Trent University, says the activities at the pageant were thoroughly unacceptable.

"[I]t is in the very nature of the university that there should be respect... for all members of the university [and these] events are not consistent with that."

Martin Boyne, acting master of the college, says the comments were inexcusable and he plans to take some form of action.

Dan Gunn and Alex Thompson, co-chairs of the fall festival, defended the pageant in a written response to their campus newspaper.

"The intent of the [page-

ant] is to satirize sexual stereotypes and beauty pageants by placing it on a stage and holding it up for ridicule. It is not to endorse the obviously unacceptable.

"At the time we found [the comments] humorous; however, when taken out of context, we can see how it would be offensive. Perhaps we gave university students too much credit, but we assumed they understood this was intended as humour, just as the organizers of this event assumed for the last 10 years."

Andrea Norquay, co-coordinator of the Trent Women's Centre, says the women she has spoken with since the event took place have expressed anger, disgust and a general

feeling of discomfort.

Graffiti personally targeting Thompson and Gunn for their role in the pageant has appeared on the Trent campus, and that has also been condemned.

"It seems to us that the same people who wave around policies on human rights and harassment as inherent protection for the community feel threatening and harassing us is acceptable. It illustrates the massive hypocrisy of special interest groups at Trent.... Our involvement in the actual pageant was to solicit participants and then run the sound and lights, we did not read or write the biographies of the contestants," wrote Gunn and Thompson.