

# Amalgamate the Senate and Board of Governors

U.P.E.I. is at present an institution which is governed by two bodies - the Senate which has responsibility for all matters "of academic concern" and the Board of Governors which deals with all affairs which cost money. On Senate there are six people who sit ex-officio, the President of the Student Union, the three faculty deans and three members of the administration, as well as five elected students, thirteen elected faculty, and one representative of Holland College. The Board of Governors has nine members appointed by the provincial government, the President and Chancellor of the university, the president of Holland College, and six elected members-two from each of the faculty the student body and the Senate. Thus there are three people who are members of both bodies, President Baker, and his cohorts, Regis Duffy and Ken Ozmon.

All well and good. We have then forty-one people who control our university; only eight are students. Even if that could be justified the whole system is largely artificial. If a "matter of academic concern" happens to cost money (as most do) then who gets the final say on the matter. You guessed it - the unelective, unrepresentative Board of Governors.

Further if a matter does come up which concerns (or, more accurately, is deemed to concern) both bodies then who is going to act as intermediary between the two in case of dispute? As the only members of both bodies are President Baker, Regis Duffy, Ken Ozmon, they would seem to be obvious choices. This gives these three men considerable power to interpret (or even prevent) the position of one body to the other. And if you don't think these three will act as one, go to a meeting of Senate to see who slavishly follows Baker's line. Other than Mike Hennessey (the one who's Registrar) I can think of two in particular... Don't try to watch them in action at Board meetings, though these are closed to the public (hmm). There is very little doubt in my mind that this power to at least subtly change the positions of the two bodies has been used in the past and will continue to be used. If an avenue to power exists then it will be exploited.

Even if this little loop-hole was sewn up and the Board was made more representative of the "university community" then the most important issue would still remain unresolved.

All things that cost money are of academic interest from salaries to facilities and all but the most trivial matters of academic concern cost money. It is the height of the absurd to have one body legislating on monetary matters and another legislating on those of academic concern when in reality there is no difference.

As long as we have two bodies which deal with the same thing then conflicts will arise (unless, as is both arguable and undesirable, all are a bunch of conformist assholes) There are three ways of dealing with such conflicts, all undesirable. 1) leave them, making the university unmanageable, 2) allow one man or a small group of men to act as liason between the two bodies, thereby giving this small group the real power at the university or 3) subjugate one body to the other making it essentially irrelevant. I would suggest that here we use the

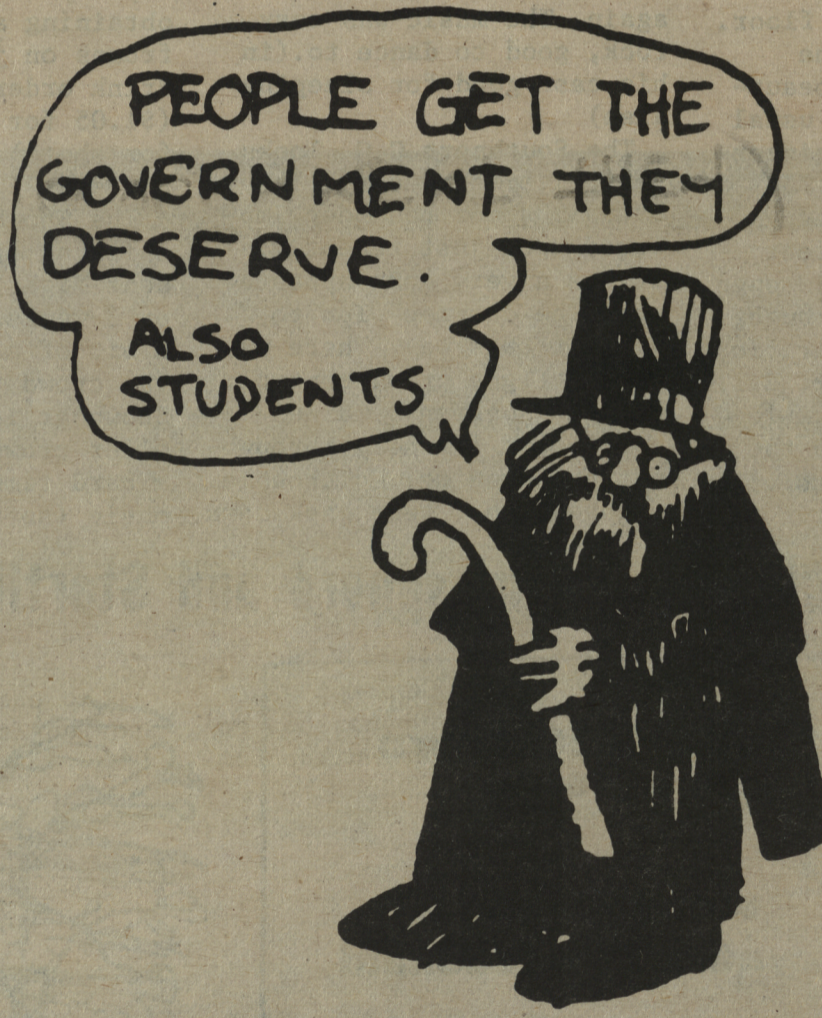
second and third of these alternatives. When we don't give the power to R.J. et al we subordinate the largely elective and open Senate to the largely closed and appointive Board of Governors.

It appears then that the only solution is to amalgamate the two bodies and thus eliminate the loop-holes, bureaucracy, and just general all around bull-shit that surrounds the activities of the two bodies. The University of Toronto about six years ago did just this, strangely enough on the suggestion of the President. Can you imagine our dear R.J. suggesting anything that might be construed progressive or worse democratic?? So far their attempt appears to work quite well. After all the provincial governments of both Ontario and PEI use this type of system. Maybe they would prefer to have one body dealing with matters of monetary consideration and another which would

decide what kind of services system is good enough for the governments of ten provinces and U of T then just possibly it would suit UPEI.

If such a thing was implemented here then I would suggest the following composition for it: ten members elected by and from the faculty of UPEI, ten members elected by and from the student body of UPEI, and five members elected by and from the Island community (maybe one from each school unit). Unless the body is both elected from and open to the public then it will never represent the opinions, the desires, the needs of the people who it is supposed to serve. To have the governing body on campus closed to the public and two-thirds appointive is an affront to the intelligence would be available to the people of the province. If this of all concerned,

David MacRae



**All Submissions To The Paper  
Must Be Turned In**

**By Friday**

**If Not**

