

## The M.A.P.U.S. Connection

for Mature and Part-time Students

BY JANICE MUIR

"It takes only one person to listen. It only takes one person to advocate. It only takes one person to feel kindness. So it doesn't take all that many people." This selection comes from Pat Worth's book, *The Language of Pain - Perspectives on Behavior Management*. As an advocate for people with mental health needs, Pat has approached the discussion with a perspective that is often forgotten... that is, we all need a hug or word of encouragement some time. The difference is that some of us need these kinds of support systems a little more than others.

From a mature and part-time student point of view, I believe it is important to remember that in the midst of the hustle and bustle of juggling crazy schedules, there is help available if things get tough. There are supports in place and a network of friends who are willing to help. The Mapus Lounge is a good place to go if you want to meet other mature and part-time students, and to ask questions. We certainly do not have all the answers, but we can attempt to find out. The Lounge is located in the Robertson Library 106.

There is no word yet on the Revenue Canada tax information session but we will keep you posted. A criteria for awarding Mapus scholarships is in the works and if you would like to have input into the discussions, please let a member of the executive know. The spring break is coming up and hopefully, the weather will continue to be spring-like.

Registration numbers for the winter session are down from last year and this may lead to increased tuition rates in the future, according to the

Senate report from our last meeting. This may be a problem that Mapus members may want to discuss at the Annual meeting next month. Many of us are already walking a financial tight-rope while budgeting family needs and education, and tuition rates are an important factor on the decisions that we make.

If you think that you are 'working like a dog,' Snoopy from the Charlie Brown cartoon series has a thought of the week to add.

"Yesterday, I was a dog. Today I'm a dog. Tomorrow I'll probably still be a dog. <sigh!> There's so little hope for advancement." Just what you needed to hear, right?

Finally, the joke from Laugh-a-Lot is probably one of the best of the oldies, but I hope you enjoy it anyway.

After church, Johnny tells his parents he has to go and talk to the minister right away. They agree and the pastor greets the family.

"Pastor," Johnny says, "I heard you say today that our bodies came from the dust."

"That's right, Johnny, I did."

"And I heard you say that when we die, our bodies go back to dust."

"Yes, I'm glad you were listening. Why do you ask?"

"Well, you better come over to our house right away and look under my bed, 'cause there's someone either coming or goin'!"

Have a great week!

*The Mapus column is dedicated to promoting the ideas, suggestions and concerns of mature and part-time students. For submissions, please contact Janice Muir at: <jmuiradvertising@hotmail.com> or (902) 853-4042.*

## UPEI hosts debating tournament

Teams come from across Canada to debate

The UPEI Debating Society will be hosting the fourth annual Lucy Maud Montgomery Cup the weekend of Feb. 19 to 21.

The Lucy Maud Montgomery Invitational Tournament is, as Chris Bentley, president of the Debating Society, says, "one of the most widely-regarded and classy tournaments around."

Organized debating has a long tradition at UPEI, stretching back to the days when St. Dunstan's University and Prince of Wales College were two separate institutions. Today, the UPEI Debating Society has almost a dozen full-time numbers, and numerous associates. In 1995, the Lucy Maud Montgomery Invitational Tournament was founded to give UPEI an invitational debating tournament of its own.

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This year, over a dozen teams will come from all over North America, including teams from Ontario and Québec and two teams from the United States, one from Columbia University in New York and another from the University of West Virginia. A joint, or "hybrid" team with one member from Columbia University and another from the University of West Virginia, is the sixth highest rating team in the United States debating circuit.

To cope with the large number of teams, this year, there will be a total of seven rounds of debate before the semi-finals and the final round. There will also be rounds of public speaking competitions.

"[Both debating and

public speaking] are impromptu," Bentley explains, "but debating is one team against another, while public speaking is one person arguing something. This is really impromptu."

Students and teachers from around the UPEI community are invited to attend the open semi-finals and the final round of both public speaking and general debate. Members of the university community are also invited to help judge the debaters. Sessions will be offered before the first round for prospective judges, and judges don't have to stay for the entire tournament.

If you would like more information about the debating tournament, you can contact Chris Bentley at <[cbentley@upe.ca](mailto:cbentley@upe.ca)>, or Danielle Frenette at <[afrenette@upe.ca](mailto:afrenette@upe.ca)>.

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