

# UPEI Holds Irish Wake

by Chris Vessey

On the night of January 21st the UPEI Student Union held a mock Irish Wake at the Barn to protest the lack of support funds to students of post-secondary educational institutions. Planned in conjunction with the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) Week of Action, the Wake symbolized the death of post-secondary education in Canada.

The Student Union of UPEI had a large black coffin fill with postcards signed by students to show their dissatisfaction with the current financial aid being provided to university students.

According to Lisa Murphy, one of the committee members who organized the week, the concept of an Irish Wake was devised by a Student Union committee of 15 members. Both Murphy and UPEI SU President Steve Wynne attended a CFS National Campaign Conference in November where a "day of mourning" for university education was suggested, in which students would boycott classes.

Instead of boycotting classes, the UPEI SU committee decided that a funeral would have much more impact, and would not require any missed classes.

Reaper, further symbolism of the fall of post-secondary education. Several women were appointed as "UPEI Wailers" and followed the coffin, moaning mournfully, accompanied by blues-style spiritual music, as the procession slowly made its way to the Barn.

At the Barn Linkletter delivered a eulogy for the deceased. "Ed (post-secondary Education) was a fine fellow. He opened doors for us. He gave us knowledge, and wisdom. He was selfless, and had no secrets. He hid nothing from us... he was just like an open book, but now the book is closed, and P.S. Ed has left us."



When asked if he felt the public might have negative reactions toward the Wake, SU President Wynne said, "the government has been informed, the administration has been informed as well as the rest of the faculty of what has been going on".

When queried about the reaction of the religious community, Wynne said, "I haven't heard word yet". When further asked if he had been in contact with any of the churches, Wynne replied, "I will honestly say, no I haven't".

The Wake began at the Robertson Library Pit with a moment of silence for the dead, with Barry Linkletter

as acting "clergyman". Several students in black robes constituted the official funeral procession, with a large attendance from Marian Hall residents in their Pit Bulls hockey sweaters.

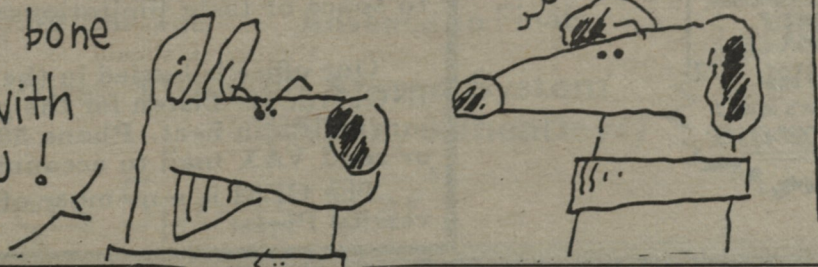
During much of his speech, Linkletter ridiculed government responses to the students' need for money in education. Many of his comments were accompanied by "Hallelujah!" and "Lord Jesus!" from the audience. Linkletter led the audience in the singing of a hymn, "For He's A Jolly Good Fellow".

After the service the coffin was moved down to the lounge, and an Irish Wake Pub began.

## Mixed Witz

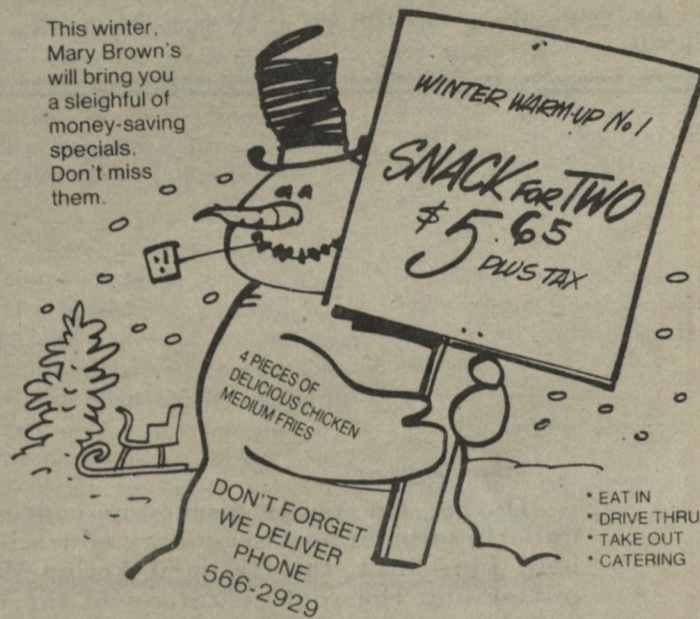
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