

Opinion

A few words with the "best of intentions:"

As students, we have responsibilities. There's academia, the struggle of finding money to pay bills, and some of those critical social mingling issues. These factors notwithstanding, post-secondary education works best when the development of the mind (a complex network of awareness, ideas, opinions and beliefs) is fully engaged on as many levels as possible. The mind needs to be active.

However, most folks registered at UPEI seem to be polite, withdrawn, seen-and-not-heard individuals in terms of their responsibilities as active students. We pay our fees and ask no questions. We figure that somebody somewhere must be doing it for our benefit, and that all work out in the end.

But we represent a demographic under siege, be it as scapegoats for debts and deficits created by politicians past, or as a populace discriminated against simply because of when we happened to be born. These battles are being made ours, even though they are not of our creation. We seem to accept this submissively.

In lieu of questioning adversity, we find ways to blame each other. We criticize the work of active sects, as they must somehow be responsible for the evils that are inflicted against us. Soon, we discover that we are not safe as a collective. We sulk and frown and whine. We hurt each other with sticks and stones.

The Cadre did not raise your tuition. It did not force you to join a medical plan you may or may not ever use. The Cadre spelled "Canada" wrong last week, but it did not keep you from getting a decent summer job, or from voicing your opinion at the Pan-Canadian Days of Action, or from volunteering at the newspaper itself. This newspaper built by your peers, however, apparently has been pegged with a giant "kick-me" sign. No surprise, though. It's fun and easy to point at people whom we see as "struggling." I guess that's why many find sardonic glee in seeing those "I've fallen and I can't get up" ads.

Adversity could scare anyone enough to run with a tail between his or her legs, but I don't think it does. The cheap shots could be pride-wounding, but instead they indicate that there are numerous cowards everywhere, including on campus, who slash blindly because they're afraid of the taking their ostrich necks out of the sand in case they get set upon a chopping block. That's one thing that won't look good on their resumes.

The Cadre stresses that material printed in the Opinions section represents the personal ideas and views of the writer and that this material not necessarily represent the opinions of the staff and volunteers.

Letters to the Cadre <newspaper@upei.ca>

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