

NEWS

NEW DEAN OF ARTS

SUN: Professor Smitheram, in light of the fact you've just been selected the new Dean of Arts, could you give SUN readers some background into your history and academic credentials?

SMITHERAM: I guess you don't want to start at grade school... I did my university work at Saint Michael's College - University of Toronto... Graduate school at the Philosophy Department, U. of T... graduated in 1967 -

my thesis was on Sartre's "Being and Nothingness- The Ethical Implications Thereof." I came to S.D.U. in '67 and have been here ever since... In the early '70s I got involved in teaching the philosophy of education and through that I was asked by the government to do an assessment of the educational system as it was being transformed and since then I've involved in seeing whether schooling in P.E.I. was being developed in such a way that respects the traditions and values of Islanders. I've been fighting for small schools, for keeping schools close to communities and for not having ourselves transformed in terms of an exterior model... the end result was the book we published last year, along with David Milne and S. Dasgupta, called 'The Garden Transformed' which documents changes in Island society since the Second World War.

SUN: When exactly does your office take effect?

SMITHERAM: I officially became dean, in the Board of Governor's approval, on October 25th.

SUN: Until that time believe Prof. Bulger is the acting Dean of Arts.

SMITHERAM: That's correct.

SUN: Why did you decide to become Dean? Were salary considerations a prime incentive?

SMITHERAM: Well, you'd have to be out of your mind to go for the job because of salary increase. There's a small stipend that I doubt would leave you any further ahead at the end of the year after including additional expenses... My real

Annex News & Views

Does it bother you to open this paper and find very little? Or should the question be, do you even bother to open the paper? If you are like the majority of the students on this campus, you are probably less than thrilled with the quality of the student newspaper and consider it a waste of effort to even open the pages. Do you find that the only use of the student newspaper is [check one]

making paper airplanes

swatting flies

crumpling it and practicing your jumpshot in the nearest trash can

Well, this might be the case. If so, then this column feels that it is about time that the student body of the University quits complaining and does something about it. We realize that the editor and her meager staff (maximum three people) are doing what they can. But any newspaper needs people and ideas to make it work.

We can hear your arguments now: You don't have the time; you don't know how to write; you don't know what to write; and you are afraid that you will get lost finding the SUN office. We know these arguments - we probably invented them. We have certainly used them ourselves in the past, but as of this week, we have taken a step and committed ourselves to do our own small part to keep the U.P.E.I. SUN from sinking beneath the horizon.

We do not claim to be expert writers or reporters,

just two students who have a point of view to offer. This weekly column will deal with current topics of interest pertaining to life on campus. As members of the English Society, our additional objective will be to keep the student body informed of the various activities and events sponsored by the society.

The English Society is a newly formed group which held its organizational meeting on October 12. At the meeting, the following were elected to the executive:

President -- Heather MacDougall

Vice-President -- Renee Blanchette

Secretary / Treasurer -- David Wheeler

Publicity Manager -- Joanne Mackinnon

Continue to watch the SUN for information on upcoming events, which include the Northrop Frye lecture series to be seen every Wednesday afternoon at 3:30 in Robertson Library, room 102. We welcome any English students to our meetings and all interested students to the events sponsored by the society.

It is always difficult to start something new, and this column was no exception. With our first effort, we hoped merely to inform you of the existence of the English Society, and more importantly, to voice our concern for the future of the SUN. We believe that if two previously apathetic students can write a column you, too, can do your part to help the newspaper.

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