

# Professor Focus

By Nola MacDonald

Last week I was fortunate enough to talk to one of UPEI's more interesting professors: Peter Trnka.

Professor Trnka was born in Prague on March 21, 1964. He lived there on and off for 4 years while his father worked in Iraq. In 1968 he moved to England where he stayed for 6 years. Then he moved to Washington, D.C. for junior high and high school. He went to university at the University of Toronto. At university, Professor Trnka started his undergraduate degree in philosophy, English, linguistics, psychology, and zoology. He decided to stay with philosophy because he could do it without much work and he could have fun. He planned to get a 3 year degree and then go to film school, however he was forced to go back for a 4th year towards his degree. After his B.A., Professor Trnka decided he would like to go into social work, so he went back to England. Since he did not have any formal training in that field, he could not get a job, so he came back to Toronto to attend Graduate School. He is still finishing his Phd on the relationship between theories of knowledge and politics.

When I asked him why he was teaching here, he replied that when he was close to finishing his dissertation he started applying for jobs. He had been here before; he likes the Maritimes and the ocean. He was granted an interview, which went well, and was then offered a job. He found himself teaching here and thinks that it is a really cool job.

Professor Trnka would like to teach courses in philosophical feminism, political theory, critical theory, and introductory philosophy. He will know if he's coming back to UPEI next year in a few weeks. One of the reasons he might not be back is that his wife Toni lives in Toronto. Toni is a lawyer in refugee immigration, and can not move to P.E.I.

What are his friends and students saying about him? Peter Trueman and Peter Mutch were at the interview. Trueman said that Professor Trnka should quit his job and go to Toronto to have lots of babies. They both agreed on several points, Professor Trnka is an exceptional cook, but he makes too much spicy food; he is extremely friendly and a snappy dresser; he is a good professor.

Professor Trnka likes living in Charlottetown. It is the first small town that he has lived in. He likes to go to the Olde Dublin Pub, the Black Forest Cafe, and the Playhouse. He likes Punk-Rock and Industrial Music. He plays squash and tennis and beats Peter Trueman at Badminton. He wants to go swimming at Brackley Beach this April.

In reference to CIMN, Professor Trnka thinks that they need an FM license or at least it should be piped into the student bar, and other public places. He likes all of their music.

He also had a few comments about the X-Press. In particular he talked about the Backlash articles. He said that they deserve merit in the fact that they make the X-Press worth reading; however, the authors like name calling, and their objects of concern are rather strange. Professor Trnka feels that criticism of political movements are good, but that there are other important things to be concerned with. He also feels that more people should be involved with writing for the X-Press as the paper may seem one-sided if not many people contribute to it.

