

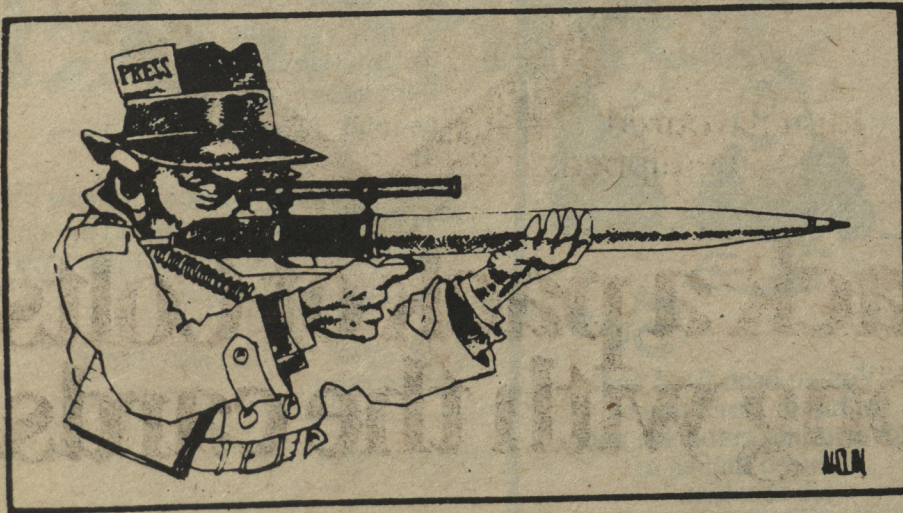
editorial

from
the
Editor's
desk

If you haven't noticed, I must warn you that university life, like any existence, is too often plagued by various irritations. Recently, one of the most persistent of these has been cutbacks. That has been a word frequently heard in circles of higher education. As time has progressed cutbacks have seemed to accelerate, affecting both professors and students. Students have faced rising tuition and professors have undoubtedly worried about eroded work security and salary increases. Courses once offered annually have become available only every two years, and the appearance of new university calendars has been similarly reduced. Whether or not these things diminish quality within the university, one thing is clear. That, namely, is that the end to cutbacks is nowhere in sight.

If any universities have escaped the bite of cutbacks, U.P.E.I. has not been one of them. Our latest examples of the evolving save-money syndrome were painfully evident at this semester's registration. The evidence was in plain sight as everyone paid student fees and secured updated ID cards. These fees have risen substantially, and are now well in excess of one hundred dollars. There is also a new ID scheme. In the past everyone received a new ID every year, but not now. The official strategy has become to simply replace dates on old cards. New ones are to be made only every twenty-four months, and students who lose the ancient cards will have to pay two dollars for a replacement. Both innovations are bad news for the student. Each threatens his dwindling pocket book, a pocket book already besieged by rising tuition and residence fees.

Yet this doesn't necessarily mean that cutbacks and the resulting fee increases are avoidable. It also doesn't follow that administration isn't doing its best to give students a fair break. I assure you, further, that my complaint rises not from any single instance of increased student expense. It is more a protest against the entire trend toward relieving students of their last dollars. When our financial obligations have risen so high and so quickly, it would be nice to at least get a student card every year, and free of charge. Cutbacks may be economically necessary, but they still hurt. The pain is especially great when everything is cut back except student expenses. That, at least, is the way it can seem to a student who on registration day has lost months of earnings.



the upei sun

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