

Council accused of faulty decision

By John Pendergast

The UPEI Liberal Campus Club was refused sub-organization status at the last Student Council meeting on January 22.

Why? The Student Council did not want to be accused of favouring any one political party.

Club spokesman Robert Hanf expressed his vehement opposition to the move by the Council.

Hanf stated to the *Netted Gem* that, first of all, the Liberal Campus Club does not meet the numbers (30 members) to be qualified as a sub-organization.

Secondly, he said, the objective of the Club is to promote the political involvement of students 30 years of age or younger.

Thirdly, it would promote involvement in student affairs by advocating the policies and principles of the Liberal party. As well, the Club would give students an opportunity to voice their concerns to MP's, MLA's, and other Liberal organizations.

Finally, Hanf stipulated that his sub-organization would produce a social in which students could exchange information, with this benefit, would enable students to make political stands.

Hanf is not opposed to other political party organizations, but encourages them to ask for status with the Student Union.

The Campus Club is not a political party and is not a supporter of the Student Union Council.

UPEI president Jack Keefe said that there is no valid reason why the Club should

not have been given sub-organization status.

Keefe noted that other universities across the country support political parties and give status to any group, whether it is PC, NDP, or Marxist feminist.

"Why didn't anyone enter the contest?" Keefe doesn't think Council's decision was very intelligent, for the Student Union itself is a "political" interest group, contemplating joining an organization (CFS) that is extremely politically-minded.

During the January 22 meeting VP Internal Jim Mutter was one executive member who had difficulties with granting the Liberal Campus Club status.

Mutter voted against the application because he thought the time was long-overdue for the Council to re-evaluate their policies towards granting organizations and clubs their sub-organization status.

According to Mutter, there are no guidelines or criteria for handing out sub-organization status, which entitles a group to receive an initial sum of money, poster materials, the right to advertise meetings free in the newspaper and on CIMN, and the right to hold money-making pubs at the Barn.

Mutter wants Council to establish criteria for the status before granting it to the Club.

Presently, priorities for sub-organization status goes to faculties and departments (such as Engineering, Business, Psychology, or Modern Languages) because they benefit all the students.

Political parties are con-

sidered a second priority for sub-organization status by virtue of their interest for only a small percentage of students.

Mutter cites examples in the past where small groups have held socials in the Barn where the benefits went to only a small handful of students.

He doesn't feel he made a biased decision on the Liberal Campus Club case.

David Currie, newly-elected Vice President of the Progressive Conservative Youth Federation of P.E.I., stated to the *Netted Gem* that it was only fair that the Student Union did not grant any political club sub-organizational status at UPEI. In his opinion, this would give one political party an unfair advantage over another.

He did have regrets, though, for he feels that the UPEI facilities would be beneficial to both organizations for fund raising and as a forum for political information.

Currie added further that the PC youth group was too disorganized at the moment to consider an application for sub-organization status. Its newly-elected executive needs time to organize before any profound moves can be made.



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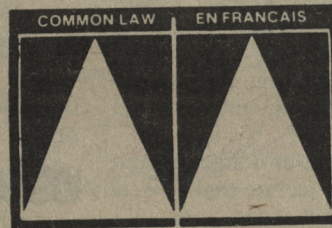
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Death of the Jock

Charlottetown, P.E.I. — The Minister responsible for Youth, Fitness and Recreation, George McMahon, has received the fourth and final report of the Canada Fitness Survey entitled "Canadian Youth and Physical Activity". McMahon said that the report raises some questions about their drop-out rate in sports and exercise programs. The Minister noted that one of the disappointing statistics in the report is the 10 percent drop in active participation by males between the ages of 17 and

"Physical fitness is an important and significant part of a healthy lifestyle, and it is important that our youth be encouraged to participate in activities which have an effective carry-over value later in life," he said.

The Minister concluded by saying that his department will be studying the findings and recommendations in the report and identifying those which are being directed to government. "Also, the department will be considering ways of implementing the recommendations in the report", said McMahon.

The Canada Fitness Survey was a comprehensive survey of 22,000 Canadians 10 years of age and over, funded by Fitness Canada.

"I am pleased, however, to note the figures in the report which indicate an increase in participation by seniors," said the Minister.