



PREMIER TO RECEIVE HONORARY DEGREE

PREMIER JOE GHIZ will be granted the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws during a special convocation ceremony to be held in November. The UPEI Senate has called the convocation to mark to hundredth anniversary of the arrival of the Lebonese to PEI, which is being celebrated this winter.

The special convocation, scheduled for November 29th, will confer degrees on 15 students. These students are those who have completed degree requirements since the last convocation was held in May. Ordinarily, such students would have to wait until the following May for convocation.

UPEI President C.W.J. Eliot first proposed the special convocation and suggested Ghiz at the first Senate meeting held this term. Eliot says the Premier was an obvious choice for a person to honour as a prominent member of the Lebonese community.

"It is very difficult to ignore the Premier", said Eliot. "In fact, no one can better represent the achievement of the Lebonese community."

When asked about possible political motives for honouring Ghiz, Eliot said that his motives, and those of the UPEI Senate are pure. He said that he hoped people would not think of granting a degree to Ghiz as politically motivated.

"The honorary degrees committee (of senate) considered everyone, but it kept coming back to Ghiz, both for his own achievements and for the community he represents."

Some people may also view the ceremony as an attempt to make Ghiz more

aware of the problems facing UPEI and post-secondary education. Eliot added that he does not think the Premier could be made more aware of the plight of post-secondary education.

While special convocations and other ceremonies to honour persons and groups are common at some universities, UPEI has held a special convocation only once before. That ceremony marked the opening of Robertson Library in the mid-seventies.

President Eliot believes that UPEI should honour accomplished groups and individuals. He pointed out that during the last convocation held in May, UPEI chose to honour a prominent engineer to mark the 100th anniversary of the Engineering Society of Canada. The special convocation, Eliot said, should be held now because "it is best to have it when it's association (with the centenary) can be perceived."

"The arrival of this important group is an historical occasion which I don't think should be overlooked," he said. Eliot said that since he came to PEI he has been impressed by the role of the various ethnic groups on the Island.

"The Lebonese community", he said, "has managed to maintain its identity for over a hundred years in a very, very strong way. I think their contribution to the culture of this island is significant. Not more significant than others, but worth recognizing at a moment when they themselves are celebrating."

One other member of the Lebonese community will be honoured

at the November ceremony. Doreen Kays, a broadcast journalist and writer who has worked for the CTV and ABC networks will receive an honorary degree along with Ghiz.

Eliot expressed hope that the University will honour other groups in the future, though it would probably be done during a regular May convocation ceremony. There is a possibility that some of the prominent people who helped the University in succeed in its Challenge of the Eighties fund raising campaign will be recognized at the next May convocation.



Candidate disqualified

ONE OF THE candidates running in last week's Student Union elections was disqualified because of campaign posters left up on polling day. Mary Nicholson, who was running for the position of Senate representative, was disqualified last Thursday by interim Chief Returning Officer Ron Cameron.

According to a by-law of the UPEI Student Union constitution, all campaign posters for any student election must be taken down by midnight of the night before polls open. This is to prevent the possibility of campaign material influencing any voter on the way to the polls. Interim CRO Cameron stated that when he toured campus Thursday morning, he found two posters of Nicholson's in the stairwell leading to the Robertson Library base-

ment. The UPEISU elections bylaw states that any campaign material found within 20 meters of the polling station must result in disqualification of the candidate they promote.

Cameron said that all candidates were informed that posters must be removed when the elections by-law was read to them when they declared candidacy.

Although it can be easy for a candidate to miss some campaign posters when it comes time to remove them, the stipulation about campaign materials does not usually cause problems. The last time a candidate was disqualified because of posters was during Student Union elections two years ago. According to Cameron there were also a few fines laid during the last elections for posters still up outside the

20 meter circle of disqualification.

Other than the disqualification, Cameron said the election went very well. There was an 18% turnout for the elections, and a were a fair number of candidates seeking election. Of the seven positions that were voted on last Thursday, three were contested. Although still small, this ratio is an improvement over the last set of SU elections when almost all positions were either uncontested or had no candidates at all.

Candidates declared elected were: Kirstin Lund for Board of Governors representative, Joanne Wilkenson for Freshman rep, Juila Hammond for AVC rep, Tony Mason for Education, Ian Burge for Business, Joanne McGim for Science, and Bryan Howard as Senate rep. ■