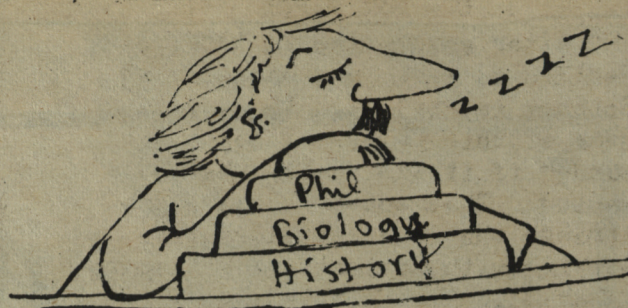


FROM THE DESK OF A STUDENT AT U.P.E.I.....

The road running through or the main road of Charlottetown is, as we all know, University Avenue. The University of Prince Edward Island is situated on this road thus the name University Ave. The University sits on a hill overlooking the surrounding area of West Royalty. At the bottom of the hill on another road is Charlottetown Rural High School. These dwellings of education are just a few steps away from each other. It seems a logical step to travel this short distance from grade twelve to first year at U.P.E.I. In the spring at the Rural it's often heard: "Hey, where are you going next year?" "I guess I'm going up the hill (to U.P.E.I.)." Over the years many have done just that-- come up the hill from the Rural to U.P.E.I. So why not join the majority and give it a try? It is only right for you, the reader, to question why U.P.E.I.? Or why bother going to University at all? As stated it is only right that you should question and ponder and think good and long and hard at the whole situation for it is an important decision; it is your future and you are the one that has to make it count.

At the end of grade twelve each person has to decide what the future will hold for them; what he or she will do with his life. Until this time we are dependent on others. Now it is ourselves on whom we must depend. When thinking of the future, we ask and try to decide what our life's work will be. For our society is based on each person working for a living if he is able. We have to work to survive. The question is what is it we want to do while we are surviving? What kind of job best suits us? What do we do well and enjoy doing? Where do our interests lie? Can we get a job in this area and what does it take; what are the qualifications? Do we need a degree, a special course or is grade twelve sufficient? These are hard questions to ask and harder still to answer but sometime we must all eventually answer them. At some point the grade twelve student must decide whether or not he will go to University. Many will go but others won't. They will choose to go directly into the work force. These people miss out on a valuable experience by not trying out University. University is very rewarding as you get to know yourself and others better. Also it is very rewarding personally to be able to know that you can handle university life. The person who chooses not to take the path to University misses out. Many aren't sure what's in store for them, what they should do. University helps set a person straight and helps them decide. A person may decide after a year or so of University that it's not for them. Nothing is lost for in the long run they have gained for the experiences obtained will always be valued. To quote the Assistant Editor of the University Newspaper, Frances Smits, "University, who needs it? You do, everyone does. If nothing else but an experience, it has accomplished a great deal. Besides the obvious benefits of a university degree in pursuing a career, there are more subtle benefits that are equally important. University life gives a person a great opportunity to interact with all types of people and this is an enjoyable learning experience. If you take the time and the little trouble it takes to get involved in your University, you can learn politics and the working of a government through the Student Union or Senate, theatre, music, and entertainment in the various social committees, and discipline and mental exercising of the mind with the wide variety of courses offered."



So you've decided to go to University. Now comes the decision of which one.

The atmosphere at U.P.E.I. is one of the reasons for attending University here. The campus is small enough to allow students to meet their fellow classmates quite often. It also lets you get to know your professors and for them to do likewise. The classes are reasonably small in size and allow a closer student-instructor ratio. At bigger universities the classes sometimes are so big that you might never get to know anyone in your class. When the classes are small there is none of this "The professors don't care", most of them at U.P.E.I. really do and will bend over backward to be helpful.

U.P.E.I. is also centrally located. It is within everyone's reach. There are three residences; Bernadine--girls' residence, Marian--boys', both go to the cafeteria for meals and the Co-ed Residence, Blanchard where residents do their own cooking. However, students from Charlottetown Rural have an advantage as they are primarily residents of the surrounding areas of Charlottetown thus they can live at home while going to university and cut way down on costs. It costs two to three times (if not more) more for a year at university if one lives away from home. So by living at home you have the best of two worlds--you may have to abide by certain rules living under the family roof but then you may get the family car to get to classes and social events. It helps a lot too when you have the support of your family right there and not just a phone call away.

"They (students that live at home) have the best of both worlds, so to speak, because they don't have to cope with high residence and food costs and transportation problems and they are free to participate in as much or as little of the campus social scene as they wish. The problem, however, with many community students is that they don't make the effort to get involved. It is up to the individual to do it--to take the first step--there are all kinds of directions to take. There is something for everyone's tastes and time tables." (Taken from the Col. Gray supplement).

It is assumed that a student is here at University because he wants to be. He pays and chooses his courses and must decide just what he wants out of his investment. There is an adjustment to make coming from high school to university. There are fewer class hours but lots more work. A student has to learn how to budget his time wisely and not procrastinate, leaving everything to the last minute. The worst months at university seem to be October and February. Be prepared to get the "blues" or to feel down but also be prepared to do something positive about it and not let the pressure get to you.

Just as the guidance center and library were helpful and resourceful at the Rural so are the library and Student Services (first floor in Main Building). They are there for you the student: use them.

Ask anyone with a degree what university was like for them and you'll see a smile on their face. They will say there was a lot of work but there were good times, too. They will also add that they wouldn't have missed it for the world either.

What can you do right now about this matter, you might ask. Go see Mr. Doucette or Miss Power, they can be a great help. They will give you an Application Form for U.P.E.I. After it's sent in and you've been accepted (you'll get a letter saying so) a University Calendar will come in the mail to you. This calendar is very important, so read it! When you've decided what courses you want it's a good (a great) idea to preregister. If you don't registration day can be very confusing and you may be disappointed if there aren't any spaces left in the course you want. Once again, it is urged to preregister-- unless of course you want to waste that last day of sun standing around in long lines. Don't forget orientation week either. It's a great chance to get to know the place and the other kids who will be in your classes with you. This year's orientation was a great success with fun had by all. It must be stated that former Rural students turned out in great numbers, they partied quite well and really added to the spirit of Orientation '80. So come on, Rural Class of '81 and keep up the good work and we'll see you at Orientation '81.

When you do get here remember to Get Involved! It's what this place is all about and university is just like anything else in life, you get out just what you put in!

Work hard this spring, have a great graduation and we'll see

you up on the hill next fall!

