

# Letters...

THE LETTERS PAGE is your forum of discussion. Please make your submissions legible to persons other than yourself. All letters are printed verbatim including spelling errors. Deadline is Monday before 5:00 pm. Letters may be left at the SU office in the Barn, The Gem office Rm.01 Utility Bldg., sent through campus mail, or sent via VAX mail to account GEM.



## THE FIRE

Dear Mr. Webber:

For the second time in my term as President we have begun National Universities' Week with an unscheduled event of potential danger to the community, in 1985 the Propane incident, this year the fire in the service tunnel. On both occasions, whatever might have happened, we were spared any lasting damage and discomforts were kept to a minimum.

Let me publicly thank those responsible for seeing to it that we were protected: the firemen of the City of Charlottetown led by Chief Connolly, who came within minutes of being summoned and showed professional leadership in the face of difficult situations; the City's police who made sure that we were kept from unnecessary harm; my colleagues who pitched in for long hours to insure that normal conditions could be returned with as little delay as possible; and the students, who accepted disruption of their lives with grace and cooperated in restoring calm.

Again, thank you most sincerely. You have contributed to our well-being in ways never imagined by the Organizers of National Universities' Week, and we are indeed most grateful.

Cordially,

C.W.J. Eliot

(UPEI President)

## POSTER BY-LAW RIDICULED

Dear Editor:

I learned in last week's issue of a UPEI Student Union constitution bylaw which states that all student election campaign posters must be taken down by midnight before polls open, and that any campaign material found within twenty meters of a polling station will result in disqualification of the candidate that the material promotes.

In my opinion, this by-law should be struck down. In a real election, campaign posters are not torn down a day before the polls, but often left to hang long after the election. To fine a candidate for having a poster up is already ludicrous, but to disqualify a candidate is a mockery of the electoral system. This type of regulation is often found in countries which pretend to have a democracy.

The article said that the bylaw would prevent the possibility of campaign material influencing a student on the way to the polls. It is an insult to the intelligence of university students if one thinks that they would change their vote at the mere sight of a poster. The drafters of this

bylaw must think UPEI students are brain dead.

Finally, this bylaw is factually flawed. A candidate could post campaign posters supporting his or her opponents and thus disqualify them. Alternately, a practical joker could disqualify every candidate by placing posters in support of every candidate.

Jim Wen-tzen Lai

Dear editor:

In reference to last week's article regarding candidate disqualification, I really don't see what all the fuss is about with having to make sure all posters are removed from view of the polling station by midnight before voting day. Although the Student Union states that this is to prevent the possibility of posters influencing voters on way to the polls, I raise two points.

First of all, if the posters were allowed to remain up the problem would be remedied, since all voters would be equally influenced. And secondly, do the powers that be think that students at a post-secondary institution so naive that the visual stim-

ulus provided by a poster is going to alter the course of their previously decided vote. If so, why doesn't the student union go all the way on this and enact legislation similar to that governing liquor sales on the day of federal and provincial elections, and close the university pub on election day, and if the elections span two over days, well, so be it.

The way I see it, either go all the way and enforce this statute to its logically absurd conclusion or drop the rule from the books. At the very least, SU president Steve Wynne should look into the matter and determine what constructive purpose if any this by-law serves. Awaken from the fantasy SU executive and take some action: the student body is laughing at you!

Signed,  
Giggling all the way  
(a reactionary senior)

# THE GEM

"A newspaper is a device for amusing half of the world with the other half's troubles."

- Leonard L. Levinson

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## This Week's Contributors:

CIMN, Sean MacIntosh, Kelly VanBuskirk, Laurie Reeves, Michelle Cottreau, Advisory Council on the Status of Women, and the UPEI Information Office.

Deadline for submissions is Monday, 5:00pm

Please ensure your submissions are legible to persons other than yourself. We prefer typed and double spaced submissions and submissions on computer disk or through VAX mail. For legal reasons, all submissions must include the author's name and phone number. However, names will be withheld from publication on request.

The GEM is published by the University of Prince Edward Island Student Union. Views expressed are not necessarily those of the GEM staff, the UPEI Student Union, or of anyone in particular.

We reserve the right to edit submissions due to limitations of space or taste.

If you are interested in learning more about your student newspaper, drop on down to our office anytime or come to our regular meetings Monday at 6:00pm.

Our office is buried in the UTILITY BUILDING, Rm.01. Look for the plunger pointing the way. Phone 566-0629 or 566-0530 or send VAX mail to account GEM.