

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.

ADMINISTRATION JUDGES STUDENT

Dear Editor:

University students that live in residence are occasionally faced with the temptation to commit small crimes, both on and off campus. When these crimes do not involve the University, does the Senate Committee have the right to punish the student because of the crime?

Recently, several students have been assigned to numerous hours of unpaid University labor, resulting from a criminal offence (theft) which took place off-campus. They had already been caught by the RCMP and were informed that they will have a court date for the crime in the near future. Despite the handling of the case by city law enforce-

ment agencies, the Senate Committee decided to have the students evicted from residence, placed on probation, and given the aforementioned 'sentence' of the labor. The first decision, eviction, has since been decided against, but the latter two remain.

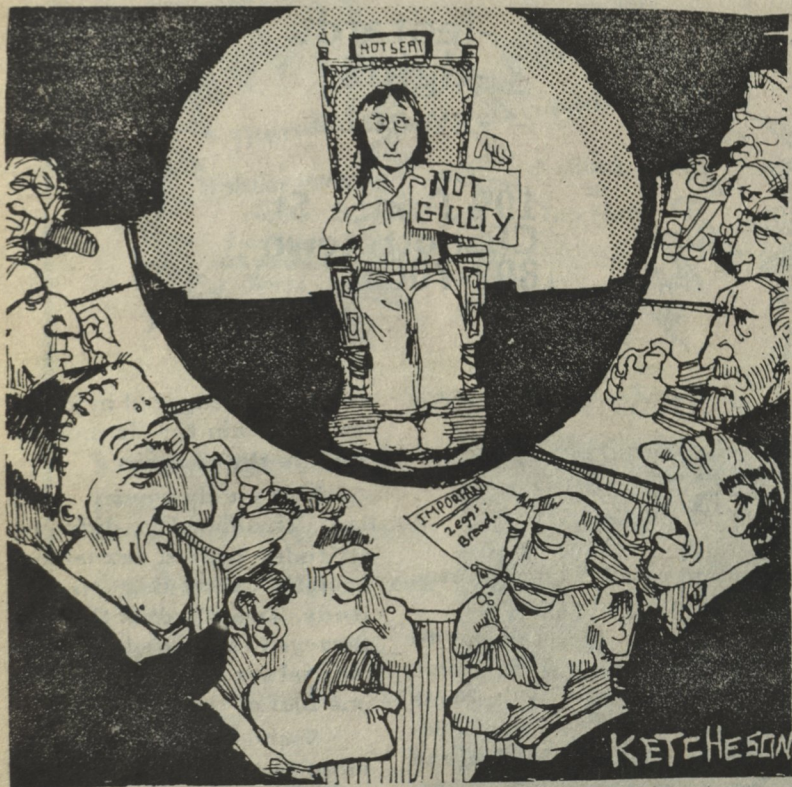
In handing down the decision, the Senate Committee has established a pseudo 'kangaroo court' and has found the students guilty of committing an offence which they, the Senate, have no jurisdiction over, and without the students being represented or able to enter a plea. The provincial court date has not yet been reached, and so in the eyes of the law they are still innocent un-

til proven guilty by a jury of their peers, or by an appointed official of the court—namely, the presiding judge. From where does the Senate acquire the right to pass any judgement in this case?

When the crime does involve the University community, such as with the crimes of trespassing or vandalism on campus, the Senate has every right to place a student on probation, or have that student evicted or expelled, depending on the seriousness of the crime and the past record of the student involved. However, no sentence or decision should be given until city and provincial authorities have proven guilt in a court of law. If the Senate gives a 'verdict' of guilt, and the student pleads innocence in court, the Senate has already assumed guilt on the part of the student. If the student is found guilty, the Senate pats itself on the back for doing a fine job. However, if the student is found innocent, the Senate, and therefore the entire University, is placed in a bad position. The student would be fortunate to receive as much as an apology.

The powers of the Senate Committee should fall under greater scrutiny. We have seen the effects of miscarriages of justice in the provincial court system (e.g. the Donald Marshall case), and we do not need untrained University faculty trying to create their own judiciary system.

A Concerned
Sophomore.



"How Come It Wasn't In The Gem?"

The Gem provides information each week about happenings on campus and around the country which affect you, the student. However, we cannot be everywhere at once. Like any news organization, The Gem relies on tips and ideas from YOU. If there is something on campus you think should be covered in your student paper, call The Gem at 566-0529 or leave a message at the SU office in the Barn or our office Rm 01 Utility Building.

THE GEM

"Get your facts first, and then you can distort them as you please."

— Samuel Clemens

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This Week's Contributors:

Bryan Grimmelt, Libby Kennedy, Malcolm Gorrill, the History Society, the Bios, the Engineers, and many many more to numerous to print.

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. Just follow the charred heat pipes. Phone 566-0629 or 566-0530 or send VAX mail to account GEM.

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