

By-election called for science rep.

Recent council election marked by poor voter turnout

By **MELISSA DOUCETTE**

Science students will be voting for their representatives a second time.

The decision was made on Sunday by the UPEI Student Union Council in response to concerns surrounding the recent elections.

According to article IV.6 of the UPEI Student Union Elections and Referenda By-Law, polling stations are to operate between the hours of 9:00 am and 5 pm on each regular voting day.

But on October 29, the last day of voting, the polls closed an hour early. Biology students returning from a field trip were surprised to find the polls closed, and therefore were unable to vote in the elections.

One candidate was upset. According to reports, he claims he may have had enough support to fill one of two vacancies had the polling station been left open until its scheduled time.

Stephen Lewis and Stephen Hann, Vice-President Finance and Vice-President External, respectively, acted as Chief Returning Officer (CRO) for the election. The CRO oversees the operation of the election, and normally the position of CRO is filled by a non-council member of the Union.

Since council was unable to find anyone to fill the position and no one applied, Hann and Lewis were appointed to fulfil the duties of the CRO. The wrong closing time was given to campus security, who staff the polling station, and both Hann and Lewis take full responsibility for the mistake.

As a result of the mix-up, council decided Sunday night

to call a by-election for the position of science representative. All other election results were accepted.

In accordance with the Elections By-law, article V.6,

council is empowered to determine voting dates and nomination deadlines for by-elections. The dates set for the science representative by-election is Monday, Novem-

ber 9, from 6:00 to 9:00 pm, and Tuesday, November 10, from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. No new nominations will be accepted.

Overall, voter turnout for

the elections was poor. Only five percent of the entire student population voted.

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UPEISU forced to have another by-election

- photo by Richard Haines

On-line registration in the works for UPEI

By **RYAN LUND**

Registration has always been a difficult time of year for UPEI students, but help may soon be on its way. University officials are planning to take the registration services of UPEI on-line, a service which is expected to be completely up and running by July of 1999.

The former process saw students lining up for hours in order to obtain their desired courses.

John DeGrace, University Registrar, has indicated that the upcoming registration, beginning November 12, will be the last time that students will ever have to wait in line for registration. If all goes according to plan, a trail run of

this service is scheduled for the March registration for the summer classes.

The objective of the new program is to replace the current staff-directed registration services with an on-line, web-based, student-directed registration system.

"Students will still be able to register through the registration office in person," says DeGrace, but adds that he expects that 85 to 90 percent of students will use the new system.

Many students believe they need to be first in line on registration day to ensure their places in required classes. In most cases this is a myth, and very few students are ever denied the courses that

they want regardless of their position in line, according to the Registrar.

With the adoption of the on-line service, first and second year students will have an equal opportunity in registering for courses. Third and fourth year students will have a slight advantage.

The first day of registration will be dedicated to fourth year students only, with the second day dedicated to both third and fourth year students. This preferential treatment will help fourth year students to meet the necessary requirements for graduation.

For the students who feel compelled to wait in line at registration, the new on-line services could prove to be a

worthy investment, and could relieve some undue stress.

Still, this method is not without faults.

The Registrar will be more strict with prerequisites to courses and class sizes. Also, instead of lining up outside the Sports Centre, students will have to wait in line for the use of a computer. With only roughly 300 computers on campus, finding a free computer could be quite a chore. But many students may find it a better alternative to being wet and cold.

This service will also give students the ability to register, drop, add, and discon-

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