

# Value-for-Money Audit greeted with cautious approval

By MELISSA DOUCETTE

On December 16, 1998, the controversial Value-for-Money audit on UPEI was tabled in the PEI Legislature. No audit of this type has ever been performed on a Canadian university.

When the audit was proposed over a year ago, it was met with intense opposition from administration and students alike. The university community felt that the audit was a highly invasive step that threatened UPEI's autonomy.

Now, the administration is cautiously accepting the audit, while the UPEI Student

Union Council spent very little time in discussing the results.

"We knew that at a point in time, that despite our objections, this [the audit] was going to be done. So we cooperated fully," stated Dr. Lawrence Heider, Acting President of UPEI.

Heider stated that the University was relieved when the audit's findings were released, and many of the recommendations were already in the early stages of development. Heider does not have any serious disagreements with the audit, which many expected to be quite harmful.

The audit deals with a

variety of subjects, including the University's governing bodies, faculty, research, the bookstore, curriculum, and others. The audit also includes a background financial section that contains selective information.

One chart exhibits UPEI's funding for the year 1987-88 and 1997-98, but not the years in-between. Funding in 87-88 was \$21.1 million, and in 97-98 was \$28.2 million.

But the audit does not show the peak years of funding to the University of the early 1990s. It also omits the cuts made by the government during the last decade.

"It doesn't tell the whole

story," Heider stated.

The funding information compares tuition at UPEI to Nova Scotia schools. In comparison, UPEI has the lowest rate.

But the report neglects to mention that Nova Scotia schools have the highest tuition rates in the country.

Heider further commented that UPEI "hope[s] this government will be persuaded by the electorate to give us better funding. . . . We want them to look at what is the fair amount of support for the University."

The audit also recommends that, due to resource

restrictions, a policy of academic prioritization should be implemented. This policy would help to regulate which programs are given the highest priority in times of financial difficulty.

"A mindless way to [cut programs] is to take a low enrolment program. Does [low enrolment] mean it's not an academic priority? I don't think so," said Heider.

He does agree that some kind of academic prioritization should be developed. Heider commented that people were reluctant to do so, and that

Continued on page 4

## Parlez-vous English?

Psychology student H el ene Deacon makes waves with her honours thesis

By RANDY MCDONALD

Fourth-year student H el ene Deacon -- profiled last week after winning a Rhodes Scholarship -- is attracting a lot of academic interest with her innovative thesis on bilingualism in children and its effects.

For her honours thesis, Deacon chose to investigate the effects of bilingualism on children, with the aid of UPEI psychology instructor J. Paul Boudreau.

Deacon's interest in bilingualism stems from her background as the daughter of an Anglophone father and a Francophone mother. When her older brother was born, her mother usually didn't speak

French at home; even today, he can understand both written and spoken French, but he isn't fluent in spoken French. By contrast, when Ms. Deacon was a young child, her mother had begun to talk more French around home.

She holds that her mother differing language use had a major effect on the language abilities of her two children. In this, she is supported by recent studies. Until comparatively recently, specialists in language acquisition had felt that a young child who learned two or more languages would be confused.

A slew of studies in the past thirty years, though, have revealed that this stereotype is quite false.

As a general rule, young

children who are fluent in two languages tend to benefit strongly, possessing significantly better cognitive skills and larger vocabularies than their unilingual counterparts.

"If you know that a chair can also be a *chaise*," suggests Deacon, "then you know that an object can have more than two names ... a rose by any other name is still a rose."

A bilingual person has a tremendous advantage in language skills and general intelligence. Studies further suggest that children who learn a second language before the age of 7 end up experiencing the most benefit from their second language.

Continued on page 4

## The Cadre

550 University Avenue  
Charlottetown, PEI C1A 4P3  
phone 902.566.0629 fax 902.566.0979  
<newspaper@upei.ca>

The Cadre is the official newspaper of the students of UPEI. It is published 10 times per semester. 2500 copies are distributed on and off campus on Tuesday. Deadlines for advertisements and submissions are Friday at 12:00 noon, without exception. The Cadre is member of the Canadian University Press (CUP), a cooperative of 50 university and college newspapers.

The opinion expressed within the Cadre do not necessarily represent the views of UPEI or of the UPEI Student Union Inc.

Editor-in-Chief	Karen Rawlines
Managing Editor	Brody Morrison
Production Editor	Sarah Murphy
News Editor	Melissa Doucette
Reporter	Randy McDonald
A&E Editor	Vacant
Photographer	Richard Haines
Advertising Manager	Vacant
Circulation	Brian Herrell
Graphics & Cover Art	Luke Leunes
Office Assistant	Madonna MacDonald

Contributors: Cynthia Dennis, Marc MacDonald, Jeremy Nelson, Ryan O'Connor, Steven McQuaid, Mark Rawlines, Rob MacIsaac, and Pauline Tran.

Next deadline: Friday, January 29th at 12:00 noon