

Administrative tyranny causes conflict in Acadia University

Reprinted from the Silhouette

WOLFVILLE (CUP)—At Acadia University, students recently stayed up five nights in a row to create snow sculptures for the annual winter carnival.

The day before the carnival began, and while students were in class, one sculpture (a toilet bowl) was chopped down by university officials.

The action was typical of the type of administrative control exercised over student affairs at Acadia. It served to enflame a prolonged battle between students and the administration stretching back to the fall term, and highlighted by the co-ed calendar censorship at the university last month.

It is a strange conflict, pitting the administration against the student council, the student newspaper The Athenaeum and a large section of the faculty.

BATTERED IMAGE

One result of this fight has been a surprising amount of public attention focused on the small Nova Scotia university, and a severe battering of the university's image, which was just recovering from the attempt by the region's Baptist Convention last summer to prevent all but Christian professors from teaching there.

A great deal of the problem has to do with student resistance to an overwhelming number of rules, written and unwritten, set up to control rigidly the lives of students.

Students maintain that such rules have no place in the academic community; University officials claim that the university has the responsibility to act in the place of the parents.

The result is that students—especially females—find themselves saddled with far more restrictions than they ever had at high school or at home.

There are rules for everything. Quoting at random from the women's residence by-laws, we find: "Students are expected to sign out whenever they leave their residence to be out later than 7:30 p.m. . . ."

"As university organizations provide adequate forms of entertainment on the campus, women are not permitted to attend public dances . . ."

"Women may send long distance calls with charges reversed or over pay telephones. There should not be any outgoing or incoming calls on any telephone after 11:30 . . ."

"Baths and showers shall not be allowed after 11:30 p.m. . . ."

"Any young woman having a car on campus must register it with the Provost and the Dean of Women."

"Young women are not permitted to visit men's residences nor their apartment."

And girls are not allowed to live off-campus while attending Acadia, unless they are post-graduates. Girls have been expelled from Acadia for violating these rules.

There is an elaborate leave system set up for co-eds which reads like this: "Seniors are allowed late leaves after 7:30 p.m. any night; Juniors three; Sophettes two; Freshettes one, besides Saturday and Sunday nights. Dance leave on Saturday night does not count as at late leave."

There are ways of getting out after 7:30 p.m. and not having it counted as a late leave. Students can work on certain organizations or sit on council and not have it counted as a night out; yet, if a student wished to go to the Library she would have to use a late leave. This means, for example, that Freshettes are permitted, by university regulation, to go to the library **JUST ONE NIGHT A WEEK.**

And the rules are sometimes dangerous.

TIGHTER THAN A DRUM

Every night, as soon as the leaves are over, each women's residence is locked up tighter than a drum. Not only is it impossible to get into the women's residences after hours, it is impossible to get out.

Since some of the residences are very old, and since none of them has firebars on the doors, there is a serious fire threat to the lives of the girls locked up in the residences night after night.

The university impinges on the prerogative of the law in some cases.

One rule, printed in the university calendar, states that "all occupants of student bachelor apartments shall agree to inspection of their apartments by a member of the administrative or provost staff if such visits are found necessary or desirable by the latter party in the best interests of the university."

INSPECT APARTMENTS

"If it is found that in the opinion of the administration conduct in any student bachelor apartment be found to be detrimental to the interests and good name of the University, said student occupants) shall be ordered to vacate the apartment under penalty of the occupants being dropped from the roll of the university."

There are signs that things are changing at Acadia, however.

When Dean of Women Ethel V. Kinsman had a girl's motor scooter impounded this fall and announced a new rule that girls were forbidden to ride them, pressure from the student newspaper forced an immediate rescinding of the rule.

The incident sparked a petition signed by one half of Acadia's female students asking for permission to rewrite the women's constitution, and brought to the forefront two girls who took over the fight for women's rights on campus.

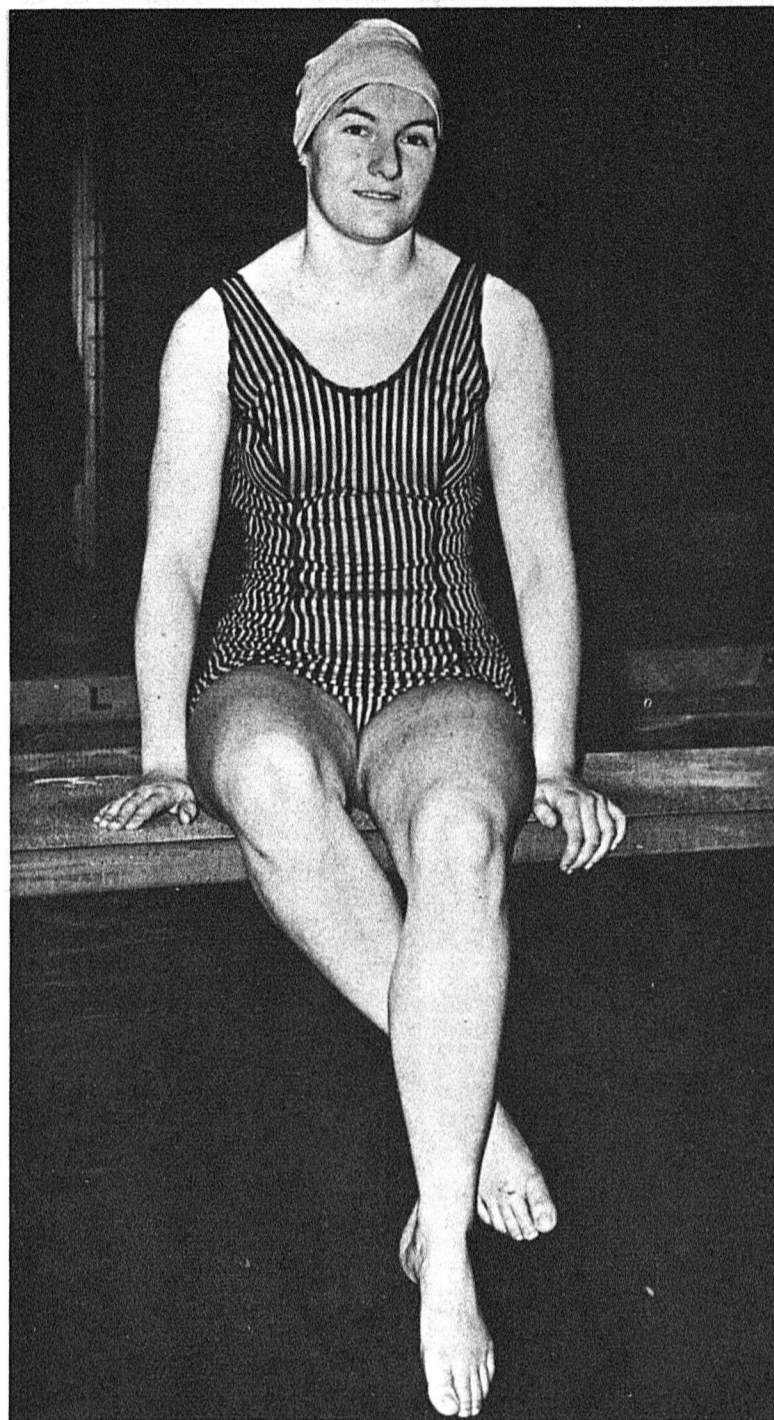
One, an American, became disillusioned and left campus. The other, a Quebec girl, has just been elected president of the girls' Propylaeum Society, the organization controlling female activity on campus.

SEXY CALENDAR

Last month's co-ed calendar impounding has also started a chain reaction.

Because of the administration's action, students' union lawyers are studying the whole area of student discipline on campus; the students' union is obtaining a legal brief on incorporation; and the Students' Judicial Committee, used by the University Provost to popularize student punishments, is in danger of being abolished by the Students' Representative Council.

Just as the destruction of the snow sculpture was symbolic of administration action, the reaction of the students involved was symbolic of the new resistance movement on campus: after finding their sculpture in ruins, the students simply rebuilt it.



—Neil Driscoll photo

SYNCHRONIZED PANDA—Penny Winters, a member of both the U of A synchronized swim team and the Panda swimming team, takes it easy for a minute at Varsity Pool. Swimming is one of the more than 30 minor sports which are played on campus.

SUPA project typifies group's involvement

Social consciousness is changing and former protest movements are changing with it, says Tom Goodenough of the Student Union for Peace Action.

Goodenough outlined SUPA's proposed summer project which exemplifies their involvement in community affairs.

The local SUPA group will express its involvement in the form of providing new dimensions and information to the lower socio-economics class and providing more adequate community day nurseries for wrking mothers in Edmonton.

Goodenough said that the changing times logically lead to the evolution of the new left or activist outlook as opposed to the protest movement.

"Protest marches have seized to serve the purpose of initiating public concern," said Mr. Goodenough, "at best they serve only as a constant reminder that disension still remains."

SUPA, being a part of the new move, logically internalized the theme of greater social involvement. Because of the newness of the move, the end and the means are still relatively obscure. At present SUPA is concerned with creation of contacts within the

community and the discovery of avenues of approach to community participation in social work projects.

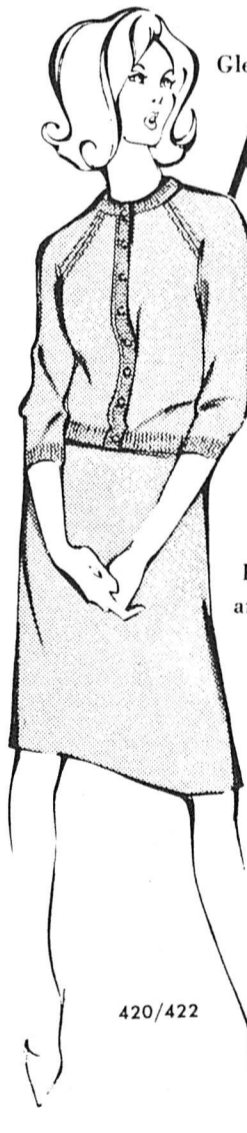
High school chemistry up-dated

The chemistry department has established a program to help some of the better high school chemistry teachers to up-date their knowledge.

Each year one high school teacher is selected to spend a year at the university as a sessional instructor. His education is supplemented so he can return to high school a better chemistry teacher.

Dr. W. F. Allen of the chemistry department emphasizes the tremendous changes taking place. Many things taught in high school today were not taught to first-year university students ten years ago.

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