

Cadre editor threatened with lawsuit and expulsion

CHARLOTTETOWN (CUP) - University of Prince Edward Island (UPEI) president Ronald Baker has threatened the editor of the campus student newspaper with a law suit and expulsion.

Carol Patterson, editor of the Cadre, says Baker is reacting to Articles published in the paper's

Feb. 16 edition. The articles asked students to rate professors for teaching effectiveness and abilities and then to decide how many points they rated between 9,000 and 34,500 for their contribution to the university. The president, comptroller and registrar were included in the point rating.

Students were then asked to check their points against the Cadre's allotment of points. The points were actually the individuals' salaries. The article included a discussion of why each administrative person was awarded so many points and the benefits that went with the position.

Baker apparently fears his salary becoming public knowledge. A former Simon Fraser University professor, he came to UPEI when it was formed by the merger of two colleges in 1969. He was seventh on the list of presidential preferences drawn up by the selection committee.

Apparently Baker earns less at UPEI than he did at Simon Fraser and fears the Cadre's story might reach the west coast through the student press organization, Canadian University Press, to which the Cadre belong. The story would then make it appear he had been fired from the west coast institution and had had his standing lowered becoming UPEI president.

Baker called Patterson Feb. 19 at 12:30 p.m. and asked her to make an appointment with his office at her earliest convenience. She consulted the Cadre staff and visited Baker at 3:30 the same day. The staff stood behind publication of the articles.

The UPEI president is normally calm, Patterson said. But the minute she walked into his office, Baker asked "Why do you hate the university?" He was trembling and striding about the room, she added.

He threatened her with expulsion and legal action during the office interview. He did not allow her to bring another Cadre staff member to the meeting, so as Patterson put it, "It's only my word against his and his carries a lot more weight."

But the other staff member, news editor Kath Roach, was waiting two offices away during the meeting and says she Baker's shouts from that distance.

Baker threatened the suit over such phrases in the article as: "Not only did R.J., as the students affectionately refer to him, have the suave tenacity, foresight and sincerity to bring this fledgling university from a fourth rate nothing university to where it is today, but he was able to look after himself while doing it."

Baker lives in a \$70,000 house, complete with maid service, wall-to-wall carpet and paid-for utilities and upkeep. It costs him

\$200 a month, while students must pay more than \$250 a month to live in a residence room on campus. Baker also receives a generous expense account and a car.

Baker also objected to the reference to registrar Michael Hennessey which mentioned he was toasted with a round of "Tomato juice" for his contribution to the university. He extended his criticism to a review of the university fund-raising pamphlet, "Canada's newest educational Thrust." The Cadre panned the pamphlet and supposedly hurt the fund-raising campaign, although Patterson thinks the reaction is unrealistic.

The Cadre's most quotable quote of the year also drew some attention. Registrar Hennessey was quoted in a letter to departmental chairman as saying: "We're not interested in making you work; we just like to be kept in the picture so we can assist students."

Patterson said the president is calling people into his office one-by-one to discuss the situation with them. He is also rumored to have threatened to fail all the students who worked on the Feb. 16 edition of the Cadre. Apparently he is trying to work through the staffers' professors.

Patterson is also asking members of the PEI legislature to raise the matter in the provincial house. Through opposition Progressive Conservative MLA's, she hopes to have the UPEI salaries tabled in the house and have questions raised about the president's luxurious living style.

Baker is also receiving publicity from non-campus media. The question of his living style was raised in the local CBC news program which mentioned what students paid for residence rooms compared to what Baker pays for his house.

Patterson and the Cadre has received support from the UPEI student union and many UPEI students.

At many campuses

Surprising election results

SUDBURY (CUP) - Students at Laurentian University have elected two conservative commerce students to lead their student council during the next academic year.

In an election which surprised all Laurentian political observers, Malcolm Jacobs became student president and running-mate Roger Campeau became vice-president. The two campaigned on a ticket pledging students an "efficient management team" to run their affairs. They presented an unabashed image as straight, clean-cut commerce lads dedicated to the introduction of sound business principles to the student council bureaucracy, and very little else. The election produced an unusually large student turnout.

Current French vice-president Rejean Grenier, who was expected to win easily, placed a poor third. Grenier is somewhat of a left-liberal, closely identified with this year's lack-lustre council leadership. But that leadership managed to convince more than 50 percent of Laurentian students to withhold their fees in the abortive Ontario Federation of Students tuition strike which ended earlier this month.

Jacobs and Campeau strongly oppose independence for Lambda, the Laurentian student newspaper. The current council leadership was working on a proposal for severing ties between the council and the

paper, assessing a separate publications fee, and incorporating the paper under provincial laws. The proposal failed to pass the last council meeting because it required two-thirds approval. Although it passed 10-0 with the conservative victory, Lambda's independence is uncertain.

Meanwhile York University students also elected an ultra-conservative student council president by a narrow margin over a candidate backed by the so-called United Left Slate.

Michale Mouritsen, the chairman of the faculty of arts council beat Young Socialist Dale Rich 434-414. The candidate supported by this year's president, John Theobald, finished far behind. But eight members of the United Left Slate won council seats. The Slate included three Trotskyites but 11 supporters of the Waffle and independent leftists. Theobald won a council seat but the legality is being questioned because the former president took only one course this year. Mouritsen apparently favors independence for the campus student paper, Excalibur.

Earlier, students at Acadian University in Wolfville, Nova Scotia, cast a massive protest vote against a student council rule prohibiting a first-year student from running for council president.

Although his name was not on the ballot, some 37 percent of the

students voting cast write-in ballots for James Johnson, a former University of New Brunswick student, currently in his first year at Acadia. Current vice-president of student affairs, Keith MacKinnon, won 54 percent of the votes and claimed he had gained enough of a mandate to take office. More than 40 percent of the students cast ballots.

Many students demanded a new election with Johnson's name appearing on the ballot, along with MacKinnon's. MacKinnon refused.

At Carleton University, current vice-president Ann Frazer was easily elected student council president. She defeated a candidate running for the Stop the Student Surcharge Committee as 15 percent of eligible voters turned out at the polls. The SSC, a Canadian Liberation Movement front group, had bitterly attacked student council policy toward government fee increases and student award restrictions. The group had alleged the council leadership had deliberately scuttled the fees strike to gain favor with the Carleton administration. Seven SSSC members won council seats, four by acclamation.

In another eastern student election, Dalhousie University students elected Mike Gardiner, a third-year math student president over the favored Ian Campbell. Campbell, apparently backed by current president Brian Smith, was treasurer of the Dalhousie Student Union a year ago. He placed a poor third.

The former Dalhousie Gazette staff, who went on strike Feb. 1 to protest the current council's appointment of a non-staff editor, had three staff members elected to the council and Senate. Two were chosen as arts representatives and the third as a Senate representative. Another staff member failed to be selected to sit on the Senate.

The new council, with help from the Gazette staff members, is expected to attempt reversing the current council's decision not to appoint the staff choice as editor of the newspaper for the next year.

Speakers' Bureau

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no fees will be solicited for speakers.

Since the Speakers' Bureau has been organized primarily to provide a service for the people of New Brunswick, and as an agency through which the university may extend its educational programs,

For further details, a copy of the program or requests for speakers, contact the Department of Information at UNB.

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