

# THE PICARO

October 27, 1998

Volume 34 Issue 4

www.picaro.ns.ca



Emily Murray, BPR, was this fall's Valedictorian. She gave her speech to fellow graduates at convocation on October 18. *Sandor Fizli*

## To print or not to print

### *Should The Picaro have taken back the bullshit?*

By Kelly Dugan

Controversy rocked the Mount after *The Picaro* published Stephen Brown's provocative opinion piece in its last issue. In wake of the turmoil, members of Metro's journalistic community have differing views on whether or not *The Picaro* should have published "Take Back the Bullshit."

#### *Against Publishing the Article*

*The Chronicle-Herald's* opinion on the matter was clearly stated in its Oct. 7 editorial "Trash as the Mount." It said Brown's piece abused freedom of speech, lacked common decency and "clearly went

over the edge in an unsuccessful attempt to make a point against male stereotyping."

Natalie MacLellan, editor-in-chief of the *Dalhousie Gazette*, said she wouldn't have printed the article. She felt it had a valid message but needed more thought and reworking because it crossed the line of good taste.

#### *For Publishing the Article*

Bruce Wark, a journalism professor at King's, supported *The Picaro's* decision to publish the article. After acknowledging how strong words—

like those in "Take Back the Bullshit"—can hurt people, he went on to explain how everyone gets offended by something, so drawing a fair line between bad taste and freedom of expression is impossible. He also said for society to evolve, people need a forum to express their opinions.

*The Coast* entered the debate by running a piece entitled: "Don't Take Back the Bullshit" on Oct. 15. Although Lezlie Lowe's article called Brown's argument "most evidently unsound," it also stated "[The] piece was at least an interesting, thought-provoking, caustic read. It was everything it needed to be to have a place in *The Picaro*."

#### *What's Inside...*



You thought that midterms were a crisis; then you weren't at the Swissair 111 Crisis-Communication Forum.

... page 3



Speaking of crisis, here it is folks, the voice of the people: Letters to the Editor in copious quantities.

... pages 15-19



Immortal classics in crisis? Not according to Neptune, which has taken a bite out of that myth with the new *Dracula* musical.

... page 23



# New faces elected to student union

By Susan Stewart

The student union (SU) by-elections of Oct. 12 and 13 declared James Tilley, Matte Stevenson and Melissa Melanson winners.

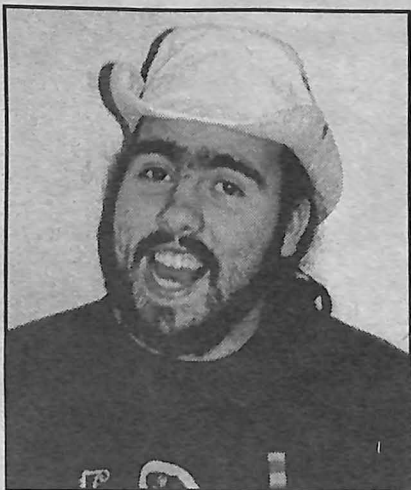
Tilley steps into office as internal vice-president, joining Sheldon Miller, Allison Druhan, Margaret-Anne McIntosh and Ron Pottie as the newest executive member. "I've wanted to be a part of the executive for a couple of years now," said Tilley. "It's a great opportunity to improve campus life for Mount students."

Melanson is now residence representative, and Stevenson has the title of off-campus representative.

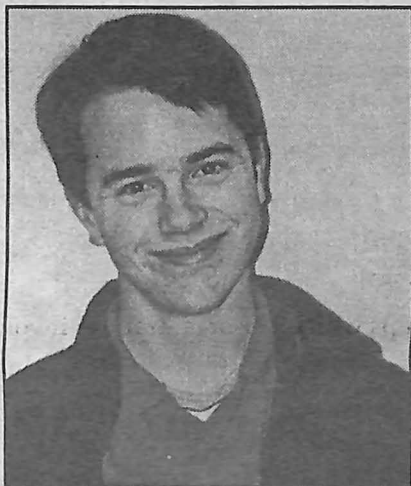
Five per cent of the student population voted this fall, compared to 12 per cent last spring. "Generally voter count is quite low in fall by-elections," said elections chief returning officer, Crista Stone. "It's a very busy time of year for students. Many other issues take priority; like mid-terms and Thanksgiving."

In addition, Tilley feels many students didn't bother to vote because there were only three candidates.

The newly elected officials are faced with the challenge of listening to all students, and representing them both in meetings and within the campus community.



**James Tilley**



**Matte Stevenson**



**Melissa Melanson**

## Internal Vice President

Carlee Portolesi - 86  
James Tilley - 98  
Abstain - 5  
Spoiled - 1

Total Voters - 190

## Off Campus Representative

Matte Stevenson  
Yes - 128  
No - 2  
Abstain - 5

Total Voters - 139

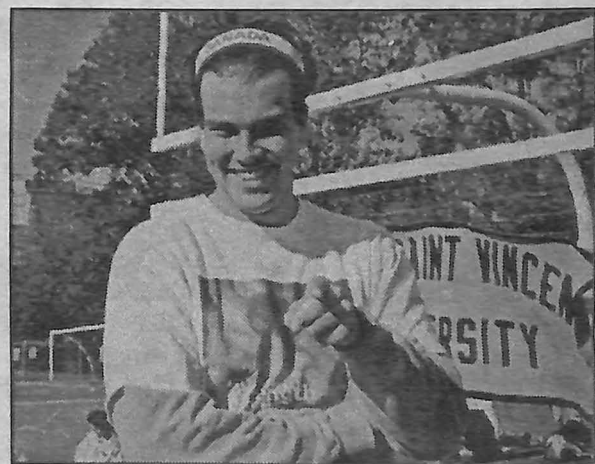
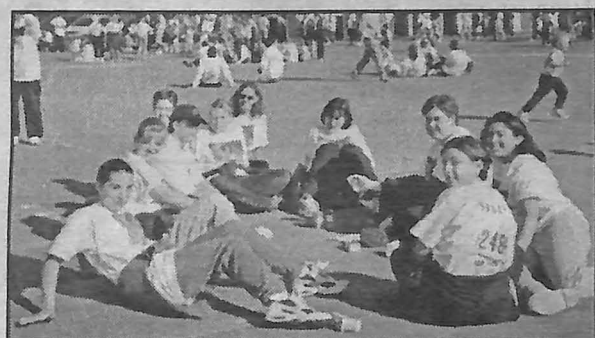
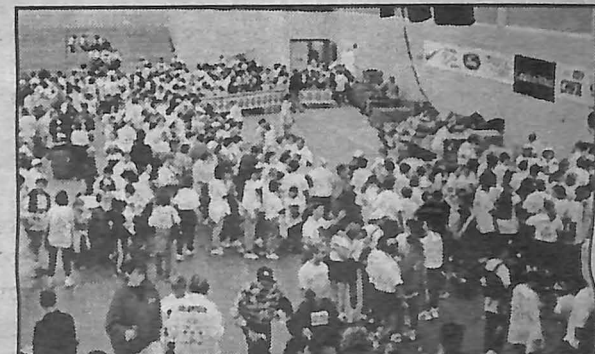
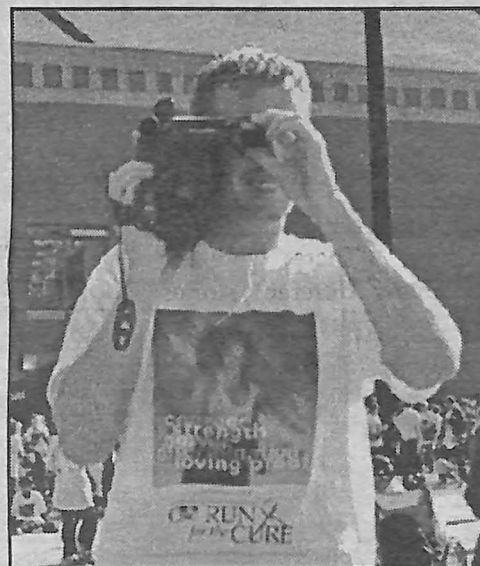
## Residence Representative

Melissa Melanson  
Yes - 48  
No - 2  
Abstain - 3

Total Voters - 53

# Scenes from this year's RUN for the CURE

Photos by Crista Stone





## Volume 34 Issue 4

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Jenn Parker  
Maureen Riley  
Susan Stewart  
Crista Stone  
Tyson White  
and various opinion writers

The Picaro is dedicated to informing, challenging and entertaining the students of MSVU, and to provide them with a forum to air their views.

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Crisis Communications panel: left to right, Mark Sitter *chair*, Kim Gildner *RCMP*, Frank Skidmore *RCMP*, Michele LaVigne *Red Cross*, Mirriam Murray *Communications NS*, Timm Dunn *Department of National Defense*, Kevin Cox *Globe and Mail*

Chris Mooney

## Mount hosts PR forum to learn from Swissair tragedy

By Jenn Parker

The Mount's public-relations (PR) society hosted a forum for students and professionals on Oct. 14 to discuss and analyze the communications efforts behind the crash of Swissair flight 111.

The forum brought together a panel of PR professionals from the RCMP, Red Cross, Communications Nova Scotia and the Department of National Defence (DND), as well as a reporter from the *Globe and Mail*. Each panelist provided the audience—which consisted of more than 70 curious observers—with unique insights into the tragedy.

All PR panelists were quick to admit, in situations like this disaster, planning and preparation go out the window. All agencies involved had crisis-communication plans in place before the crash, but weren't able to execute their strategies properly because of the chaos that precipitated the huge tragedy.

Kim Gilder of the RCMP said it wasn't until two weeks after the crash that she really had time to dig out and look at the Mountie's crisis-communication plan.

Instead of following the proper bureaucratic chain of command, numerous organizations banded together any way they could to effectively communicate to their

audiences. "You just do what works," said Major Tim Dunn, Department of National Defense.

Miriam Murray of Communications Nova Scotia said the agencies decided early on to share whatever information they had with each other.

"There were so many different stories and rumours as to what was happening out at the sight," she explained. "So we all agreed to share everything we heard. Often one of us could say 'Well that can't be right because I just talked to someone out there and they said this is going on,' so it really helped weed out the misinformation."

The panelist mentioned how the media was pushy and intrusive at times—especially when trying to talk with the families of victims. The RCMP stated specific areas were roped off at the sight so that family members could find refuge from reporters.

However, Kevin Cox, a reporter with the *Globe and Mail*, reminded the communicators that journalists don't have a magic pipeline to information. As he put it, "We need to be fed." Overall, Cox said he was pleased with the media-relations efforts by the various organizations involved in the crash.

### Key points from Swissair forum:

- In crisis situations, your organization must know its media contacts
- Always be available to the media, they rely on your information to write or produce stories
- Everything you hear in the first hours of a crisis is wrong
- The need for information in an emergency like this one is ongoing
- The search for new information in crises of this magnitude takes weeks, if not months
- Partnerships with other organizations involved in the crisis are key and allow you to rely on others for expertise you may not have

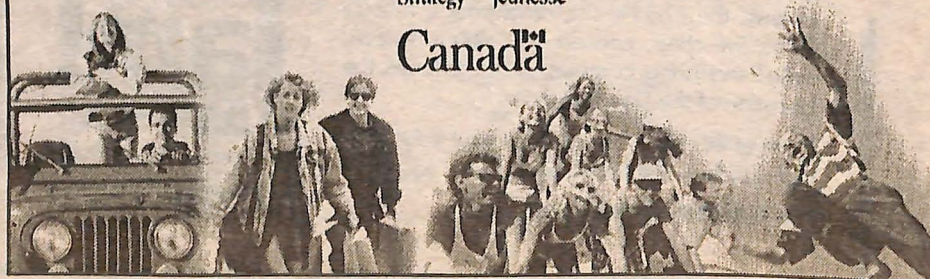
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Canada





## New health-plan firm may save Mount students money

By Maureen Riley

Mount students will save money on health insurance next year if the student union (SU) decides to join Campus Trust, a new benefits-trust company formed by the student unions of Memorial University of Newfoundland, Acadia University and the University of Western Ontario.

Currently, students who opt for the Mount's health-benefit plan pay \$185 per year to The Mutual Life Assurance Company of Canada.

Joining the alliance would mean students will have access to increased and more controllable insurance coverage at a reduced rate. At the

end of each year, money that does not go back to the students in claims will be kept in the trust plan to increase benefits and decrease premiums for the following year.

SU president Sheldon Miller supports the organization because students will be the ones to save money; not the insurance companies. "Campus Trust will not only remove a layer of administration, thereby reducing costs, but it will increase the transparency and accountability of student health plans, which has been a concern of Mount students in the past,"

he says.

Representatives from Mutual Life were not available for comment.

Miller also says SU will monitor the tri-university pact in the months ahead before deciding to join. "The first year will be a learning experience for the organization," he says. "[SU] feels it may be more beneficial for Mount students to become involved after the bugs have been worked out."

Should SU decide to join Campus Trust, computerized operations will make the claims and registration process cheaper and faster.

## Mount and NSCHE to reassess provincial funding formula

By Matt Burns

After being allotted less than \$70,000 from the Nova Scotia Council on Higher Education's (NSCHE) three-year funding formula, Mount Saint Vincent University (MSVU) will be working with the Council to reassess the current criteria for receiving funding.

Dalhousie.

The present funding formula's allocation criteria put great emphasis on providing money to institutions which offer courses with high "direct" and "indirect" costs. Direct costs include faculty salaries and classroom supplies,

"We want to work with the Mount to look at why this case is so unusual," says Susan Clark, executive director, NSCHE. "What we will look at is how much more it costs to train part-time students."

Adding to sentiments expressed by the Mount's administration, student union president Sheldon Miller says: "The present formula doesn't reflect the [demographic] distinctiveness [of Mount students]."

The NSCHE also shares this sentiment. In its recommendations to government, the Council says the Mount was "substantially and adversely affected by almost every aspect of the funding formula review. [This] is of concern to the Council."

**"The present formula doesn't reflect the demographic distinctiveness of Mount students."**  
- Sheldon Miller MSVUSU president

Last month, the provincial government accepted recommendations from the NSCHE to increase university funding by \$23.8 million over three years. MSVU's share of that increase was \$69,064—compared to \$827,512 for King's, \$2.6 million for Acadia, \$3.6 million for Saint Mary's, \$4.1 million for Saint Francis Xavier, and \$9 million for

while indirect costs relate to computer usage, library holdings and overhead costs.

The Mount, a university mainly populated by non-traditional students, feels the allocation criteria don't put enough emphasis on providing special funding for part-time students. The Council wants to explore this concern further.



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# Students across Canada protest tuition fee hikes

Source: Cadre, Link, Varsity, Manitoban  
By The Canadian University Press

(CUP) Students across Canada took to the streets last week to protest rising tuition fees, changes to federal bankruptcy laws and the corporatization of post-secondary education.

During three days of protest organized by the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), university students marched, rallied and used creative methods to make themselves heard.

The national student lobby group has called for several changes in federal and provincial education policy over the past year, including a national system of student grants and tuition freeze. It has also called on the Liberal government to restore transfer payments to 1993 levels before deep cuts were instituted.

Students at the University of Prince Edward Island in Charlottetown distributed information sheets about recent changes to the federal Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act, which critics say discriminates against students by prohibiting them from declaring bankruptcy for the first ten years after leaving school.

Those on their way to classes were also invited by activists to sign a banner insisting post-secondary education remain publicly accessible.

Organizers hoped their efforts between Oct. 13 and Oct. 16 would spur student interest in the issues, since turnout at past demonstrations has been low.

"We felt that maybe students don't know enough about what's going on, and therefore are not as interested in the issues," said Melissa Doucette, who's in charge of CFS at UPEI. She said the Days

of Action represented a chance to get students more involved, despite an apparent resignation to the increasing cost of education. "There's this rut of resignation," she said on why organizing students on her campus

said. "[But] they stop once they hear the words 'student debt' and realize it pertains to them," he said.

McGill students were also encouraged to sign their name on a sculpture designed by



James Tilley - Photo File

## Students all over Canada trumpeted their displeasures over university costs.

is difficult. "But it's so wrong. The more you exercise your voice, the more things change.

"Students need to have an awareness of education and of their rights as students. "There is a lot of hope. All we have to do is exercise our voices."

In Montreal, students camped out to protest student debt.

They pitched tents in front of McGill University's administration office for four days last week to try to raise awareness about tuition-fee hikes and the corporatization of universities.

Dan Mongraw, an economics student at McGill who participated in the camp-out between last Wednesday and Saturday, said he was worried by the cool response he and other protesters received from fellow students.

"People walk by and they automatically don't want to listen," he

Concordia fine-arts student Stacey Miller. The "Debt Wall" contained small cardboard bricks upon which students were asked to record their name and outstanding debt.

Miller, who's concerned about how much money she'll owe when she graduates, said the amassed debt of students is overwhelming.

The national debt is being pushed onto students, she added.

"The government is taking student money to pay off interest rates it owes to the banks," she said. "In turn students have to take out bank loans with high interest rates. The banks always seem to be winning."

About 350 students in Montreal also rallied in front of the Montreal Stock Exchange last Thursday to show their discontent with Canada's banks and large corporations.

They had planned to enter the building, but the doors were locked upon their arrival.

Despite the presence of about 30 Montreal police riot-squad officers, about 20 protesters entered the stock exchange later in the afternoon.

Three students were arrested following the incident and at least one was charged with mischief and damages of less than \$5000 for being inside the stock exchange.

In Toronto, more than 500 university, college and high-school students rallied in front of the provincial legislature after a march through downtown streets.

Among other things, they denounced the Ontario Progressive Conservative government's decision last May to deregulate tuition fees, which effectively removes the limits on what each university can charge as user fees to students.

Following deregulation, the University of Toronto immediately increased medical school fees by 64 per cent, meaning first-year students are now required to pay

more than \$8,000 for their first year of studies in up-front user fees alone.

"I want a future, not a big debt," Krystal Kraus, a first-year student in social work at Ryerson University, wrote in chalk.

York University student Blair Dowell says the fact hundreds of people showed up for the Toronto march reflects widening disenchantment among Ontario students regarding the Tory government's changes to education.

Since the Mike Harris government came to power in 1995, more than \$400 million has been cut from post-secondary education.

"For every one from York who participates, there's another 100 more who agree [with what demonstrators were trying to say]," said Dowell.

In Winnipeg, about 300 students condemned Ottawa for its lack of commitment to post-secondary education last Friday by marching through the city.

"I came here because I think it's disgusting that at 22 years of age, I should

be \$15,000 in debt," said protester Aynsley Dunford.

"The protest was really empowering," she added. "It's good to see because there's a certain stigma attached to having to get student loans but it's a necessity for some people. It's something that needs to be fixed because it's not a good way to start out the rest of your life: in debt."

The march was followed by a rally at the University of Winnipeg where students and provincial and federal government representatives spoke about education.

"It was wonderful to know that we were a part of an effort across the country to raise awareness regarding post-secondary education," said New Democratic Party representative Judy Wasylicia-Leis.

After the rally, about 60 demonstrators occupied the Manitoba Student Financial Assistance building for seven hours, with each hour intended to represent \$1 billion of the total \$7 billion that's been cut from post-secondary education and training since 1993



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## University of Manitoba student newspaper threatened with shut-down

Source: Prairies Bureau Chief  
By Jeremy Nelson

WINIPEG (CUP) — University of Manitoba students may soon be without their campus newspaper thanks to a controversial motion passed at the student union's general meeting.

The motion orders the University of Manitoba student union to cut the six-dollar-per-student levy the newspaper, the Manitoban, presently receives to four dollars per student for the 1999-2000 publishing year, and to two dollars for all following years.

The motion was introduced last week by engineering students' representative Chad Silverman, who began by saying "the Manitoban sucks."

The general meeting is the only event where average students can make direct motions, providing quorum of 200 is reached.

"I voted in favour of the motion because I felt I was paying out too much to different student organizations," said Silverman, adding that many engineers were also angry about the removal of a cartoon the paper used to run.

The syndicated comic strip was pulled after students expressed concerns it was sexist.

Under the newspaper's budget for the 1998-1999 publishing year, two dollars per student would not even cover the cost of printing the paper.

The motion received little discussion. It is now before a student council committee before being sent for final approval by the student union.

However, the motion may be retroactively ruled out-of-order because it may have violated student union by-laws. The regulations state

motions must be posted well prior to meetings so students have an opportunity to express their views before a vote.

"We are talking to our lawyers to discover whether the motion was appropriate and a legal motion, and then

legal action against the student union and those involved in the motion if it is not ruled out-of-order, said the paper's editor Ed Janzen.

He says the motion not only violates student union bylaws but also flies in

autonomy.

"I was struck by the disorganization and the contradictory nature of the [motion] organizers' complaints with the Manitoban," said Janzen.

He added the six dollars each student pays to finance the paper isn't that expensive. "The six-dollar levy works out to 25 cents per student per issue, which is a very small amount, especially when you take into account that we are charged with the responsibility of covering events and issues at one of Canada's largest universities."

"Student union collects 30 times the amount students pay to the Manitoban."

### Under the newspaper's budget for the 1998-1999 publishing year, two dollars per student would not even cover the cost of printing the paper.

they'll take it from there," said Kelly Friesen, director of public relations for the student union.

The Manitoban will also considering

the face of a 1997 referendum in which 1,814 students voted in favour of both the \$6 levy and giving the Manitoban full editorial and financial

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## Provincial awards program good model for Millennium Fund: Tobin

Source: Muse

By Michael Connors and Sean Ryan

ST. JOHN'S (CUP) — Students in Newfoundland say their new provincial awards program would serve as a good model for the federal Millennium Scholarship Fund.

The structure and needs-based eligibility criteria of the \$4-million awards program could also be applied to the federal fund, students feel.

Newfoundland Premier Brian Tobin agrees.

"We're so pleased with the first cut of this and how it worked that we've said... to the federal government and [Human Resources Development Minister] Pierre Pettigrew recently that they ought to take a look at this program as a bit of a model as to how the Millennium Scholarship Fund ought to work," Tobin said.

Established in the last provincial budget, the provincial program is designed to bridge the funding gap for students in financial need between now and the year 2000, when the \$2.5-billion Millennium Fund

is set to kick in.

Over the next two years, about 4,000 undergraduate students in publicly-funded programs across the province will receive between \$500 and \$1,000. According to provincial figures, more than 2,000 students will receive awards during the 1998-99 academic year.

The awards will be

based structure of the program is something Ottawa should consider when finalizing the Millennium Fund.

"We would like to see the Millennium Fund, to the greatest extent possible, if not 100 per cent, be a needs-based program," he said.

Recipients of the provincial awards will be

### "We would like to see the Millennium Fund, to the greatest extent possible, if not 100 per cent, be a needs-based program."

- Brian Tobin, Newfoundland Premier

handed out on a needs basis as long as students have a clear academic standing and are past their first semester of study.

Tobin says the purpose of the awards is to provide a break for students with loans. "It's meant to address the problem of student indebtedness," he said.

He adds the needs-

selected through student loan applications. Those requiring more than \$1,000 than what's available through the loans program will receive half the value of their unmet need.

Tracey O'Reilly, president of the student union at Memorial University, says the automatic needs-based selection process will make

things easier for students.

"What we wanted to do was remove all the bureaucracy because there's enough as it is and it's really difficult to get through the whole student aid wrangle," she said.

O'Reilly also hopes the Millennium Fund will use the Newfoundland system as a frame of reference when finalizing how the fund will be administered.

Still, she says the provincial awards program won't solve the problem of increasingly unmanageable student debt-loads. "You can't fix insurmountable student debt with a \$500 cheque," she said.

Dale Kirby, president of the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Students, says his group would like to see a full-fledged grant program for students.

"We're looking for, if not a universal grants program ideally, a needs-based program that will give [a grant to] everyone who has to borrow," he said.



# DEPARTMENT OF REDUNDANCY DEPARTMENT\*

*"My father taught me to work, but I don't love it. I never did like work, and I don't deny it. I'd rather read, tell stories, crack jokes, talk, laugh—anything but work."*

—Abraham Lincoln

By Greg Jackson

It's been said that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. I don't think that's true. I think if anything it's a sign of laziness, absence of imagination or both. But I'm not going to feel guilty anymore about emulating someone else's writing style this year. I'm not going to feel guilty that I did it last year too. Forget it...let's not go there...it's a boring place to be.

(INSERT GOOD SEGUE HERE)

I've cut my hair. I've sharpened my smile. I've run out of money. I have to look for a job. Check that...not a job, but a career. A non-minimum wage, non-woods related real source of employment. One that doesn't start in May and end in September. One that if you quit may starvation. One that's the complete opposite of the fishbowl I live in now.

The prospect of a career that has caused me nothing but worry. I have an un-medicated, mesh stomach to prove it. I know what you're thinking. "Hey man! Why all the fuss, Guss? You're an able bodied human being (to a point). You're educated (sorta). You should be rarin' to take the career market by the skull, spin it around your head a few times then fling it into a corner. Whip out that PR trained schmoozability and go to work! There's tons of careers out there."

Ah yes, but there's just one problem. My brain won't let me do a job I hate. It's a survival mechanism really. My life is miserable enough, so I don't need to wake up every morning and go "Aw fuck! I have to go there again." It's one step towards a certain and untimely death.

People can get stuck in really shitty jobs. The sentence, "I'm only McWorking here so I can look for something better and still pay my bills. What I really want to be is an architect." gets repeated over and over again. Next thing you know you're 42, you have an ugly, fat wife, 2.5 stupid kids and an incontinent dog. All living, of course, in a well-mortgaged in Windsor. Can you smell the joy?

My brain can visualize the above scenario and fears it. Why? Because if I wake up one morning (after saying fuck) and this has become my life, my brain will undoubtedly end up splattered on the

bedroom wall and curtain and window and floor and ceiling and incontinent dog. It doesn't want that and will not let that happen. That selfish bastard.

I'm forced to choose a career wisely, like my life depends on it...because it does. But what's a brother to do? I'm not really experienced in anything. Well, at least not in my field anyway. You see, while smart people were out doing stuff they're being educated for, I was in the woods pushing trees in the ground. Only because at the time it was the perfect job. I work like mad for two months, get payed handsomely for my effort and live comfortably for the rest of the school year. When the summer money was gone, well hey! Look at that!! There's my student loan!! Thank you Canadian Taxpayer for my beer and education. Really, I mean it. Thanks.

That will all be over as of the end of this school year. Don't get me wrong, I want to work. It just has to be something that I find somewhat fulfilling. I mean think of it. What's the sense of continually doing something you hate? In THE END, your life was meaningless if you weren't happy with what you do or who you are. Stop being a bored, unhappy chartered accountant if what you really wanted to be was a porn star. Put down that pencil and start humpin'! If not, put this on your gravestone: FAILED MISERABLY.

My friend, Viva Las Vegas, told me she believes anyone has the potential to be anything they want. It's just that something or someone at sometime stood in their way. I agree with that...to a point. You know Hitler wanted to be a painter, but some damn fool said he wasn't good enough. Then he went into politics.

Ms. Las Vegas also told me she wanted to work like mad so that she could truly appreciate and enjoy any time off she felt she earned. I completely agree. There's nothing better than relaxing after a job well done. It's a cheezy cliché, but it's true. Until then though, I am not going to feel guilty anymore about my plan to skip the country when it comes time to pay back my student loans.

*\*The proceeding may or may not have happened.*



## Editor's Notes

*Tim Boudreau*  
Editor-in-Chief

## Answering the cyclone of criticism

The past few weeks have certainly been...interesting I guess is the best way to put it. This whole issue concerning Stephen Brown's editorial, "Take Back the Bullshit" has spiralled to proportions that I never would have imagined it would reach, and I must admit that I am reeling in the aftermath of the cyclone. I have received so much mail, and various other types of responses, that it became necessary to devote a great deal of space to letters. We have printed every letter received, save those sent without the writers name, word for word, so that nobody's voice is left unrepresented. I am certainly faced with several different points of view, as well as personal advice, criticisms, and condemnations. The remarks range from demands for retraction of the controversial bullshit article, criticisms towards my education and ability to be an editor coupled with calls for my resignation, to suggestions that Stephen and myself should be expelled from MSVU. On the other hand, people are crying their support, stating that Brown was right on the money, and that I was expressing good judgment, and ballsy behaviour in allowing the opinion piece to be run. More enthusiastically there are those critics who chastise my decision to apologize for the controversy, saying that I am guilty of "sorry back pedalling". I'm certainly faced with a lot of confusing and simultaneous messages. I ask myself several questions: "Should I feel bad for the controversy that I have allowed to happen? Should I apologize to the large amount of people who have been offended? Should I trumpet freedom of speech, and freedom of the press from the rooftops and hope that I am not expelled from school in the process of taking such an idealistic stance in defence of an opinion piece of which I do not even fully agree with?"

At the end of the day, after I have finished dealing with all of the incoming criticisms, some of them valid, some of them out to lunch, I am forced to sit down and form my own opinion as an editor, as well as a free thinking individual who also has the right to voice a distinct point of view. Here is my take on the whole issue and I'm afraid that I cannot please everyone in my assertions, but this is what I honestly think and feel.

First and foremost I do genuinely feel the need to apologize to the people who were so obviously, and profoundly offended by Brown's article. A valid point is raised by these individuals in saying that, as an editor, I have the responsibility to ensure that the content of The Picaro does not contain material which could be damaging to the readership. These individuals also point repeatedly to the Picaro's policy on refusing material which may be sexist or racist in nature. I know the policies of the Picaro, and stand by them, and am very aware of my responsibility in upholding them. I do admit a mistake of sorts, but I am incredibly reluctant to admit that I had a major lapse in judgment, or that my actions as an editor were negligent to the extreme. But I think it would be very stubborn, and unwise of myself to ignore the incredible amount of emotion that has been stirred up by this controversial opinion piece. I don't feel any shame in admitting a mistake, and sincerely apologising to the portion of my readership who felt attacked and offended by my decision to run Stephen's article. Even though opinion pieces, by their very nature, are supposed to stir up uncomfortable emotions, and challenge the complacency of some readers, I do not believe that opinion pieces are supposed to offend people to the extent that Brown's article obviously has. I believe that an opinion piece is supposed to open lines of communication between people of differing view points. The goal is to be conversational, not adversarial in nature. I believe that an effective opinion piece should be able to be read and enjoyed, or at least respected, by all readers regardless of their own personal politics. If the real point of an opinion piece is lost in an overwhelming surge of rage then I believe that the article really has failed to accomplish a very fundamental goal of writing: to get one's point across.

Now sometimes it is the point itself which is offensive to the reader's, and this is something that shouldn't be apologised for. I don't apologize if people have been offended by Stephen's opinion. But it seems apparent to me that many of the nay-sayers are not focusing on the point of Stephen Brown's opinion piece but rather the way in which his thoughts were iterated. I believe that, as an editor, I should have taken more time to address

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## Answering the cyclone of criticism

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the language that was being used in Stephen's editorial. There were some very powerful words used without any apparent responsibility, or respect for the power that they carry. Stephen did not respect their power, and neither, lamentably, did I. However, my final stance on the article is that Brown was not intending to attack any individual person, or group of people. Even though the language of the article was quite inflammatory, and it used some graphic images, the underlying intent of the piece was not to promote racist or sexist ideals. I believed then, and I believe now, that the purpose of "Take Back the Bullshit" was to address certain societal attitudes, and the way Brown felt personally about them, which was ultimately why I decided to run the piece. I don't think that Brown should be blacklisted for wanting to express his opinion about the way men sometimes feel, and I do not think that I should be criticised for providing him a forum in which he could present that opinion.

Now to those who believe that I should not be putting forward an apology at all I ask them to consider an important question: Is it perhaps acceptable that I do feel personally sorry for the damage that Stephen Brown's article has caused, and therefore isn't it also acceptable that I wish to apologize for that? I don't wish to "Backpedal", I'm not just trying to cover my ass, nor am I trying to distance myself from the article because I feel that it has become "too hot". I am trying to exhibit as much integrity as possible in this situation. I am trying to stand behind my editorial position, but at the same time I am also attempting to take responsibility for some of the trouble that has been created. I don't think that there is anything to be ashamed about in this pursuit. I am merely trying to communicate with all readers, and I am trying to make it clear that I understand every point of view out there, that I am attempting

to keep in mind everyone's concerns. I am not trying to say that Brown's article shouldn't have been run at all, I'm not saying that if I received it now that I would have flat refused to run it. All that I am saying is that if I received "Take Back the Bullshit" tomorrow that I would exhibit a great deal more responsibility in addressing the flippant use of the powerful language contained within. I would take more time to work with Brown to remove some of the statements which served no purpose other than to piss people off, and distract readers from the real point of the opinion piece.

Having said that, I will try and reassure my disgruntled readers that the Picaro will exhibit more maturity and responsibility in the future. We are all students here at the Picaro, with no formal training, trying to get hands on experience in the journalism trade. If it is the case that we have made a mistake we need to be able to learn from it.

On the other side of the spectrum there are individuals who fear that the Picaro will cease to run opinion pieces in the future which are as thought provoking, and challenging as the article written by Stephen Brown. I'm walking a very fine line on this issue. I do not intend to neuter the content of the Picaro. I do not want to turn the publication into an ultra-politically correct paper which never challenges the readership to think about important issues. We will continue to challenge, we will continue to present points of view which are both provocative and uncomfortable. However, we must begin to do this in the spirit of responsible journalism, and attempt to challenge our readers in a way which will not make them feel personally attacked. Wording is key, and I believe that it is possible to challenge ideas without inciting people to bloody rage. This is what the Picaro will do from now on. So to my critics who believe that I am exhibiting

cowardice in printing an apology, my ultimate policy is to communicate effectively. It is not to incite, or to inflame. I do not wish to further bury important points of view in a sea of inflammatory rhetoric. Rhetoric is just that, rhetoric. It is a series of aimless words which are not meant to inform, but to insult and I will no longer tolerate that sort of "communication" in the Picaro. As far as I am concerned, anything that is worth saying is capable of being stated in a manner which is both well written, and respectful. The Picaro has always been a respectful publication, and it will continue to be such after this entire issue is settled.

I know that there are also a lot of students out there who are concerned about the content of the Picaro. It is true that each and every student pays a student union fee which helps pay for the Picaro's printing. Understandably then students would like to have a certain amount of say into what is printed in the Picaro. An editorial in the Chronicle Herald suggested that the students of MSVU should take back control of the Picaro. I find this suggestion to be highly ridiculous considering the fact that the student body already has a great deal of control over what is printed in the Picaro. Anybody can write for us, about anything they wish. Anybody can run for editorship. Everybody is welcome to attend staff meetings every Monday at 2:00pm. If you, the student, feel that there is an issue, or a point of view not being represented in the Picaro then I urge you to come to a meeting, get a hold of one of the editors, or just write up your article and send it in signed with your name.

So hopefully we can put this whole issue behind us. I don't know about you, but I'm really sick of hearing about it myself. *Its time to move on* and to try our hardest to learn something from this entire ordeal.

## Re-visiting the Bullshit

By Rhonda Simser

The Picaro recently published an opinion piece by Stephen Brown, entitled, "Take Back The Bullshit". Since the piece has sparked many opposing views, and because The Picaro is predominantly male, I thought as the only female currently on staff (as there are still positions to be filled), I should say a few words about the article, and my own personal opinion on the whole matter.

I have had some people ask me why the editor, Tim Boudreau, run the piece, well, I cannot answer that, but I can tell you that had he not run the article, it could have bordered on censorship, which is something The Picaro does not wish to have a hand in.

I agree with many of the comments that called the piece offensive, some of it was blatantly over the top. But if you read it as we did at The Picaro, you would know the point Stephen Brown was trying to make. As the only female working on the paper, people may wonder if I hold the views of Brown, as I did nothing to prevent the article from running. Technically, I do not have a final say as to what goes into the paper, but I am sure if I had taken a

stronger opposition to the article, it might not have run. I didn't have a big problem with the article. Yes, I agree with those of you who say the tone, or the way he went about making his point, wasn't the best way, but I do not believe in censorship. I believe in people's right to say what they want — vulgar or not.

Many people think that whatever I say, is what I am being told to say so I do not go against the paper and the views or opinions of the rest of the staff. That could not be further from the truth. I have my own opinion, and my very own views on this whole matter, and they are heard by the rest of the staff, no matter what their gender. My voice is as strong as any male voice on this paper. Which brings me to my next point...why is it that Tim Boudreau is getting all the flak for this article? Why is it that more of these comments and anger are not focused on Stephen Brown? Stephen is the one who wrote it. Is Tim receiving flak because he is the person who had the final say on the matter, and because he is male? If the article had run under the jurisdiction of a female editor, would the out cry be so strong

against the editor? Or would nothing have been said? I know it is a hard thing to try and work around, but I still ask the question: What would have happened?

There is one other thing that bothers me about the condemnation of The Picaro...everyone seems to be saying it is male dominated, as most of the paid positions are held by males. There is only one reason for this. When the positions were announced for the editor's positions, resume's were accepted, and interview's conducted. Let me say this as a side note...the interviewing committee consisted of one male and two females. After all was said and done, I was the only girl left on staff...the reason being that no other females applied for jobs, and therefore did not get hired. My advice to all those girls who are shooting down the Picaro because it is predominately male is this: Nothing can change if you don't get involved. If something bugs you, let us know, if you are pissed, get your butt to the office and get involved. That is the only way you will ever be heard. If you shoot your mouth off in the Link, or between classes, we can never know what needs to be done.

There is one other thing that has been bothering me. After the last issue came out, I had issues with Janne Cleveland's article on the Take Back The Night. I understand why the March is done every year, but I don't agree with it. If women want to feel safe on the streets, it has to start with education, not a rally in the streets of Halifax. The Take Back The Night march bands together women, and they say the only way they can be safe is if they ban together. How can we ever know men can be trusted if we don't let them into our lives to find out? Men are just as much entitled to be part of the march as anyone else. People say that men are allowed at the rally, but not at the march. I don't understand why? You say that you want to march without male support, but why? If these women weren't so dependent on men in the first place, when they tried to get out of the abusive situation—it wouldn't be so hard to walk away. Don't think I am saying this as a heartless bitch who never had anything bad happen to her, because nothing could be farther from the truth. I grew up with an abusive step-father, and wondered

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# Freedom of expression: Another crack in the editorial pigeonhole

By Mark Sitter

When I was ten, my grandpa, Omer, took me inside his pigeon coop to show me something. Inside the musty coop, on opa's workbench, was a miniature guillotine with a pigeon fixed beneath the diagonal blade. Standing side by side, both of us looking at the unsuspecting grey dove, opa said to me: "Marky, if you ever put your neck on the line, be prepared to face the consequences." Then he tugged a string, and the blade came down.

I've had a soft spot for pigeons ever since—and especially now, in wake of the "Take Back the Bullshit" controversy.

After talking about the controversy with feminists, journalists, academics and students, I feel I have been able to define more clearly what type of editor I want to be; what I want to put my neck on the line for.

For the record: Yes, I think *The Picaro* was absolutely right in publishing "Take Back the Bullshit."

Contrary to what many individuals are suggesting, the article in question doesn't espouse sexism or racism. Although it incorporates ugly examples of deplorable actions against women and blacks, it by no means promotes these actions—no more than *Huckleberry Finn* or *To Kill a Mocking Bird* promotes racism.

When taken out of context, words—inflammatory and nice—can easily be misinterpreted; like Shakespeare wrote: "The devil can cite scripture for his purpose." It seems many people have framed the controversial words of "Take Back the Bullshit" out of context. In the article, Stephen Brown is opining as a man who doesn't want to feel guilty anymore for what other men have done to women; not as a misogynistic racist.

If *The Picaro* edited the piece for diction and tone—making the article "gentler"—genuine passion and emotion would have been decapitated, watering down the overall message.

It is unfortunate the article's

provocative examples and language offended so many people. Everyone on *The Picaro* staff feels terrible about that, and apologizes for that.

Nevertheless, don't opinions, offensive or otherwise, have the right to be voiced? I think Milton put it best when he wrote: "All opinions, yea errors, known, read or collated, are of main service and toward the speedy attainment of what is truest."

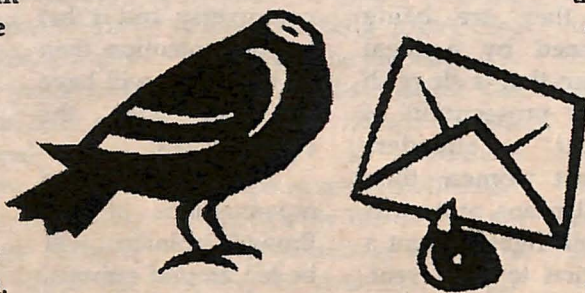
What is truest isn't always what is nicest; sometimes, it's what is ugliest or fullest of "Bullshit."

Nowadays in North America, it seems freedom of expression flies cherub to political correctness. Personally, however, I'd rather live in a society that's offensively honest, not deceptively "nice"—how unCanadian of me, I know.

And if a newspaper, like *The Picaro*, strives for truth and honesty, it can't always publish stories that are "nice" or in blind agreement with the attitudes of its readership... Carrier pigeons don't make a habit of bearing warm-and-fuzzy news, do they?...

Furthermore, if, as some people argue, offensiveness is the line drawn in editorial sand, then we might as well quarantine the whole beach of opinion. All people are offended by something—especially controversial subject matter they don't take time to consider and analyze objectively. And that's exactly why I think opinion pieces like "Take Back the Bullshit" should be published in *The Picaro*. A newspaper—especially one in an open-minded, "socially-enlightened" university setting—should publish articles, regardless of tone, that challenge and force readers to rethink and revisit taboos. Embracing taboo issues—rather than quickly dismissing them—helps people better understand each other and breaks down societal stereotypes; both of which are beneficial to everyone.

All in all, I don't think the messenger's head should be served up on a platter; pigeon droppings aren't that offensive...



## People Suck

by James Tilley

People Suck. Why does this axiom ring true today? Well I'm here to tell you.

People suck because they have no backbone of their own. So they let individuals influence their opinions and actions.

People suck because they make stuff up and misquote people in news stories.

People suck because they flip flop their opinions depending on the group which seems more powerful at the time.

People suck because they have to whine about other schools problems just to suck up to their professor.

People suck because they think that people with contradicting opinions should leave.

People suck because they are afraid to stand-up for what they believe in.

People suck because they think freedom of speech is something that only applies when it suits their agendas.

People suck because they aren't willing to assist someone who is working themselves to death trying to benefit those not willing to help.

People suck because they believe their view must be heard but others can not.

People suck because they let one issue distract them from all of the other potentially important issues.

People suck because they don't accept that untrained people can make mistakes.

People suck because they demand someone's resignation rather than letting them learn from their mistakes.

People suck because they didn't all go to the 80's dance.

People suck because they constantly bitch about something instead of doing something to make a difference.

People suck because they are willing to boycott something just because it is an inconvenience.

People suck because they think that if they aren't personally told something it must not exist.

People suck because they can't see beyond the surface and get to real meaning of things.

People suck because they live in their own little worlds and only come out when real life obviously effects them, or someone screams loud enough.

People suck because they think that news stories should be written in first person.

People suck because they think going 134 km/hour warrants getting a \$107.50 speeding ticket.

People suck because they can't seem to get their stories in by deadline... still.

*I suck because I let all of this get to me.*

## continued from page 8 Re-visiting the Bullshit

when my mother and I would ever get out. I think that most women who are in these abusive relationships, are so dependent on the men in their lives, that when they try to leave, it is very hard. Take some advice from me, the faster you come to terms with what has happened, the faster you can get out of the cycle of wanting to band together to make a point.

Why aren't men allowed on the March? I have heard that men are encouraged not to attend, as it takes away the whole point of women trying to be on their own. But if a man feels the same threats as a woman, doesn't he have the right to participate in the Take Back The Night March also? Men face just as many threats as a woman, a man can just as easily get raped, or beaten while walking down the street as a woman. Just because he is a man does not mean that the horrors of the streets do not affect him.

To wrap up an already too long opinion, I think that if we are striving for equality for women, and for minorities, how can we, in a female dominated university, not have a place where men, the minority, can go to feel as if they have a voice? I believe in equality for everyone, but when it gets to the point where a guy can't speak his opinion about something, aren't we going backwards instead of forwards?



# View from a Fishbowl

By Mark Darrow

*"One speaks badly when one has nothing to say."*

- Voltaire

Admittedly, I stole the idea of placing a quote at the beginning of every column from Greg Jackson, but I am sure he will forgive me (if not, see you in court Greg). However, I felt it fitting to add the opinion of the doyen of freethinking — Voltaire, as I must address a serious problem which has come to light within the bounds of our hallowed halls. Namely, the idea of freedom of speech and of the press.

The Picaro is a student paper and as such has the dubious honour of forwarding the opinions of the Mount's student population. These opinions, however unqualified, are nonetheless opinions

held by the contributors to the Picaro. If a society is to be free and enjoy the liberties expressed in a democracy, those freedoms must be universal and unquestioned. To suppress anyone's ideas, no matter how impertinent, is to allow a form of dictatorship to supplant the democracy in which we live. This I cannot accept and will fight - tooth and nail - for anyone's right to express his or her ideas in an open forum such as The Picaro. However, (and this is a big however) once a person has forwarded his or her opinion it becomes the realm of public discourse, and woe to you who cannot take the proverbial shit.

Having climbed

down from the soapbox of democratic freedoms, I will now cast my baleful eye upon one of those contributions to the last edition of The Picaro — "Take back the Bullshit." Two words came to mind when reading this reprehensible piece of "journalism": inflammatory rhetoric. Mr. Brown has chosen his topics well in order to bring forth feelings of disgust and hatred amongst a great percentage of the Mount's population. However, his argument (if there is one) appears to be lost in the self-congratulatory monologue he spews forth onto paper. Perhaps he needs a course in basic logic or perhaps he needs to think before he acts, I

cannot answer. What I do know is that his pointless drivel appears to be in reaction to another of our basic freedoms, the right of assembly.

No one ever wanted you to feel guilty, my friend. Women are not gathering in downtown Halifax to protest Stephen Brown (although now they may). To even think of such a thing would require an incredible amount of conceit on your part. If women feel they are being shunned by a legal system that is sluggish in its prosecution of violent offenders against women, then by all means, protest. It is your right to print a reaction to this event, but on behalf of men everywhere (if I may be

so bold), thank you very much for making us look like immature morons.

I am going to go out on a limb here and suggest that you, Mr. Brown, are looking for your 15 minutes of fame. I cannot think of another reason why you would possibly print such an atrocious piece in the paper. All I can say is, in the words of another person who lost his head, "Apres moi, le deluge." You have singularly opened the floodgates of controversy, and if that is your intention then so be it, you will have to deal with the consequences.

To be sure the repercussions of Mr. Brown's opinion will be felt around campus. The conversations of many of the students

begin with the question "Did you read that article?" I must admit that if Mr. Brown's intention was to create controversy, then I for one have taken the bait. My lecture may be lost on all the Stephen Browns of the world and I am sure we will see this type of "journalism" again. However, a word of caution to those who are thinking of the dirty word "censorship." If at any time we take aim at anyone's thoughts or ideas, whatever they may be, then we run the risk of eventually being shot by our own gun. I cannot, in good conscience, agree with Stephen Brown's opinion, however, I can support his right to say it.

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**MACLEAN'S Magazine**

**News Release**



# One Woman's Response to Guilt

By Janne Cleveland

Stephen Brown says he will not feel guilty anymore. In fact he makes a litany of this phrase as if it were a mantra (a verbal formula repeated in prayer, meditation, or incantation - ITP Nelson Canadian Dictionary). My first observation upon reading his article is that no one, to my knowledge, is requesting his guilt for anything. Although I do think he is guilty of very poor taste in the language and wording of his recent article "Take Back The Bullshit". That may be the nicest thing I can say about it.

Subsequently, he writes that he used his virginity on the anniversary of the Montreal Massacre, on three successive occasions. Unless I am much mistaken, that would be impossible. On this planet, we only have one virginity. There is only one first time for sexual contact, subsequent occasions become, well, subsequent occasions, unless Biology has changed dramatically from when I last picked up a text book.

Moving on, Mr. Brown writes that he has been with women who have been raped before and after their encounters with him. I'm really not sure what the appropriate response is to that. Perhaps it suggests that we live in a culture in which the violation of women is so frequent that a man who does not rape his (hetero)sexual partner is an anomaly. The wording of this particular revelation puzzles me - do you mean to suggest, Mr. Brown, that you will not feel guilty because these women were raped, or because you did not rape them? This is really not clear here. A good writer must make her/his argument clear, otherwise she/he risks being misrepresented, losing the audience in the process.

A further point on which Mr. Brown pleads innocence is women's attempts at self-beautification. Although Mr. Brown may not actively encourage women to shave, do their nails, apply make-up to enhance their

faces, undergo cosmetic surgery, starve themselves, or work out in the gym, there are multi-million dollar corporations (usually headed by male CEOs and boards) who do exactly this in magazines, television, film, books, and every other mass media available to us in the Western world. Those in positions of power make the rules regarding appropriate self-presentation in our culture, and those in these seats of power are generally White, middle-class men with lots of money. Sometimes the power-brokers are women who have achieved their power by abiding by and encouraging adherence to the rules originally laid down by the aforementioned White, middle-class, males. Some of us have refused to play by these rules. Sometimes we are happier for assuming such control of our lives. It is a difficult choice, given the pressures to conform in a social setting, but ultimately we all make a choice regarding what identity we

present to the world.

I must admit I am curious about Mr. Brown's assertion that masturbated semen makes a bigger mess than menstrual blood. Does this mean that semen produced via sexual contact with another person makes a different mess, or no mess, or is this specific to masturbation? This is not clear. I am also curious to know how Mr. Brown arrives at this conclusion, and to what end. Is there documentation anywhere to support Mr. Brown's claim relative to amount? If there is, I am sure the person(s) responsible for recording such data haven't had much social life recently, if ever. While I realize that we live in a very competitive world, I am not sure of the relevance of who makes more mess, unless of course there is a corporate janitorial agenda looking to cash in. Perhaps masculine hygiene is where the big money is these days. Inventive, entrepreneurial types are always looking for new markets.

I must admit that I found the rest of Mr. Brown's article extremely hard to follow. It seems to meander between a conflation of sex and violence that is nothing new in our society. That does not make it more palatable, in fact just the opposite. It is a sad fact that we live in a violent world, in which rape, murder, and war occur on a regular basis. It is also a fact that much of the violence committed is gendered, which is to say that the violence erupts in a culture in which women are systemically cast as victims, while men are systemically cast as predators. Systemically, by the way, means that it is culturally understood. An illustration of the point is necessary here. One evening, I went to a downtown office, where I do some part time work. Since it was after office hours, I took my dog with me, because I reasoned it would be better for him to spend time with me than alone at home. He is a social being, after all. When I

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## An Open Letter to the Offended *with due respect to all honest criticism*

by Stephen Brown

The first time I made love with a woman I was so obese from a lifetime of gluttony, and so weak from that same lifetime of sloth, that I could not hold up my own weight with my arms and had to be on the bottom.

That is nothing to brag about.

The first time I made love with a woman was four days after my first kiss — four days after the first affectionate physical contact I had ever had. I was nineteen years old.

That, also, is nothing to brag about.

I did not love her. She did not love me. She wanted me in her life only because I was so obese, unkempt, and ugly that no one else would ever want me — that I would never leave her as she had been left so many times before. I only wanted her in my life because I knew she was right.

That, especially, is nothing to brag about — to use and be used so grossly and unapologetically.

The first time I made love with a woman was on the fifth anniversary of Marc Lepine's murder of fourteen women at the Montreal Polytechnique. When I realized that fact the next day, the first thing that went through my mind was *If you have sex on that day, is it rape?* I had been lying in her bed in a

state of languorous serenity until that thought. Then I was sullen and uncommunicative — the guilt I felt had ruined the only gentle touch and kind words I had yet known. I did it to myself. She didn't try to make me feel guilty - she didn't even know what the day meant. Misogyny and murder were the farthest things from her mind. She had to go to work.

This was an experience devoid of any element worthy of even the meagrest braggadocio. Yet, it has been stated, unequivocally, that I was bragging. In the face of the fact that I refer to the timing of my dalliances as "just bad luck", there can be only one reason for this assessment: the blatantly sexist assumption that if a male is discussing sex, he is bragging.

That accepted, it becomes easy to dismiss the words of my harshest detractors as the mere prattlings of the professionally offended. The fact that their name-calling has gone untempered and uncountered in print does no service to their intentions. It only marks their declarations as childish, ignorant, and libellous.

Four individuals who took exception to their collective opinion not being parroted in my article did me the kindness of buttressing my

main point with the publication of a piece in the Dalhousie Gazette entitled "Women defending themselves, again!" In it, the authors assume the mantle of the White Armchair Criminologist who shunts aside the importance of black-on-black crime by declaring *They're just killing each other*. The authors classify male-on-male violence as being the predominant expression of some kind of "bar room brawl" mentality that all males are graced with at birth. The suggestion is that men are all a bunch of Jackie Chans or Sylvester Stallones who fight with one another on equal terms, and feel no pain, and it's all fun and games — and if someone gets hurt or dies, well, then, *They're just killing each other*.

The fundamental flaw in this reasoning is a complete and total ignorance of what is behind male-on-male violence, and all violence for that matter. At the core of violent action is a disparity of power. To the authors of the article, that means a man (implicitly stronger) perpetrating violence upon a woman (implicitly weaker), with no comparative berth present in male-on-male violence. Ignoring the sexist ramifications that idea makes against women, it also fails to take into account the reality that

most male-on-male violence involves a stronger male hurting a weaker male, or a male with a weapon hurting one without, or a group of males attacking one who is alone, and thus powerless against their congregation.

It is this concept that is at the heart of "Take Back the Bullshit": that where there is a disparity of power, there is an abuse of power. Vital to the understanding of this harsh maxim is the concomitant realization that human interaction has always been governed by an intricate array of overlapping power structures that make us each and all abusers and the abused with every breath.

It is with no hesitation that I regurgitate here the understanding that the broadest and most flagrant abuses of power have historically been committed by men. I would have to be blind to both history itself and my own experiences to not recognize this, but I would be equally remiss in failing to note the strong tradition of women inflicting vitiations upon those less privileged. The common thread is the possession of power. It has been argued that women of power have achieved and committed what they have only by imitating the actions of

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men, but what I believe is instead revealed is that there are trappings to power that all who would possess it must adhere to.

Power itself, then, must be viewed as the enemy of equality. Not personal power — free control over one's own destiny is the ideal and the goal — but a feudal power, hierarchal in structure, with each higher rung earned at the expense of all those beneath. One's position in the hierarchy is based primarily on a genetic lottery, and I do not think it is unfair or an over-simplification to describe the system currently in place as patriarchal; predominance outweighs exception. However, the presence of a hierarchy suggests power structures within power structures — nullifying the axiomatic generalization that men are the abusers and women the abused. Instead, I propound that the mass of us exist in a dynamic and responsive power sphere, forever separated from the stable Family Compact of once-were-kings, now represented by our leaders of industry and commerce. That understood, it is easy to see how common men have been rightly disempowered to the legal status of equals, while those same old faces govern the bodies of higher influence. The sex that they and I share is meaningless, and they are as much my enemy as yours.

This disparity and unwelcomeness has been ironically reflected in our common world, and so it is that I thank the greater body of feminists for what they have achieved though earnest, persistent, and dangerous criticisms of a society that abused and punished them. I am grateful, for as much as they sought to improve their own lives, they also improved mine in the process. I do not possess what are considered typically male attributes, and am most unwanted in a patriarchal world. However, the questioning of male power has made fuzzy the lines that chokingly circumscribe males roles — enabling me to be a better, more whole person, unrestricted by patriarchal dogma. These advances were made by brave women and men who challenged old ways with questions and ideas that were — and are — considered offensive and actionable by anyone who would disagree

with them. They were the first- and second-wave feminists.

As a male who grew up in a changed and better world thanks to feminism, I was left with feelings of wonder that it couldn't be better. I wondered if feminism was a power structure unto itself, prone to abuse, and unforgiving of contradiction. So I wrote an article called "Take Back the Bullshit."

In this article I took the same virtue of criticism I apply to myself regularly in "Frank's World", and applied it to relations between men and women. As its base, I used my own socially-created but nonetheless self-imposed guilt over having been born male. I was careful to use language that was not accusatory nor dismissive: I did not say "You are not going to make me feel guilty anymore..." nor "I don't care that..." I related experiences that were mine and true. I created images and used terms that were deliberately offensive so as to challenge the control device that is taboo. I divested myself of guilt at no one's expense but my own, and I stand behind every inflammatory word that I said and every expository one that I just as deliberately did not.

I have been assured that because of what I have done, I can be forbidden from writing for The Picaro ever again, or ordered to apologize before I can receive marks I have earned. It has been suggested that I need to be "re-educated" in some vague Orwellian way. I can even be expelled from the school of my choice by that school's judiciary committee, I have been told; all someone has to do is file a complaint. That is proof of a feminist power structure — and why shouldn't there be? If there were not a feminist power structure in our society, I would be forced to ask what the hell we've been fighting for.

However, as my only crime has been to have a sovereign opinion and to have expressed it, then this is also proof of an abuse of power. The above avenues of recourse have been instituted for the protection of students' safety and to maintain a healthy learning atmosphere. Instead, their use has been perverted to the end of punishing a heretic. The most

malevolent aspects of a power structure appear when it considers itself above criticism, inviolate to dissent, and immune to question.

It has been said that my true crime was the use of verboten terms, best exemplified by the "Southern 'coon hunt" reference. The use of this term is racist, my detractors accuse. However, in their accusations, most, if not all of them, use the term themselves. It can be easily argued that their intentions were different than mine — and this is true, proving that the intent is more important than the use. This does not absolve me of the accusation of racist (nor sexist, nor misogynist), but certainly leaves the issue in doubt.

That said, I return to the assertion that my only crime was in dissenting from feminist dogma. This proves

that certain bodies of the power structure of feminism consider it to be beyond argument, its tenets irrefutable. I do not want to take away from the numerous intelligent and honest criticisms I have received over this article, I am just drawing a very visible line between those who are capable of holding their ideals up to scrutiny, and those who just want to burn the witch. These intolerants are the proof that the potential for abuse exists in the feminist power structure, just as in the patriarchy. Short of violence and murder, there is nothing more abusive than the denial of free expression and the ability to choose. Kate Chopin could tell you that. Chantal Daigle could tell you that.

I think that more than anything, though, this experience has proven to me

that basic core of "Take Back the Bullshit" — past all the issues of power and sex and violence — that we are all true individuals, separated from our the genetic legacies of sex, race, and culture by our experiences as human beings. Nurture always comes to overshadow nature. After all, there were women who supported the article: those who thought it was dead on; those who welcomed the criticisms it presented as a healthy force of change; and those who thought I was a jackass with a right to be a jackass. If I add them all up — the rational, growing, maturing critics out there, capable of more than hurling insults and accusations — they more than outnumber my suitably anonymous revilers. You know — the ones acting like a bunch of men.

date

**Nov. 9**

► FINE ART

FANTASY ◀

place

**Rosaria Centre Courtyard**

WILDLIFE ◀

hours

**9-5**

► GIANT-SIZED POSTERS

► MUSIC

last day

**9-5**

FRAMES & HANGERS ◀

► FILM

► PHOTOGRAPHY

► 1000s OF POSTERS

THE  
**IMAGINUS**  
**POSTER**  
**SALE**





# Pass me the door

By Christian MacLean

Yesterday I was sitting in the Link and I overheard a conversation between friends. They were talking about how men have no idea how to treat a woman, how they have no idea what the word "romance" means, and how they're so afraid of commitment: common girltalk when it comes to complaining about guys. But did you ever stop and think about why guys are like this? Okay, so not all guys are ignorant, but when's the last time a guy picked you up (at the door, not at a bar), presented you with flowers, taken you out for a romantic evening, paid for it and not had ulterior motives? Chances are, it's been a while.

When my Mom went to highschool, a guy showed his affection by taking you home from the dance. And that was simply it: he walked you home. Today, if a guy takes you home, it's normal for him to expect sex. So much has changed in the last few decades.

Common frustrations heard among women are that men don't know how to treat a woman. Did you ever think that it's no wonder, with the messages men are receiving? Society says

that women have rights, women are independent, women can do things on their own. And so we can. So is it no small wonder that men don't treat us differently? "Different" is not bad. No matter what way you look at it, men are different than women, and women are different than men. As a woman, I want a man to treat me with respect, and treat me differently. I want someone who will put me first before themselves, who will be concerned about me, who will want to take care of me. This does not mean I cannot take care of myself. As a twenty year old adult, I am perfectly capable of caring for my needs. But is there anything so wrong with wanting a man to care for me? No. It's natural. When a guy takes me out, I want him to be polite, pay for things occasionally, and make me as comfortable as possible. Is that so deathly wrong? No. Yet so many men have no idea how to treat females properly. Why is this so?

In our parents' days, the type of behavior which I describe was commonplace. Now this treatment of women is rarely seen. Men have

been told for the past few decades that women are the same as they, that women deserve no special treatment. Men are no longer taught, or shown by example, how to esteem a woman. A male friend of mine once held the door open for a girl here at the Mount, and was rudely admonished: SHE didn't need a man to do anything for her- SHE was quite capable of acting on her own. With this attitude so prevalent, it's no wonder that common courtesy between the sexes barely exists.

Men need to know that many women still crave that traditional guy. The guy who can take you to dinner and a movie, and not expect to be taken to bed. The guy who acknowledges your capabilities but is still willing to take care of you.

Show me respect by treating me like a woman: it doesn't mean that I'm weak. It's about honoring my feminine nature. I am secure in who I am, but still able to enjoy the company of men. Being a woman is not about rights, it's about characteristics.

So go ahead- pass me the door.

# On Common Sense

By Michael D. Allen

After viewing the title of this article, the open reader will continue along this passage and the ignorant reader will abandon it. Those who view everything that is written as a chance to learn, may well discover or confirm something today. Those who aren't cool headed, considering that what they believe in may be challenged or equalled, may wish to lash out against this. Not everyone may agree with the main points, and the arguments can easily be rebutted. But at what gain? Nobody will be called incorrect, nobody will be insulted, and nobody will be neglected. This article has been designed in the best manner possible to try to help both sides understand what is happening to us and what we really need to focus on. There is no reason to accept it as truth and no more reason to repudiate it. With regard to sexism we may be fighting unnecessary battles or making comments, either for the cause or against it. Far too often and ignoring the most important things that face us on the whole.

Women have stated their case. They are tired of being treated unequal and tired of violence against them. They want to educate people on their disposition so that things can change. They feel a sense of frustration at the speed at which things are being dealt with. Pay inequity at Bell Canada is a recent example. Form your own opinion, but that is how they feel. Young men have stated their case. The argument from this side is that the issues are known and many young men are, at least somewhat, educated on them. You can only teach the ones who are willing to learn and there are many men who are eager to learn. Having said that, young men are tired of always being made out to be corrupt and having arguments on women's issues constantly put to them. The claim from young men is that they do not run the system of the world, and therefore can't change things such as pay inequity or job opportunities as of yet. But, since education is there for them, there is no reason that they can't correct them once they are in a position to do so. Meanwhile, complaints directed towards them become irritating since they can't do anything about some of them until they gain authority. Form your own opinion on it but that is their case.

The last three weeks have provided much frustrations and argument from the two sides. Two dramatic events have stirred up quite a hornets nest. The first was the "Take Back The Night Walk" and the second was the article in the Mount Saint Vincent newspaper "Take Back The Bullshit." A few sub-arguments have appeared also, such as a case being the "Playboy" argument or how to define violence. Some of these disputes appear self-contained and honest in their approach to discredit the opposing view, and others dynamically downplay and distort the other side through improper support, name calling, or exaggeration. This is a free country in which people are allowed to put forth an argument, or in most cases just an opinion, any way they like. They can either demonstrate something they believe in, or to express, in writing, their frustrations. A good argument will make sense to everyone and will be accepted, and a bad argument won't because not everyone will agree with your support and accept the conclusion based on that support. Have you been seeing helpful compositions that pose logical arguments in an honest attempt to try to help us sort out our differences or have you just been seeing heated opinion battles to which there seems to be no end?

Think of abortion, is there a right or wrong answer accepted by everyone everywhere the same way we can accept a fact like crops need rain to produce a good harvest? Since the answer is no, does it make a whole lot of productive sense to argue and squabble over it when, first, it is opinion based and, second, one side can't be proven to be 100% correct, and third, the world will not end if it is never resolved? To most, this should appear not to make a great deal of sense. Considering the controversial abortion example, isn't it similar in concept as the "Playboy" argument which has appeared in earlier editions of the Dal newspaper? Each side will state an argument that is based on moral opinion. Some people will say they have no problem with Playboy because they don't take it seriously, and some people will say it is demeaning because they

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## One Woman's Response to Guilt

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came out, there was a lone man who had also been working late in the building, waiting for his ride. While making pleasant conversation, he noted that it was wise for me to have the dog with me since I was alone at night. I resisted the urge to ask him where his dog was, since he was also alone at night. The question would have been pointless, because we both understood that because of my gender I could be subject to a type of violence he would likely never have to face. Many people take for granted that this is the way the world is, and that nothing can be done.

Many other people refuse to believe that things can't or won't change. Women (and men) getting together to protest these conditions is one of the ways available to us for instilling change. As for potential lynch mobs - the only violence I personally witnessed during the march came from a few males on the fringes. The women were angry, yes indeed. Angry that our gender predicated the assumption that we should remain behind locked doors at night, or seek protection from the men with whom we sometimes interact. Sometimes anger

can be a very positive force for changing unjust conditions. The Civil Rights Movement in the United States in the 1950s and 60s was full of righteously angry people. They motivated the lawmakers in their nation to implement changes to their legislation. They made their anger work for them.

What I discerned from Stephen Brown's article was fear and anger. These are emotions that most women understand well. However, the use of misogynist and racist analogies in his article does not achieve a positive end. (But then, I am assuming that a positive end was being sought here.) Until men recognize the difference between anger at an unjust social system, and anger directed at them personally, we cannot hope to bridge the differences between us. Besides being inflammatory, hurtful, and lacking in clear logic, Stephen Brown's article reveals an assumption that he is at the centre of women's anger. That would, again, place the White, privileged, male at the geopolitical centre of the universe. Where have we heard that before?



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take it seriously. Which argument is correct? It is hard to prove to the general public one way or the other.

Another case of recent argument is the fact that violence against women is different from men. One side will state and support the notion that they are similar and the other side will state and support the claim that they are different. In the end isn't it up to individuals to decide this for themselves? It is similar to the druggie who robs the store for money, or the homeless father who robs the store for food, are they both cases of robbery or are they different? Again, the answer rests within an individual's moral judgments. Putting morals aside for a moment, some common sense can tell the rational individual something about violence. If the victims are fighting over who has been victimized more, or how to define individual cases, then what parties are fighting the criminals? A hypothetical situation can show what segmentation of violence may do whether it is anyone's intent or not: Suppose that people were divided into groups to mow grass in a large field. Each of the groups are responsible for one sector and are given a weed wacker to cut that area. The grass may or may not differ from sector to sector, but however you define it, is still part of that large field. Each group is given guidance from the land owner on how to cut grass. However, because some groups may cry the loudest and get better help, and because of differing skill levels, the end result is a hacked up looking field which may only be half cut. After a while, the groups would start fighting over who gets the most help, and the overall objective of cutting the field would be forgotten. Now, if every one worked and received guidance together in order to build a large tractor to mow the whole area, then the result would be a smooth looking field of mowed grass. Does that make sense? The cutting of the whole field is important to everyone and is a common goal—just like stopping violence of all types and definitions.

So then, does it not make more sense to fight crime and violence as a whole instead of trying to segment it? It would appear unproductive on behalf of both sides to argue over technicalities, when the big picture of overall criminal violence is possibly ignored. One would think that it is the criminal mindset that should be targeted. In correcting the problem as a whole, then influencing people one way or another about individual cases will cease to be important. Also, the point at which both sides can agree (that violence must be stopped) will be the point at which the greatest fighting stance has been created. Then, with everyone in a agreement, the central

problem causing element, the criminal mindset, can be dealt with. Does this concept seem to have merit? Perhaps one day when we have new technology and ideas people will receive mindset scans or something of that nature. If this example seems silly then I have caught you in the trap that I am claiming we are caught in with violence. The overall concept, not the specific example, is what you should be assessing which is detecting violent behaviour before implementation.

Now let's put violence aside and think once again on moral issues. They aren't even the most important ones we have to discuss on the whole, yet they are dividing us and making us learn to hate. Moral issues are certainly important to the individual; who dispute them, but how much better off is the world going to be on the whole, with or without Playboy for example, or with the solution of other issues that could pose moral or believe disputes such as the Spice Girls videos? Some men probably think they are demeaning but is the world going to end if we never decide if these videos are bad or good? No, but the world may be threatened if we allow the dispute over them to get out of hand and start a war, which considering the strong feelings involved, is possible. Since these issues can cause everyone to choose a side and fight, logic dictates that we should keep these ideas in our own minds and conduct our own lives according to how we feel and let others do the same.

While the moral issues lend themselves to being put off, because they last for so long and cause animosity, the same can't be said for problems with logical solutions. The dismissal of solvable problems doesn't make them go away. Most people agree that the solvable issues are now out in the open and are being addressed. I don't believe that the facts of pay inequity and job opportunity were ever in question by the young generation right now. It is the length of time and a sense of urgency to correct them that has sparked debate. These things take time, because the older men who are ignorant or insensitive to them run the system. The more discussion, or resistance to, them than is needed to on behalf of young people, only makes tempers flare. A good song heard for the first time that everyone wants to buy in the record stores, can turn bad and cause lost interest if it is overplayed, or if the voice from people that oppose it is too loud.

Although this article discusses some individual cases, it is about the big picture and common sense. The point being made is that young people's time, at least right now, could perhaps be better spent trying to discuss the biggest challenges that

face us, as young men and women alike. Will there be many jobs for us to fight over? Will the environment take a turn for the worse? Or will the world markets collapse under us? Where is the commentary on these issues in this paper? This article is equally guilty of not addressing them fully, in an attempt to ask people if they even think about them in the midst of all this fighting. The way things are at present, it seems that all anyone is out to do is to take shots at the other side when our greatest problems are, at large, without comment. Viewing that big picture and using that common sense tells us that there must first be job opportunities and power out there and that we will live to see them, before we can begin to discuss how to correct the distribution of them. We are educated, and I sincerely believe willing, to solve the problems once we get there. This alternate focus does not apply to the current workforce because this is a main issue for them since they have already

solved the big problem that has led to the debate, they have gotten a job. Their efforts, no matter how conservative, to correct these issues for better of human beings everywhere are to be commended. But for young people the big picture poses a greater threat on the whole. And for the moral debate, our mere opinions of each others standings on issues we could spend the next 1000 years trying to sort out, are far less important than preserving the environment and well being of the people who dispute them. Needless discussion, from both sides, on any items that adjust slowly over time toward a solution, takes away from our main goals. Finally, working together, trying to love one another, and showing compassion for what hurts, will solve a lot more problems than they will, in themselves, create. That is as natural as flies around a molasses barrel. And as obvious as that sounds, sometimes we can tend to forget the common sense things that ground us all.

# Read The Words,

## A response to the responses

By Tyson White

Recently the Editor-In-Chief of The Picaro has been receiving e-mail giving him flack for an article that was printed in a recent issue. The article was entitled "Take Back The Bullshit", and I have to say I agree with the article, insofar as it is taken in context.

I admit, it was written in a racey manner, but first of all, it was an opinion piece, which means that as long as it's clear that the article was not intended to offend someone, it has a right to be printed. Just because you don't agree with someone's opinion, doesn't mean that they can't express it. I believe that's called "Freedom of Speech". Second: the article was quite

clearly not intended to offend. It was merely written to say that the writer was not going to accept "bullshit" for something that he didn't do.

This may raise the question, "What is the context?". And that is a question I intend to answer. What the writer was trying to illustrate in this article was that he was not going to feel guilty for something somebody else did. In fact, he states that in the article, point blank. Which is ironic, because that's what's happening to the Editor-In-Chief. He's taking the flack for something somebody else feels. As I've already stated the article had a right to be printed and as the Editor-In-Chief, it's his job to print

articles of import and that have merit.

He also said that he "...is not going to feel guilty anymore that you need to band into a potential lynch mob...to feel empowered." Which is also ironic, because that seems to be exactly what's happening with the response to this piece.

I guess what I'm trying to say is, if you are going to respond to something, make sure you know what the article is about, and make sure you know what you are saying when you respond. And above all, read the words that are on the page, try to know what the writer is saying, and don't let emotions cloud your ability to reason.



# Letters

**Note to the readership. We at the Picaro believe in Freedom of Expression; we feel that hearing everyone's opinions is important. In the past few weeks, we have received many letters as well as opinion pieces. We are printing every letter that we received provided it was signed. It is a strict policy of the Picaro not to publish any unsigned submissions. So here are the letters. The layout editor apologizes for the poor layout but there is not much more he could do, "Freedom of Speech can be ugly sometimes."**

Probably one of the most disturbing assumptions made by Mr Brown in his opinion piece 'Take Back the Bullshit' was that the struggle for women's rights infringes upon or detracts from the rights of men (a "reverse discrimination" as it is sometimes referred to). Sadly, this is a common assumption and so it is one I would like to briefly address.

Take Back the Night attempts to highlight the right of women to be free from forms of violence that occur to them because they are women, but have been rendered invisible in society. This violence is systemic, it is reproduced not only by individuals but by societal institutions which fail to recognize or protect women from gender-related crimes.

Throughout history, millions of women have been beaten, sexually assaulted and murdered because they are women. Historically, human rights laws did not recognize these forms of gender-related violence. Rape was considered a personal matter. Domestic violence was thought to be a family matter. Consequently the state passed no effective legislation to protect women, and the police did not intervene. If a woman was raped, it was perceived to be her fault, as was evidenced in societal attitudes and court decisions.

Today we ostensibly know better. Women's rights are being recognized in International Conventions on Human Rights (Vienna 1992) and Platforms for Action (Beijing 1995), conventions Canada is party to. And yet, millions of women continue to be beaten, sexually assaulted and murdered because they are women. The recognition of their

rights has not always impacted on our political institutions, courtrooms, police forces, families and so on. And so we must continue to march to demand that women's rights not only be recognized, but also realized and protected.

The demand to protect women's rights does not detract from human rights, specifically 'men's rights', but rather challenges the exclusion of gender-related violence in this discourse. In his angry and hostile attempt to proclaim his 'innocence', Mr. Brown ends up belittling women's experiences of violence. I do not want Mr. Brown to feel guilt. I do want him to empathize and give support to women's rights in our common struggles for justice.

**Erin Baines**

This letter is regarding the controversy over Stephen Brown's opinion piece "Take Back the Bullshit" which ran in the MSVU student newspaper The Picaro (v.34 Issue 3).

Stephen is my friend and room-mate. However, I am in no way going to attempt to defend his article. It is not my job. That duty belongs to Stephen. The reason I wrote this letter is because Stephen is not being allowed to defend himself.

I am aware of several organizations who have held private meetings about Stephen, and have publicly come out to accuse him of being a misogynistic, racist, reincarnation of Marc Lepine. This includes an obviously biased article in the Halifax Chronicle Herald and Mail Star.

This bothers me

because, in my short twenty-eight years on this planet there have been two ideals that have kept me warm at night:

1) The accused has the right to defend himself against their accusers.

2) The job of a journalist is to go to the source of a story and discover the truth.

It appears that both of these are simply cultural myths. Our shared phone has been mysteriously silent. Not one of the organizations that have been pondering over Stephen's fate has asked him to present his case before them. He has been tried and sentenced without ever being present to defend himself. What I have found shocking is that not one single university student I have spoken to about this has felt that this sort of behaviour is wrong. In fact, most seem to revel in the possibility of his expulsion. This sort of Star Chamber activity does not speak well of the university system nor of the students who support it.

Most of the shame belongs on the heads of the news media. As of this writing, not one single reporter covering this topic has attempted to arrange an interview with Stephen—creating a horribly one-sided story. How can you journalists all claim to be seekers of truth when you do not try to find the source of story and interview him? The Coast has often claimed that reporters are simply a lazy bunch. It would be a pity if this were true.

With that said, I have found it wonderfully ironic that the line "a potential lynch mob-like a southern 'coon hunt'" has been pegged as the most offensive part of the article. Ironic

because every last single one of you people involved in this has formed a lynch mob, and right now I cannot think of anything more offensive than you.

**William Beckerson,**

**Editorial Cartoonist,  
SMU Journal**

What the hell is going on with the Picaro? This university newsletter has turned into nothing more than a masturbatory vehicle for angry, adolescent boys..a vehicle which has offended students, especially the female students who comprise approximately 85% of the Mount student population. The following expresses my anger toward the people I hold responsible.

First, Stephen Brown, who is he, who was he and who does he hope to be. What is up with you little boy? Did you honestly think that people would agree with your offensive article "Take Back the Bullshit"? You offended me, you little creep and I demand an apology. How dare you submit something like that to the Picaro. Your misogynist words have no place here. Rather they should be shamefully disclosed to your therapist in a behaviour modification session. I seriously doubt that you are capable of having a relationship with anyone other than yourself, and even if you were capable, who but a blow-up doll would ever consent to be your date. The only way to take back the bullshit is to send you home back home to your parents with a space saving suggestion should they have given your room away.... They should give you and enema and house you in a shoe box.

Next, Mark Sitter, I do not think that the Picaro's readership cares one iota about your disgusting little sojourn to Amsterdam, so save that juvenile "look how many beers and tokes I can

have before I puke" routine for the tavern, because maybe someone who is as drunk as you pretended to be in the article, would pretend to care.

Finally, Tim Boudreau, you did cross the line and if you aren't careful, you may not be allowed back. You allowed this crap to be printed and I hold you ultimately responsible for articles that have offended the majority of the Picaro's readership. You should be removed as editor for printing Stephen Brown's misogynist and racist remarks, as well as Mark Sitter's gross promotion of illegal drugs and alcoholism. I demand from you an apology, a retraction of the above mentioned articles and your resignation as editor.

**Joanne Bond  
MSVU Student**

I am writing in response to Stephen Brown's piece in the last issue of the Picaro entitled "Take Back The Bullshit." Personally, as a young woman I was shocked when I read this opinion piece (if that is indeed what I should call it). But personal feelings aside, I would like to start by congratulating Mr. Brown. This piece was cleverly written with some obvious thought put into it. My praise, however, stops there.

I can only speak for myself as a member of the female sex, but I am not asking anyone to feel guilty about the problems women still face today. Everyone, male or female, faces discrimination and setbacks imposed upon them by society because of their sex, race, religion.....

The list goes on and on. The fact is, women are still not equal to men. Issues like violence against women and women's health are being discussed more than they ever were in an attempt to create awareness and try to achieve higher standards for

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difference.  
Please volunteer.**



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# Letters

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women — not to try and make men like Mr. Brown feel guilty. Guilt is a waste of time, action is the key.

It is sad that women need to have events like the "Take Back the Night" march because ideally no one should fear walking alone at night. But the world is not ideal and if this march is one way that women can feel empowered, then that is fantastic. The silence is slowly being eroded as attention is focused on women's issues and we take a tiny but significant step toward equality. You may be afraid to walk the streets at night Mr. Brown, and rightly so. But I ask you, what sex traditionally has had more reason to fear?

The beauty myth, the Montreal massacre, rape, battery, and street safety are all sad facts of life — they don't become "bullshit" just because they are constantly being brought to society's attention by women and men alike. The second wave of feminism has made such issues much more prominent so they are not conveniently going to vanish back into the social fabric because women's voices have been silenced for too long. The voices of women will remain united and strong and if Mr. Brown thinks this is bullshit, well to each their own. Men understandably may feel guilty but guilt is not the end goal — the goal is equality through joint action on the part of both men and women.

I would like to end this letter by saying that Mr. Brown's reference to the annual "Take Back the Night March" as a "potential lynch mob" and "southern coon hunt" shows a degree of naivety, ignorance and perhaps even fear on the part of the writer. Therefore, I would politely urge Mr. Brown to please "take back your bullshit." Now that you have decided to stop "feeling

guilty" wake up and take action.

**Sonya Ciesielski**



The most recent edition of the Picaro, (Vol. 34, Issue 3.) Made me nauseous. That sick feeling which begins in your gut and slowly crawls upwards. I was offended by your choice to include the article "Take Back the Bullshit" in the paper. The article itself is offensive, as was the layout of the paper you designed.

"Bullshit" presented an ignorant opinion which was not countered by fact, or an opposing view, due to the poor layout of the paper. The facts on "Take Back the Night" appear on the following page, already trashed and discredited by the "Bullshit" article. A counter opinion was omitted. In the future, if you must print ignorant, prejudice articles, please print them at the back to the paper, after the relevant, informative news.

"Take Back the Night" is about anger and empowerment. If you or your writers have a problem with strong angry women, keep these opinions out the your paper.

**Sarah Coll-Black**



[The following is a response to the September 29th issue of The Picaro which included an article by Steven Brown that contained blatant sexist and racist comments. The editor, Tim Boudreau, has issued a formal apology, but the continued support for the original article, subsumed under free-speech discourse, necessitates a response. (N.K.)]

October 18th is Person's Day, marking the landmark decision by the Judicial Committee of the Privy

Council in 1929 that, yes, women are "persons" according to the Canadian Constitution Act, 1867. It has been almost 70 years and now women hold positions in Parliament, legislatures, the Senate, and even on the bench, so why are women still "whining" about equality rights?

According to Stephen Brown's article in the Mount Saint Vincent student newspaper, the Picaro, entitled "Take Back the Bullshit", issues like violence against women, the cultivation of the beauty myth, and sexual exploitation and objectification are simply outgrowths of female biology, and therefore, inevitably an element of women's lives. He ignores the substantive inequality women as a group face in society, the systemic social forces that contribute to sexism and racism, and the problematic ideas underlining biological determinist arguments.

Unfortunately, despite the reactionary premises and damaging conclusions it espouses, Brown's article represents a new and growing wave of backlash against feminism and women. Touted under the rhetoric of "reverse discrimination" and "men's equality rights", this backlash cultivates the negation and denial of the reality of the oppression and silencing of women by appropriating the revolutionary discourse for its own reactionary agenda of preserving the status quo. The rubric of individualism continues to classify women's issues as "special interest" and a personal problem stemming from one's own inability to compete. This acts as a framework for justifying gender inequality as de facto unworthy of social recognition; it assumes that a woman is unequal, not

because of the negative social implications of her gender, but because she is not capable; it assumes her formal equality "before and under the law" is sufficient, and perhaps extravagant, in supporting gender equality rights.

Brown exemplifies this attitude by representing the annual "Take Back the Night March" in Halifax as a "potential lynch mob". Why must it be assumed that when women unite to promote their rights and freedoms that it is an act of militancy and threatening to men?

By exercising their "right not to know" (of systemic inequality, the gendered nature of violence, and the power differential socially ingrained in society) men affirm their privileged position in the social hierarchy simply through inaction. If you are not aware, how can you react? If you do not react, how can there be change? And if no change is effected to solve the pervasive problems of inequality, then there can be no progress, society will remain stagnant, and the status quo will prevail. Difference will continue to mean dominance; equality will continue to be an illusion; and principles of liberty, equality, and democracy which underpin our society will become an hypocrisy.

**Natasha Kim, Kecia Podetz, Lisa Romano, Tina Piper, Kathleen Smith, Mirsada Stasene, Elaine Cummings, Veronica Reddick, Karen Bennet-Clayton, Monica McQueen, Bernice Martin, Candace Seddon-Davies, Liz Wozniak**

*Dalhousie Association of Women and the Law*



I am writing this letter with regards to the controversy surrounding the article in the September 29th issue of the Picaro entitled "Take Back the Bullshit" by Stephen Brown. It seems to me there have been an awful lot of people taking out their frustrations experienced from the content of this article on yourselves, the

editors of the Picaro, rather than on the author of the article, Stephen Brown. After reading the article I was personally shocked and disappointed with Stephen's attitude not only towards women but towards life in general. I found myself muttering the word "jerk" under my breath, and was amazed that someone could put those words to paper and even more surprised that he seems to believe them.

In my opinion Stephen Brown has many issues to deal with. I do not appreciate his writing style, and I will not read any of his articles in the future. But this is where I draw the line—as is stated in each issue of the paper "The views expressed are not necessarily those of the Picaro or its editors". The Picaro is a university paper which allows students to voice their opinions, this is what Stephen Brown did. We may not like his opinion but we all have the option of whether or not to read any future articles by him. For the Picaro to not have printed Stephen Brown's article would have been an act of censorship.

I enjoy the Picaro as many people do, and I applaud the staff for including Stephen's article. As can also be found on the inside cover of each Picaro "The Picaro is dedicated to informing, challenging and entertaining the students of MSVU..." This is precisely what Stephen's article did

**Michelle Doe**



What were you thinking to give the sexist, misogynist, racist and barely coherent ranting of a woefully uninformed, painfully misguided and obviously immature individual any space at all in a university newspaper?

And a university newspaper going to a largely female population at that!

Realize, Mr. Boudreau, common sense, good judgement and good taste are important components of responsible journalism. As editor-in-chief of the Picaro, you owe it to all MSVU students - women and men - to start exercising these qualities.

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*Think of yourself for a change.  
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Or start to compost. Or stop using pesticides. After all, whenever you do anything - big or small - to help restore and conserve our wild spaces and species, you also help yourself. We count on these living resources for everything from medical advancement to industrial growth. In other words, what we do for them, we do for ourselves. And our children. Reach us at [www.wwfcanada.org](http://www.wwfcanada.org) or 1-800-26-PANDA and we'll tell you a few more selfish ways you can help.



*Their future is our future.*



# Letters

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In the real work world, anyone who exhibits such an appalling lack of judgement regarding sexism and racism would be required to undertake corrective education and counselling. We suggest you go, Mr. Boudreau.

**Patricia Doyle-Bedwell, LL.B.**

*Chair, Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women*

To all the oversensitive people out there,

I am writing this letter in regards to an article that was recently published in the latest issue of the Picaro. Everyone knows the one... "Take Back the Bullshit".

Finally someone had the Spaldings enough to stand up and say something in his own defence. Trust me, he is not alone. There are plenty of males (and females) who attend Mount Saint Vincent University who agree with what Mr. Stephen Brown had to say. I'm just sorry it wasn't said sooner. Everything he said may have been colorful, but it was not without its validities.

As a fellow male attending the Mount, I too can say I'm sick and tired of being beat over the head with this whole feminist issue. Perhaps people who do not attend this school are not subjected to the same degree of it. Everywhere we look there is a reminder that "men are pigs" and we should be hated. Stephen is right, we are not the ones who raped, beat, harrassed anyone, so why are we the target? It's called preaching to the converted. If you want to get your message across, take it to the people who actually need 'enlightening'.

There is no way Mr. Brown can be expected to apologize for his article. First

of all, it was his opinion, and that can't be taken away. It's not like he's marching in the streets with big banners and shouting immature slogans, which apparently is a good way to get a message across. Hey, you got your message across your way, he did it his way. People (feminists) should stop being so offended by a simple article when we are being constantly lambasted with the rights of women (which I agree they should have).

Yes, he made a bold statement. Yes it was effective. Yes, it got under people's skin. But that is what you have to do. No, he (nor anyone else) should have to apologize. No, it's not he or I you should be angry at. Try blaming yourself for it. If you corner a snake, he'll strike out. Stop wasting your energy on the people who don't need it.

An excellent article, both for the paper and this issue.

**Shaun Doyle**

This is a letter regarding the now-famous article by Steven Brown, "Take Back The Bullshit". Although I personally did not enjoy the article, that is not the issue I am addressing. It did offend and even anger many students here at the Mount and over at Dal, but the Picaro is a student newspaper that represents many students from different cultures, ethnic backgrounds and sexual orientations. This creates much opportunity for opposed views. I think that the Picaro should print opinion pieces even if they are in bad taste because who is "right" in choosing if a piece isn't in good taste?

Everybody knows who Howard Stern is. Many listen to his radio show, and many went to see or rented his movie, "Private Parts". Personally, I think he is all about bad taste. He insults,

hates, stereotypes, and offends many more people than the Picaro has, but Stern's fan club is huge, and the Pic is getting bashed. Stern has astronomical commercial funding, and his legal fees are even paid for because he insults individual people as well as groups, so they sue him. Stern still has millions of listeners and viewers despite his attitudes on topics such as sexual orientation, race, ethnic origin, and religion.

Even though the "Bullshit" article was printed in the Picaro, and many were upset about it, people do have the freedom and choice not to read that particular article or any future articles by Mr. Brown; just as people have the freedom to turn the radio station off if Stern offends them.

This article has brought many readers to the Picaro, which I think is a great thing. After all, it is our paper and the more that read it, the better the feedback will be. Thus, the better the paper will be in the end. Freedom of speech is a big part of journalism, and is legal in this country. Despite the fact that Mr. Brown's article has angered many people, I do not think that the Pic has the right to go against Freedom of Speech, or deny us an article that some may enjoy.

Isn't it funny that an article that has caused so much concern is the most read story at the Mount and Dal this week...

**Angie Elsinga**

Personally I think this article is a huge load of bullshit. I can't believe you would publish something so vulgar and sexist. Try abiding by your own rules as in: The Picaro will not publish anything sexist, etc.

Obviously there are some very uneducated people working behind this publication if they feel that

Take Back the Night is similar to "a potential lynch mob- like a Southern 'coon hunt". This article ridicules the Take Back the Night when it should be commending it for trying to make the streets safer for women.

This author should feel guilty about all of the things he says he won't because it is attitudes like his that have fucked women over for so long.

A very pissed off and offended Dal student

**Natasha Marsh**

This lil' letter of mine is a response to your outrageous article in the Picaro last week. It was called some thing like "Take Back the Bullshit." I would like to start by thanking you for sharing your opinion and asking you to please consider the following without prejudice.

When I finished reading your article for the first time I felt nauseous. How, I thought, could someone have missed the point so entirely? I went back and read it again, trying to pinpoint what made your article so painful for me to read. Then it struck me: you, at least in your article, exhibited a complete refusal to understand the privileged place you hold in the world as a man. Guilt is a privileged emotion, one that only a few can afford to experience.

Why, Mr. Brown, do you feel guilty? And why do you accord me, a woman, so much power? Do I really have to power to dictate your emotions? To make you feel guilty? If you have nothing to feel guilty about then don't. But if you partake of the privilege handed to your because you are a man then I want you to wriggle and writhe and struggle through your guilt. That's right struggle THROUGH your guilt until you come to a point where you renounce the privilege handed to you because you are a man and come at me on equal ground. You feel guilt because you are the prodigal son; privileged at the expense of others. Love your guilt, for it is the key to freedom for us all. The passageway to LIGHT. When you and I are equal then there will be no need for guilt.

And your anger, Mr. Brown. That article you wrote,

it was no impartial discourse, no, no, no. It was anger I heard when I read your words. Where does your anger come from? Are you angry that women want to TAKE YOUR PRIVILEGE AWAY? Are you angry that we know that you are no better and no worse than we are, and that we demand to be treated as equals? Take Back the Night is about women. It is about WOMEN protesting the violence that they are subjected to everyday. For me it is about women understanding that the patriarchal society we live in allows women to be subjected to violence in ways which men never will be. For me it means protesting the fact that if I am raped by a stranger at night as I walk home from school I will be asked "What were you doing out that late?" "What were you wearing?" And told "If you only you had been more careful..." I don't want to be careful. I don't want to be held responsible for the violence of men. I don't want to be asked, in a court of law, about the psychiatric history. I don't want my counselling records to be displayed for the man who raped me to poke through in order to pick apart my "story." I want Freedom. Respect. Equality. And I want them now.

If Take Back the Night threatens you, you should examine why. If women's anger angers you, you should examine that too. You should think about the position you hold in the world. I am not saying that you will never be attacked at night. And I am not saying that you will never be victimized systematically by violence which is to some degree or another condoned by the state and the members of our society. And I want that to stop NOW.

So Mr. Brown, next year when Take Back the Night rolls around, I hope that you are there. I hope that you have moved beyond your guilt and your self-righteous anger towards a few new emotions. I'd like you to try EMPATHY. Empathize with women who are victims of systemic violence. UNDERSTAND the problems which pervade our society, our institutions and our minds which RE-VICTIMIZE women who have been victims too many times already. Next year I hope you write a column about the strength, the empowerment and the need for women to band together to fight the particular brand of violence which hits them and them alone. I hope you

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**HEART AND STROKE FOUNDATION**



# Letters

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realize that Take Back the Night is not about YOU. It is about US as a society. Together not separate. It is about the struggle to help us all live free, happy and violence free lives.

**Kirsti McHenry**



I am disgusted by the article published in the Picaro on September 29, 1998. This whole article makes a joke of the efforts of women to educate people on violence against women and protest it. Stephen Brown obviously has no knowledge of what "Take back the Night" is all about. It's about stopping violence, it's about making it safe to walk in the street at night, and it gives women that one night of the year when they feel safe to walk outside without being accompanied by a father, brother or boyfriend. This march was not about male bashing, it was not about male hatred, and it sure as hell wasn't about gagging on ejaculate. Women were not protesting menstrual cramps, they weren't protesting that a past boyfriend didn't love them, and they're not protesting having to take the birth control pill. This march is a non-violent protest, and Stephen Brown has the nerve to compare the group of women to "a potential lynch mob- like a Southern 'coon hunt..."

I agree, what Stephen Brown has written is a bunch of bullshit, but it has nothing to do with "Take back the Night". I hope your paper makes an effort to correct the thoughts of the people who were misled by the article by publishing an article explaining what the march was really about.

**Dayle Lynn McNabb**



I am sure you have received a great many letters concerning Stephen Brown's contentious article, "Take Back the Bullshit." I would like to add my comments to the mix.

I am not going to address the sentiments expressed in the piece as I feel the point Mr. Brown attempted to make was lost in an incoherent, badly written rant that does not warrant attention. However, I would like to point out a couple of factual errors present in the article.

Firstly, menstruation and "masturbated semen" cannot be fairly compared. One is voluntary, the other involuntary.

Secondly, the comparison made between the "Take Back the Night March" and a "Southern 'coon hunt" is, not only unjust and insulting, but insensitive and uninformed. Brown seems to be indicating that a march intended to empower and enlighten BOTH sexes as to continuing violence against women is akin to a terrible U.S. legacy of brutally murdering African-American people.

I suggest that both Brown and the Picaro's editors, whose decision it was to retain the above misinformation within the article, never skip another biology or history class.

**Pam Menchenton**

*M.S.V.U. Public Relations student*



I am replying to Stephen Brown's opinion piece in the September 29th, 1998, Picaro entitled, "Take Back The Bullshit".

I am first of all wondering why the entire Picaro audience is being subjected to the pointless information given by Mr. Brown, information that is obviously directed toward some person/people Mr. Brown is

having some sort of personal struggle with. I read The Picaro to be informed of and entertained by what's happening in The Mount Community—not to read some witless article that can't even be fully comprehended due to lack of content.

I'm also wondering why, at a university comprised of an approximate 80% female population, there are such insensitive articles dealing with women's issues in the schools' newspaper. In case Mr. Brown has not noticed, there already exist many boundaries between men and women in today's society—bravo Mr. Brown for putting up one more with your self-pitying attitude about which sex has it 'tougher'.

I am also interested in knowing where Mr. Brown witnessed this "potential lynch mob" similar to a "Southern 'coon hunt'" he so bitterly speaks of. I am assuming our author is speaking of such events as the 'Take Back the Night' marches, and gee, I've been there, and you should have seen all the Davy Crocket hats those rowdy women were wearing!

As to Mr. Brown's suggestion (or at least implied request) that I, along with the rest of my female cohorts, "take back the bullshit", I suggest Mr. Brown eat the Bullshit—maybe then with his mouth full the Picaro audience will finally be saved from his ranting drivel. I also suggest to the Editor-in-Chief he send staff members with personal problems to a counselor instead of allowing them to air their problems in the school's newspaper.

**Peggy Miles**



I stand in full support of Stephen Brown's article—"Take Back the Bullshit". I am a female first year student here at the Mount, and I believe in what Brown had to say, and in Tim Boudreau's decision to print it. In doing so, both these men have displayed, in my mind, great courage. I am sure they both knew that people were going to complain, that was the whole intent of the article—it was meant to wake us up, it was made for us to think about what Feminism has become.

All we women seem to be doing is whining, and still expecting to have our cake handed to us by male servants. Feminism today is a total sham—Equalism is what men

and women should believe in. Promoting equality in the workplace—not for women alone. My reasons for feeling that feminism is a sham is only because all I've ever seen is "male bashing" and that makes me sick. Men are wonderful creatures of nature, as are women. Both men and women have been known to rape, molest, assault, beat and steal—the point is we are both capable of these atrocities.

Brown's article has a lot of truth within it. But prima facie all that most see are "offensive" words and "sexism". Neither Brown nor Boudreau are sexist by any stretch of the imagination. They have the utmost respect for women. I felt no one really understood "Take Back the Bullshit" which is a real shame. After all, in the 1990's don't we all enjoy and deserve a controversial topic now and then to stimulate our numbed brain cells? Challenge Feminist Taboo's and really assess your distaste with Brown's thoughts.

In conclusion, my disgust is from the "hate mail" all over the Picaro office, all demanding apologies from Brown and Boudreau. Neither man should apologise, I am proud of them both. I admire Brown's profound insight and articulation on "Feminism", and for Boudreau's brave decision for challenging our thoughts with such a bold article.

**Trisha Lynn Nettleship**



A few weeks ago you invited faculty to submit articles to the Picaro. I am more moved to write you a letter. My letter is a lament and an expression of outrage at the trashy and misogynistic articles that we in our university community, faculty, students and staff are being exposed to this year by your newspaper. You and your staff have gone well beyond what is responsible on all levels and of what could be of any possible service to anyone. I encourage all of you to read the Mount's Mission Statement, (pp. 10 and 11, Academic Calendar 1998-99, Mount Saint Vincent University) reflect on it and then please, start over (whatever that takes). If not, I would suggest saving trees and paper by disbanding your misguided attempts at journalism. All of us have some responsibility to this institution as a university and hopefully

concern for those of us who work and study here. Until this is reflected in your newspaper, I doubt that anyone of us want to see our names attached to an article in the Picaro.

**Dr. Mary O'Brien**

*Associate Professor  
Department of  
Gerontology*



I suppose you're the one responsible for the entry of Steven Brown's article "Take back the Bullshit" into this Tuesday's paper. I'd like to CONGRATULATE you for having the balls to do so.

I am one of two males in a Women's Studies course at one of Halifax's other Universities, and the article was brought to our professor's attention before class today. When it came time for discussion, and after she had voiced her opinions about it, we were each given a copy of it and asked to, "read this and talk about how you feel." Well, when I started reading it, I thought to myself, "Finally! It's about time somebody has the balls to speak up about how much bullshit is being thrown at men." Moments later there was a chorus of, "Oh my God. How can he say that!" sort of remarks. I figured that it would be brushed off as just another display of sexism and discrimination (of which I have to admit, I see none at all, only pure honesty - sort of what the "OPINION" section is for) and forgotten about in a couple of days. Well no sooner had I started expressing my distaste for the thoughts of certain members of the class had somebody suggested a letter writing campaign and a petition of sorts to stop this from happening, quoting your papers standards and convincing everyone that "They can't publish that sort of thing!" Well, I'm still at the point where 100 screaming radical women wanting to bury me alive sort of intimidates me (call me a wuss, but I'm not getting beat to a pulp) so I refrained from raising my voice too loud today, but I want to remind everyone that had a problem with the published article of a few things. One, you're the guy being paid the big bucks to make these calls. Two, you work for the media... I've never seen any controversy raised over an article of such extremes (on

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with your family and sign  
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THE KIDNEY FOUNDATION  
OF CANADA



# Letters

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paper or on TV) aimed at the flaws of men. And three, this is Canada; isn't freedom of speech one of the things we are all thankful for (if you want someone six feet under for speaking their mind, go to China — or even the States). The words of wisdom written by Mr. Stephen Brown are not a display of sexism, racism, or any sort of discrimination whatsoever, it's good ol' fashion equality - isn't that what you've been striving for all these years.

I hope you had a chance to read all of what I had to say, I really feel strongly about this guys freedom of speech and your freedom to publish it - you shouldn't have to put up with any of the crap that gets thrown at you over it. If there's room in your next paper, feel free to publish pieces of this letter. I hope I'm not the only one with these thoughts.

*Peter O'Hearn*

STEPHEN BROWN- Why do you feel guilty?

In response to Stephen Brown's article of article of September 9, 1998:

We were angered, saddened and disturbed by Mr. Brown's letter. It seems as though a view of intimacy and sexuality that we have inherited as a society has been destructive for all of us. In Mr. Brown's article, there are several confusing messages and vague allusions to his past experiences to which we feel the need to respond.

No, it is not Mr. Brown's fault that those 14 intelligent loved, and wonderful young women were brutally murdered by Marc Lepine; not anymore than any of us who have helped in one way or another to perpetuate jealousy and hatred towards women. It is not his fault that women suffer in order to make their bodies more attractive; it sounds as if he too has been sucked into that same myth of youth and beauty. Did anyone ask Mr. Brown to feel guilty about women's menstruation, or all the wars waged, or crimes committed by other men? The question here is about personal responsibility in our society that perpetuates and condones crimes against women: a question, Mr. Brown, in which we are all engaged.

In response to Mr. Brown's line, "I am not going to feel guilty anymore that I did use them because they did use

me. That's what it's all about, right?" Well, maybe this is *not* what it's all about. We invite him to look further. Many millions of people in this world are about using each other for sex in the bitter and self-destructive way that he refers to it. However, there are many who do not live this way. One of the main ways that society survives is through the day to day caring for others and the efforts made to communicate positively. If we all lived by this victimized - aggressor attitude of use, rape, abuse and hate philosophy that Mr. Brown postulates, there would be no Canada as we know it.

It sounds as if Mr. Brown has had a rough and abusive time in his life and that he is assuming that women are an annoying and major part of the cause of his rough time. It also sounds as if women are some disconnected and alien form of life, and because he feels this way, women deserve to suffer. Because he has. No, Mr. Brown was not a wimp to cry when he was hit, but he is a wimp not to take responsibility for his part in his misconceptions and utter ignorance of more than half the world's population- women. This failure to take responsibility for your part in helping to perpetuate hate against women is what you should indeed feel guilty about, Mr. Brown.

To address the editor, Tim Boudreau: as much as we see Stephen Brown as part of the problem perpetuating hatred toward women, you are also a part of the problem. We assume your defense in printing this piece of hate is that it is in the name of free speech. You must be aware that with free speech comes responsibility. A university school paper should challenge readers, but not offend them. Although this article drew some agreement, it also offended a large part of your readers, both men and women. Mr. Boudreau, being the editor of a paper takes common sense, and part of that comes from not offending people by printing people with such hate.

*Tasha Smith  
Bridget Peron*

We are appalled by your ignorance and question your position as the EDITOR of a student newspaper. I don't know of your heritage but if I

were to write an article declaring that I don't "feel guilty" or that I am not bothered by the enslavement and discrimination of the African-Americans in our nation. Would you print that?! We are demanding a written apology in your next issue.

*Monique Rachel Talbot*

I would just like to write and say how amazing I thought Stephen Brown's opinion piece was. Bravo, it must have taken some guts both on his part to write it and the editor's to have published it. The piece was articulate, and concise. I can't help but think that if this was written at Dal or SMU, Brown would just be swept aside as a nutcase or an idiot. But to say that in an 85% female university takes strength. And I bet every guy there is right behind you, breathing a sigh of relief that finally someone said what scores of other men have thought. Just as you are fed up with women's complaints, I must say that as a woman, so am I.

*Sally Thomas*

I am a student at Dalhousie University and I am writing you concerning an article you published on September 29 in the Picaro. This article, "Take Back The Bullshit", by Stephen Brown, is so repulsively offensive I could hardly believe my eyes when I read it. Does your newspaper not state "The Picaro reserves the right to edit and/or refuse publication of any articles deemed offensive/sexist etc..."? How could you have published such a disgustingly sexist, offensive article? Need I cite some direct quotations? In the very first paragraph, Stephen Brown writes, "I am not going to feel guilty anymore that I used my virginity[had sex]on the anniversary of Marc Lapine's murder of fourteen women...I did it again the next year. And the year after that..." To call this "just bad luck" is absurd; to have taken note of it so carefully is sick; to have printed it is appalling. Need I go on? "I am not going to feel guilty anymore that each of them[women] was raped before and after me..." the filth goes on and on, concluding with the only statement which actually makes reference to the Take Back The Night march, "I

am not going to feel guilty anymore that you need to band into a potential lynch mob- like a Southern 'coon hunt- to feel empowered. I am not going to feel guilty anymore that you can't walk the streets at night in safety..."

WHAT WERE YOU THINKING? Responsibility for this shockingly misogynistic article not only falls on the twisted man who wrote it, but on the one who allowed it to be printed...YOU.

*Lesley Walters*

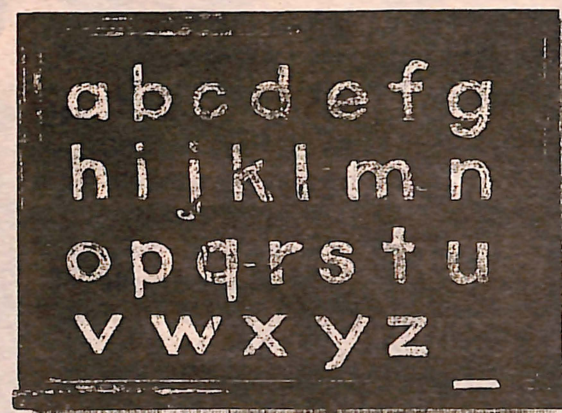
I feel compelled to respond to an article in the "Gazette" (Oct. 8), regarding another article, from "The Picaro" (Oct. 1). "Take Back The Bullshit" was powerfully written. In "Mount paper retracts sexist, racist article", the authors missed the point. For one, accusations of racism are ridiculous. There was no mention of any ethnicity. "Sexism" is also far-fetched. Rather, "Take Back The Bullshit" uncovers the sexist attitudes against men in society. The fact that Stephen Brown had sex on the night the women were killed is not about lack of self-respect. The point is, life goes on. It's just another night. Probably coincidence. The event has almost been inflated. Yes, it's horrible, but must we

dwell on it so much and let it disrupt our lives? Brown was not "bragging", he was just putting things into perspective. The "problem" of language is also a farce. There were few, if any profanities, except the title. The author used technical, straight-forward terminology. The real disgrace is that the newspaper was removed from the Dal SUB. I pasted the article outside my Shirreff Hall room. Many stop and read it and the shameful response below it, taken from the Gazette. I know no one offended by it, only people who agree with it. Removing the paper was unjustified. Maybe fifteen people complained, but what about those who agree with it? If people disagree with the content, THEY DON'T HAVE TO READ IT!!!!!! "Take Back The Bullshit" is a profound article that stands up for men's rights. We want equality, not reversed sexism. Men aren't to blame for the actions of other men. They shouldn't be made to feel like scum.

Congratulations to Brown for speaking out for his sex. Shame on the "feminists" who are apparently too afraid to admit they're sexist. As for myself, there's a lineup of people wanting to photocopy the article outside my door.

*Pam Wentzell*

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# Imagine... A Closer Look At Rohypnol: The Date-Rape Drug

By Rhonda Simser

Imagine a woman waking up in the morning, and not knowing where she is. Imagine even further, that she has no recollection of how she got there, or even when. Imagine her last memory is of her standing in a bar with her friends, drinking, dancing, having a good time. Imagine she is scared and does not know what to do. That is a reality for many women who fall prey to a drug called Rohypnol, one of the most commonly used date-rape drugs in circulation.

With the onslaught of sex in the media, in our lives, and in the bars, it shouldn't be surprising there is also an onslaught of drug-related rapes and attacks. There are many different brands of drugs on the market used for date-rape purposes, with Rohypnol being the most common in Canada.

Part of the family of benzodiazepines, Rohypnol is prescribed to people suffering from anxiety and sleep disturbances. In Canada, however, other members of the benzodiazepine

liquid, and so the blue dye imparts a noticeable colour to most drinks. These changes are now going through regulatory approvals in each country where Rohypnol is marketed. Hoffman-LaRoche also took the two-milligram dose off of the market, and replaced it with a one-milligram dosage. And all shipments are now being sent in tamper-resistant containers.

So now you know all the nuts and bolts of the drug, namely what

usually fall prey. We live in a corrupt society when somebody can't put their drink down for two minutes, without someone slipping a [drug] in it."

Bruce's sentiments ring true to many students. But how is it that our society, or any other society, has fallen victim to this? Fourth-year sociology student, Karlee Furry says: "People do not [consider] the consequences when they do something. Many people use

drug and woke up the next morning afraid, not knowing whose bed she was in.

To say date-rape drugs are a serious matter, is putting it lightly. Second-year arts student, Mohammad Hussein, says: "The idea of using Rohypnol, just to 'get it going on' is very sick. Whoever does this would have to be a crazy animal, not a human being. It's really a shame that in our society a drug of this sort would be used for these purposes. What kind of people are we to let this pass by? No one in his or her right mind would do such a thing. All I can say is: Keep it real, look out for yourself and your friends, because it's your future."

Hussein makes a good point: Why would we support the continued production of a drug that is used to harm so many people?

***Date-rape is a scary thought in and of itself, when you add the thought of drugs to it, it becomes even scarier.***

-Michelle Doe

it can do and how most people use it. But what social implications does it have for university students?

Most university students are adults. They spend a lot of time with friends drinking or socializing. Most are taught from a young age not to accept anything from strangers; but at the same time, friends tell each other it's rude not to accept a drink when it is offered by

drugs, but don't think of what might happen, or what harm these substances could [do to] someone."

Other students offer, colourful opinions on the tragic misuse of the drug. Jamie Forsey, a third-year business student says: "[You should try to] charm someone's pants off, not drug them off."

"Do we live in a society where we can no longer take time to get to know someone before we try to sleep with them?" is the question Mark Sitter, a fourth-year public-relations student, poses. "Where are the days of good ole' fashion courting and dating? We should try to know someone before we consider sleeping with them."

Date rape, and all that comes with it, is very scary, not only for the person it happens to, but also those around him or her. It is frightening to be drugged, and not know what has happened; to wake up in a strange bed, and not know how you got there. This scene was played out in a episode of Beverly Hills 90210, when the character Valerie fell victim to a date-rape

Although Hoffman-LaRoche has taken many precautions to diminish the misuse of Rohypnol, some people are still afraid of being a victim of the drug.

need to be taken to ensure people's safety, but at the same time people who use Rohypnol for what it is manufactured for, should have access to it. They are not

***Do we live in a society where we can no longer take time to get to know someone before we try to sleep with them?***

- Mark Sitter

Like Furry says: "Rohypnol is good for the purposes it was originally intended for, but there are other methods that can be used for treatment of anxiety and insomnia."

Is the solution to the Rohypnol debate to pull all stocks of it off the shelves, and cease production?

"Date-rape is a scary thought in and of itself, when you add the thought of drugs to it, it becomes even scarier," says Michelle Doe, a fourth-year science student. "Steps

misusing it and shouldn't have to find something else that works for them, because some people take it upon themselves to misuse the drug."

Among the students interviewed there is a general consensus on the misuse of Rohypnol. Many students feel that the drug should be discontinued all together.

A safer place, this world would be, free of date-rape, free of Rohypnol. Imagine...

***The idea of using Rohypnol, just to 'get it going on' is very sick. Whoever does this would have to be a crazy animal.***

- Mohammad Hussein

family—like Valium and Ativan—are more commonly prescribed to patients.

Hoffman-LaRoche, the manufacturers of Rohypnol, is concerned with misuse of this drug, and have made many changes to its content. To deter illegal use of the drug, a blue dye has been added to the tablet, making it easier to recognize. In addition, the company changed the formulation of the tablet so it does not dissolve quickly in

someone, perhaps a stranger.

Students on campus have much to say about Rohypnol and other date rape drugs. "People [who] would use Rohypnol for their own personal gain, or sexual deviance, are disturbed," says Jason Bruce, a first-year arts student. He went on to say, "It is about time the manufacturers refined [Rohypnol], so it is easier to detect, thus causing less harm to unsuspecting people, especially women, who

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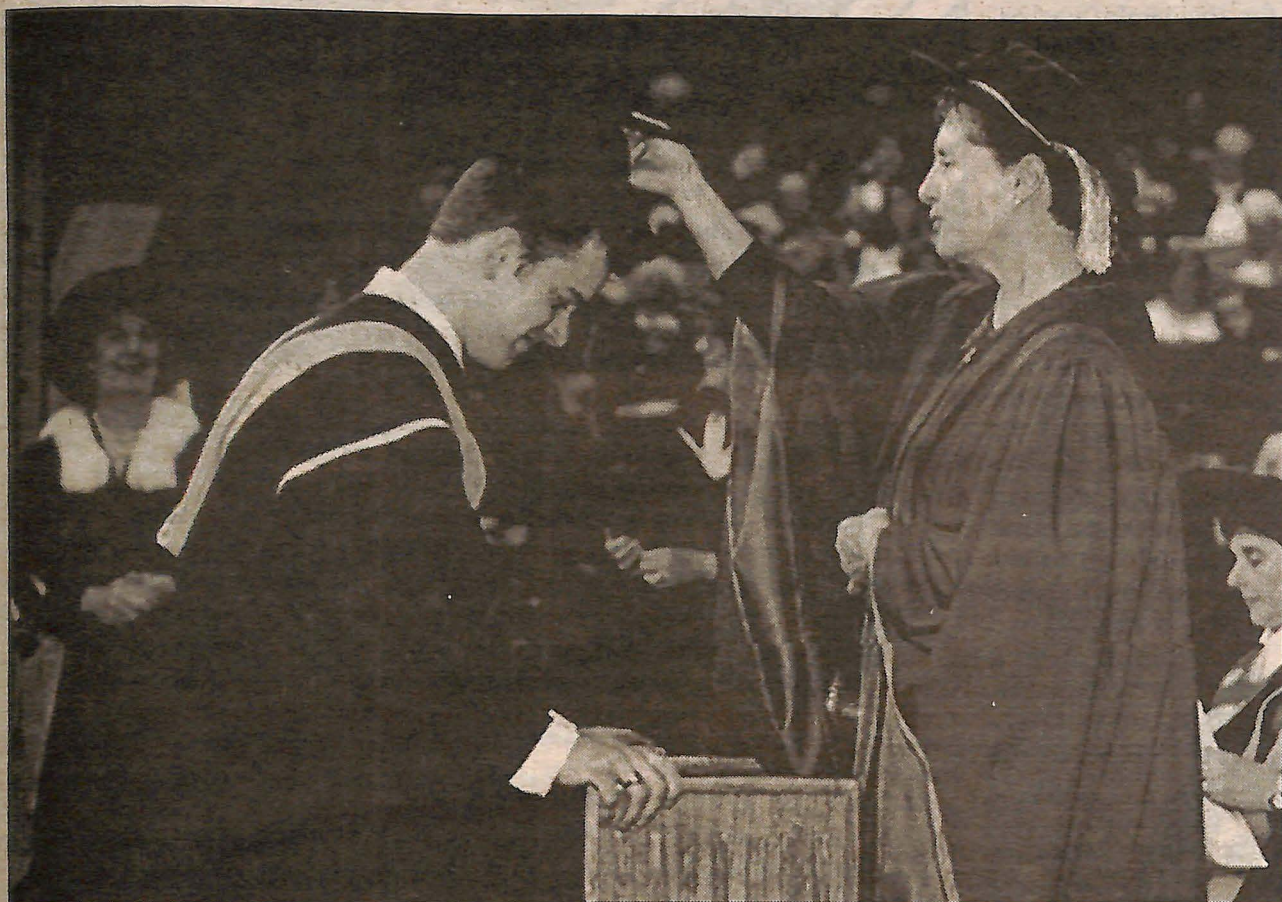
**ARAMARK**  
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# Fall '98 Convocation

Photos by Sandor Fizli



Matthew Grant Swain, BBA, walked on the stage a student and walked off a mount alumnae.



Jeannine Leah Jessome, Master of Arts in education, receives the President's Prize.



Michelle Butler, BPR, receives the Kappa Gamma Pi award.



Melanie Anna Marchand, BBA, receives the President's Prize



MSVU Ex-Presidents (L to R) Dr. Naomi Hersom, Dr. E. Margaret Fulton and Dr. Mary Haggerty



(Left to Right) Dr. Sheila Brown (President), Mary Pratt and Ruth Hammond (honourary degree recipients) and Mary Louise Brink (Chancellor)



By Mike D. Allen

# I Know Where It's At

If there's a song that's really hard to find...no need to worry 'cause you can go on-line!

Have you ever heard a song on the radio that you forgot about over the years, then realized, "Hey, that's a cool song...I have to get it?" It makes you think about the good ol' tunes like "Axel F," "Take On Me" or "Tokyo Rose." Just like wine, songs seem to get better with age. The main problem is being able to buy old tunes in today's music stores, as only a few of these songs stay popular. There just isn't the selection that there once was, because the stores are no longer willing to pay for large inventories.

And

what about vinyl records? Forget it!

You're better off looking for a flea in a grain silo. How about dance music? Not

the usual stuff with pop appeal, like "Barbie Girl," but serious underground like "Check Out The Base Line" by House Lizards or remixes such as "Let The Love Go On" by Candy Club? It's not gonna happen?

Occasionally, a good underground tune will become popular, which was the case with "Equidor" by Sash. But, generally people aren't all that enthralled by the underground scene, so you have a hard time getting those types of songs.

At any rate, if you find yourself at the music store, either looking for old songs, records, or underground music, you probably aren't going to find what you're looking for. So what do you do?

The answer is on the Internet; a site called Music Boulevard ([www.musicblvd.com](http://www.musicblvd.com)) to be exact. Once you

get there, you can find just about anything you could ever imagine. You'll be happier then a boweevil in a barrel of cotton! There are music categories I haven't even heard of. Not only that, but you can sample the songs like at Futureshop and search by title.

If you really dig music and entertainment, you can get news on upcoming releases or go to the movie section to check out the latest trends there. And get ready for a shock...you can order records from the site. That's right...vinyl! I bet you

found either. Looking for the remix was as useless as putting a bucket under a bull.

So one day when I was fooling around on the Internet, I came across Music Boulevard. Could this be the place where I could find the illusive song? I thought to myself: Possible straight, possible flush.

The site had all sorts of music categories and places to go. I typed in the name and group, and to my astonishment, I found the single. I was expecting to find the remix on some European album, not the CD single. I had the option of ordering it on CD, cassette or vinyl record.

I don't imagine there are too many singles, let alone Candy Club singles, in music collections around Metro. In fact, there is a much larger supply of singles than you may be aware of and you can find them on Music Boulevard. The regular music stores want you to buy the more expensive album to cover store expenses. But the new age of on-line music shopping can cater to everyone's exact needs, because of small overhead costs. At last, you don't have to pay \$23.99 for a CD with one song on it that you like; you just have to pay a few bucks for shipping.

A little lesson though, if you are a bargain hunter, don't do what I did. I had my single shipped here by courier at the cost of \$17.99 US. It's fast, but you have to shell out the cash, so keep that in mind. Normal deliver takes about 10 days.

Having said all that, take your own trip to Music Boulevard. Listen to tunes, look for 'em...whatever you want. I guarantee you will not be



disappointed. You'll find a wonderful library of music unequaled in any store. If you can't find the site or you need help, you can call a toll-free number: 1-800-99-

MUSIC. It's a good idea to provide credit card information over the phone instead of the Internet; safety and all.

I hope, since I have uncovered the

source of seemingly all music, your music collections will grow in quality and listening enjoyment. All music can be found now because we all know where it's at.

## public lecture

"Passionate in its attention to emotional nuance and visual detail, *In Another Place, Not Here* weds beauty and a fierce intelligence..." That's what the New York Times said about Dionne Brand's first novel. Now she's writing another novel, called *At the Full and Change of the Moon*, about a 19th century Caribbean slave and her modern-day descendants all over the world.

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presents

### Dionne Brand

Writing "*At the Full and Change of the Moon*"

7:30 pm, Thursday, October 29, 1998  
Auditorium D, Seton Academic Centre

Dionne Brand has taught literature and creative writing at several Canadian universities. She has also been Writer in Residence at the University of Toronto and at the Halifax City Regional Library. Brand has published books on racism and on Black women's history in Canada, including *Bread Out of Stone* and *Sans Souci and Other Stories*. Her latest book on poetry, *Land to Light On*, won the 1997 Governor General's Award and the Trillium Book Award. Her first novel, *In Another Place, Not Here*, was a New York Times Editor's Choice and 1998 Vacation Reading Recommendation.



Mount Saint  
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# Dracula Sucks The Blood of Immortal Classics

## A review of *Dracula...a chamber musical*

By Shaun Doyle

If you want to see a good old-fashioned love story, do see this. If you want to see a musical with great special effects, go see this. However, the love story and effects don't make enough to carry a play.

*Dracula...* a chamber musical, was written by Richard Ouzounian, the music and orchestration by Marek Norman. Ouzounian manages to stick basically to the story we all know and love: Jonathan Harker (played by Roger

London and falls in love, or so the play

apparition, blood pouring from a coffin,

*If you want to see a good old-fashioned love story, do see this.*

would have you believe. The rest of the play is dedicated to ridding the town of evil. Like I said, it has a good love-story plot. It is jam-packed with sexual implications.

The special effects were amazing, like nothing I've seen in a stage production anyway. We were

and something even more amazing which I will not reveal because it is just that good.

However, the play's downfall is the attention it paid to the production itself, or lack thereof. Perhaps more time could have been spent on acting. All of the actors had great voices. However, the singing was too loud for the small confines of Neptune Theater. Honeywell had a tremendous voice and came the closest to being a believable actor. Christopher Shyer was a good Dracula, June Crowley as Mina was not at all

bad. Her voice could soothe a savage beast. Melissa Thomson as Lucy was very believable (particularly in the scene with the rose) where one sees the fear and excitement even in her breathing). Go see it to know what I'm talking about. Of course, Cliff Le Jeune made a great Renfield,

But this is only so because it is the worst performance of the lot. At one point while Renfield is singing, I saw Hicks looking out at the audience. He was the least believable of all. None of the actors did a horrible job, but none were fantastic either.

The worst aspect about the play is that it

other; it is almost identical to *Phantom*. The music and songs all pretty much sound the same. And as a huge Les Mis. fan pointed out to me the songs of *Dracula* have a Les Mis. feel. In fact they sound just like its songs.

So on a critical level, the play could have used more work on fine tuning to make it more original. But on a pure entertainment level, the play is very good. In fact it is definitely worth seeing. The singing sends chills up your spine, the effects are great and everyone loves *Dracula*. If you ask me, go see the play, just don't be upset to hear or see shades of your favorites.

**Rating: 2.5 stars.**

*The singing sends chills up your spine, the effects are great and everyone loves Dracula.*

the psychotic follower. His solo song, "The spider and the Fly," is very entertaining.

What's disappointing is that none of these performances really stand out. The only one that does is Kevin Hicks' take on Seward.

rips off two musicals that have set the standard: *Phantom of the Opera*, and *Les Miserables*. First of all the whole love story surrounding the play mirrors *Phantom*. There is a scene where *Dracula* and Mina are moving around each

*on a pure entertainment level, the play is very good.*

Honeywell) goes to *Dracula's* castle, encounters weird stuff and becomes trapped. *Dracula* goes to

treated to a stage coach driver appearing out of nowhere, blue flames, *Dracula* seeming to appear like an

## The Politics of Class and Gender Revealed in The House of Bernarda Alba

by Janne Cleveland

In 1936 Spanish poet/playwright Federico Garcia Lorca wrote his last play, *The House of Bernarda Alba*, amidst the growing tensions that led to the opening moves of the Spanish Civil War. He would never see it performed, having been murdered by one of the fascist "Black Squads". A contemporary of surrealist painter Salvador Dali, Lorca's work carries a similar tenor of spartan disquiet, which perhaps reflects the political uncertainty and volatility of pre-war Spain.

The play begins on the day of the funeral for Bernarda Alba's husband. Bernarda, her five unmarried daughters, and two domestic servants, appear clothed entirely in oppressive and confining black mourning clothes. It is instantly obvious that Bernarda Alba is the force behind this wealthy rural family. She demands of relatives

an allegiance to the family, its name, and its honour that will brook no sentimentality. Her iron will dominates the members of the household.

As the play progresses, the eldest daughter, well past marriageable age, becomes engaged to a local young man, 15 years her junior. What is eventually revealed is that while he is courting the eldest daughter, he is also having an affair with the youngest, who is vibrant and determined to escape her mother's rule. As the tensions between family members increase, Bernarda gradually begins to lose her control over the household. At issue are questions of class, honour, and the appropriate place for women of wealth in rural Spain, under a rigid set of patriarchal expectations. The culmination of these impossibly repressive

expectations is the loss the eldest daughter feels when her fiancé flees when Bernarda sees him off at gunpoint, and the suicide of the youngest daughter, who believes her mother has killed her lover.

The space of the David Mack Murray Theatre provides an intimate setting for an equally intimate play. The minimal set, with its high-backed, rigid diningroom chairs reflects the rigid social codes that Bernarda Alba expects her family to abide by. The production, while somewhat melodramatic times, was solid. The costuming was beautifully detailed and equally evocative of the themes of oppression and rebellion. The use of Spanish instrumental music worked well to set the tone and place. The one notable problem in intimate spaces is creating the suggestion of age in

young players. This production was no exception. While some of the cast were convincing in their performances, their make-up was often too obvious for such a small setting.

While the play is rife with emotionally charged scenes, the characters portrayed, however, never seemed to work entirely together. It often felt like a series of solo vignettes rather than a fluid cast, working as a whole. That is not to say the performances were poor. Kelly Pike, as Bernarda, and Megan Dunlop, as her daughter Martirio, were notable.

In spite of the problems, the play still works well—even 62 years after it was first published, which attests more to the skill of the playwright than to this particular production.

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Youth Employment Strategies  
November 3, 1-2 pm, Career Placement Centre (Evaristus 218)

Looking for a summer job? Come to this information session and find out about government summer employment initiatives for students.

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November 4, 1-3 pm, Seton 305

Thinking of starting your own business? Join the Open for Business staff for an exciting workshop on what it takes to start your own business.

Local Labour Market Trends  
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What's hot and what's not in Nova Scotia? Barry Soper from HRDC will discuss general trends in the Nova Scotia job market.

Centre for Women in Business- Entrepreneurship Seminar  
Time and Date TBA



## Who Knows "What Dreams May Come?"

By Maureen Riley

Do you believe in life after death? This movie will question your thoughts (and hopes) of what lies for us humans after we take the big dirt nap. For you skeptics in the house, it may be hard for you to watch the whole movie and not say at some point, "But what if...?"

All theological discussion aside, Robin Williams and Cuba Gooding Jr. are the real attractions in this flick. Of course, you don't know what to expect from Williams. He could fly around in green tights followed by a group of pre-pubescent boys, teach poetry at a private school, or even be Matt Damon's shrink.

This time he is a heroic husband and father, travelling the after-worlds in search of his dead children

eight bucks just like I did to find out. Let's just say that he knows Christy (Williams) more than Christy

he visits. For many of his appearances, his shape is blurred into a streak of light on the screen with the use of incredible visual effects. The effects are some of the most creative I have ever seen; there is a scene where the two main characters are in a painting, and every time they move, the paint moves and squishes around them.

The writing is also superb; the plot will leave your mind in knots, as it takes you through flashbacks and weird surprises.

The best way to see this movie is with an open mind, letting the action take you away.

*The best way to see this movie is with an open mind, letting the action take you away.*

and suffering wife. His supernatural aid is none other than Cuba Gooding Jr. who turns out to be...oh no you don't, you can pay the

thinks he does. Or something like that.

Anyhoo, you can be sure that Gooding Jr. will bring his heavenly charisma to every scene

## What's Up at the Gallery?

by Gillian Collyer

On view at MSVU Art Gallery this month are two exhibitions well worth wandering through the doors for.

In 1996, when Gerald Ferguson was awarded the prestigious Molson Prize, he decided to take some time off from his regular teaching position at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design and devote his energies to painting. The results, after a laborious year in the studio, was a new body of work.

Now, this is not painting as most people understand, and this is something the artist is at pains to point out. Ferguson has always eschewed painting's fine art trapping—the oil paints, the sable brushes—for materials that are common, inexpensive, and easily obtained—house paint and roller brushes. In his words: "I like art out of a broom closet with materials you can get at a hardware store." And by using a stencil to apply paint to canvas, Ferguson deliberately obscures the "painterly mark"—the way an artist identifies the work as his/hers and enables the viewer to distinguish a "Picasso" from a "Rembrandt."

In this work Ferguson makes full use of his trademark stencil, applying it 250 times per painting, 10,000 grapes each. Multiply that by 100 paintings and you have the show's title: *1,000,000 Grapes*. The labour involved is monumental, the

process akin to production line work. (The artist himself admits to a predilection for "carrying things to the extremes.")

The visual effect is monumental as well. Covering three walls of the Mount's gallery, from floor to ceiling, the impact is dramatic and arresting: analogies to a cathedral space and a starry night seem equally

*Both exhibitions promise the opportunity for those in need of a quiet getaway in the upcoming weeks, do join us in the gallery.*

appropriate. And, though wary of imposing an overly ethereal reading, Ferguson admits to being pleasantly surprised by the work's impression of an "enclosing blackness" and expects that the installation will create a space conducive to contemplation.

Upstairs in the mezzanine is *Notification I*, a photographic work by Toronto-

based artist, Arnaud-Maggs. This work has its origins in a Paris flea market, where Maggs came upon a packet of old letters. Intrigued by their appearance, the artist continued his search for more of what turned out to be mourning stationary used in France at the turn of the century for notifying of a death. These became the raw material for a series of photographs of the backs of the envelopes

Arranged on a grid, the effect is compelling—row on row of black X's speak of the erased identities of anonymous persons initially erased by death and now further removed from our knowledge by the minimal information each envelope provides.

Both exhibitions promise the opportunity for contemplation, so for those in need of a quiet getaway in the upcoming weeks, do join us in the gallery.

*1,000,000 Grapes will be on exhibit from Oct. 24 until Nov. 22. Notification I will remain on display until Dec. 13. There will be an artist's talk by Arnaud Maggs on Sunday, 25 Oct., 2 p.m.; a talk by Gerald Ferguson will place on Nov. 5, 7:30 p.m.; on Sunday, Nov. 22, 1-3 pm, MSVU Religious Studies Professor, Randi Warne, will be part of a panel discussion about the significance of both exhibitions in a post-Catholic institutional space.*



## Solid foundation for her solo career

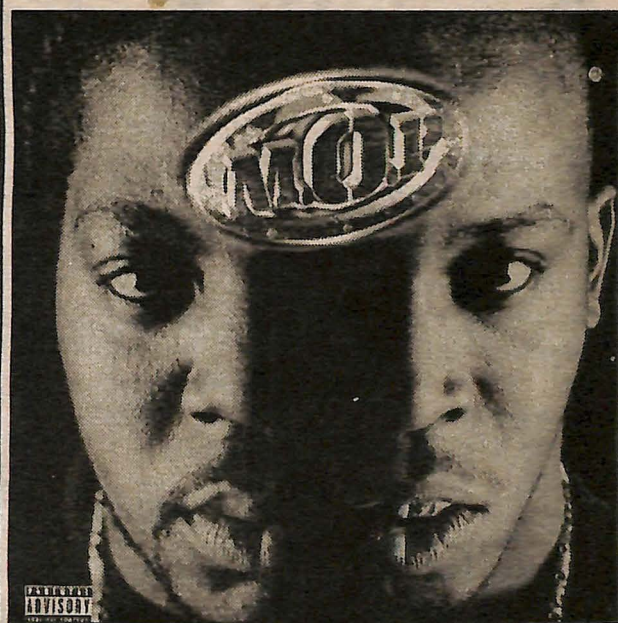
By Glenn Harrington

I do not like the Fugees', nor Mrs. Hill, but she has brought back positively to the score. In this, her debut album, she prefers song over rhyme, but with no swear words; her outlook is strong in both talents.

"To Zion," with Carlos Santana, is a remarkable song of the recent events of Mrs. Hill's life. "Final Hour" displays Hill's ability to rhyme. Some of her R&B tracks are

reminiscent to "Killing Me Softly," but that is to be expected.

The mainstream populous of Earth deserves to hear Lauryn Hill's state of mind. Featuring artists D'Angelo and Mary J. Blige, Mrs. Hill seems universal. In over 70 minutes of music, she has begun a solid foundation for her solo career.



## Stuff left over from Rover's doggy dish.

By Glenn Harrington

The first thing I noticed, was that DJ Premier did a good portion with M.O.P.'s production. The second thing I observed was the tremendous amount of vulgarity attached to the lyrics. It would make Richard Pryor shake his finger.

"4 Alarm Blaze," with Jay-Z and an "Eye of the Tiger" sample,

did not impress me. Featuring artists like O.C., Freddie Foxxx, Heather B., and Treach, M.O.P. still suffers from wackness. In "Salute Part 2," with Gangstarr, Guru totally shines over M.O.P.

These cats have been trying to blow up for a while. Their lack of skill and originality is the same stale stuff left over from Rover's doggy dish.



# Experimental Techno

By Glenn Harrington  
This self entitled album is a hybrid of sounds spanning from 50's retro to techno. The brain behind the music is Tomoyuki Tanaka,



turntablist and arranger in almost every song. He seems to be Japan's version of Dave Clark, from the oddness he presents to his score.

Possible releases could be "Dear Mr.Salesman" or a remake of Joe Jackson's "Steppin Out." Tanaka keeps an upbeat tempo for a good portion of the album but the repetition in his samples becomes tiring.

I have absolutely no feelings towards this music. It would not bother me in the least to use this CD as a frisbee or coaster. Those of you into experimental techno should be able to find a better use for this album.

## A hollow feeling in my head

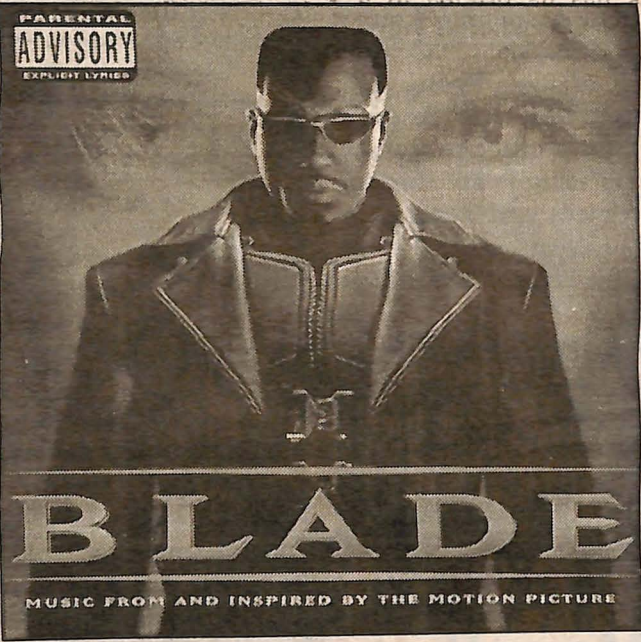
By Glenn Harrington  
Although the effort put into this album is appreciated, it is the wackest collaboration of gangsta rap I have heard in some time. The beats are fast and dry, leaving a hollow feeling in my head. But please note the following exceptions.

KRS-1 with Channel Live in "Blade" delivers tight rhymes, as any new album by KRS-1 is expected to. The only other song half decent is DJ Krush's "Dig This Vibe." Interestingly enough, it is an intrumental number with drums, bass and scratches.

The rap on this CD is like a lot of rap

right now: wasted space in record stores. This CD's only advertising catch is that it has music from some fairly

successful names in the industry. I heard the movie was good; I had hoped the soundtrack would be better.



By Mark "Rock 'n' Roll High School" Sitter

Throaty. Rugged. Edgy. Sheryl Crowesque. Yeah, those adjectives best describe Melanie Doane's tenaciously transcending voice.

After popping "adam's rib" into my pre-90's CD player, Doane's words seemed to slice, dice and sauté the airwaves with crisp and dominant chef-like intensity, pushing aside all instrumental sounds—just like Jewel.

Although her voice made for delicious listening, the pushed-aside background music, for the most part, swelled with confusion—like a blindfolded kid at a piñata party. Every time I was getting comfortable with the instrumentation

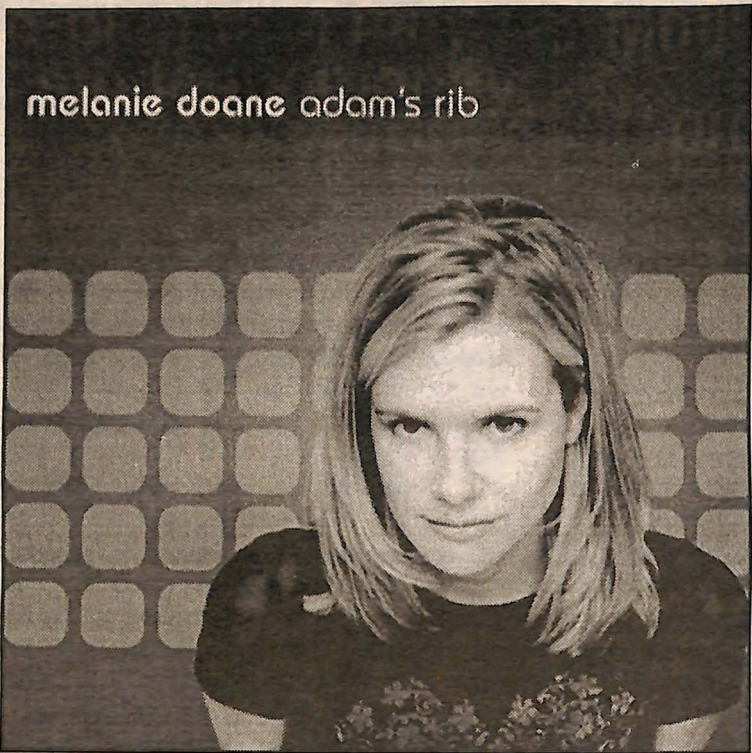
something wrong occurred. One minute there were some pleasing guitar rifts mixed with percussions, the next, unawares, this crazy Voyageur-on-the-Red-River fiddle music stumbled into the milieu, like a tall, drunk goofy guy dancing at a bar...

Anyhow, as I'm sure you figured out by the title, the CD's verbal content is feministic. The lyrics in all songs, more or less, touch on being an independent female, in both relationships and life. Verses drive this theme home by incorporating everything from Biblical allusions—"Hey Goliath / You're no bigger than me"

(Goliath)—to pop-culture references—"Maybe like a tv show / Half hour episodes to solve everything" (Absolutely Happy). Although thematic focus is great, I wish there was more variety in Doane's messages. (Variety is the party mix of life; you can't live on pretzels alone, right?)

All in all, it looks like Doane's got a great career in front of her, provided she drops her inappropriate, confused instrumentalists.

Anyhow, if you're into voices, like myself, this CD is definitely worth checking out. But if you're not into such oral pleasures, you might as well save your cash for the next Bach release.



## One rugged voice chomping through "adam's rib"

## Noticeably flat, yet intriguing voice

By Tyson "JazzMann" White

Recently, while wandering aroundThe Picaro office, I was confronted with a not-so-tough decision. "Hey, Tyson?! You want to do a CD review?" My answer, naturally, was yes. Free CD...Cool!

So, after arriving home with the CD, I put it into my super-cool CD-ROM drive, and promptly, nothing happened.

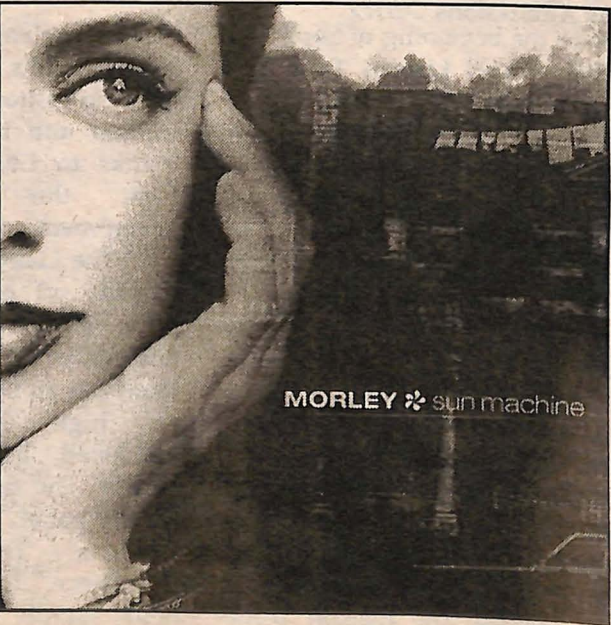
Fortunately, I figured out what was wrong. After fixing the problem, I was quickly met with very rhythmic, soothing and charming music. Much to my chargin, though, I was also met with a noticeably flat, yet intriguing voice. I was rather undecided as to whether I liked the songs or not.

Thus far, my biggest problem wasn't with the CD or

anything digitally imprinted thereupon. My biggest problem was with, or rather in, the CD sleeve. If you ever get your hands on this CD, you'll note that on the sleeve, there is the title of each song with what seems to be lyrics written beneath. Oddly, though, I have yet to hear any of these supposed lyrics anywhere on the CD. If anyone has any

leads as to where these mystifying lyrics come from, or why they are there, please drop me a line and help me out, 'cause I just don't get it.

All in all, there was something compelling about this album. Perhaps its the voice, the artists inintriguing name, the thought-provoking lyrics, or maybe a combination of the three.





## Catch Canada Career Week's Curiosity Wave - It's the Key to Your Future!

by Kim Boudreau, Career Resource Assistant

This year, Canada Career Week (CCW) will be held during the week of Sunday, Nov. 1, to Saturday, Nov. 7. This year's theme is "Catch the Curiosity Wave, It's the Key to Your Future!"

Curiosity plays an important role in allowing and helping people to explore the unlimited number of career options open to them in today's changing society. The Canada Career Consortium encourages this curiosity and feels it underlies our desire to learn, investigate and discover more about ourselves. When we discover something new about ourselves that helps us form our career and life goals, it is encouraging. Let's face it, ultimately, the majority of us students are in university today because we hope to one day have a good job, be paid well, and to enjoy our work, right? So... using our Curiosity, as CCW suggests, will help us discover ways to achieve our ultimate career goals.

There are several main themes that are used in this year's CCW

Campaign. These themes are relevant not only to job searching, but to our everyday lives. When I read them, I thought they included some great advice to all students wondering what to do with their lives, so I would like to share them with you.

**Change is constant** - We must

**Learning is On-Going** - The end of university doesn't mean the end of learning. Opportunities are everywhere, take advantage of them.

**Focus on the Journey** - Life is not a destination, you should focus on the trip as well. Plan for today and make the most of

in planning and developing our career objectives.

Do you ever wonder how you can encourage your curiosity and help develop a strong inventory of work-related skills? Then you may want to pick up an issue of *Career Prospects*, available around campus or at the Career Placement Centre. Or you can visit the Career Consortium Web site at: <http://www.careerccc.org> or the Youth Employment Strategy Web site at: <http://www.youth.gc.ca>

In order to celebrate CCW, Student Affairs, in conjunction with a few other groups and organizations, is working on several projects. You must register for each event you are interested in, and that's easy. All you have to do is come up and visit the Career Placement Centre, Evaristus Room 218 and sign up. You can also register by calling 457-6567. For further details and a schedule of events, see the ad in this issue of The Picaro.

**Canada Prospects ... is a great resource for building workplace skills, resume information or career exploration. ... and is a guide to career planning for people of all ages.**

learn to adapt to new and changing environments, and enhance this skill now and into the new millennium.

**Follow your heart** - Let your dreams shape your goals so that you go after what you really want.

**Team up With Your Allies/Be an Ally** - Friends, family and professors can be valuable resources in helping you reach your goals. Remember, networking is a valuable skill and can lead to bigger and better things.

the many directions, changes and goals that arise in your life's journey.

In addition, *Canada Prospects* has published its seventh edition this year. This 40-page tabloid magazine is a great resource for building workplace skills, resume information or career exploration.

This year's theme, "Catch the Curiosity Wave," is a guide to career planning for people of all ages. Following the focus of CCW, it looks at the role of curiosity

## See information about Canada Career Week on page 23

### The High School Liaison Team is Working Hard to Bring Students to the Mount!

**By Admissions Office**  
Since the beginning of Sept., the High School Liaison Team has been working hard to bring more students to the Mount. The Team is actively recruiting students from high schools throughout the Atlantic provinces and in selected areas of Quebec and Ontario.

There have also been extensive efforts recruiting students from the international market. The east coast of New England is one area targeted. This past summer, New England guidance counsellors visited our campus as a part of a Site Inspections Tour of Nova Scotia Universities. The Liaison Team followed this up by participating

in New England College Fairs. In recent months, the Liaison Team has also visited South America, Iceland and the Middle East, thanks to financial assistance from the Nova Scotia government.

The Liaison Team not only recruits off campus but also brings potential students to our university. On Friday, Oct. 23, there was an Open Campus Day for high school students interested in attending the Mount. The day began with a student panel, "Expectations and Realities: The First Year Experience," followed by a one-hour sample class. The day concluded with the Student

Alumnae Association giving tours of the campus, which provided students with the opportunity to ask questions about programs and learn about student societies and campus life.

If you are planning to head home and would be interested in conducting information sessions at your local high school, please contact the admissions office at 457-6432 or via e-mail at [ADMISSIONS@MSVU.CA](mailto:ADMISSIONS@MSVU.CA). The office would be happy to provide you with training and information packages on the university.

## Calendar of Events

The St. Matthews Players presents a dinner theatre: *Inherit the Wind*, by Jerome Lawrence and Robert E Lee. Based on the famous: "Monkey Trial" of 1925—Darwin vs. Genesis, Evolution vs. Fundamentalism

• Friday, Nov. 6th and Saturday, Nov. 7th 1998 at 6:30 pm

- St. Matthews United Church 1471-1479 Barrington Street, Halifax

### Jeff Hamilton Trio

Jeff Hamilton, drums; Larry Fuller, piano; Lynn Seaton, bass. This talented group, featuring the all-star California drummer, Jeff Hamilton, has been compared to the classic piano trio style of Oscar Peterson with a distinctive modern twist.

The show is presented in conjunction with the St. Francis Xavier Jazz Studies Program, so it's sure to be a hit! Come enjoy exciting jazz tunes performed by three of the most talented jazz musicians around.

• Friday Nov. 13, 8:00 pm

- Commons Room, Holiday Inn Select, Halifax  
- Tickets \$5 general admission, \$12 for JazzEast members, students & seniors.

**NS Music Week's: Urban Groove Showcase** with Dr. Yellowfever & the Jive, Knifey Moloko, The Freedom Jazz Band and special guest MC's

This showcase features the fresh new sounds of urban groove - a fusion of jazz and hip-hop styles. It's a modern, hip, happening night with three of the hottest bands in the Halifax Urban groove Scene.

• Friday, Nov. 6, 1998

- The Marquee Club, 2037 Gottingen Street  
- Showcase begins at 10pm

**In Celebration of Canada's First "Leave a Legacy Week":**

• seminar entitled: "Women and the financial marketplace"

- Tuesday, Oct. 27, from 2:30 to 4:30 pm

- Classrooms 1 & 2 of the Dartmouth General Hospital, 325 pleasant Street, Dartmouth.

• seminar entitled: "Financial Planning: The key to leaving a legacy"

- Wednesday, Oct. 28, from 7:30 to 9:30 pm

- St. Andrew's Church Hall, 6036 Coburg Road, Halifax.

• seminar entitled: "Where there's a will there is a way"

- Thursday, Oct. 29, from 7:30 to 9:30 pm.

- Royal Bank theatre in the new Halifax Infirmary, 1796 summer street, Halifax

• display set up at MicMac Mall

- Friday, Oct. 30, from 10:00 am to 9:00 pm

• display set up at Sunnyside Mall

- Saturday, Oct. 31, 9:30 am to 6:00 pm

• display set up at Scotia Square Mall

- Tuesday Oct. 27, to Saturday Oct. 31, from 1:00 am to 2:00 pm

For more information on all of the events call 1-888-868-4474

**The Calendar of Events is a forum for the community to announce events. It is primarily for students and campus societies. Next deadline for submissions is Nov. 2nd at 5:00pm.**



# Mount Dethrones King's Mystics Take Over First Place

By Andrea Bowie

Frigid temperatures couldn't ice the Mystics' soccer team on Oct. 17, as it defeated top-ranked King's 3-1 to take first place in the intercollegiate league.

Mystic Leanne O'Hanley's stellar two-goal performance spearheaded the victory. She started off action early in the first half by netting a free kick. Teammate Tara Kinch made the score 2-0 by booting in a goal at the 30-minute mark.

In the second half, O'Hanley knocked in a penalty kick, increasing the Mystics' lead to 3-0.

"We came out strong," said O'Hanley, a Halifax native and

second-year veteran. "Everybody came together to create play opportunities. [Kinch] had an outstanding game. She always works super hard [on the field]."

King's managed one second-half goal, crushing Mystic goalie Megan Lovette's hopes for a shutout.

Coach Angie MacLeod was pleased with the win. "I think we played well," she said. "I'm just hoping that we don't get over confident going into playoffs."

Despite the convincing victory, MacLeod isn't ruling out King's as a playoff

contender. "I know King's can play better," she said. "We certainly can improve. There are two weeks of practice left. We're going to work on moving the ball in the air and clearing it out of our end a little more efficiently."

The Mystics are having a great season, with six wins, three ties and no losses. Saturday's win secures them a spot in the semi-finals, beginning Oct. 31. To clinch first place, however, they must beat Dal Tech on the 24th.

Although the Mystics are a young team, MacLeod feels

they are talented enough to do well in the playoffs. "In terms of the rest of the league, our strength is that we're well balanced throughout the field," she said. "We have 11 players who, on paper and on the field, are just as good as anyone in the league. Hopefully, we'll get to the final." But for now the focus is on the semi-finals.

In other action that weekend, the Mount defeated Agricultural College 5-0, Kinch and Sarah Gillis each netted a pair and Jazmine Hayden added a single. Lovette recorded the shutout.

## Women's Soccer

### Game Results

Sept 26	MSVU ties King's	1-1
Oct 14	MSVU def NSAC	4-0
Oct 17	MSVU def Kings	3-1
Oct 18	MSVU def NSAC	5-0

### Conference Standings (as of Oct 18)

Rank	Team	GP	W	T	L	F	A	Pts
1	MSVU	9	6	3	0	21	3	21
2	King's	9	6	1	2	27	8	19
3	NSAC	8	3	1	4	12	21	10
4	STU	9	3	1	5	6	15	10
5	DalTech	8	2	3	3	9	15	9
6	UNBSJ	9	0	3	6	6	19	3

## Athletics/Recreation FIT-NEWS

By Athletics and Recreation Office

SO YOU WANT TO GET FIT? Start by putting one foot in front of the other.

Walking provides a great workout without too much stress on the joints of the lower body. It firms up the whole body, particularly the buttocks, back of the legs and front of the lower legs. When you use a little arm power while walking, you can also condition the upper body. Walking strengthens bones, energizes the body, reduces stress and burns fat.

Walking for fitness requires that you walk fast enough and far enough to produce cardiovascular changes in the body. A good starting point is to walk for at least twenty minutes at a pace where you are perspiring lightly but can still carry on a conversation.

Proper posture is important. Walk

with your body upright. Your head is up and eyes are forward. The shoulders should be down and relaxed. Try to lift your chest slightly and move your arms in rhythm with your legs.

The foot action while walking involves a heel strike, followed by a roll onto the ball of the foot, and a push-off from the toes. If hills are on your route, bend your knees slightly while going up or down. This will help reduce stress to the knee joints.

Like all exercise, fitness walking should include a warm-up and cool-down. Five to seven minutes of slow walking will prepare your body for a more vigorous pace. Stretch the front and back of the lower legs (shins and calf muscles) and the front and back of the upper legs (quadriceps and

hamstrings) at the end of your cool-down. Drink plenty of water before, during and after the walk.

Clothing is important too. Dress in layers so that you can cool yourself down or warm up as needed. When it is cold, a hat and gloves will help retain body heat. Walking or running shoes are also recommended. They provide support and cushion for the feet as well as reduce shock to the body.

To add variety to your workouts, change your route and the type of surface you walk on. When you are ready for a challenge, try walking longer, faster; choose a route that has hills; or carry hand-held weights.

Walking gives you the chance to enjoy nature, time alone, or time spent with family or friends.

### Need To Earn Some Extra Cash?

The Athletics Department is looking for minor officials as well as an energetic announcer for varsity volleyball and basketball home games. No experience is necessary, as training will be provided. For more information, drop in to the Athletics Office or call Angie McLeod at 457-6462.

### We Want You!

The Mystics Varsity Badminton team is looking for full-time students who like to play badminton or would like to learn more about the game. Drop in to the gym on Fridays from 5:30-7 p.m., Sundays from 12-2 p.m., or call Athletics at 457-6370 for more information.

### PUMPKIN CARVING CONTEST

JUDGING WILL TAKE PLACE  
ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28  
AT THE HALLOWEEN PARTY  
IN VINNIE'S

REGISTER AT THE ATH/REC OFFICE BY  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 26.  
YOU CAN PICK UP YOUR PUMPKINS STARTING TUESDAY,  
OCTOBER 27 AT THE GYM.

ALL WELCOME  
SPONSORED BY THE ATH/REC SOCIETY  
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL. 457-6369

This event is completely run by and is the responsibility of the Athletics and Recreation Society



THE ALEXANDER KEITH WAY



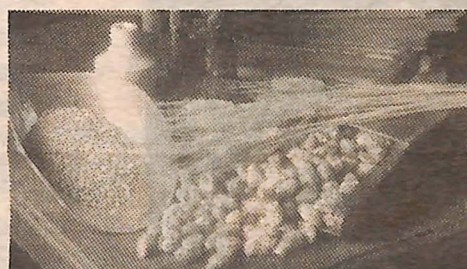
# A blast with the past.

Back in the 1820s, the Maritimes were the place to be. Ships loaded down with goods from around the world berthed at the port cities. While down on the docks, soldiers and sailors, adventurers and merchants brought cosmopolitan flavour to the local scene.

It was in Halifax, on Lower Water Street, that a very fine India Pale Ale was born, forever changing the social swirl. The brewmaster was Alexander Keith.

He refused to compromise, insisting on using only the finest ingredients. Then brewing slowly, carefully, taking the time to get it right. With an unrivaled commitment to quality. Once Alexander decided his was finally ready, barrels were delivered to taverns and inns.

MORE THAN 175 YEARS



OF QUALITY BREWING  
using only pure barley malt  
and select hops.

His fine ale became an overnight success. Today, after more than 175 years of quality brewing, Halifax remains a great port of call and his ale, a Maritime favourite, celebrated wherever beer drinkers gather. Still brewed the Alexander Keith Way.

Those who like it, like it a lot.

ALEXANDER  KEITH'S NOVA SCOTIA  
BREWERY  
FINE BEERS

