

the PICARO

*Bizarre
Fungus
at Mount*

*Shelton
Retires*

*Bat Child on
Letterman*



SCHEMERS IN MANUS

To the Editor:

I want to thank the schemers and busybodies of the MANUS lounge for ruining the final week of my final year of classes at the Mount.

I am approaching the end of my fifth and final year of studies. During the past five years, this campus has been a second home to myself and my now 7 1/2 year old son. For the past several years, my child has become very familiar with the university, being engaged in various campus activities such as daycare, nursery, summer day camp, etc.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, I had no alternative but to bring my child to campus during lunch hour for two days a week during the month of March. In my judgement, no immediate harm or concern was apparent in allowing him to spend lunch hour in the familiar surroundings of the MANUS lounge. This arrangement was a short-term solution to my lack of alternative options.

Despite my almost daily presence at the lounge, none of my fellow students approached me to express concerns relating to my child.

Imagine my sense of disbelief upon learning that a group of anonymous female students had, without my knowledge, approached Health Services with vague and unsubstantiated complaints relating to my alleged "neglect". Surely any reasonable person would concur that the proper and sensible thing to do is approach the parent directly.

I am forced to consider why similar objections are not raised if I allow my child to walk unsupervised on the 2.1 km route to school each day.

Some broader principles emerge from this experience. This university promotes the concept of the advancement of women. It is evident that this stated "goal" is merely a theoretical abstraction which has no practical application or meaning in everyday interaction on campus. A stated con-

cern for the "cause" of women translates into a rhetorical farce when a group of students feel justified in "ganging up" on another female student, who, incidentally, is a single parent.

The MANUS informers have unfortunately lived up to the negative stereotypes which feminists have diligently attempted to dispel. The course of action undertaken by these individuals corresponds with prescribed

patriarchal patterns and attitudes. A critical analysis will reveal that this episode has more to do with the social control of women than any genuine concern for the safety of my child.

Mary Elizabeth Jardine

P.S. I would strongly recommend a refresher course for certain member(s) of the Health Services staff pertaining to basic principles of privacy and discretion.

SCHTAPH

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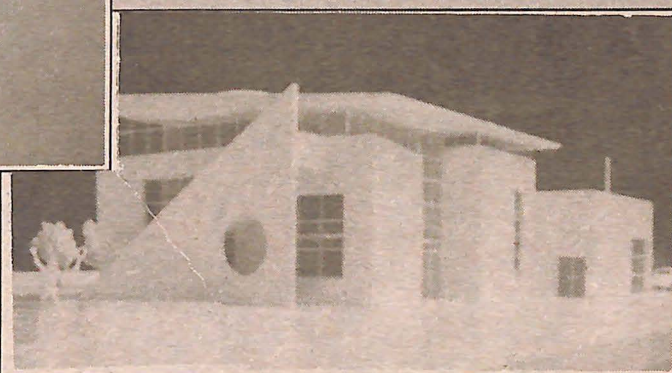
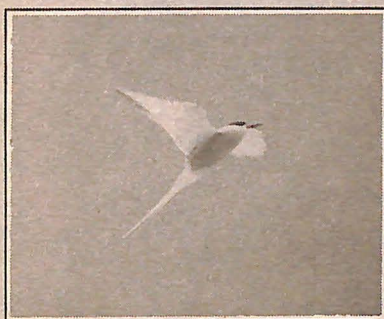
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Stachybotrys Atra

by Rob Hawgood

If recently you've been unable to find some of your favourite MSVU offices -- or a place to smoke on campus -- that's because of a fungous feller by the name of STACHYBOTRYS ATRA.

According to a March 23 inter-office memorandum from Mount president Elizabeth Parr-Johnston, a preliminary report conducted by engineering consultant Maritime Testing confirmed the presence of this fungus -- a type of mold and cousin to the mushroom -- in an area of Rosaria which includes the Registrar/Admissions Offices and the Student Affairs Department.

Symptoms experienced in this area are consistent with known reactions to this sort of fungus: sore eyes, plugged-up noses, headaches, dizziness and fatigue.

The university took immediate action. A briefing session was held for all employees working in Rosaria. As well, all affected were relocated.

"As soon as they found out about this they moved us," said Diane Tinkham, a nurse/health educator in the Health Office. "That's really important."

Meanwhile, office areas are being de-contaminated and the ventilation system serving this area has been shut down for fear that fungus spores could be spread.

Another ventilation system - that which handles the air in

VINNIE'S -- has been shut down as well, as a precautionary measure. Because it's shut down, SMOKING IN THE PUB IS PROHIBITED until further notice.

Not surprisingly, some students who smoke aren't very happy. In fact, they fear the opportunity is ripe to rid the university of its last vestige of a smoke-filled environment (student council offices aside).

Non-smoking Scott MacKay, the Student Union's general manager, said "I think they [the university] will use it as an excuse to make it a completely non-smoking campus."

"I think this is just pathetic," said Karen Atkinson.

Jamie Foster elaborated. "I think they're shooting themselves in the foot. The school overall is not working together. They're going to lose money."

This is confirmed by MacKay. "Right now it [Vinnie's] funds other activities by Student Union. It will become a liability that student fees will have to go toward to pay off."

Foster suggests there will be a flight of regular pub clientele to the downtown bars. "I mean, who the hell ever heard of a non-smoking bar" he said.

Another memo from the university president's office is forthcoming, detailing any further information on the fungus infestation.

Mount Mainstay Retires



photo by Giselle Beauchamp

Dewar, left, chats with Shelton, right

by Alana Wiens

Former dean, academic vice president and current history professor Dr. Walter Shelton is retiring this year after 19 years at the Mount.

"The greatest satisfaction was to share in the academic and professional development of the programs," said Shelton.

Dr. Shelton came to the Mount in 1974 as the academic dean. When the office of academic vice-president was created, he was the first to fill the position. During the time in office, professional programs and the co-op programs were established.

"He really played a very large role in establishing new programs in the 1970's," said Dr. Kenneth Dewar, chair of the history department, "which secured the position of the university as a secular institution."

Dr. Shelton was also instrumental in developing a support system for faculty research.

"I think he was a shrewd administrator and he managed to combine a concern for university security with commitment to academic priorities," said Dewar.

"I was pleased to see the growth in quality of the history program," said Dr. Shelton.

Dr. Dewar says students have a "high respect for his knowledge and his interest in them and their work."

"One of his great virtues as a university professor is a good dose of

reality without cynicism that informs his studies of the past," said Dr. Dewar. "Students appreciate that in him."

Dr. Shelton obtained his undergraduate degree at Durham University and taught secondary school in England before he and his wife emigrated to Canada in 1955. He later earned his PhD at UBC and taught at Sir Wilfrid Laurier University.

Now that he is retiring, Dr. Shelton and his wife plan to move back to the west coast so he can fish salmon, grow tomatoes and do a little bit of writing.

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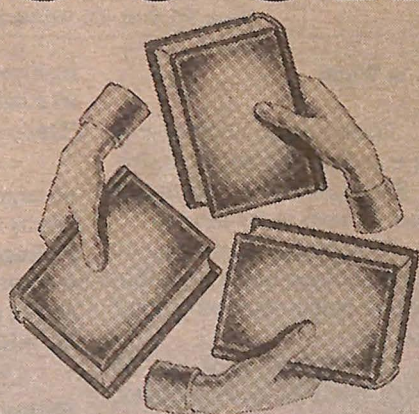
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Yesterday's New Wave

by **Andrea Simmons**

*Freedom of Choice -- Yesterday's
New Wave Hits As performed By
today's Stars (Caroline Records)*

First, I'll say that I loved these songs when they were first popular. Classics of the New Wave scene such as "Don't You Want Me Baby" originally preformed by the Human League and "How Much More" by the GoGo's are great. But my advice to anyone contemplating purchasing this compilation, is to buy a blank cassette and record the originals. Granted, some of the bands do a great job. My favourites on the release are Chia Pet's version of "Don't You Want Me Baby", Mudhoney's performance of "Pump it Up" and Polvo's version of the Wall of Voodoo classic "Mexican Radio".

Two tracks that had the potential to be great, White Flag's version of Kate Bush's song "Wuthering Heights" and Finger's version of Soft Cell's "Tainted Love", were disappointing to say the least. "Wuthering Heights", originally a pretty ballad, is about four times faster, and virtually grunged to death. "Tainted Love", has been covered about a zillion times before, and as far as I am concerned the only cover that has been worth-

while listening to is the version by Coil.

One advantage in purchasing the compilation is that your money is going to a good cause. All proceeds raised from the sale are being given to Planned Parenthood of America, a group who provides contraceptives, family planning counselling and other essential services to people worldwide.

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WOMEN'S RIGHTS are HUMAN RIGHTS



"In a society in which the rights and potential of women are constrained, no man can be truly free."

*Mary Robinson,
President of Ireland,
February 1992.*

Bank deny women opportunities to advance themselves in every part of the world.

Reproductive Rights:

In only a few countries do women have the freedom to choose the number of children they will have and the number of years in between children. In Brazil 75 per cent of women are sterilized. In Ireland sharing information on abortion is illegal.

Political Freedom:

Women are routinely abused as prisoners, imprisoned for peaceful activities, tortured, denied a fair trial and summarily executed.

Freedom from Violence:

In Mexico a rape occurs every nine minutes. One in ten Canadian women are abused or battered by their husbands or partners. Access to Democracy:

Many women are wondering how countries like Kuwait can claim they are now democratic when its first election allowed only half the citizens -- men -- to vote.

The existing framework of rights protection, then, does not ensure the rights of women. The Declaration of Human Rights has created a "de facto" hierarchy of rights. Civil and political rights are viewed as inherent, universal and justifiable, while social and economic rights are viewed as evolving gradually as a matter of social policy rather than fundamental justice.

Women around the world are demanding this human rights framework be changed. They are challenging the forces that keep them from their rights -- be they national governments, religion, culture, legal systems, international institutions or even their own families. Globally, women are demanding that their rights move beyond promises, into guarantees.

At the international level, the failure of human rights mechanisms is being addressed. This would involve a human rights committee that

truly monitors the abuses of women's rights in all their forms.

At the national level the great challenge is to make governments -- and their laws, policies and actions -- accountable to women.

The laws and institutions of our societies can be changed, but without the transformation of underlying values which are destructive to women, few gains can be made. This is, perhaps, the greatest hurdle.

To Trade or Not To Trade?



Liberals Mary Clancy and Herb Gray



New Democrats Howard McCurdy and Barbara Jack

Liberals Mary Clancy and Herb Gray faced off against NDPers Howard McCurdy and Barbara Jack in a public debate on FREE TRADE, Wednesday March 24 at the Lord Nelson Hotel. The Conservatives declined.

The debate touched on the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement and the expanded NAFTA with Mexico. Without the Tories to boost free trade, the debate was redefined as: "Should the trade deal be renegotiated or abrogated (cancelled)?"

Clancy said "We in the Liberal Party understand that regional trade blocs are something we're going to have to deal with." The Liberals want to renegotiate the FTA with the Americans, if possible, to get better terms for Canada.

McCurdy said the NDP would cancel it outright. "Abrogation will allow us to clear the mind and reassert our sovereignty."

photos by Steve Rasmussen

Since 1948, the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights has defined individual civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. These rights are not intended to be gender-specific. They are supposed to be guaranteed to men and women equally -- and everywhere.

Global realities have proven otherwise, according to a Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) release. Young girls are victims of neglect; women are denied land ownership; and in many countries they are physically violated every day of their lives.

According to international agreements, women have the right to food, shelter, property, reproductive choice, social security, health care and work. Women have the right to political and religious freedom of expression, freedom from torture or slavery, access to education and the right to a livelihood free from all forms of violence.

Let's look at some facts from CIDA's discussion paper "Women, Human Rights and Democracy: Making the Connections."

Survival:

As UNICEF has pointed out, the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms is "likely to depend on the one cruel chromosome."

In countries where a "son-preference" is associated with economic survival, intentional neglect and female malnutrition are common. In fact, according to New York Review, 100 million women are not in this world today as a result of male preference and female infanticide (killing a young child).

Economic Freedom:

Current economic conditions and the policies of international aid organizations such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World



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