



the PICARO



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MOUNT SAINT VINCENT UNIVERSITY

THE PICARO, Wednesday, February 26, 1992

P.R. Development Day

by Janet Allen

Companies have really made a commitment to the contribution public relations makes in their functioning, said Mary Keith, public relations manager for Air Nova.

"We're beyond being spokespeople for a company when something goes wrong," said Keith, who spoke to about 87 public relations students and faculty Wednesday, Feb. 5 at the PR professional development morning.

"With the current economic situation, we're even being required to be a jack of all trades," she said. Keith, the one-woman PR department for Air Nova, is responsible for media, government and customer relations.

Keith also stressed the growing importance of marketing abilities for public relations practitioners. "We must be able to use marketing for each community we serve. To make target audiences buy into the product we're serving--a work plan is essential." Keith said she uses a work plan, which includes descriptions and deadlines for each component of her communication strategy, to guide every project she begins.

Keith said versatility is a key quality for the marketing and sales functions she is required to take on. "You've got to have the ability to change tone." Keith said one minute she may be working on a soft-sell brochure, while the next minute she may be dealing with a travel agency and have to switch to a harder-sell approach. "The ability to adapt quickly is critical."

Your presentation is the packaging--but the substance is what counts when you go for a job interview, said Neale Bennet, vice president for Bennet Communications when he spoke Wednesday, Feb. 5 to students and faculty about resume and interview skills.

"In agencies in general, the knowledge of the person you are and how you fit in with team, is

just as important as the skills you have," Bennet said.

"You have to market yourself to a company. There are lots of people applying for only a few jobs," he said, "so whatever you can do to make yourself distinctive is important."

Bennet said after doing substantial research about a business, students should pitch their "unique selling proposition" to the company and the job in an initial letter. The well-written letter should be followed by a touch-base phonecall to set up an interview. Bennet said to send a meticulous resume after the phonecall. "If I get a resume in my basket with a typo in it, I throw it out. Attention to detail is our business. If you can't create a typo-free resume--how will you write a typo-free news release?"

Students should try to be relaxed, confident and prepared to write a practical test, like a news release. Bennet said, "presentation is our business, so be professional without being overdone."

Employers are looking for job candidates who have diverse public relations experience and common sense, said Janet MacMillan, vice president of PR at McArthur, Thompson and Law Advertising and Public Affairs. MacMillan, a member of the first graduating class of the Mount's PR program, informally surveyed her colleagues by phone to discover what they look for in potential employees.

"What counts out there is your sixth sense," said MacMillan. "One of the most important things we're looking for is not top marks--but the ability to land on your feet in a crisis."

MacMillan said key words she heard again and again from her colleagues were integrity, honesty and patience. "You must have the ability to follow through. Detail, detail, detail and articulate, articulate, articulate--because they're thinking, 'will this person present a good image for my company?'"

Students should take the

time to interview the company before they apply for the job, MacMillan said. "This gives the message to the employer that you take the time to do your homework."

Students should do their homework on current events as well. MacMillan said it's important to be well-informed and know what issues are topical. She also suggested students volunteer to gain experience and develop valuable contacts in the PR field.

"Show your potential employer that you are one step above the others."

Traditionally, there is a mental wall between public relations and reporters, said Margaret Murphy, director of communications for the Nova Scotia Department of Environment.

"I always wanted to be a journalist and I regarded PR people as the people on the other side who told the lies," said Murphy, who was a journalist and is now working in public relations. "You have to realize that that's what you're dealing with."

Murphy said PR students should spend time in a newsroom to understand what reporters experience day to day. "Remember this experience when you're on the PR side. Understand the media."

Times have changed and PR practitioners must respect the media, she said. "Treat the press calls as a priority. It's your company's name on the front or back page of the paper. It's part of bringing down the walls." Murphy said the public has a right to be informed. "Be careful about the facts you give reporters and be objective," she said.

Public relations practitioners should not be afraid to allow important employees in their company to speak to the media. However, Murphy said you must consider each media situation separately. "You're doing a service to your company when you know when to get other employees in front of the media--and when not to."

more on page 3

Board of Governors Faces Alleged Pension Abuse Lawsuit

By Janet Allen

Mount Saint Vincent University Faculty Association is commencing legal action against the Board of Governors and individual members of the Board's 1988 Finance Committee for breach of trust in the administration of pension funds.

The suit alleges that in May, 1988, Board members permitted their financial and management interests to conflict with their duties and responsibilities as pension plan administrators and trustees. The Board approved using \$181,000 of pension surplus funds to offer early retirement to a select group of administrators. The offer was made to help the University's financial position, not for the benefit of all Pension Plan members.

"This action is seen to constitute a breach of trust on the part of the Board and its members, and a failure to treat all members of the Plan equally," stated the faculty association's press release issued February 5.

"Around the time when the Faculty Association started negotiating for improvements for the pension plan, was when all of this came to light," said Barbara Casey, president of the Faculty Association and an information management professor.

However, Dale Godsoe, chair of the Mount's Board of Governors said, "all the appropriate procedures were followed. It was approved by the government in the Department of Finance. It was done appropriately and legally."

An official university statement provided by Mary Moulton, director of university relations stated, "Mount Saint Vin-

cent University has a pension plan

called a defined benefit plan. We have an obligation to pay a predetermined schedule of benefits to plan members and must keep the plan fully funded in order to meet its obligations at any given time.

"This contrasts to other types of plans where an employee is required to contribute a fixed amount per year and benefits would vary depending on plan values."

Moulton said the actual amount the university contributes is determined by the Mount's pension consultants. "We acted on our pension consultant's advice in May of 1988. The Board of Governors and the finance committee, each having faculty representatives, approved the early retirement program."

The official university release also stated that the pension benefits division of Nova Scotia's department of finance, which monitors pension plan compliance with the Pension Benefits Act, approved the early retirement plans.

Among those named in the suit are 1988 Board members Dr. Naomi Hersom, the former president of the Mount; Dale Godsoe, present chairperson of the Board; Lois Dyer Mann, the Mount's vice president of administration and also Roland Martin, president of Keltic Inc.; Paul Crane, business person; Karen Cramm, chartered accountant; Joseph MacDonald, barrister and solicitor, and Charles Stock, former vice president of Ben's Bakery, for breach of their personal responsibilities as Trustees. The case will be heard by the Nova Scotia Supreme Court on April 6.

Classifieds

Congratulations to Lynn Lapi-
erre the first winner of the
MANUS Mad Money 50/50 draw.
The prize given was \$221.00 in
cash. Look for upcoming draws
on Feb. 14, Mar. 6, Mar. 20, and
every two weeks for the rest of
the school year.

Personals

*Due to a printer failure, the Picaro
staff was unable to complete the
February 12 issue. Our apologies
for the delay.*

To my favourite Gemini,
A blonde Pieces woman figures
prominently into your Valentine's
Day plans. She won't mind when
you're a half hour late and forget
what you had planned and she
won't even mind if you're cranky
in the morning.
February 14th promises to be a
very exciting day for you as you
will finally be rewarded for some-
thing you've been waiting for for
a long time (3 weeks)!
All in all, you should have a
wonderful Valentine's Day.
From your favourite Pieces
xoxoxoxo

Stace,
Do you like my little dogue?
La La La, his name is Pogue
I think I'll give him frozen yogue
You are my Luv, and quite a rogue
Enraptured in eternal vogue
Fraumeister

Tracy
Roses are red
Violets are blue
Clean your office
of all of your shoes

Roses are red
Violets are blue
Scott Mackay
Sniff Sniff Sniff

22 year-old male is looking for a
roommate (male or female, pref-
erably female and must be a non-
smoker) to live in a GREAT
apartment, 15 Langbrae Drive
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ties. Washer and Dryer included.
For more information contact
Rod at 422-6665 (between 12:00
p.m. and 9:00 p.m.) or 457-9303
(before 12:00 p.m. and after 9:00
p.m.).

Hatcher,
Be my valentine now and ever-
more
George
P.S. We'll live in Timbucktoo
together forever and S.H. won't
get to sleep in the tub.

Ancel
My midget love god
Be mine, Be mine, Be mine.
Paula A. (A married woman)

K.C.
Third year in a row
(Honda in tow)
You think we'd have learned
to spend some real dough

Psych Prof:
Where'd you get that awesome
accent?
A Diligent Studenty be rewarded
for something you've been wait-
ing for for a long time (3 weeks)!

Tara:
Happy Valentine's! Have you got
someone to share it with? Just
curious!
Lester

For Kevin at SMU:
Hope you read this. Wanna be
friends again? We miss your jokes
(especially the cowboy)! Get in
touch soon.
Two Cowgirls at the Mount

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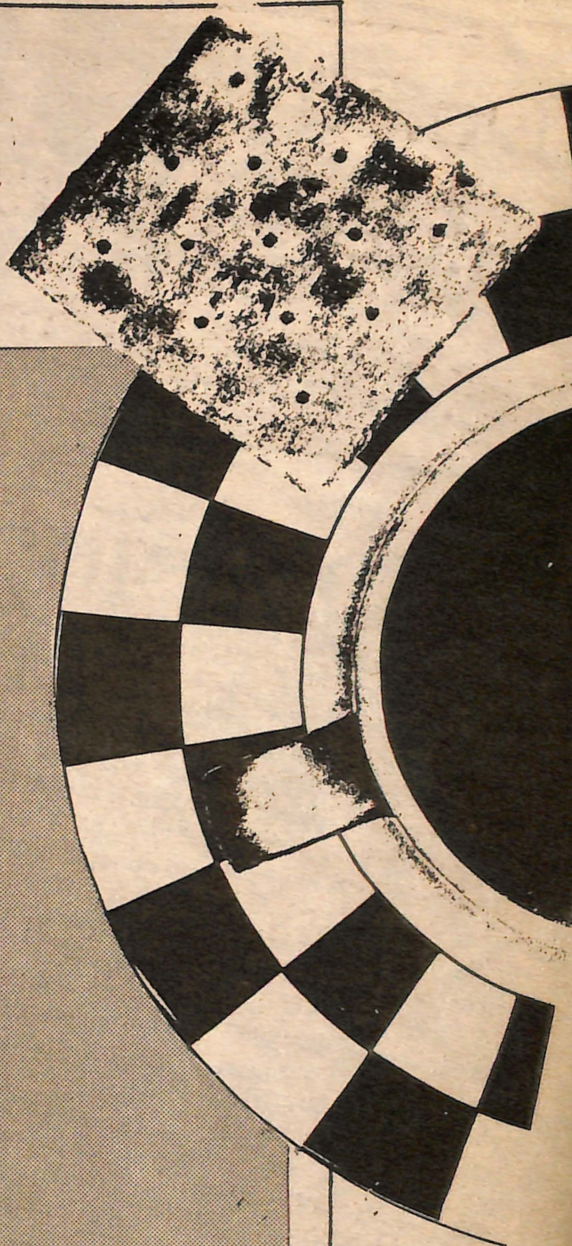
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nent basis. Call for an appoint-
ment at 425-8138.

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which provides support for people
with bulimia and anorexia ner-
vosa will meet on Tuesdays from
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11 in Evaristus 33. Everyone
welcome. For more information,
contact Stephanie Lynch 423-
7026, Wednesday-Sunday 6:00-
10:00 p.m.

University Presidents Must Make Decision

by Dawn Mitchell

HALIFAX (CUP) -- Stubborn Nova Scotia university presidents were told to smarten up this week by the provincial government. The Conservative government has decided to implement the recommendations of a 1985 royal commission which suggested an intermediary body to dispense government operating grants to the universities.

The Nova Scotia Council on Higher Education -- created four years ago -- will use this new financial power to streamline the university system.

"We want the rationalization process to move forward," said education minister Ron Giffin. "Government involvement (through the NSCHE) will take place where the presidents are not able to make progress." Rationalization means certain universities will specialize in particular programs.

For years, the Council of Nova Scotia University Presidents and the government have been seeking new ways to reduce duplication in the system.

Some progress was made in the area of joint purchasing, but more controversial moves such as reducing the number of universities offering a Bachelor of Education have been stalled.

The presidents have until September to find a solution to some of the bigger dilemmas

before the government will step in.

Some people are wary of the sudden changes.

Mount St. Vincent president Elizabeth Parr-Johnston said her institution has pushed for the funding decisions to be made by the NSCHE, but she wants to have the council's new role clarified before making a final judgement.

Scott McCrossin, chair of the Students' Union of Nova Scotia said the government must be prepared to listen to students' concerns if the whole process is to work.

"If we accept that there is room for some rationalization to occur, then problems with credit transfers and student aid should be addressed," he said.

For example, some students may have to change universities in order to pursue their chosen degree. Currently, there is no uniform system of transferring credits, so students might lose a year's work.

That same student may have to move away from home, but not have the financial resources to do so, McCrossin said. He suggested student loans and grants be increased substantially to reflect these concerns.

The Legislative Assembly will discuss the changes during the spring sitting. Giffin said he hopes to have an agreement in principle from the presidents by September in order to start the rationalization process.

The Inter-University Bus Route:

Use It Or Lose

By Ancel Langille

Use it or you may lose it. That is the word from Lori Patterson, Metro Transit's director of public relations and marketing.

"The ridership of the new inter-university bus is way below the 1,035 riders per day required in order to cover the 40 percent needed to keep a bus in service," said Patterson.

Since the bus began service

on January 6, two counts--one on January 27 and the other on January 29 --have been taken. According to Patterson, the numbers are considerably lower than they were last year.

On April 16, the inter-university bus route will come up for review. Metro Transit officials will then make the decision as to whether or not the bus will return to service for the next academic year.

"We are aware of the very

special need for service to the Mount," said Patterson, "but the cost to run such a bus is staggering."

The total operating cost for one academic year is \$102,978. Most busses in the Metro Transit fleet are required to make up 40 percent of the operating costs or they will be discontinued. However, because the inter-university bus is a special route, the required 40 percent ridership may be reconsidered.

NEWS

Work Experience An Asset

by Lecann Thow

Libby Brown left the Mount four years ago with her Bachelor of Public Relations and the belief that she was prepared to be the Vice President of Public Relations of any corporation in Canada. Brown quickly realized that for day-to-day Public Relations, she really didn't know very much.

These are just a few of the insights Brown shared with public relations students during the P.R. professional development seminar held Wednesday, Feb. 5 here at the Mount.

Brown's first job experience was in non-profit, not a corporation. She has worked at Saint Mary's University as well as the Dartmouth General Hospital. Brown is currently the P.R. Coordinator for the New Grace Maternity Hospital.

Brown said when she graduated, she had the attitude that, "I'm a Mount P.R. student and I know what I am talking about." She explained that in the real world she should have been more fearful than she was. Brown had the theoretical knowledge but very little practical experience.

She discussed with the students her views on "If I knew then what I know now," in regards to the public relations program here at the Mount. Brown offered these recommendations. She would

have: * taken more business courses, (economics, accounting) * done co-op, * taken more courses in graphic design because desktop publishing is becoming more popular, * written for the Picaro. It is excellent experience, * lis-

tened more to her professors. They are an excellent source of information, * would have asked more questions. If you don't understand something you can't communicate it, and Public Relations is all about communication.

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Entertainment

GRAND CANYON

by Mary Royal-Black

The movie "Grand Canyon" explores so many themes that it's hard to know where to begin. Very simply, it won't make you want to move to L.A. In fact, the tension resulting from the first few scenes of violence might make you feel as though you're sitting through "The Silence of the Lambs" again. So if you're a nervous movie-goer who covers your eyes at every hint of danger, your concentration on this film may be diverted. Director Lawrence Kasden ("The Big Chill") certainly pumps up every suspenseful moment following the initial violent scenes. However, this is probably some of the least mindless violence I have ever seen in a movie, and it lets up after the first half hour or so. It is part of a very thoughtful and thought-provoking story.

"Grand Canyon" is too slick and has too many beautiful people in it to let you forget that it's from Hollywood. Surprisingly though,

the movie still succeeds in being about real people and real experiences: real fear, real love, real pain, real wonder and real flaws. One might expect a movie with so many leading characters, storylines, and themes to fall short of its goal. This does not happen in "Grand Canyon." Instead, the many sub-themes (ranging from luck to motherhood to gang violence to the issue of violence in movies) all fit together to make up the main theme...which I'm not going to tell you in case you want to find out for yourself.

The acting in "Grand Canyon" is a pleasure to watch. Danny Glover, as Simon the tow truck driver, is a real hero. If nothing else gets you going about this movie, you'll love listening to his resonant voice. Mary-Louise Parker, as in the current hit "Fried Green Tomatoes," is enjoyable to watch. Her portrayal of a young woman experiencing unrequited love will touch anyone who has had a similar ordeal.

Kevin Kline is entirely convincing as the vague and



thoughtful immigration lawyer. His wife is played by Mary McDonnell (Stands With a Fist from Dances with Wolves), who successfully pulls off the difficult role of the perfect mother.

Kline's best friend in the movie is Steve Martin. This is probably Martin's smallest role to date in terms of screen time, but it is refreshing to see him doing something different with

his talent. In "Grand Canyon," Martin is a real person, as evidenced by the not-so-complete personal growth he experiences.

The supporting cast as well is very good, especially the young man who plays the son of Kline and McDonnell: an actor to watch for and tell your younger sisters about!

Don't go to this movie if you think Steve Martin's pres-

ence will make it a comedy, or if you need cheering up. There are funny moments, but the sad and scary moments are also important. However, when looking for a movie which will ask you to think about a few things, consider "Grand Canyon." Altogether, I feel this is a successful attempt for Tinseltown, at putting a wide-angle lens on life.

What's Your Big Idea?

All sizes of Russian Prince Vodka are available in unbreakable, recyclable, lightweight plastic bottles. We're having a contest to see who can come up with the most innovative way of reusing our bottles. If your idea is deemed



to be the most original received from your university, you're the winner! And the environment is a winner too.

Remember the three "R's": Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

Check the display in your campus pub for details on how to enter.

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*M.S.R.P.

RUSSIAN PRINCE IS A REGISTERED TRADEMARK

Whale Sighs

By MATT

Her voice was a constant song in his ears. The fool was falling, falling in love with her. Loving her was to be his fate and he gladly surrendered to it.

They met in a library. They met in the summer of his life. Everywhere the grass was green and the air was fresh. The sky had never been so blue. He saw the world with new eyes. He spoke to the wind, he thanked the earth that bore her, he prayed to the waters that kept her alive. He wanted for nothing, he was complete, he was whole. "She is all he needs."

The same gods that deigned to bring them together now moved to set them apart. Often he thanked the gods for her and he forgot their past cruelty. But in his sleep he felt fear. He felt the fear only a lover so deeply afflicted as he was can feel. Ironically he left her to learn. After learning more in one summer spent with her than his previous life had ever taught him he left her. Through a haze of tears he left. His thoughts were always with her. She was always with him.

He now knew pain again. An old friend had come back to

torment his days. His smiles were littered with tears, his every laugh hid a sigh and in the midst of his melancholy he still thought himself a lucky boy. She was still with him.

They met in a library. With a start the young fool remembered flippant words he had once spoken. He had said to his father, "The woman I marry I will meet in a church or in a library." His laugh was bitter. He was far away from her and he remembered this. Through his tears and his sighs, through his grief he knew they were meant to be.

They went through much together. They shared each other's bliss. They shared pain and suffering. One was strong for the other. They met in a library. Amidst the plain wooden tables and dusty book laden shelves, amidst the quiet rustle of pages turning and pens writing he found her.

They met in a library. He remembers the day. He remembers the topics of their innocent conversation. He fondly recalls her easy laugh and her gentle charm. He had gone to the library seeking knowledge and he found her. He found the truth.

They spent time together. They would walk for hours, her

small white hand in his. They played cards and spoke long into the night and he was never at a loss for words. He hardly dared to dream of knowing one such as she, yet there she was; with him. He never dared to think of love, and it was happening to him.

He began to feel emotions inside him. Foreign, unfamiliar feelings stole into his heart. Her face was always in his mind's eye. Other. Together they were invincible.

He went back to the library to reflect. He sat at the same table where they met. He breathed deep of the air they shared, lo those many months ago. He sat and he thought, and he felt, and he remembered. There was a book on the desk. Somehow as he was reminiscing, it had made its way into his hands. It lay there open, an invitation for him to read. He looked down and somewhere far away he heard the gods laughing. His mind chanted "Rachelle, Rachelle, Rachelle..." and he read on.

On the edge of the sea
a whale lay sighing
and among its sad sighs
it said

"In love there is always pain."
-Author Anonymous

Entertainment

Leslie and Carolyn's VIDEO PIX

Jungle Fever

Carolyn:

Well, what can I say about Jungle Fever? I hated it!! What I expected to be a realistic view of an inter-racial love story tuned out to be a thin (very thin) plot of extra-marital disaster. I found this movie extremely offensive to just about every group of people imaginable and the only thing that kept me awake through this entire movie was the fact that it made me so angry I wanted to scream! The ending completely escaped me, like I have no clue! Who knows, maybe this was meant to be one of those deep, symbolic, intellectual type movies that go right over my head, or maybe not. Either way this movie sucked!! Oh yeah, the continuous play of Stevie Wonder songs was definitely the movies highlight (NOT!).

Rating: !

Lesley:

I can't really say much about this movie, except that I found it extremely offensive to every racial and ethnic group mentioned or represented in this film. I expected to see an inter-racial romance, but instead was shown an extra-marital affair, and the ignorance of practically every character. Spike Lee really out-did himself this time, but not by producing a great film. He did succeed in showing how stupid people can be towards each other, and how hatred can rule people. If you want to rent a movie with insulting dialogue and annoying scenes (plus an all-Stevie Wonder soundtrack), get Jungle Fever, otherwise leave it on the video shelf.

Rating: !

Return to the Blue Lagoon

Carolyn:

Once I got past my urges to chop off all of Milla Jovovich's hair and stuff her face full of chocolate I loved this movie! It's a lot like the first Blue Lagoon but way better, with less falling in love and more story line. After I was done watching this show I actually almost wished that I could be stranded on a deserted island

!!!! Just Rent It
!!! Mildly Amusing
!! Better Than A Poke In
The Eye
! Makes PMS Look Fun

paradise myself (except I could never survive that long without my hair dryer). This movie really is a light, funny and pure love story that was surprisingly well acted. I do regret not having not seen this movie in the theatres, it really is well worth seeing.

Rating: !!!!

Lesley:

This movie is quite literally The Blue Lagoon revisited—Milla Jovovich even resembles Brooke Shields (who starred in the first Blue Lagoon). The scenes are mostly carbon-copies of the boy and girl fall in love, boy and girl are threatened by civilization, boy and girl stay on island, boy and girl have babies and live happily ever after -- the story of the first Blue Lagoon. I liked this film better, however, because there weren't too many sappy love scenes and there was a little more plot. It's okay to sit down and watch, but I'm glad I didn't spend my money to see it in the theatre.

Rating: !!

To Die For 2

Carolyn:

I'm one of those people that doesn't jump in line to see sequels (with the very rare exception) and this was one of those sequels that would have been better off not made. In trying to describe this movie the word that sticks out most in my mind is WEIRD. It's more or less your classic vampire story with a vampire baby, a blood bank and a chainsaw thrown in for fun. The story was extremely hard to follow, you know one of those movies where right before the end you're still asking, who the hell is he? There was a good side to this show though and that was the vampire, Max. This man is one of the most gorgeous men I have ever seen (although he could stand to lose his side burns), and it almost worth watching this movie just to drool over him (almost).

Rating: !!

Lesley:

This movie was actually half decent, although the cover and description made it out to be really lame. It's your typical vampire story, with just a couple of twists (including a half-vampire baby). The lead vampire - named Max - is incredibly gorgeous, which kind of makes up for the gaps in the plot. See the top ten list below for things that happen often in this film. This movie was more entertaining than the original To Die For, and the special effects weren't overdone. If you're just looking for straight horror entertainment, rent this movie. But don't expect an award-winning film - it's not that great.

Rating: !!!

10. Women always get killed in the shower!

Are killers attracted to the sound of running water or do women just wait until they know the monsters are coming before they hop into the shower?

9. Why can't people shut up when they're hiding?

There's always one girl who screams and whimpers hysterically and nothing you can do is going to stop her. "We're going to die, he's going to kill us!" Of course he is if you don't shut up!!

8. People always tell the authorities!

Really officer, there is a 500 year old vampire sleeping the sleep of the undead in my neighbours basement! Like he is really going to believe you.

7. Victims always run into very dumb places!

This one always gets us. Picture this: You are being chased by a psycho killer from hell and you're standing with the door in front of you and the stairs behind you. Do you run out the front door to freedom? Not if you're in a horror movie! No, you turn and run up the stairs and into the only room in the whole house that has absolutely no escape route! What a dip!

6. People always feel no need to confront the ghost.

You walk into your newly bought house and you hear it angrily whisper, "GET OUT". Would your first thought be "Gee, I wonder what this ghost wants from us?" Me neither (I guess that's why I've never been offered a part in a horror movie).

10
really
stupid
things
people do
in
horror
movies

5. People always have to poke and prod the killer to make sure he's dead.

This is really dumb! If he's dead great! But if he isn't do you

really want to be standing just inches from him when you find out?!

4. People can never outrun zombies.

Your everyday garden type variety of zombie walks at a very stiff and crawling speed. Yet they always seem to outrun perfectly healthy, young (and alive) people. Unbelievable!

3. People always trip when they are running from a killer.

Walk much? Isn't it so convenient that so many rocks and sticks just leap into your path when you are running for your life?

2. Just as you reach your car and are about to make a speedy get away you find your trusty car (that has never stalled ever before) just won't start!

Bummer! But don't worry, it will of course start up again just as the monster is about to eat you, seatbelt and all!

1. Why do people always go to inspect strange noises?

You've just heard over the radio that an escaped axe murderer has been seen in your area. What's that odd and suspicious noise you hear coming from the shed in your backyard? I don't know, why don't you go out (alone in the pitch blackness of the moonless night) to find out?! Brilliant!!

FLAMINGO

Cafe & Lounge

JEREMY ROBINSON
Feb 27 Thursday \$3 Roots rock from this talented local singer/songwriter and his rocking band the Stone Roots. One release to date, a five song EP 'Miner'.

LENNIE GALLANT
Feb 28-29 Fri-Sat \$5 Male Vocalist of the Year, East Coast Music Awards. 'Man Of Steel' video in high rotation on Muchmusic. Lennie's rich, resonating vocals are backed up by a five-piece band that delivers a driving roots-rock energy infused with Acadian and Celtic influences. "One of the best songwriters working male in Canada today" - CBC's Entertainers.

GAELIC SOCIETY BENEFIT
Mar 4 Wed 8:30pm \$5 Fiddlers Natalie MacMaster & Wendy MacIsaac, step-dancer Harvey Beaton, piper Barry Shears, Gaelic singers Jeff MacDonald & Margo Carruthers & more.

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OP/ED



To the Editor: Student Union Owes Us An Explanation

I have been hearing rumours concerning Keith Campbell leaving his book-keeping job at Student Union under mysterious circumstances for the past two weeks and was naturally concerned with the reasons behind his sudden departure. The recent article in the Picaro (Feb. 6, 1992) served to increase my apprehensions.

Mr. Campbell's departure following a confrontation with our Student Union president and two unidentified members of the executive naturally raises some important questions:

1. What was going on at Student Union that caused Mr. Campbell such concern that he ended up in a confrontation with Ms. Casey and the two unidentified members of the executive.

2. Is Scott Mackay lying or just misinformed when he said that Student Union had received a letter of resignation from Mr. Campbell? And if he is misinformed or not telling the truth, why? What is being covered up at our Student Union?

3. Who has replaced Mr. Campbell as book-keeper for Student Union? I certainly did not observe any advertisements for the position posted anywhere on campus or have I read any in the local newspapers. What's

going on?

4. Who were the mysterious unidentified executive members present at the meeting with Keith? What was their purpose in being there?

5. Does Ms. Casey and two unidentified executive members of Student Union have the right to force Mr. Campbell out of his position? It seems to me that a decision like that would have to involve either the entire executive or the participation of Student Council.

Obviously some kind of investigation into this matter is called for. It is time that some answers were forthcoming for this confrontation with Mr. Campbell by Ms. Casey and the two unidentified executive members. Mr. Campbell is a professional book-keeper with a vast wealth of experience. His refusal to discuss this matter reflects this professionalism. It is our job as members of Student Union to seek out the answers for his mistreatment. The air must be cleared about this matter as soon as possible. I look forward to Ms. Casey and the two unidentified executive members answering these important questions in the next Picaro.

Yours Truly,
Jamie Robb

The Real Issues

Mandatory "O Canada"

by Carolyn McLaughlan **YES**

Children straggle in from the hallway, shedding their protective outer clothing as they go. The classroom resembles a somewhat chaotic social gathering, kids talking and laughing boisterously as they gather around their desks. All conversation dies out quickly, however, when a stern voice comes over the PA system. "Please Stand For O Canada". This is a scene I remember well from Elementary and High School and a scene I hope to continue to see in the future. To stop playing "O Canada" and to stop having children stand for our national anthem would only succeed in contributing to the feelings of apathy towards Canada that already exist.

You can not fight for something that you do not believe in and if we pass our feelings of indifference towards our country to our children, who will inherit this society, the future for this rich and beautiful country looks very bleak. Who will lead Canada into the next century with pride if we raise another generation of Canadians who simply do not care about Canada? "Forcing" children to stand each morning for the few minutes it takes to listen to our national anthem is not violating anyone's human rights, it is simply a way of trying to instill in children a feeling of pride for their country, something parents should but aren't

doing at home. It is a way of saying that they are very fortunate to be living in such a prosperous country full of opportunity and they should feel proud.

I have heard the argument that children should not have to stand for O Canada if they do not believe in the country as it is right now, or the policies at present. We are forgetting something very basic here. When you stand for the national anthem you are not standing in approval of Canada's current policies in any specific area and you are not raising your voice in approval of statements made the week before in legislature. You are raising your voice in approval, respect and pride for Canada's principles and it's ideals. What we need to remember more often is that for the majority of Canadian citizens at sometime (perhaps long ago) our ancestors (or maybe even our parents) must have thought that this country, it's goals and opportunities were something special. Had they not thought that Canada, as a country, was something worth maintaining and feeling proud of most of us would not be here today. When the national anthem is played we are standing in support of Canada's principles and in hopes that it's ideals will one day be reality.

To expect to see any improvement in Canada while not encouraging the future generation (who will succeed our gov-

ernment) to feel pride and respect for this country and what it stands for is simply ludicrous. For Canada to ever hope to better itself as a country there has to be an end to the present apathy in our society. If we are to break free of this state of disunity and unconcern that we are facing right now we are going to need a society that believes firmly in Canada, as a whole. If we aren't playing the national anthem in schools and "forcing" children to learn a pride and respect for this anthem, this society of "true Canadians" will remain a distant and unattainable dream and disunity will continue to tear Canada apart.

Children should learn that Canada's principles and goals are something which they have reason to take pride in and respect. It often amazes me that to many foreign countries Canada is a country of peace and compassion to be looked at as an example, but it's own citizens seem to be ashamed to be a part of it! Why can't we realize that even though we are facing many problems right now our country is still very fortunate and the things for which it stands and will continue to stand for are worth our pride. Children will not learn to take pride in their country and to try and work to change the things they do not feel are right if we were to stop asking children to stand for "O Canada" at the start of each day.

To the Editor:

In response to Carolyn McLaughlan's article "Smokers in Seton: NO!", Jan. 30, 1992.

It is understandable that Ms. McLaughlan should call herself a "self-described human rights activist" because, after reading her letter to the Picaro, we have come to the conclusion that no one else would refer to her in that manner. Ms. McLaughlan's dismissal of smokers as persons who deserve the same conditions as herself clearly demonstrate her hypocritical attitude.

Although we sympathize with Ms. McLaughlan's allergy problem (I suffer myself), we feel the overwhelming need to point out AGAIN we are NOT lobbying to force non-smokers to breathe our smoke! We simply want a designated VENTILATED smoking area where Ms. McLaughlan (or any other non-smoker) would have no reason

to enter. We repeat: with a designated, ventilated smoking area, non-smokers would still retain their "healthy, completely smoke free lifestyle."

As for "crowding a fire exit", we wouldn't be if we had a designated ventilated smoking area. Nor would the non-smokers be forced to hold their breath passing us.

Being classed as smokers should not be synonymous with being classed as second-class citizens. We feel we deserve the same considerations as other members of the Mount student population. Give us a room of our own, and we will never infringe on your right to breathe clean air.

Jamie Robb and Cathy Moore

by Lesley Butt **NO**

"O Canada we stand on guard for thee", is something I remember well from my school days. All students were made to stand, but as always, there would be several children leaning on desks, slouching, and talking. They did not even realize what they were standing for.

It is a sad reality that people in Canada do not have much patriotism. A solution, however, is not in forcing students to stand for our anthem. A more fitting answer is to educate our children as to the history, culture, and current status of Canada. The importation of foreign (especially American) culture is overriding our own. Ask a child who their idol is, and it will likely be an American!

Some students do know what is occurring in their coun-

try, and they may not believe in a particular policy. Why should they then stand up and support Canada? Isn't it a little insincere to stand up for something you don't believe in? Isn't there enough hypocrisy in our society today without forcing our children to be hypocrites? Some people may say if you don't like it - get out! What happened to democracy? Forcing conformity is something one would expect of a dictatorship. People here have the right to oppose the government. That right should be reflected in a voluntary standing to our anthem.

Canadians are not like Americans when it comes to nationalism, and I believe that is beneficial. Canada is a diverse, multi-cultural country, allowing people of different origins to co-exist in an environment where they can maintain their own cul-

ture and heritage. This could not be done in the giant melting pot called America. Do we really want to become as ethnocentric as they are? I don't think so.

Encouraging an attitude such as the Americans' will not create a patriotic society. It will instead generate intolerance and bigotry. There is a fine line between patriotism and ethnocentrism. It is evident that the United States have crossed the line, but Canada has yet to produce ardent patriots. It is the responsibility of our society to develop our children's knowledge and respect for Canada. Impelling them to stand for "O Canada" is not going to achieve that goal. Once Canada attains its children's respect, they will be proud to stand for its anthem. Until then, standing should be reserved for the believers.

Sports

Men Beat NSAC and STU

by D.Y. and J.P.

The MSVU Men's basketball team won two league games Feb. 6 and 7, defeating NSAC and STU. The Mystics travelled to the Agricultural College Thursday, Feb. 6 to battle the Rams.

The first half was a close contest with the half-time score being 29-23 for the Mount. The second half was a different story. the Mystics came out flying with full court pressure to take a commanding lead. Andrew McNeil led the way with 24 points and D.J. (Soapy) Johnson chipped in 9. "Our pressure defence was a little too much for AC to handle,"

stated co-captain Dyrick McDermott. "All twelve players contributed positively in the win," added Jon Phillips.

The game highlight came in the closing minutes when first year player Steve "Baa Baa" Sampson collected a magnificent pass from Todd "Gel" House to throw down a dunk in the face of an AC player. the game ended 67-45 for the Mount.

Friday, Feb. 7 the Mystics hosted the St. Thomas Tommies. Again it was a close contest in the first half of play with the Mount on top with a score of 46-39 at half time.

The second half was quite

different as well. The Mystics pulled away from the Tommies and never looked back. There was a good effort played by all members. the final score 81-68. Scorers for the Mount were Tony Ross 24, Dyrick McDermott and Mark Forward 13, Anthony McNeil 12, and Wayne Keddy.

The Mystics play three games this week. Playing at home

Wednesday night against Kings. They are travelling to TUNS on Friday night and Kings on Sunday.

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PROFILE



NAME: Shelly Eichel
PROGRAM: 3rd yr B.A.
Canadian Studies

TEAM: Women's Soccer
HIGH SCHOOL: Parkview
BEGAN PLAYING: Gr. 6
AWARDS

HIGH SCHOOL:
-Most Valuable Player (gr.11,12)
-Sportswoman of the year (gr.12)
MSVU:
-Member 1990 NSCC Provincial Championship Team
-NSCC All-Conference (1st yr.)
-NSCAA Most Valuable Player (2nd yr.)
-NSCAA All-Conference (2nd yr.)
-Most Valuable Player (2nd yr.)
-Athlete of the year (2nd yr.)
-Member of 1992 NSCAA Provincial Championship Team. (3rd yr.)
-NSCAA All-Conference (3rd yr.)

Women's V-Ball Survive Marathon Weekend

Due to weather cancellations, the Women's volleyball team were forced into playing a horrendous schedule of games going into the spring break. Toughing it out, the Mystics played for four straight hours to defeat Nova Scotia Agricultural Rams 15-8, 12-15, 15-2, 9-15, 16-14 and 15-2, 13-15, 15-10, 15-8.

"The team has suffered a lot of injuries and sickness and with only nine players it has to put a drastic amount of stress on everyone," stated June Lumsden, co-ordinator of Athletics/Recreation. "We look forward to getting a healthy team back on the court practising and getting a healthy team back on the court practising."

ing and getting prepared for Provincials. as the first place team in the NSCAA the Mount went in to defeat NSTC Hawk the following evening in another long drawn out match.

The Mystics won the first match in the fifth game with the scores as following 12-15, 13-15, 15-10, 17-15, 15-13. By the end of the second match the Mount again, had played over four hours and travelled home - exhausted but as winners, defeating NSTC 13-15, 15-9, 15-11, 15-11.

"Each athlete has improved tremendously this year" says Head Coach Howard Jackson. "Team play and experience will be the deciding factors for our future."

Women's Basketball Sitting in Second

The Mount Mystics Women's Basketball team is sitting in second place in the Nova Scotia Colleges Athletic Association with 8 wins and 4 losses

On Thursday February 5 the team travelled to Truro to take on the Nova Scotia Agricultural College Rams winning that contest 64-33. "The team played well overall," said Assistant Coach Patsy Pyke. "...and some of our players had a really good game. Audrey Norman, Nancy Carson and Tammy Godfrey played well for

as a whole played well. It is after all a team sport and it takes the whole team working well together to win a ball game."

On Saturday the team played host to the St Thomas Tommies from Fredericton NB. "This might just have been our best effort yet this year," said Assistant Coach Patsy Pyke. "We really needed a good game at this point. We know that we are going to have to play well for the rest of the season if we are going to do well in playoffs."

Let's Get Ready to Rumble

by Marco Tejada

Saturday February the 8th presented another opportunity for the Mount St. Vincent badminton team to dominate a tournament. It was an opportunity they embraced with relish.

The mixed doubles combination of Shawn Leeman and Gail Nash took it to and through the opposition, decimating their ranks with scores of 15-3, 15-4 to take top place honours. In mens' doubles action Troy Locke and Marco Tejada fanned the flames and threw heat like there was no tomorrow. When the smoke cleared, once again they emerged in first place. In mens' singles action Corey Beals placed an unusual second as did the ladies'

doubles team of Wendy Skeard and Carrie MacDonald. Rumours of voo-doo misuse and alien interference have been proffered to explain these strange second place standings.

Mojo or no, MSVU placed first overall at this prestigious event. Thanks are in order to coaches Karl Lingley for the fab buffet and Mike Kingston for excellence of execution. The next tournament decides who will represent Nova Scotia at nationals. Provincial playoffs will be held Sunday March 1st here at the Mount gym. No excuses, be there to see your badminton team throw some heat and get ready to rumble!



Don't miss this great event!

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