

# The PICARO

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## The Power of Protest



*What really drives  
demonstrations?*

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# Power of the people

*What effect does protest have on shaping government policy?*

**By Jennifer Henderson,  
Atlantic Bureau Chief**

HALIFAX (CUP) -- From Kent State to Quebec City, the Vietnam War to the World Trade Organization, protesting as a form of political action has earned a place as part of the popular culture of the late 20th and early 21st centuries.

But what drives street demonstrations? And does grassroots rallying really have the power to influence government policy?

Broadcaster and author Judy Rebick believes it does. A veteran of decades of protests, she cites the achievement of Canadian legislative landmarks such as legalized abortion as being fueled by mass demonstrations.

"Protesting absolutely makes a difference. The best example is the pro-choice struggle," Rebick says. "We won it in the courts but we would never have gotten it to the courts if it hasn't been for protesting."

Bruce Campbell is executive director of the Canadian Centre of Policy Alternatives, an independent, left-of-centre think-tank. He says protests pave the way for CCPA's analysis and policy critiques to gain public attention.

"Protests have really opened up a space for those of us who present policy alternatives. I think there is a complementary role between protests and what we do. We wouldn't have been able to present our research if they didn't provide a platform," he says.

Campbell sees the role of organizations such as CCPA to offer the kind of background information that protesters need to lobby effectively for change.

"We see a lot of our material as providing fuel for social organizations, those that are out there in the so-called advocacy trenches. We provide the facts, figures, analysis and research."

One such social organization CCPA has worked with in the past is the Canadian Federation of Students. National chair Ian Boyko credits the advances the student lobby group has made with its ability to take to the streets en masse.

"The tremendous success of CFS over the last 20 years hinges on our ability to protest or mobilize. We have tuition-fee freezes in four provinces. This didn't come because university presidents were lobbying for them. They came

because students were fighting for them," he says.

Boyko believes protests are one of the few surefire ways students have of gaining media and government attention for their concerns.

"We're students. We don't have the resources to call in financial favours from the past, but we have to keep our message in the government's ears."

For his part, Campbell is pleased to see large numbers of youth playing an active role in protests, especially in the last three to four years.

"One of the things that's really heartening to see in anti-globalization protests is the participation of young people. When you go to a protest you don't see a sea of grey heads. There is an awareness of social issues among youth that I find extremely important," he says.

According to Rebick, we shouldn't be surprised to see more young people waving banners and placards. She says the participation of groups that are underrepresented in the traditional political system, such as students, is a hallmark of protest movements.

"Demonstrations in Canada are nothing new. This is how people without power express their view, by going to the street. If there is something you want to get on the agenda this is the best way to do it," she says.

Michael Cross, a history professor at Dalhousie University says that this sense of disenfranchisement is particularly felt among youth and has been on the rise in recent years. He believes some of it stems from a feeling of powerlessness in the political arena, although a sense of skepticism toward traditional institutions such as mass media is also at work.

"There's been a growing suspicion of media and organized authority that's been going on for a while. When you look at the statistics people, especially youth, are opting out of mainstream organizations. This reflects a growing distrust and dissatisfaction with these organizations."

"You can react to this distrust in different ways. You can stay at home and watch TV or go out and do something about it. It seems more young people are going out and

doing something about it," he says.

While mass demonstration may not be a new feature on the Canadian political landscape, it has been one with an uneven profile, fading in and out of public attention depending on the issues of the day.

"The stuff we've seen recently is like the protests we saw in the 60s. We didn't really see that in the 80s so it does come in cycles," says Campbell.

This is an assessment with which Boyko and Rebick find fault.

"There are definitely times we've seen more protests than in others, but it's really about the issues at hand, not some spontaneous cycle that sprouts every few years," says Boyko.

Rebick points the finger at the media for perpetuating the idea that protesting comes and goes in waves.

"No one asks if voting or Parliament disappears every few years. There is this attempt to vilify

protests. The ability to protest in a democracy is as least important as Parliament. To me it's even more so," she says.

It's the negative image of protests as little more than disorganized, misguided riots that Boyko and his organization try not to feed when they organize street demonstrations such as CFS's annual "day of action."

"We have to be careful there is nothing there for the mass media to sensationalize. We have to ensure we're on message all the time and that our spokespeople are articulating our message," he says.

Both Rebick and Campbell say it's hard to overestimate the role the media plays in shaping the way the citizens perceive protests and to what degree they can influence public opinion. With large scale consolidation of Canadian media outlets and tighter editorial control finding a voice for individual demonstrations becomes increasingly difficult.

"The media plays a fundamental role, especially when you look at the corporate agenda setting media. For every time one of our analyses gets in the media, the balance is still heavily weighed in favour of the corporate side," says Campbell.

While the media may have the power to package protests, Campbell believes it is the democratic political system that initially encourages mass demonstrations.

"It should be a hallmark of a

democratic society that there is debate and dissent toward government actions. If not, then your democracy isn't really healthy," says Campbell.

Mass demonstration may be a natural function of a thriving democratic state but it tends to flourish in less-than-ideal political systems as well.

Campbell says a lack of outlets for true participation in government means that citizens turn to extra parliamentary activity to have their voices heard. He believes the current Canadian political climate is a prime example of this phenomenon.

"The two main opposition parties are regional. In those situations opposition tends to be less effective. Political parties are not the vehicles for policy making and debate that they once were," he says.

Cross says the media's portrayal of politics and politicians may also contribute to a growing protest culture, especially among youth.

"Part of it is the media's representation of politics, making it look dirty and petty. It's also partly a realization on the part of young people that political clout lies with old people and not young people."

"Youth's concerns need to get back on the agenda and they won't get there by being quiet."

Modifying the Canadian party system or even encouraging greater grassroots membership won't eliminate or stem protests but Rebick believes it may help to dispel lingering stereotypes about demonstrations and show them to be positive catalysts of change.

"If you had more citizen participation in government you wouldn't have as many protests and the ones you did have wouldn't be vilified," she says.

While the impact of stand-alone demonstrations on government policy may be negligible, Cross says that they form part of the overall feedback mechanism politicians rely on to guide decision-making.

"It's clear governments are influenced by what's perceived as public opinion, whether that's through letter writing or street protests."

## Dal profs walk out

**By Tyler Kustra, The Gazette**

HALIFAX (CUP) -- Professors at Dalhousie University walked off the job March 4 after six months of negotiations with the university failed to produce an agreement.

Classes have been effectively cancelled for approximately 14,500 students.

Two-thirds of the faculty union's 770 full-time professors, librarians and counsellors voted in favour of striking. Academic freedom, tenure, salaries and complement (the number of professors) remain key points of disagreement.

If the administration was to accept the Dalhousie Faculty Association (DFA) latest offer, the university would need to increase tuition by 17 per cent, said Stacey Lewis, the university's public relations manager.

Faculty association president Andy Wainwright called the possibility of a tuition hike "blatant fear-mongering."

Lewis said Dalhousie can't afford the DFA's offer because "the university would be required to hire professors when it did not have the money to pay them and, in some cases, to hire professors in faculties with declining student enrollments."

She added the university administration is committed to ensuring students earn credits for courses they are enrolled in, even if that means compressing part of the year.

Student opinion on the strike is split.

"I think that the faculty's position is worth supporting," said fourth-year student Marie Genierere said. "What [the strike] boils down to is the quality of education at Dal."

First-year science student Beverly Tjarera isn't so sure.

"If the work is moved on, it could be too much pressure during exams," she said.

Dalhousie student union president Shawn Tracey said the DFA and the university administration had broken their commitment to put student concerns first.

"The student union is very disappointed in both the faculty and the administration for their inability to come to an agreement," he said. "Both sides were adamant about their intention to avoid a strike but apparently their intentions weren't enough."

Tracey says the student union will not take sides in the conflict.



## Detained Canadian's fate unknown

By Gacheru Maina, The Manitoban

WINNIPEG (CUP) -- The plight of a Canadian of Pakistani origin continues to hang in the balance despite repeated attempts by lawyers and human rights groups to have him released from custody from an American detention centre.

Shakir Baloch, 39, was working as a limousine driver in New York City to support his wife and daughter at home in Toronto. Federal agents picked him up on Sept. 11 and, like many of the post-Sept. 11 detainees, has not been charged with a crime related to terrorism or labeled a material witness.

Since his arrest over five months ago, Baloch has been in solitary confinement for 23 and a half hours a day in a six-and-a-half-by-seven-foot cell at the Metropolitan Detention Centre in Brooklyn. The

special jail unit is meant for violent felons, deprived of contact with family and counsel for most of that time.

The official figure released by the United States government claims that 725 people were arrested following Sept. 11, with 460 still in custody as of the end of December, although human rights groups suspect that there may be many more. The majority, if not all, of those arrested are of Middle-Eastern descent or belong to the Islamic faith.

On Dec. 20, lawyers representing Baloch ventured a legal challenge, filing a habeas corpus petition in federal court, claiming Baloch was being "unlawfully detained" without official basis. Soon after, the U.S. attorney's office in New York's Southern District charged him with an illegal re-entry charge, on which he was

subsequently indicted, creating an official basis.

The charge, an immigration-related crime, claims Baloch entered the U.S. illegally, despite having been previously denied admission. Under normal circumstances, such a charge would not warrant solitary confinement and was rarely prosecuted.

Baloch and other detainees have charged that they were unable to contact their families. In Baloch's case, it took nearly two months for his family to track him down since there was no notice made to anyone about his apprehension, and the jail denied that he was being held there.

According to Canadian government spokesman Reynald Doiron, the U.S. government forwarded him a copy of a waiver Baloch had signed soon after his arrest, limiting Canada's ability to

intervene on his behalf.

"Now, was he under stress or duress? I don't know," said Doiron.

Baloch has held Canadian citizenship since 1994, and has been working toward being certified to practice medicine in Canada, despite his medical training in Pakistan.

Prior to the habeas corpus application to the courts, the Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS) and the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) had not yet contacted or interrogated Baloch regarding any terrorist activity for two to three months after his arrest, indicating that there was no real concern about him.

Baloch's lawyer's habeas corpus application was the second known attempt in the Sept. 11-related detentions. David Leopold, a Cleveland attorney, filed what is believed to be the first, just days before Baloch's lawyers did. Leopold

was representing Israeli detainees who were in the U.S. on valid visas.

"I knew I had a strong habeas [argument], but I was worried that the government could come back with a criminal charge," he said.

The Israeli detainees application never went to court. They were released two days later after the Israeli government's assurances that the detainees were not members of al-Qaeda.

While Baloch awaits future court dates, various groups in the U.S. have taken up the cause to have him and many others who were detained following Sept. 11 released. In Canada, the Ontario Coalition Against Poverty is conducting a public campaign to get the Canadian government involved in Baloch's case by conducting a letter-writing campaign to Foreign Affairs Minister Bill Graham.

## Alberta project searches for cause of cancer

By Neil Parmar, Alberta Bureau Chief, Alberta Bureau

EDMONTON (CUP) -- The Alberta Cancer Board has initiated a province-wide study to determine what lifestyle choices may contribute to the onset of cancer.

Entitled The Tomorrow Project, researchers will sample a population of 50,000 Albertans to help pinpoint the cause of disease by linking its onset to the timing of exposure.

Researchers from the University of Alberta's Population Research Laboratory recently began contacting and recruiting participants for the pilot study.

The randomly selected participants will contribute information to the research study about their health, lifestyle and occurrence of illnesses to the follow-up age of 85.

Over the span of a several decades the information will be updated until enough data exist to compare groups of participants who develop cancer and those who remain disease free.

Although The Tomorrow Project is still in its preliminary stages, the project's director, Ursula Dawe, was given a \$2-million budget to assess the study's long-term feasibility.

"With such a high sample population it's important to note the study may not be feasible over time. The research design is a prospective

study and we're still evaluating participant retention and

follow-up strategies," said Dawe.

One strategy she admitted having trouble with was convincing participants to give a blood sample for researchers to analyze. However, she added participants always have the option of withdrawing from the study.

"One of the strengths of having blood samples on many people is so we can analyze nutrients in blood after dietary intakes," Dawe said.

"Genes, diets, physical activity and stress levels -- they're a really rich picture of people's lives. In some kinds of cancers there's a large genetic component to it and there's an opportunity to look at an individual's genetic contribution to cancer along with their lifestyle," she said.

Over the next three years, data will be collected about participants' general health, diet, physical activity and self-care. Participants' use of cancer-screening programs, such as exposure to sun and tobacco, will also be examined.

If at that time Dawe can establish a thorough foundation within the pilot study, funding will be offered to continue The Tomorrow Project through special research initiative funds.

## Ontario repatriation program called PR stunt

By Shawn Jeffords, Ontario Bureau

TORONTO (CUP) -- A repatriation program that would see recent medical school graduates pulled back into the Ontario medical system in exchange for the government repaying their debts is being called a "limited program" and a "PR exercise" for Tony Clement's provincial leadership bid.

The plan would see 15 Canadian medical school graduates a year who have left the country to practice abroad offered positions in underserved areas of the province in exchange for full student loan repayment by the government. However, the \$800,000 program isn't impressing medical students or rural physicians.

"It's going to have limited impact," said Matthew Erskine, president of the Canadian Federation of Medical Students (CFMS). "It's a stop-gap measure and another example of putting short-term solutions in place without long-term goals."

Erskine says the province shouldn't focus on drawing doctors back from the U.S. and abroad but should instead make keeping them in Canada a priority by funding the health-care system.

"Over 200 doctors go south every year," said Erskine. "Once they go there and work in that environment with all new equipment and adequate funding, it's hard to come back."

Gord Haugh, press secretary for Health Minister Tony Clement, says the doctor shortage problem is something that has been handed down to the Conservatives by previous governments.

"A few years back, the government of the day decided to reduce medical school places for students to control costs," said Haugh. "We've recently announced the creation of Northern Ontario's first medical school (at Laurentian University)."

Erskine argues the province's student funding is keeping good students who would service rural areas out of school.

"The people who are least able to attend are people from rural areas," said Erskine. "Studies show that if you're from a rural area you're more likely to return there to practice."

Peter Hutton-Czapski, president of the Society of Rural Physicians of Canada, is also critical of the plan. He thinks it won't benefit enough people.

"There should be an effort to repatriate doctors who leave, not just medical students or recent graduates," said Hutton-Czapski.

"The government really needs to stress Canada. Our basic Canadian values haven't changed. Like safety and education, that's a big draw."

Hutton-Czapski also says medical students are being discouraged from practicing in the province because of strict regulations that govern physicians.

"We have the most Byzantine

restrictions here in Ontario," said Hutton-Czapski. "There are a good number of physicians today who if they let their licenses expire would not be allowed to practice."

He says the government is over-cautious, particularly when it comes to keeping bad doctors out of the province.

"My impression is that they're paranoid," he said. "They have gone beyond the point of reason. They will keep 100 good doctors out of the province just to make sure that one bad apple doesn't slip in."

Erskine puts his criticisms on the shoulders of Tony Clement, calling the announcement a PR exercise to win him votes in the Conservative leadership race.

"It's politically expedient to make this announcement right now," said Erskine. "When you look at the polls, health care is the number one or two issue on people's minds. Any announcement that makes you look good certainly won't hurt."

Haugh says the announcement is just ministry business.

"Are they going to say sending mothers off to Buffalo is good for the leadership race?" said Haugh, referring to recent viral outbreaks that forced Toronto mothers delivering their babies to be sent to Buffalo hospitals.

"Health is a huge and complex portfolio," said Haugh. "It doesn't ever start or stop."



# Eating in the raw

## *Return to nature or diet fad?*

**By Orla Nazarko, The Manitoban**

For most people, it's common sense that eating raw fruits and vegetables is good for you. However, there is a small but growing movement of people who have taken this notion a step further. They believe that cooked food is harmful and unnecessary and that a natural human diet should consist exclusively of raw food.

Centered in California, this controversial movement has made inroads into communities across North America. Raw food restaurants are sprouting up in many Canadian cities, most recently in Winnipeg.

There are several comprehensive websites promoting the raw food diet, including livingfoods.com and rawfood.com. The latter site is run by David Wolfe and his partners Stephen Arlin and R. C. Dini, all of whom founded Nature's First Law, a raw food company that sells books, offers recipes, provides information about raw food retreats and even facilitates a raw foodist singles web-program.

To a non-practitioner, a raw diet may seem extremely limiting. What does a raw foodist eat besides salad? To begin, raw foodists are generally, but not always, vegan.

Many of the recipes are innovative, tasty, and relatively easy to prepare and include cold soups, dessert squares, and raw versions of pizza or pasta produced from avocados, coconuts, sprouts, nuts, and seeds.

"There are a thousand different ways to do raw food," said Jesse Noguera, a sales manager with Nature's First Law.

### **Food Power?**

Cooking food is such a standard practice that most people fail to question whether or not it is healthy. According to Wolfe and his partners, this ingrained devotion to cooked food needs to be challenged by a combination of nutritional, environmental, moral and spiritual explanations. They claim that raw food is healthier, has more nutrients, lessens the environmental

impact of food production, heightens spiritual awareness and is morally correct because it is humanity's natural diet.

It is no secret that cooked or processed food frequently loses some of its nutritional value, with the degree of loss depending on the method of preparation. Raw

foodists take this a step further by stating that cooked food not only fails to deliver nutrients available in raw form, but is actually toxic to the human body. The health benefits of raw food include increased energy and health, and less need for sleep.

"I sleep half as much as I used to," said Dave Steinberg, also a sales manager with Nature's First Law. He adopted a raw food diet primarily to improve his mental and athletic performance.

Dr. Sue Arntfield, professor of Food Science at the University of Manitoba, agrees that raw foods maintain their nutrients, but in North America, but she adds that the food processing industry adds leached nutrients back to processed foods. Although Arntfield recognizes that certain by-products of cooked food can be carcinogenic, she still feels that the benefits outweigh the risks. She also notes that soaking, a non-heating method of food preparation, leaches nutrients out of food and can provide an ideal habitat for microbial growth.

Given this controversy, it is useful to consider why humans began cooking their food in the first place. In her book *A History of Food*, Mageulonne Toussaint-Samat indicates that finding ways of preserving food historically has been a major preoccupation for humans. Food historian Jean-Louis Flandrin in *Food - A Culinary History*, suggests that the initial

reasons for cooking were not to improve taste but to make food more digestible and safe. Flandrin also points out that some foods need to be processed to remove toxins, (for example, some forms of mushrooms.) Arntfield notes that some grains and beans have anti-nutritional factors which need to be removed before eating.

In response to these challenges, Noguera suggests that if food needs to be cooked to become digestible, it isn't appropriate for the human diet anyway.

On the other hand, Arntfield supports the idea that cooking food improves food safety by changing its texture and digestibility. And it's not

suggesting that ideally, humans should live in areas where raw food is available year-round, rather than importing it from other regions.

Raw foodists tend to believe that their diet brings them closer to nature, heightening the senses (i.e. intuition) and increasing energy levels. Philosophically, a raw diet is morally correct because it is the natural way all other living beings obtain their food. Wolfe and his partners suggest that such a diet is a recognition that the fall of humans from a "golden age" is due to the advent of cooking food — raw food allows for a "return to paradise." They even cite passages from ancient texts such as the Bhagavad Gita to

support the moral rejection of cooked foods. Comments about the "transformative" nature, "life force" or "life energy" of raw foods are common.

According to Steinberg, a raw foodist's focus becomes clearer and hostility and anger are reduced. He credits the acquisition of a

raw food diet as saving him from a life of alcoholism.

Noguera adds that the raw food diet simply "makes logical sense."

### **Contentious science?**

Raw foodism broaches the question of why humans (in most societies around the world) have been cooking a certain proportion of their food since the discovery of fire 500,000 years ago. It could be argued that such a long-standing practice should be considered a "natural" habit and that we have evolved to eat cooked food. This inquiry brings up one of the major sources of controversy surrounding raw foodism — Wolfe and his partners reject the theory of evolution. This raises corresponding eyebrows throughout the mainstream scientific community.

This is not the only contentious scientific issue. Some raw foodists

point to a cow's raw, vegan diet to support their own practices, without acknowledging the significant differences between the cow and human digestive systems (cows have a four-stomach system.) They also claim that animals that eat exclusively raw food diets are not subject to the widespread disease that humans face — a belief that ignores the large number of existent animal diseases.

Other more outlandish beliefs, promoted especially by Wolfe and his partners, include suggestions that cooked food diets result in deviant behavior (including rape and murder) and that AIDS is a hoax. Since mainstream education (including universities) does not generally support many raw foodist claims, Nature's First Law advocates a boycott of the educational system. Steinberg explains that experience is a better teacher than formal education, and that business interests often influence what is taught in universities.

On the other hand, much of the raw food information available is associated with the promotion of books, speaking engagements, or supplements, providing fuel for the argument that raw foodism is simply another diet fad promoted in an infomercial-type fashion, designed to create profits for its proponents.

Steinberg argues that their group teaches by example, letting others logically come to accept a raw food diet.

Many would agree that North Americans eat too much highly processed food. Is raw foodism then simply a radical response to the negative aspects of the standard North American diet?

Wolfe and his partners would argue no — that what is really radical is the high level of processing in foods like hot dogs. Many practitioners of a raw food diet find that they experience significant health and spiritual benefits, and simply want to share these advantages with others. However, their unconventional beliefs leave their movement on the fringe, and out of the public eye.

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only raw meat that has been shown to have food safety concerns — cantaloupes and sprouts can also harbour E. coli, a bacteria.

Noguera counters that while there might be minor food safety risks associated with raw foods, they do not compare to the huge benefits

of the raw food diet.

### **Natural food for a natural environment?**

According to advocates, a raw diet is environmentally friendly because energy is not wasted in cooking and packaging food. On the other hand, raw food is only made possible in northern climates by the availability of modern technology that allows for the greenhouse production of raw foods in the winter, or transportation from warmer areas — a source of fuel consumption and pollution.

Noguera responds to this by



# The Big Chill: Should we have sympathy for student debt load?

## ... She says absolutely

**By Keiran Gibbs**

I have to say it sure feels good to finally write to an audience that for once in my life I know will be on my side. Who in their right, or left, mind could possibly agree with tuition hikes? I'm not just saying this because I happen to be a student who doesn't enjoy having the dark cloud of ever increasing student loan raining on my parade called life (o.k, that's part of it), I'm saying this because I believe in equal opportunities for everybody. I'm saying this because I believe that an educated population highly increases the chances of a smart country making smart decisions, I'm saying this because Gosh Darnit it's the undeniable truth! Once upon a time after a terrible economic downturn during the era known as the "dirty thirties", we had a smart bunch of people working in government who

said, "Let's spend money. Let's spend on healthcare, education, social services, all that fun stuff and see where it gets us." It was the Keynesian theory and the idea that is if you put money into the public sectors of your country your going to reap the benefits. What we got from this great Keynes fellow (not free trade you sick people!) was a beautiful prosperous country.

Here's what we are now seeing with education cut backs and tuition hikes. First of all what makes me really mad is that with all the exacerbated tuition fees us students don't seem to be benefitting relatively. Just take a look at our lack of school facilities, student societies and departments (The Picaro for example) Are you asking the same question I am? Where the hell is my money going? Don't tell me to professors' wages because that sure isn't what I'm hearing.

Secondly anyone who thinks tuition hikes don't affect non-students are sadly mistaken. That's right, if you pay more to obtain a

massive graduation debt. I mean really, when you have a \$60,000 loan weighing you down who cares about being a good person?

**I mean really, when you have a \$60,000 loan weighing you down who cares about being a good person?**

title, you're going to charge more for people to receive your services (What?! my lawyer costs \$50,000 for an hour now? Looks like he's getting my half of the divorce settlement.)

What about those people that just want to help other people, or the environment, or work at something because they love it and not because it offers a big paycheque. I foresee rough waters up ahead for these people. With the implementation of even higher tuition fees we're looking at a

but we're basically guaranteed bottom line education and facility services.

And bullocks to you who compare the problems of free education in university with the problems of public high schools. It's pretty obvious that if you look at the statistics comparing the percentage of the population which completes high school now compared to that of a hundred years ago it's pretty clear that the overall effect has been beneficial.

What needs to happen is that

the government needs to throw away it's new priority book, dust off the old one and start giving education some serious funding. Tuition hikes beneficial? Sure if your name is Bill Gates Jr. and you want to hog higher learning all to yourself. If anyone has doubts about the benefits of lower tuition costs, the U.S. is a perfect example (of course, you say). There the cost of education is absolutely ridiculous, and who was voted for president? Just the fact that W Bush was even an option should be telling.

With all that said this is what I really wanna know; what kind of capitalist society doesn't pay its students for studying? God knows educational standards would skyrocket if someone only valued us a little more!

## ...He says not particularly

**By Adam Palmer**

I don't want to go on a rant here but tuition prices. A touchy subject if ever there was one on any campus. At most schools this is one the student unions biggest concerns, but for once I actually heard some concern out of my fellow students. "Why is our school the only one not officially taking part in the protest?" is something I heard almost a hundred times in the link, before the late appearance of our student unions official stance.

Most people if you asked them out of the blue, "Would you like free tuition?" would say yes. I mean who wouldn't, right now we spend around \$4,500 or \$5,000, if you not in residence. The problem with this theoretical free tuition is that if tuition were free, ironically, most of us wouldn't be here. Even with tuition the schools are all becoming overcrowded. I can't speak for Dal's class sizes but a

typical UNB first year Biology class has well over 500 people in it, filling an entire auditorium.

There's the problem, free tuition means that absolutely everybody, whether they want to try or not, would show up in university

after high school. In turn the

**There's the problem, free tuition means that absolutely everybody, whether they want to try or not, would show up in university after high school.**

universities would become overcrowded, which would most likely lead to a raising of the admittance requirements, so they could keep numbers down.

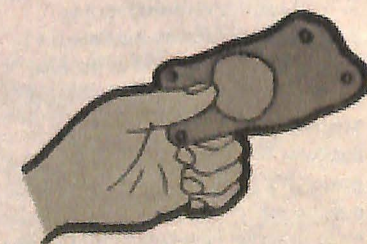
This being said, I like to see a freeze put on tuition, keeping the prices at the current. Right now, we may pay the highest in Canada (Nova Scotians in general, that is) but it is not something that is completely out of control yet. Tuition is still

not so high that someone can't just work as hard as possible all through high school and despite the fact of have very little money, apply for and get in to school with the first two years and residence completely paid for, and I know this from

personal experience.

There is one other topic that I wanted to sneak in here and that is Loan Remission. You can't go six feet in the school anymore without seeing one of these posters, I thought that one was funny, as you don't see a lot of Palmer's around. But that's as far as my like goes, if you haven't seen them I'll sum them up for you. People who took out loans,

and accumulated a lot of debt, are crying to the government to rescind a good portion of their loan. I am wondering if they read the four page, nicely illustrated, loan application, when they were asking for this money. I have student loans, quite a nice large sum, that I often wish was positive money, rather than negative. But I got these loans in full realization that the federal government would be wanting it's money back.



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## "For ten bucks I could make about 20 egg sandwiches."

Have you ever wondered why it costs almost three dollars for six pieces of potato peel at Aramark? Have you ever wondered why the 40 cent popsicle from a store down the street is sold for a dollar at school? Of course, you have! It's your money. . . or is it?

When residence students, minus the ladies of Birch 5, are forced to comply with regulations stating they must use a mandatory \$ 2 000 Aramark meal plan, are they signing in to an opportunity to receive food when they want to a maximum of two grand? Or are they signing over 2 000 dollars to Aramark to use as puppet strings for each and every student on the meal plan? If someone has already committed themselves to \$ 2 000 in nutrition, shouldn't they be able to share that "nutrition"?

With every ethical business deal, all parties involved must receive mutual benefits. The free use

of the student's own \$2 000 is not a lot to ask. If I were to go the

Rosaria food court on my first day of school and order \$2 000 worth of Corn Flakes, I could. If I were to treat my friend to lunch someday because I have such an abundance of dollars on my meal card, or perhaps because I owe him lunch(es), I could not. It is not allowed for students to share and use their Aramark dollars as they see fit...once these dollars have been signed to Aramark, they have control over who uses your money! It sounds really funny, eh? Try being someone who used to own that money and is now being pulled by the strings of Aramark. Aramark benefits fully from situations like these as they result in students having to purchase more over-priced food.

I say the food is over-priced because I believe it is. It's as simple as that. This needs not to be supported with evidence. Where else

in the world does one pay \$1.44 for a Rice Krispie square? Italy? Or the almost three dollar egg sandwich? For ten bucks I could make about 20 egg sandwiches. I really love to realize my capitulation to the demands of consumerism with potato peels at \$2.95 per serving (counted individually: one, two, three, four, five, six, sev....oops! Too many. Gotta put one back). I can get more of the exact same product (french fries) for less than half the price at the next Aramark station.

All we ask is to use our dollars as we see fit (it is our money!) and a little more thought into price setting. Price setting often incurs the recognition of a restaurant or food service provider's factors of production. In this case, I think we are being robbed as prices are outrageous for the quality and quantity of food! Don't get me wrong: The food is sometimes

good, just not very nutritious or satisfying. Most of the staff is annoying and intentionally tantalizing - not to mention uncleanly and carefree. Note: Most of the staff fall in this category - by no means, do they all fall here. Some employees at Aramark are the most efficient, clean, and hospitable people you will ever meet. And the cafeteria hours. . . we won't go there.

In reality, we don't want a battle - we want good food at reasonable prices and reasonable hours. We also feel that the allocation of our dollars is up to us and not you. When asked why we cannot allow others to eat meals from our meal cards, the following response was given:

"Because you can't do that...there's been problems in the past with boyfriends and girlfriends who shared cards." Because I do not believe in bickering because it

gets you nowhere, I had to bite my tongue from saying, "Who cares if someone has a problem with their boyfriend or girlfriend. That's their business, not Aramark's nor mine!" However, the sad reality of it is that today the problems of those "boyfriends" and "girlfriends" have snowballed into the problem that is ours today.

In an ethical light, where are the consumers' benefits in this deal? Sure, there may be some. They are few. Aramark wins again. Maybe we can win one battle against Aramark and it is this: find evidence that can prove any increase in price since September's prices and receive 50 Aramark dollars! Let's beat 'em guys! I think we can....I think we can.....I think we can.....probably not.

- Greg White

## The drawbacks to co-op

It's generally accepted that students enter university from high school with the intention of pursuing a career upon receipt of their degree. To that end, many universities offer the option of co-operative education, a placement program that provides workplace experience to its participants. Many at the Mount take pride in the university's high-standing co-op program, but critics say they may have gone too far.

The decision to make it mandatory for all Public Relations students to commit to three work terms is meeting with more than a little unrest. It is becoming all too

evident that the co-op department is having trouble dealing with the sudden influx of student consumers. The change may have been made in good faith by the university's senate, but it was a mistake all the same. Inexperienced students are having trouble getting interviews, and getting frustrated when they see more experienced students, with their choice of six or seven interviews, that don't even want to participate in the program.

So now the department, looking for more jobs to accommodate the students, has posted the second round of jobs. What a disappointment.

They were most aptly described by one student as evidence that the

department is "lowering the bar" on what jobs are acceptable for us to take.

Dissatisfied students aren't able to take many of the new positions because of salaries that are insufficient to live on, let alone large enough to save for their following academic semesters.

On the afternoon of Friday, March 1st a call was put forth by the

The decision to make it mandatory for all Public Relations to commit to three work terms is meeting with more than a little unrest.

students and by the Public Relations Society to remove the mandatory nature of co-op from the PR program. The idea being, that those students serious about a future career in public relations will join the program, while others using PR as a stepping-stone to another degree will have the option to opt out.

The meeting resulted in nothing more than stammered apologies and poor excuses. I left early with a foul taste in my mouth, issues were raised and seemingly discarded on whim, student's concerns weren't looked at, they were looked over. The only beacon of hope that I could find from the wayward administrators was a promise to look into the problem

further within the next few days.

I received my co-operative education acceptance letter in the beginning of January this year, and couldn't wait for the summer. Now I can't wait for the summer to be over.

It truly is sad that so many students are only seeing co-op's downside, when in truth it also presents many benefits to its graduates. It's a program worth having, but it's also a program worth choosing. Even if the mandatory nature of co-op were removed I would continue to participate, I'm just here to advocate the right of students to have that choice.

- Sean Glover

### FSGN Society Meeting!

Wed Mar 13th

the meetings are  
12:00-1:00 in EVR 365  
across the hall from the  
FSGN office.

### Need to get something off your chest?

The Picaro is pleased to publish letters to the editor and opinion pieces.

The pieces must not exceed 700 words and must include your name and phone number. Submissions can be e-mailed to [thepicaro@hotmail.com](mailto:thepicaro@hotmail.com) or dropped off in Room 114 in Rosaria. We reserve the right to edit letters prior to publication and to reject those that violate our publication standards.

## THE PICARO

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## Seeing green

### St. Paddy's Comedy Night

By Al Appleton

Hey folks, Al Appleton here. Good thing midterms have withered away. I don't think I could handle any more stress. Some fun is definitely in need. Friday afternoon, I had a chance to sit down to a cup of coffee, with Jonathan Lewis. He's the mastermind of an upcoming event called "St. Paddy's Comedy Night". This show will be taking place on Friday March 15. I managed to wrestle up a few questions and squeeze out an answer or two:

AA: So Jonathan, it's understood you're organizing an event to be held on March 15th. Care to give us some details?

JL: Well first, if you wish to call me Jonny or Jon, that's fine. Jonathan is a little lengthy..... As well, I should mention that Adam Stead is also organizing the event. We are working together on this project.

AA: Okay J, you can call me Al... care to give us any details?

JL: Well two comedians will be performing, and between them a band will play. The event will be taking place on Friday March 15th, at Vinnie's Pub.

AA: Between them? I'm assuming you mean a band will perform the 2nd act?

JL: You got it Al. Jeff Pittman has been in charge of the musical aspect of the show since the beginning. I believe he'll be part of a trio. So we'll have a trio as the 2nd act of St. Paddy's Comedy Night.

AA: Does that mean the band is going to be funny too?

JL: Well who said the comedians are funny? Just kidding... I don't know what Jeff and his crew have planned.

AA: What sort of music will they be playing?

JL: Well I've pretty much left it open to the trio. Whatever they >feel like playing. I doubt very much it'll be heavy metal or reggae. Knowing Jeff, I'm certain it will be along the lines of classic rock, folk, or maybe even a jig or two.

AA: It's understood you're from Newfoundland, I can tell by the accent. Anyone else involved in the show from Newfoundland?

JL: I think everyone involved to this point is Newfie. Which should

add an interesting spin on the evening.

AA: You mean it's going to be a huge beer guzzling festival, similar to what one would experience while in Newfoundland?

JL: No, not at all. There will be great bar prices however. So anyone looking for cheap drinks can find them at our show. However we hope people will be too busy chuckling to get inebriated.

AA: Oh, I see. Does anyone in the show have much experience?

JL: Well Adam has organized similar events in the past. I believe Pittman was born with a guitar in his hands, and as far as the rest of the trio they've been in performances before.

AA: Are you aware of the significance of March 15th? What that day brings?

JL: Next question please!

AA: Well how might someone go about getting tickets?

JL: They can call 443-9557 for more information and reservations. Tickets may also be at the door, depending on how many reservations are made. Tickets are \$5, and the show will be starting around 8:00pm.

AA: There's one last thing I've been meaning to ask you; in your professional opinion... Christina or Britney?



Who could resist St. Paddy's Comedy Night?

## A sneak peek at the Halifax party scene

By Greg White

Will Method Man grace Halifax with his presence this March? Will he accompany the Redman when Red shows his stuff at The Halifax Forum on March 16?

Will people make it out or be too tired from the BadBoyBill show that's gonna woo Halifax party-goers for months to come?

I know I'll make an appearance at both shows...undoubtedly. While BadBoyBill is the show of choice for me, one can expect to see a bigger crowd come out for Redman as he appeals to a larger audience of hip-hop fans. People are deterred from attending a show with the likes of BadBoyBill. First they may say, "What's a BadBoyBill?" Then one may say, "Is that a rave? Scary!" To answer both questions: A BadBoyBill is one of the world's top house (genre of electronic music, not the place we live in) DJ's and it's an all-night party or show provided by Massive

Productions. Massive provides a visual and audio show with lights and pumpin' sound that no nightclub or show in Atlantic Canada can compare to. Ditto on their provision of quality entertainment in a surprise venue that can accommodate more bodies and a sense of communal unity better than other entertainment provider in Atlantic Canada. This is the way of life for most party-goers around the world today, and has been in most parts of Europe and Asia for many years. Join the crowd and expand your partying limitations with BadBoyBill this March 8. Look for flyers around school and the city.

With a special guest like the BadBoy himself, now is the time to experience what has made Canada abuzz about the Halifax party scene! It's also Massive Productions' seventh anniversary party and keeping with their annual tradition, their spring birthday bash is called, Pump Friction.

Whether or not Method Man

will be by his buddy's side on the 16 or not, is undecided. He's been known to show unexpectedly and surprise fans at Redman shows. Currently, he is not booked to appear. However, the following are set to share the stage: Saukrates, Kwite Sane, Mc Scott Boogie, and The Goods.

Like this show, Pump Friction will feature a showcase of local talent to accompany the BadBoy and keep us jammin' well into the morning. Also like Pump Friction, Redman's show will be featured on flyers city-wide and undoubtedly advertised in The Coast. Look for the flyers and read all about it for further

details. March is a great month in Hali! Look for Freaky Flow and MC Flipside at The Attic and Hatiras at Reflections! Any party lover who enjoys world-class entertainment and a chance to shake it and free their mind will melt for these guys.....plus Redman and BadBoyBill! I am soooooo pumped!

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## Caritas Day for the Community

By Charity Baker

On Wednesday, January 30th Mount Saint Vincent University was closed for Caritas Day, a tradition that has occurred at the university in recognition of the community support after a fire destroyed part of the school.

Generally students use the day to catch up on schoolwork and reading, neglecting the true meaning of the day. Caritas Day was established to encourage the students to go out into the community and make a contribution in any way possible.

This year the Canadian Studies Society decided to honour the true purpose of the day by heading out and doing their part to show thanks to a community that has supported the Mount for many years. Lead by

Della Stanley, the head of the society and Tammy Milbury, the society organized volunteer groups to go out to places such as Phoenix House, and the Metro Food Bank. At Phoenix House the volunteers joined in a painting project that ended up providing the building with several freshly painted walls while the volunteers at the Food Bank help stock shelves and clean out perishable items.

Stanley says the society actually tries to contribute to the community on a regular basis with fundraising and volunteering. As Stanley states, "It's important for the students to contribute to the society that they will become a part of when they finish their education." Throughout the year the Canadian Studies Society can be found throughout the campus raising funds for Byrny House and

other non-profit organizations.

The society's efforts on Caritas Day won't be limited to an annual benefit. Several of the students weren't even members of the society before volunteering but are now joining in order to be able to get more involved with the school and the community. On top of that several of the students have signed on to become regular volunteers where they spent their day off.

Stanley is hoping that their efforts will grow over the years and says that any student, no matter what program they are involved with, is more than welcome to join them in their endeavours. The society is constantly looking for ways to participate in the community and want to welcome other students to do the same.



## Jest in Time presents "Frankie"

Jest in Time Theatre is delighted to announce the Halifax premiere of Frankie, a one-woman comedy / drama written and performed by Mary Ellen MacLean.

Honest, funny, energetic, and brilliantly paced, Frankie is a rich, sharp, and intimate play about a woman's search for her own voice and identity. It will run March 6 - 16, 2002 at The Jest Studio, Suite 206, 1585 Barrington Street.

The play explores what happens when Frankie attends her Class of '82 high school reunion. Memories come flooding back to her as she recalls the trials, tribulations, and triumphs of growing up gay in small town Nova Scotia. Eight different characters, all played by the versatile MacLean, make their appearance.

Marlene Van Derk, a "reformed" lesbian and spokeswoman for Gay-Away (Homo-No-More); Joey, a drag queen who calls himself "your friendly Dartmouth ferry"; her guitar-playing, dope-smoking girlfriend Tundra; and many others are all brought to life by MacLean in lightning-fast changes of character.

Reviewing the show the Halifax Herald wrote:

"... a celebration of the individual... witty and charming," and "MacLean...

... brings all her physical and vocal talents to the stage."

Frankie is a marriage of text and physical theatre full of comedy and surprises. The play was first performed this past summer at Festival Antigonish as part of its Late Night Series.

MacLean's creative team which has helped her put the show together includes well known actor, writer, director Mary-Colin Chisholm; her co-conspirator, actor and writer Christian Murray; lighting designer Leigh Ann Vardy; and stage manager Judy Joe. Frankie will preview on March 6, open on March 7, and then run March 8 - 9, & 13 - 16 at 8:00 p.m. with a special late-night show on March 15 at 10:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15 / \$11 (except for the preview and late-night shows which are \$10). They are available at Venus Envy, 1598 Barrington St., or at the door.

In November and December Frankie is slated for Production at Toronto's Buddies in Bad Times Theatre as part of their 2002-03 season.

Frankie was produced with the assistance of the Nova Scotia Arts Council. Thanks also go to the Playwrights Atlantic Resource Center and sponsors, the Canada Council, The Craig Foundation, Venus Envy, The Coast, Nippon Express, and Jest Friends.

For further information contact Jest In Time Theatre at (902) 423-4647 or visit the website at [www.jestintime.ns.ca](http://www.jestintime.ns.ca).

## High school students and condom usage: *an interview with Dr. Mary Delaney about her research efforts*

**By Shaun O'Reilly**

Dr. Mary Delaney, an Associate Professor of psychology at Mount Saint Vincent University, joined several colleagues in examining factors influencing condom use among high school students in Nova Scotia. Through their research they hoped to bring attention to the fact that not all students are using condoms.

Six hundred and forty students at Amherst Regional High School were questioned on their attitudes, beliefs and intentions regarding condom use. Though most of the students in the study had positive attitudes towards condom use, indicating they were aware of the benefits and were receptive to using them, only 75 per cent intended to use condoms with all sexual partners. And, surprisingly, only 55 per cent of students admitted to using a condom during their last sexual experience.

Though these numbers may seem surprising to some, they were no surprise to Dr. Delaney who says that these numbers haven't changed since research began in this area in the '80s.

"They're so dead on, they're eerie," she says.

This consistency of results was one of the reasons why they conducted their research. Through

these findings Dr. Delaney and her colleagues hoped to stress to the government and the public the need for an increase in school programs. These programs would concentrate on enhancing positive attitudes about condom use, a technique which has been shown to increase condom use in previous studies.

Personally, Dr. Delaney feels that more education is not the only thing needed in schools, but better and easier access to condoms as well.

"If you don't have access all the knowledge in the world won't do any good."

She believes that if adolescents have easier access to condoms they will use them all the time.

Educating physicians to talk with teens and provide them with condoms, creating private areas in drug stores to buy condoms, and establishing school clinics are just some of Dr. Delaney's suggestions to increase condom use among teens.

"Set up health centres," says Delaney, "It'd be so bloody easy."

Dr. Delaney may soon get her wish. She is currently involved in a new research program that has been started in Truro called the Nurse Practitioner Model. This program provides the school with an on-site nurse who can provide

counseling to students about sex, provide them with condoms and act as a liaison with the community. The program hopes to educate students, provide easier access to condoms, and also provide statistics which will show the need and benefit of such programs. Some day, Dr. Delaney hopes to see this program used in all schools.

There is, of course, more to Dr. Delaney than research and statistical analysis. A Mount alumna, she graduated in 1984 with a B.Sc., with a major in psychology.

She later moved on to Penn State, through the guidance of a faculty member at the Mount, where she received her Master of Science in 1988 and later her Ph.D. in

1991. But after an eight year absence, Dr. Delaney returned to her home in Nova Scotia, where she began teaching at the Mount as an Assistant Professor.

Over the years Dr. Delaney's research has involved teen sexual health, power and dating issues, and body image in young females, topics for which she is quite passionate. And through her research she hopes to bring attention to the importance of such issues in our province, and across the country.

## The mystic Motherhouse *exploring a Mount landmark*

**by Andrea Newell**

Just up the hill from Mount Saint Vincent University, overlooking the waters of the Bedford Basin, sits a fortress-like, stone building known as the motherhouse.

Too many university students the function and heritage of this building is unknown. Out of curiosity, I wandered towards the brilliant lights, to find out what all the glow was about.

It is here, amid a community of some 200 Sisters of Charity, that I met Sister Marguerite Keenan. She is a graduate of Mount Saint Vincent Academy and University and has been a sister in this order for

sixty years. Sister Marguerite seems to move with the same grace and ease amid the ever changing domain of the World Wide Web, as she does along these corridors where

she recounts the rich history of this place.

"Five Sisters of Charity came to Halifax from New York in 1849," Sister Marguerite says, reminding us that it is not the building that counts, but rather the people.

Upon their arrival they settled on Barrington Street. Their work and missions flourished quickly and they soon outgrew their home. As a result, they bought

land in Rockingham and opened the first motherhouse in 1873, which settled where the communications building of Mount Saint Vincent University is now.

In 1873, the sisters opened an academy which taught and housed students from grades one to twelve.

"In those days, no one had kindergarten students," Sister

Marguerite pointed out.

The complex continued to grow in size as well as population. The academy introduced college courses in 1914, and in 1925 it was given degree granting status. Sadly, in 1951 the complex was destroyed

by fire.

In 1957, the motherhouse opened its new doors to the work of God, in the location where it sits today. Space was provided for the sisters of the local community, sick and elderly sisters, young women, preparing to take their vows to become sisters, and the academy school and its students. In 1966 the college became Mount Saint Vincent University. In 1988 the ownership was turned over from the Sisters of Charity to a board of governors.

"What connection do the Sisters of Charity have with the university today?" The sisters are connected by their history, and in the current roles

as university chancellors, and members of the board of governors.

Sister Marguerite Keenan sees the university which has a "noble history," as a post secondary institution that "does wonderful work for women and promotes women's issues."

Although the mission of the Sisters of Charity, "To show forth the love of Christ," seems not to be paramount at the university, she says

"It is up to each individual professor and each student to show forth that love from their hearts."



# An interview with Montreal DJ Mistress Barbara

By Sarah Steeves

**SS:** What inspired you to start DJ'ing?

**MB:** I just fell in love with watching at DJ's at work and felt like I wanted to do the same. I think there's nothing more amazing than to make a crowd dance to the music you love.

**SS:** Do you like to dance?

**MB:** I like to dance, yes, but I usually like more to move my butt and bang my head than to dance. If it's for techno that's how react to it, but if it's music that needs less attention to understand it (like main stream music) then I will dance.

**SS:** Speaking of mainstream music, how has punk and classic rock influenced your style and who are your major influences?

**MB:** In rock my major influences have been Led Zeppelin and Berurier Noir and Iron Maiden. I think how rock influenced me in the way I play techno now is my hard side that you would find before when I used to like rock and now in the way I play harder techno.

**SS:** Who are your techno/electronic music influences?

**MB:** The Advent, G Flame, MR G,

Luke Slater ...

**SS:** What was the first electronic music album you ever heard?

**MB:** Bjork - "Debut".

**SS:** Where was your first gig and what was it like?

**MB:** In Sorel, 30 minutes outside of Montreal, on May 4th 1996. The name of that rave was "Liqueen 3". I played at 7 in the morning and I was there all night long listening to all the dj's and feeling the vibe and I was really nervous but I rocked it so much that since then I never stopped working!

**SS:** What was it like working with Carl Cox?

**MB:** I have never worked with Carl in the studio. I have only djed with him a few times and I think it is much fun because Carl is a very nice guy and friend of mine and when he plays he has an amazing energy and people love him so much that it is always a great night guaranteed!

**SS:** What was your proudest moment as a DJ?

**MB:** When people won't let me leave after 5-6-7 encores! Banging their feet on the floor and honestly would not

let me leave!

**SS:** So what do you think of Halifax? Honestly now...

**MB:** I love Halifax. They are very open to my beats and they love my music! They scream and they are happy and it is fun for me to play for such a party crowd!

**SS:** Why did you choose to spell your DJ name the way you do?

**MB:** Because it is a fact that I am a very stressed person. More inside than outside, in the sense that it won't show that much until you really talk with me for more than two minutes and then you feel it. So since I am so stressed my DJ name is "misstress" with 4 s's.

**SS:** What was your favorite gig?

**MB:** My 7 hours set for my 26th birthday at Sona club in Montreal!

**SS:** How would you describe yourself in 3 words?

**MB:** Hyperactive stressed and naive.

**SS:** What are your plans for the future?

**MB:** Working more in the studio to make much more music. Also for video games and movies.



Mistress Barbara was in town performed at The Attic in February

## Cd Reviews : A few hits and misses

Reviewed by Sarah Steeves

### Cracker Forever

A great album if you enjoy mellow music. It reminded me a lot of the Wallflowers actually. I wish it didn't seem so much like country music, though, cause I really can't stand music like that. But I'm sure that if you don't mind music that borders on country and sounds like the Wallflowers you'll love it.

### Citizen Cope Self-Titled

This is a debut album and it is definite sign of good things to come. This CD hasn't left hasn't been taken out of my CD player since I got it (It's got room for five CD's, so it's definitely one of my top five at the moment. An album that's political, insightful, and soulful, it's right up there with Tricky's new album. My favorite track on the album is definately 'Let the Drummer Kick', so if you pick up the album, check that one out. 'Mistaken Identity' is really good as well.

### Telepopmusik Genetic World

This album reminded me alot of Kraftwerk. There is a lot of focus on the glorification of technology, something that appears extremely often in Kraftwerk's music. I really enjoyed the album because it is very diverse and definately not anything that most people are used to listening to. It's very polished and highly technical, and it is definitely a good album.

### Fu Manchu California Crossing

I really don't know what to say about this. I couldn't even listen to the whole album cause it was really intolerable. Well, I guess that is all I can say. Unless you have an extremely high tolerance for bad music, don't even think about buying this.

### The Chemical Brothers: Come With Us

Another interesting album. However don't expect anything like 'Hey Boy Hey Girl' from this one. Full of hard-hitting techno beats, the album starts out strong and remains strong until the end. I especially enjoyed 'My Elastic Eye', and 'Denmark'. If you have enjoyed Chemical Brothers' previous albums, you'll enjoy this one, too.



## One on one with a Mystic man

By Matthew Garland

Your senior year is supposed to be the best year of university, but for Jason Taker it has been anything but. In his final year at Mount Saint Vincent and his final season with the men's basketball team, Taker has been hindered by injuries. The fourth year shooting guard first suffered a broken foot when he was ignoring a previous injury, back at the start of the season. After missing seven games Taker returned, but only to more disappointment. Soon after his return Taker went down again with a torn hamstring, causing him to miss another two games. Having to watch the game from the bench is hard on any player, but to happen in your senior year makes it much harder because you can't get that time back. Taker describes the year he has been having as a "big disappointment". Last year Taker led the league in scoring with 19 points per game, so his talent and his leadership is greatly missed.

After missing the majority of the season Taker is returning to the league, and it is assured that he will help lead the team into the playoffs. Friend and fellow teammate Shawn Fleming felt that with Taker's return "the team will be better in all aspects." With Taker's comeback he is not only showing he's a great basketball player but a determined individual as well.

If Taker had chosen to sit out for the entire year, he could return healthy next year to chase after numerous awards. With less than a third of the season remaining Taker did something that not many athletes would do, he looked past all the awards and he focused on this year, and how his return would help the team.

The Mystics approach the end of the season currently sitting in second place; behind King's. Taker and the rest of the seniors on the team badly want to redeem themselves from the playoff loss they suffered last year in the semi-finals. Posting three National players and a very deep bench, Taker feels very comfortable heading into March. "With the depth, experience and home court advantage, it's going to be hard for someone to take it from us in our own gym," he says.

In March Taker will try to end a disappointing season with a little bit of joy, by bringing home a championship to Mount Saint Vincent. Whatever the outcome of the season may be it can be assured that this is one year that he will not soon forget.

By Michael Elves, The Manitoban

The interview begins with a shared laugh. I ask Chocclair about the third persona he has developed on his new album, *Memoirs of Blake Savage* and why hip hop is subject to so many artists suffering from multiple persona disorder like Ol' Dirty Bastard and his Big Baby Jesus phase. The mere mention of Big Baby Jesus brings a broad smile to Chocclair's visage.

"I think for other people it's just easy to write about themselves. If they give it a character to write about then everything they do in that manner becomes that person. For myself it's like the split, the balance between Kareem and Chocclair," says Chocclair.

It's evident from the new album that Blake Savage seeks to alert the world to the differences between the two. On leadoff track "Villain," he rhymes, "I'm the type of guy

that hop out of a stretch Lex / or break free out a '84 Chevette," and to Chocclair this is a telling statement.

"Kareem [is] the guy that likes to just chill and take it easy and relax -- it's not really about the glamour, glitz and celebrity things. To Chocclair, it happens to be that way because people enjoy his music. So Blake Savage is me telling you about Kareem, about Chocclair and how I try to balance it out," he says.

So where did Blake come from?

"Blake Savage is a part of my name already," says Chocclair, whose real name is Kareem Blake, "so it gives you the real and the surreal -- it gives you what's really me, and the part that's not really me that everyone sees on TV."

Prior to sitting down with Chocclair, I'd done some research on the American Psychiatric Association's Web site to find out what an individual who constantly revises their persona might be afflicted with. The indicators brought up diagnoses of Borderline,

Histrionic, and Narcissistic Personality Disorders and it was with this in mind that I approached the "persona" topic with a guy who is referred to as the Illflo'a, Chocs, and the Chiznocka, in addition to Kareem, Chocclair, and Blake.

The level-headedness with which Chocclair tackled the topic removed any suspicions I held that mental illness was at the root of his multiple personas.

The distinction between the life of a performer and the life of a person is a clear one and Chocclair believes that outside of performance mode he's just a regular guy.

"The type [of guy] that when these interviews are over, I'll go up to the hotel room and play some video games," Chocclair explains. "It's more than the difference between image and realness, it's the difference between perception and realness ... people come up and talk to me and talk to me and they'll be like 'you're a cool guy to talk to,' and I would've been even if you just sat beside me on

the bus 'cause that's just who I am."

The line that Blake Savage balances between Kareem and Chocclair is evident all over this follow-up to Gold debut *Ice Cold*. Tracks like "Hot Marshmallows," and "3some," continue in the sexed-up vein Chocclair laid down throughout the first album, while "Flatline," and "Legacy," reflect more of what's going on in the life and mind of Kareem Blake.

When push comes to shove, Blake, Kareem, and Chocclair all like to have a good time and this is the thread that ties the personas to one another.

"Yeah, each in their own way, they all like to have fun - chillin', partyin' and making music to party to," says Chocclair.

The *Memoirs of Blake Savage* is out March 5 and Chocclair will be touring late next month to introduce everyone to Mr. Blake Savage.

## Superchic[k] flirts with superstar[dom]

By Derek Turner, The Carillon

Don't be fooled by the name -- Superchic[k] isn't a girl band.

And even though Superchic[k] has received two Dove Award Nominations (awarded in the Christian music industry), sold nearly 50,000 albums, and been featured in many TV and movie soundtracks (including *Legally Blonde*, *Glasshouse*, *Alias*, *Jack and Jill*, MTV's *The Real World*, and the X-games) they remain entirely humble. So humble, in fact, that they don't even use their last names.

"Superchic[k]' is actually a gender-neutral term," says bassist Matt. "It's being who God wants you to be. Once you're doing what God wants you to do, you are a 'superchic[k]'."

The Chicago-based band is touring in support of their debut release on Inpop records, *Karaoke Superstars*. They play a unique style of music that Matt describes as "pop-punk-funk-hip-hop-disco."

The members of Superchic[k] define themselves not only as a band, but also as a way of life. Through

their music, they try to encourage kids to fulfill their dreams, and to assure them that they can be all they

want to be.

A large part of the band's message to the world lies in their identification as a "garage band," despite the fact that guitarist Melissa thinks they should be called a "basement band" because that's where they practice.

"A big thing of what Superchic[k] is saying 'we're up here, and we're just like you. You could be up here just as easily as me.' If you want to be in a band, start a band. If you want to write, write. If you want to draw, draw. We're just like everybody else, we're just like that garage band down the street, and you can do this just as easily as us," says Melissa.

Although Superchic[k] is a Christian band, they don't think that their music's message is by any means limited to Christians.

"[We want kids to say that] 'these guys are just speaking reality.' We're just talking about issues that every single kid deals with, Christian or not," says Matt. "If they search deeper in the lyrics, they will

find that we are a group of Christians who want to make music, for Christians and non-Christians as well."

One way that the band tries to reach their audience is by using a number of pop culture references, ranging from Menudo to Mr. T. Brian, the drummer, says that using pop culture references creates a common ground with the audience.

"We realize is that ministry is relational, and we realize that we need to relate to kids, to reach them where they're at," says Brian. "It's their culture that they're growing up in, so including [pop culture] references is our way of reaching those kids."

Lead guitarist, Justin, believes it is importance for Christian bands like Superchic[k] to create a presence outside of the Christian audience.

"Christian music needs to be in the secular world," says Justin. "Everything around [kids] is negative, not to name the name of any bands, but bands that are like 'woe is me, life sucks, everything's so hard, my life's terrible.' We need to be out in the world, saying 'there's an answer to this.' We try to be on as many movie soundtracks as we

can, no matter what the themes of the movies are, just to be a light."

The band looks to examples such as prominent hard rock band P.O.D. to demonstrate what they believe as far as Christian musical influence is concerned.

"Right now, [P.O.D are] in demand. They have to play them on MTV, on all the radio stations, and they're hardcore Christians. They made quality music, and they met people where they were at," says Matt. He believes that Christians need to continue to follow in P.O.D.'s footsteps.

"Christians used to own the arts 200 years ago, and for some reason that's not true today. We need to start putting our heads together and saying we need to make such good music that they're going to have to play us," says Matt.

That would be a good start to achieve Superchic[k]'s ultimate goal, which is, at least according to lead singer Tricia, "World domination."



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#### IMPORTANT DATES

Tuesday, March 5:	11:30 AM Candidate speeches in the Rosaria Cafeteria
Wednesday, March 6:	11:30 AM Candidate speeches in the Seton Sacateria
Thursday, March 7:	11:00 PM Meet & Greet the Candidates at Vinnie's Pub
Tuesday, March 12:	12:00 PM Candidate debates in Vinnie's Pub
Wednesday, March 13:	9:00 AM - 7:30 PM Election Day!
Thursday, March 14:	9:00 AM - 4:00 PM Election Day!
	Polling stations available in Rosaria, Seton & Seton Link
Thursday, March 14:	11:00 PM Election Results Announced at Vinnie's Pub

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