

# The Picaro

Mount Saint Vincent University

April 1, 1996  
Volume 31  
Number 13

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3242

**INSIDE...the Spoof issue! The Sicaro starts on page 7**

## Awards Banquet a Success

by Picaro staff (For more details on the athletic awards, please see page 19)

The annual Awards Banquet 1996 was held in the Multi Purpose Room last Tuesday night.

Well attended by students, staff, faculty and alumane, the banquet was hosted by 1991 Mount graduate Mark Scholz of Lunch Television and Kim Merrill, a graduating public relations student.

Joe Strolz, president of Student Union opened the banquet with a few remarks on the year, including the completed renovations in Rosaria Centre.

The keynote speaker, Aisha

Umar, discussed the importance of extracirricular activities during university. Umar, the Senior Product Manager, Student Loans at the Bank of Nova Scotia, represented the growing partnership between the Student Union and the bank. The Bank of Nova Scotia was a major sponsor for the event.

Dozens of students received awards for their academic, athletic and extracirricular activities. Peter Clarke, an Arts student and the The Picaro News Editor for next year, walked away with the

new Bank of Nova Scotia Award for his community service work.

The recipient of the other new award, the Women's Recognition Award for service to women on campus, was Wendy Andersen.

Several students also won awards for their roles in Student Union. Lori Anne Jones, the Status of Women councillor received awards for leadership and exemplary performance.

The Society of the Year, the DNSA, won for their university and community service.

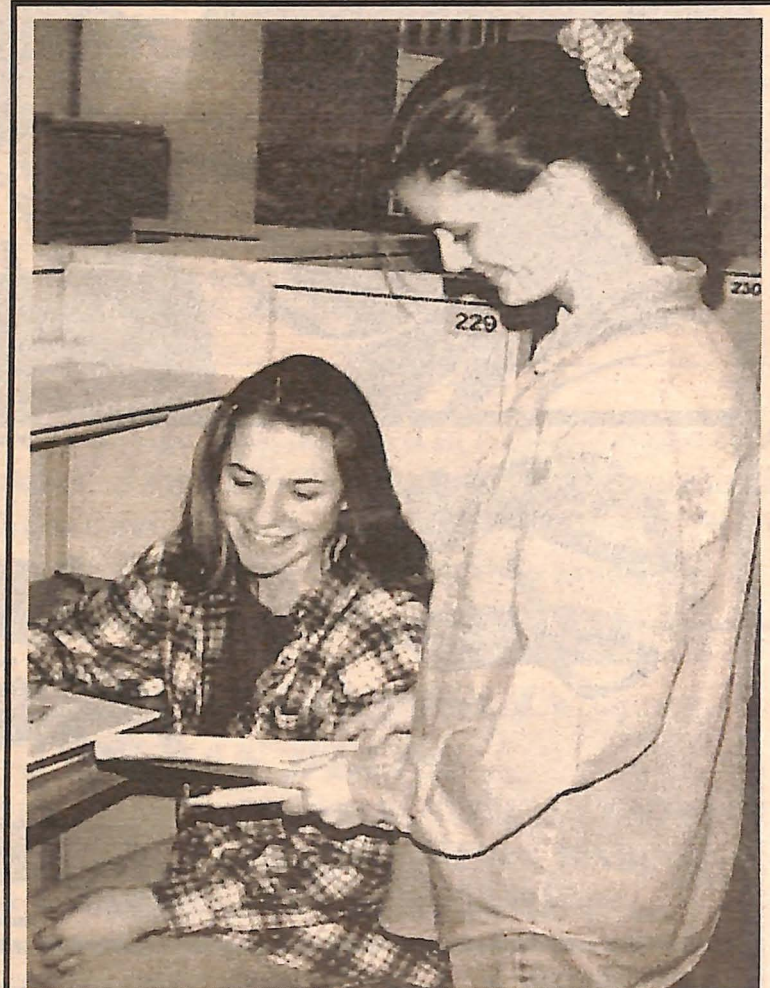


Photo by Brian Kerrigan

Holly MacDonald, first year B.A. student and Karen Webb, fourth year Education student work on end of the year projects in the library Sunday, as students rush to meet final deadlines.

**The Picaro would like to thank all the contributors for the 1995-96 year. There would not be a paper without you! Thank you!**

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Volume 31 Issue 13

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

*The Picaro* reserves the right to edit or reject any material, particularly material of libellous, racist, sexist, or homophobic nature. The views expressed are not necessarily those of *The Picaro* or its editors.

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## Student Union Looks Into Elections Process

by Andrea Bannister, Robin Boudreau & Tawnya Zwicker

Problems that arose from the recent general elections took precedence at the Student Union meeting last week.

After the two-day long meeting, members of Council could only agree on two motions: "the democratic process has been successful" and to pass the problems over to a Committee to review.

Questions about the elections process have been circulating since the disqualification of Andrew Clattenburg, a presidential candidate, an hour after the polls closed. The winner of the race, Sheri Moore, received 170

votes, just one ballot more than candidate Alanna Mason. The 113 votes for Clattenburg were announced as "spoiled" by Chief Returning Officer, Marina Harris.

Student Council has received approximately 50 written letters of complaint from students who are angry at the recent elections process.

Rules in the Student Union constitution were broken more than once, said Gin Hing Yee, the SU Ombudperson. For example, election dates were not approved by Council according to regulations (Section 3.36).

"The dates for the elections must be ratified by January 31," Yee said. "I can't find in the Council minutes, any formal motion setting the election dates."

Karen MacGillivray, External VP, and James Tilley, Science Representative, are concerned with the election process and the outcome of the Council meeting.

They, too said that the constitution has been breached. MacGillivray noted that the Elections Committee extended the campaigning dates that were set by Student Union policy.

However, this was never approved by Council. This means all candidates were campaigning past the allowed date and should have been disqualified.

"I was saying to Council 'This is a clear breach of our constitution!' But they wanted to let it lie. Can we not take responsibility for our actions?" MacGillivray said.

Tilley said, "Despite the fact that the Student Council meetings were roughly six hours in total, I believe that all the motions were not fully or equally discussed."

MacGillivray also questions

the election procedures themselves. Harris, the CRO and the head of the elections, left the voting list in her Council mailbox after the polls closed. Anyone could have entered the office and tampered with the list, thereby making a recount, if necessary, problematic.

Yee, and his committee reviewing the elections, will take all these issues into consideration. He anticipates the report will be completed by the end of April.

## Student Union Hopes to Soon be Accountable

by Robin Boudreau & Andrea Bannister

According to the Student Union constitution, any person registered in one course at Mount Saint Vincent University is a member of Student Union.

The Union presently does not have an appeal process, whereby a higher level is available for students to go to with complaints. Basically, Student Council governs themselves.

Student Union President Joe Stolz said his council is in the process of creating a Judicial Board. Students who find no satisfaction from the Student Union, will then be able to appeal to the Board.

Current circumstances reveal that this Judicial Board is needed. Gin Hing Yee, the Ombudperson for SU, has received 48 letters from students, condemning the recent elections and calling for a review into the disqualification of presidential candidate, Andrew Clattenburg. Although the letters will not be addressed by the Council, he said they will be taken into account by the Committee which is being set up to review the past elections.

"Students felt their votes did not count," Yee said. Votes for Clattenburg were labelled "spoiled" after he was disqualified.

The Committee reviewing the elections, headed by Yee, will draw up a list of recommendations and present them to Student

Council. He admits that Student Union does not have to implement any of the recommendations.

Even members of Student Council are questioning their own current process.

External Vice President Karen MacGillivray said that the Council has recently breached its own Constitution. She was "incredulous" when other Council members quashed motions to look into election matters.

"My personal take from the way that the motions were withdrawn and passed, indicated that we don't have to follow our own rules," MacGillivray said.

Stolz, too, said that "there is an accountability problem."

He said Student Council is looking to form a Judicial Board which would be based loosely on Dalhousie's. Their Board has the power to over rule decisions made by their Student Union.

The Mount's Student Council is working out the details to bring this kind of Board into effect.

Stolz hopes the nature of the Judicial Board will be defined soon.

"I don't feel there is a problem with this Council, but we want to protect students from future Councils that may not be of the same calibre or have the high level of integrity that we have right now," said Stolz.

The two articles on this page were included in a *Picaro Extra* that was published the week of the 25th. The publication was only available on campus for one day, therefore many students may not have had the opportunity to read them, so here they are again!

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## Who is really listening?

by James Tilley

I am the current Science Representative on Student Council and the Graphics Editor on the Picaro staff. Some may see this as a conflict of interest, but I have tried to stay as neutral as possible in any dispute or conflict that has occurred. Until now ...

March was Election Month, as some may have realized (which in itself seems to be a miracle.) Many problems occurred during those few weeks. The question I have is, *What have you heard?* There were many questions that came up during and following the election process. My problem is that some of those questions were not addressed fully. None were made public despite the protest of several councillors. So the rumour mills continued to provide the students with possibly false information. News writers for the Picaro sent to cover the story got nothing but a rushed "No comment" from members of Student Union who should have had the answers. Until now ...

When the rumours begin to spread, the democratic process begins to break down and chaos follows. People may protest due to false information and they can't make informed opinions because they have not received the facts. So the student body has begun to ask questions. There are general questions about campaigning, changed rules and regulations. The following are some of the questions that I have been hearing. There are questions about the disqualification of Andrew Clattenburg, questions about the very close totals of Sheri Moore and Alanna Mason. Some people have questioned the ability of the elections committee, some have even questioned the ability of the CRO (Chief Returning Officer.)

The suggestions I have heard are just as diverse as the questions. The only difference is the severity of the solutions. Some say that we should leave it be and get on with our lives. Some say that we should make Andrew's votes count (the fact

that he lost is beside the point). Some say the presidents should rerun. Some say that entire election should be considered null and void. Student Union took most of these options under consideration. And Council with a majority vote, has declared that they would, sit on the fence.

What does this mean? They admit there were some problems. Yet they also declare that the election followed the democratic process. Student Council has decided to form a committee to look into the problems and prevent any future mishaps. But what about the academic year of 1996-97? What if the committee discovers that there were enough problems in the election process to declare the election invalid? Nothing productive could happen, for as it stands now the committee won't be able to have anything reported to the council until during the summer sessions.

Now, I am not saying there is anything wrong with the election process for this spring's general elections. In fact, there is a good chance that there isn't. All I am saying is that student government has not provided students with any concrete information about the election for either side.

The Ombudsperson has received almost fifty complaints about Andrew Clattenburg's disqualification. This has been presented to council and then passed off to another committee. Passing the problem to others will not solve them.

In short, the election process was problematic not because of any possible mistakes made by candidates, the election committee members or the chief returning officer; the problems were caused because the issues aren't out there for people to make decisions. I'm a member of the Student Council and the student press and I have only heard rumors about the election and its problems. I can't even imagine how you are feeling. How can you make any personal decisions without the facts and even then, **Who is Really Listening?**

## What is your opinion really worth?

by Todd A. Brayman

At some time between the final ballot of one year's Student Union elections and the time our chosen leaders take office, something sinister happens. Somehow over the summer, many would have us believe, those campaign smiles and handshakes disappear and people with devious intent return to the Mount. I must point out that as of this week, Sheri and Chuck (and others) are still smiling and still shaking my hand. So when will this hideous transformation take place? When will our newly elected officers change? When will they become those monsters up in Rosaria that so many in the SAC talk of?

Somehow I think that this far-fetched. Somehow I think the reason their presence becomes scarce in Seton is because they are trying to do what we elected them to do, represent us the best

way they know how. While I have a great deal of respect for those that choose to serve our community, they are not political or business wizards. Do we have a Bill Gates in our midst? I don't know.

What I think changes is not the people but how we as students perceive them once they take office. Ask yourself a question, do we usually lump our new Student Union into past reputations and do they really have a chance of gaining our support? Given what I have witnessed this past year, I think not.

In keeping with my message to drop our personal bias and to start working TOGETHER, I challenge all students of the Mount. Instead of coming back in September and being content in slamming the Student Union without even stepping into Rosaria, do something different.

Walk up the hill and find out

who our Student Union officers are (their doors are almost always open!)

Instead of complaining about what you think they're doing wrong, find out what they're supposed to do.

When you can honestly say that you know what Student Union does, then express your opinion. If you find they are not doing their job, then do something to change it. (Not just babble down in the link!)

If you find they are doing their best, then show them your support and tell someone. I realize it's much harder to compliment than criticize but be honest with yourself and the people you talk to.

I'll finish with a simple question: are your words reinforced by your actions or do they represent a loud, empty voice?

Judge yourself.

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\*Valid until April 31.

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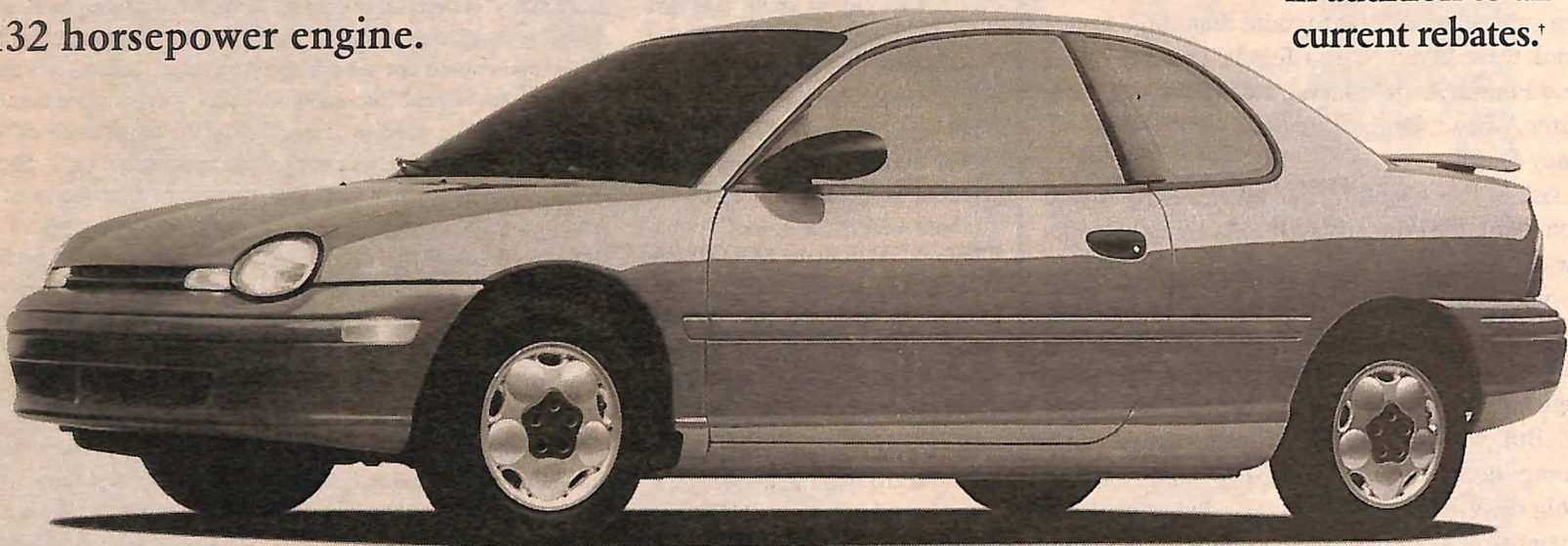
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# OPINION

## Editorial

*So long and thanks for the memories*

Well, this is it. The last issue of *The Picaro*. Soon I will be going home (yikes, to live my with parents!) Right now I am too overloaded with school work to think about what comes after this.

When I look back at my years at the Mount, working on the Pic is definitely going to stand out in my mind. I may be a bit biased, but I highly recommend it to everyone. The group of people I got to work with really made my Mount university experience an unique one. And there's nothing like spending the whole weekend working on the newspaper (we all get an honourium, but I think it works out to about \$1 an hour).

A learning experience, yep, it was definitely that. It's a great way to get to know yourself and others a little bit better, the good, bad and ugly. Keep on writing those letters to us, even if it's to tell us we suck. It's hard to read the stuff like that (especially when they keep on using my first name throughout it) but it's invaluable to receive.

As we noted on the front cover, *The Picaro* this year wouldn't have possible without the contributors. Some of them submitted articles to more than three issues. I'd like to thank them here: Marco Tejada, Leanne Mosher, David Pound, Angela Jarvis, Carrie Warner, Jason Wingo, Jennifer Amend, Peggy MacKinnon, Tawnya Zwicker, Nancy Dorey...

At the risk of this sounding like an Academy Award speech, I gotta thank the editorial staff too. Drop by some time this year or next. They are a very funny bunch of people (and some of them look surprising good in a skirt, hmmm...)

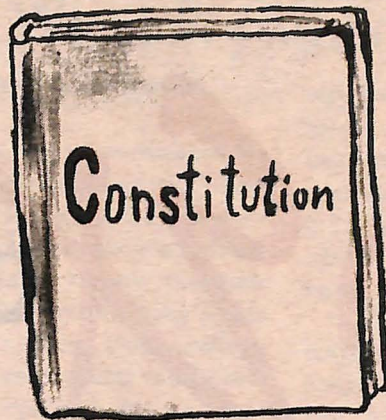
If someone told me last year at this time I'd be feeling nostalgia about leaving this place, nope I wouldn't believe them. But, wow, it's true. Well, maybe I'm feeling the going -home- to- live -with -my- parents thing. I'm a now a big believer of getting involved at university. It will make your time here that much sweeter...

Tuning out...

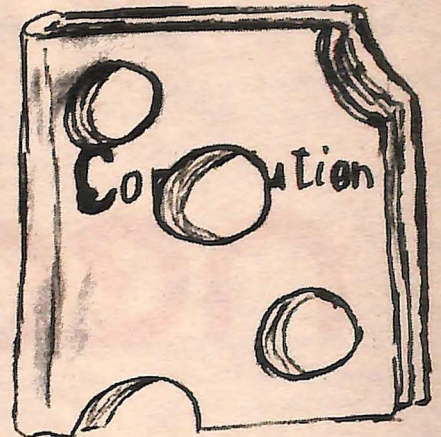
Andrea Bannister

## Congrats to the new 1996-7 staff of the Pic

Coordinating Editor...Brian Kerrigan  
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 Layout Editor...Shelley Manderville  
 Features Editor...Ceri Young  
 Arts and Entertainment Editor...Carrie Warner  
 Sports Editor...Sarah Giffen  
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The Constitution of Student Union



The Constitution that Student Union follows!



GET INVOLVED!!

As evident from the last Picaro opinion section, school spirit is virtually existent here at the Mount. This is reflected in the small turnout of only a little over 400 students voting in the recent student union elections (about 10% of the school's population). Also, at the Mount, there are few events happening and the ones that do occur, no one attends. I know this first hand as I have shown up to many intramural sports and have been the only one there. It was written in the last Picaro that the Public Relations students chose not to acknowledge the Mount on their sweatshirts.

Also reflective of this, are the recent and past troubles with student union regarding the elections and the controversy with the Picaro and MANUS. The leaving of our university President, afraid for her job as talks heat up of amalgamation between metro universities. Instead of fighting for the identity of the university she once loved, she runs away to another university for a more secure job and salary.

This mirrors the image of the spirit of the student body. Everyone is fighting for their own individual interests, and in the mean time, disregarding the best interests of others and of the collective whole.

There needs to be massive changes, one being that the present Student Union (most of who have been here forever) being completely swept out for new blood; redistributing the jobs (\$) and the power. The university is stale and is trying to overcome this by taking on the identity of Dalhousie or St. Mary's. We are not these universities nor should

we become like them. The Mount is a unique university with special goals. I believe that the Mount should maintain these goals. If you do not find the Mount suits your beliefs or your style, you do not have to go to the Mount. There are many other universities you can attend. As I have stated earlier, there do need to be great changes here at the Mount but we do not need to assimilate the Mount into another university. We need to respect differences, not try to change them; but there are plenty of other changes that can occur.

If there are things that need to be changed, get involved and change them. Do not just sit there and let an elite few make decisions for you. GET INVOLVED!! This is what builds school spirit, otherwise you are just talking and talking does not complete anything! Since this year is almost over, your time, if you are still here, is next year. So make that year the best in your university career!!

As I believe this is the last Picaro paper for the year, any comments can be directed to my e-mail account, MT203342@linden.msvu.ca

Gina Dunn

### Academic Awards too

The Mount Saint Vincent Awards Ceremony, on Tuesday March 26, was a lively event, with students receiving honours for accomplishments, both academic and extra-curricular. It came accompanied, I might add, by a good meal including dessert. In the background, there was a big screen with rock videos and music.

I am writing this letter to suggest that this spectacle portrayed, whether intentionally or otherwise, a decided anti-intellectual bias. Throughout the evening, we were treated to constant references from Mark Scholz, co-host of the event and Mount alumnus,

to jokes (funny, admittedly) about his own bad academic performance during his years at the Mount. He provided, with a pleasant manner, living proof that bad marks make no difference, because one can still end up on television.

In a similar vein, the keynote speech from Scotia Bank's Aisha T. Umar congratulated students on their success, which, according to her, was due to their knowing the importance of "extracurricular activities". She seemed unaware that many of the students receiving prizes received them for academic performance. Her whole speech was an argument for her idea that "success", by which I presume she means financial success, depends on things non-academic, such as team-work and charisma. For her, and, one would think, for the organizers of the Awards Night, charm is far more important in life than knowledge.

I want to say that I would not minimize the value of extra-curricular activities, of well rounded personalities. I do not even wish to contradict Mrs. Umar by saying that knowledge is always more important than charm. This is not a criticism of Mr. Scholz nor of Mrs Umar. Simply, Mount Saint Vincent is a university (I thought it was!) and our goal should be to encourage learning of all sorts. Learning makes for a better life. More informed people make for a better world. Educated people with real skills, I believe, do even have a better chance of succeeding financially.

Awards Night ought to devote a greater part of the show to the value of learning, to the advantages of intellectual growth, if for no other reason, to properly honour the students who come to receive prizes for academic achievements. So, get with it: some people actually care about their studies!

Larry Steele, Modern Languages Dept.