

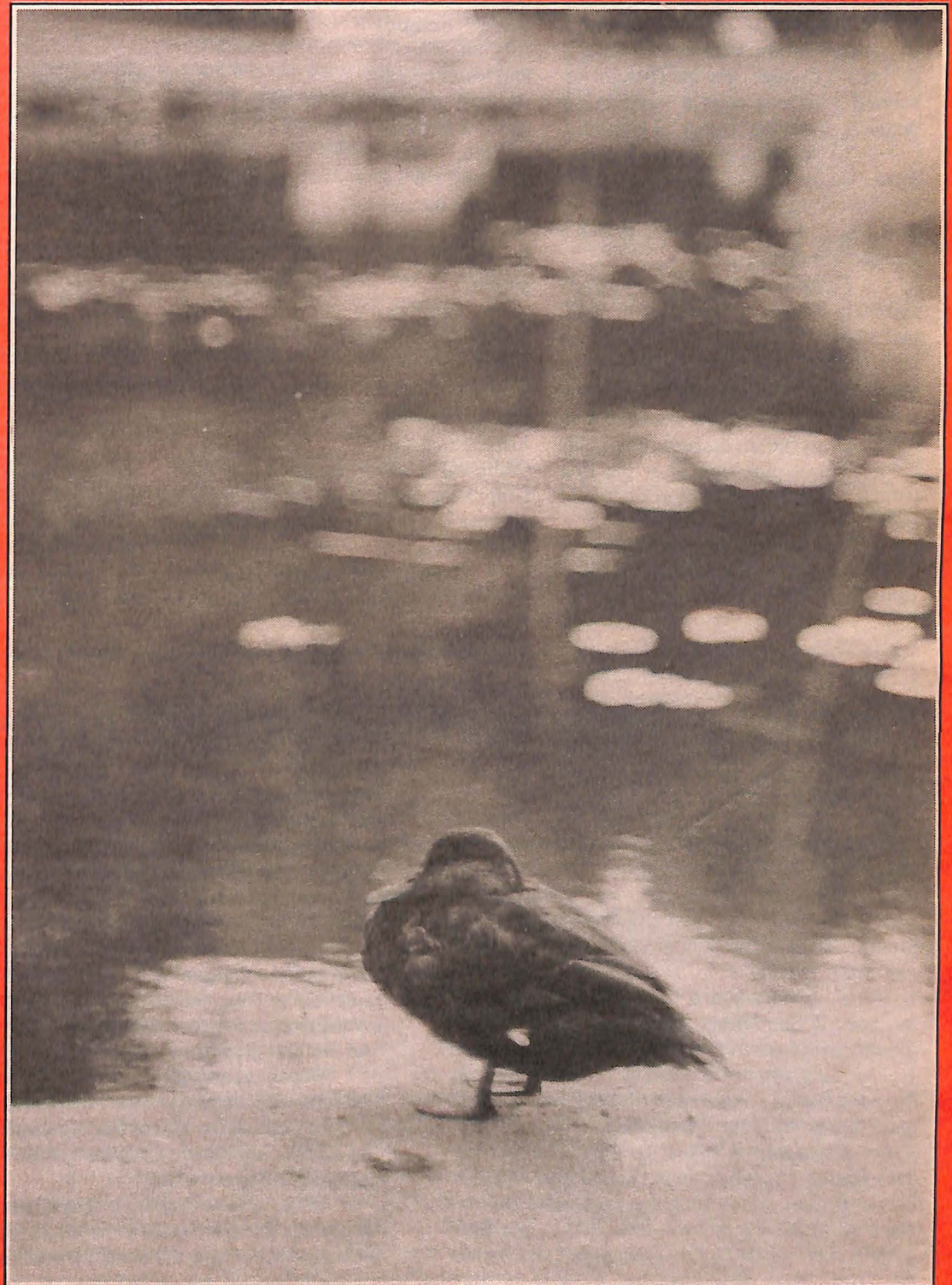
The Picaro

*How we spent
our summer
vacation*

*Vinnie's gets
in trouble*

*Halifax on
10 coffees
a day*

Film Festival



NAC President: "a war on the rights of women"

by Monique Doucette

The current government has supported a war on the rights of women in this country, according to the new president of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women.

Speaking to an audience of approximately 50 men and women Sunday at Henson College, Sunera Thobani described what she calls a struggle for democracy among women in Canada.

"If we look at the women's movement, we see that it is a struggle for equality," said Thobani, "and at the end of the day, the bottom line is this is a struggle for democracy."

Thobani replaced the controversial Judy Rebick as president of NAC last April. NAC is the largest women's organization in Canada, representing approximately 125,000 women. Thobani immigrated to Canada from Tanzania, but is of East Indian descent. She holds a Ph.D. in economics and is the first woman of color to hold the presidency of NAC.

In light of the upcoming election, Thobani had sharp criticism for the current Progressive Conservative govern-

ment and its policies, which she claimed have had detrimental effects on women.

"The Tory vision of the world they have been forcing upon us has been one of lesser and lesser democracy, one of lesser and lesser equality and one of lesser and lesser justice," said Thobani. "It's a vision of the rich getting richer, the poor getting poorer."

Thobani had equally harsh words for Canada's first female Prime Minister.

She claimed Kim Campbell is showing "profound contempt" for women in Canada by not taking a clear stand on issues that matter to women.

"People tell us, 'Now you have a woman Prime Minister - now there is no

need for a women's movement. Isn't this what you've wanted all the time?'"

Thobani said having a female Prime Minister may stimulate debate on women's involvement in politics, but not issues that matter to women. In fact, only NDP leader Audrey McLaughlin agreed to a national debate on women's issues requested by NAC.

"The Tory vision of the world...has been one of lesser and lesser democracy, equality and justice. It's a vision of the rich getting richer, the poor getting poorer."

-- Sunera Thobani

grams (in particular medicare), national child care, funding for women's organizations, violence against women and women's employment.

Thobani said there has been an attack on women and on the women's

movement in Canada because women's economic status is deteriorating.

According to the NAC annual report on the status of women, for the first time in 25 years, women's participation in the paid workforce is declining.

Thobani said it is women aged 15 to 24 who are most affected by this deterioration and are hit hardest by unemployment and violence.

"It has been very young women who are not able to find jobs," said Thobani. "And it was young women in university who were murdered in Montreal."

To address issues important to these women, NAC has set up a "Young Women's Caucus". Thobani maintains the women's movement is not dying, as some people claim. Today, more young women are joining NAC who want to become active in the women's movement.

"Now more than ever there is a need for the women's movement," maintains Thobani. "Not only to hold onto the gains made but to move forward." ♦

New fee policies spark on-campus gripes

by Alana Wiens

Bad debts and the convenience of the business office staff are the causes of the changes to the tuition fee system this year, according to the comptroller. "Interest I don't think is a factor," said Sharon Davis. "The concern is more 'I've got to pay the fees now'."

In previous years, tuition had to be paid by the end of September. This year the date was moved up to September 10, before classes began.

"Just say my cheque didn't go through at the right time. I can't pay all of this interest," said second-year student Sarah Merchant.

According to Davis, past university calendars stated that tuition fees were due at registration and then stated that the fees were due on September 30. Having the fees paid in late September after students have registered just makes the staff "deal with students all over again," according to Davis. "We might as well take the money while they are registering."

Third year student Ruby Boutilier thought the early deadline too severe, "especially consid-

ering the job situation this summer. I only had part-time hours."

Davis says making students pay their tuition before beginning classes will force students to plan their finances. "We wanted students to realize the cost of their education."

If these fees were not paid by September 10, interest charges of prime rate plus three percent were applied to outstanding debts. "If we're going to keep our tuition down," said Davis, "we are going to have to reduce bad debts."

In past years, some students have not paid their fees until registration the following year. Last year, fees due at the end of the fiscal year totalled \$513,000. Davis said this figure has been risen by about \$50,000 per year.

With the university's grant frozen, the decision to charge interest was made, rather than raising fees or cutting services. When students do not pay there is the added cost of postage to inform them of their debt. If the university uses a collection agency, 25 per cent of the money collected goes to the agency.

"A lot of students weren't paying and we

would have to go looking for them," said Davis.

However, for students unable to have the money available on September 10, interest charges are just an added burden.

"It's just more money that I don't have," said Boutilier.

Davis says the change from the five dollar a week late charge in past years to the interest charges is "more fair to the students" and "encourages students to pay some of their debt."

If a student paid only the \$100 deposit, interest payments would begin at \$13 a month. However, last year's fees were capped at \$75 a term; there is no cap this year. Interest is accumulated and charged daily. "The interest is not meant to be a payment plan," said Davis, "it's a penalty."

Davis said that business office staff were lenient on charging interest after the deadline this year, but they will be "tighter" next year.

The only student reaction Davis cited was that they were surprised at the changes. The Accounts Payable department refused to comment on students' reaction to the changes.

"It's just plain old bureaucracy," said Merchant. "This university is supposed to be for the students, so it should be for the students, not for themselves (the administration)." ♦

How we spent our summer vacation (and other horror stories)

The Picaro, as you may be aware, is in a bit of flux right now. We thought we'd give you a brief explanation of what's going on and what we hope for.

Those of you who were here last year will probably remember the controversy that erupted when Student Council passed a motion to hire our editor through a Council-appointed selection committee.

The Picaro still opposes that idea. Council saw its error on March 26 and rescinded that motion. They also passed a motion that made us "autonomous in every way".

To make the Picaro autonomous was probably the right move, but the wrong way. After many meetings here's where we stand:

We have no office space, phone, layout equipment, or anything else. Our computer died this summer while Student Union was putting together the yearbook. They have told us it is our responsibility to replace it. Our laser printer now

sits in Student Union manager Scott MacKay's office for his use.

SU has told us we cannot be allocated space because of environmental problems in Rosaria, yet the old Picaro office sits empty. This issue was compiled in Seton Lab, at Dalhousie, and at the homes of our writers.

We have no agreement with council on a financial arrangement for this year. During 'negotiations' in July, we were told that there was \$7,400 available to us -- 55 per cent of last year's subsidy. Take it or leave it. We are one of only a handful of items on the budget to be cut.

While negotiating a settlement with us, Council ratified the constitution of a publication controlled by society presidents and council.

We believe that student newspapers should be accountable to students, not society presidents or student governments.

There are times when what we have to say will make people mad. That isn't justification for censorship or shutdown.

There have been charges leveled against us of insularity, of inaccessibility, and of unaccountability. We would argue that few things could make the Picaro more inaccessible than not having office space, a phone, a mailbox, or funding. And we don't take criticisms leveled by the common-law wife of the organizer of the 'other paper' seriously.

We wish this paper could be larger. But until we can contract a printer without the fear of stiffing them for the bill, we can't do that.

We want to serve the student body of Mount Saint Vincent University. But we need cooperation from the student government. If you would like a newspaper, please tell your elected representatives to settle this quickly and fairly. ☛

Letters, etc.....

Editor's Note: the following is a letter sent to Student Union President Cathy Thorpe.

Dear Ms. Thorpe:

The Picaro is the only communication vehicle made available to on and off campus students. Rather, I should say, was.

I understand that since The Picaro is no longer considered a society, it no longer receives funding. May I remind you that The Picaro is no longer a society because it would not conform to the dictation of unreasonable student union authority.

I realize that you uphold your functions as the student government, but what you neglected to do was consult the students on an issue of such magnitude.

Do you not think that we should have input considering we pay hefty student union fees as part of our tuition? We do not pay that money for fun; we certainly do not have it to spare. Rather, we pay it with the expectations of benefiting from all the resources available to us. Resources like the Picaro.

In our nation, the government has no control over or connection with the press. Due to factors such as demand and distribution, print and mass media can operate on advertising alone.

However, the Picaro is free to the students and advertising contribution is not sufficient. There is no opportunity to survive without financial assistance from the student

union. Not only will you be supporting a MSVU tradition, but more significantly, you will be spending student union fees in an appropriate, student-approved, manner.

We do not live in the "real world." Picaro staff should not be expected to scrounge for financial support, borrow office space, and use public-access computers. Students should not be denied availability of The Picaro after we have become accustomed to waiting for publishing day.

The suggestion of another paper not only is wasteful financially but also in terms of human resources. There is no need for two papers and two sets of staff. The Picaro not only provides information for the university, but a volunteer opportunity and creative outlet for all students. Remember that it has been doing so for 28 years.

I am writing to you as a concerned student. Please realize that because of your actions students are being deprived of the original informational source imperative for the delivery of news throughout the structure of the campus.

I urge you to reconsider your decision and listen to the students. We are not being greedy. We are not being unreasonable. We are being fair.

Sincerely,
Sara Napier.

The Picaro

Volume 29, Issue 1

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The Picaro is a bimonthly newspaper published for Mount Saint Vincent University students by the Picaro Publishing Society, a non-profit society.

Until a settlement is achieved between Student Union and The Picaro, there is no office space for The Picaro. Submissions can be slid into Study Carrel #129 in the library.

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 a libellous, racist, sexist, or homophobic nature.

The views expressed in this newspaper are the writer's, and not necessarily those of the editors, publishers, or of the Picaro Publishing Society. The Picaro subscribes to the statement of editorial policy of the Canadian University Press.

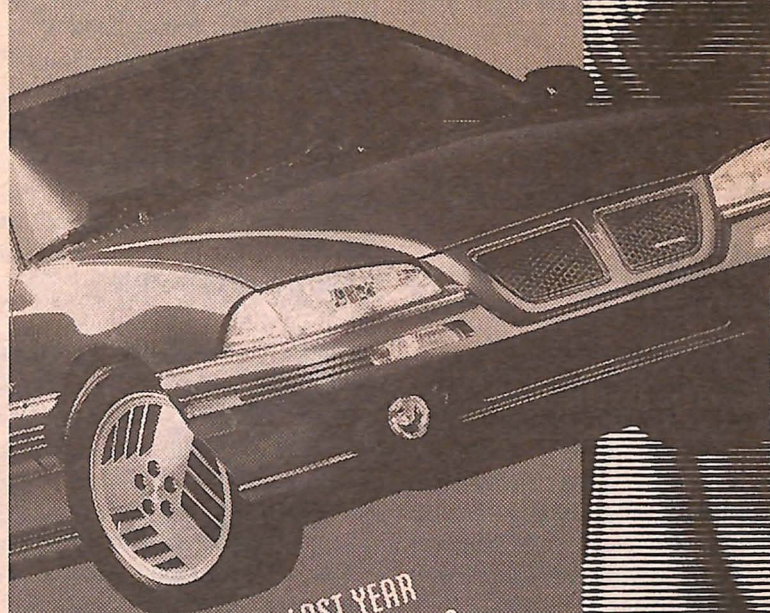
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4 / Picaro info guides

Biblio-FILE: **how the library works**

To borrow materials from the library, you need to have a current student i.d. card. If you didn't get one at registration, you can get one from the Registrar's Office. When you get your i.d. card you have to get a sticker on it from the Financial Services Accounts Receivable wicket. This is also where you get a new sticker if you are using last years i.d. card. Once your nice picture i.d. is all set, you can get your card updated in the library computer system by going to the Circulation Desk.

The Circulation Desk is one of two very important desks at the library, the other being the Reference / Information desk. At the Circulation Desk you can borrow, renew, or return library materials, borrow reserve readings, buy debit cards for the photocopiers, and get general directions. It is also where you go to pay fines, request holds and recalls, and even get change.

The Reference Desk is where you can find the reference librarians. These are the people you want to talk to if you need help finding what you are looking for. They can help in using the CD-Roms, and other nifty research tools. They can also help look up reserve readings.

There have been a few changes made at the library for this year. First is the new renewal form. For the first time, you don't have to bring books to the library to renew them. The forms are available at the Circulation Desk, and can be returned to the box there. Another change is the Vax terminals which lived in the basement have all been moved up to the new Math lab in the basement of Evaristus.

There will be some CD-Rom Assistance workshops offered throughout September. For more information, contact the Reference Department.

**The library hours for the fall
and spring sessions are:**

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Sunday
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Rosaria Relocations

by Monique Doucette

Returning students looking to pick up a course with the registrar, or even make an appointment with the health office may be a little confused this September.

Thanks to a problem with air quality discovered in Rosaria last March, offices previously located in Rosaria are now scattered across the campus.

Physical Plant has been responsible for the relocation of these offices and manager, Paul Reyno, is pleased with the move so far.

"We've been able to relocate all those affected, including our own office, quite effectively in order for people to function," said Reyno.

According to Reyno, most people in the university community

have been very co-operative during the move.

"When it all started it was a bit upsetting," said Reyno. "People were getting settled down for exams, and we started moving things. But things seem to have settled down now."

Diane Tinkham, Nurse and Health Educator with Student Services is one "relocatee" happy with the move. Although it is the second move for the health office, and the third for the nurses, Tinkham said students have no trouble finding them.

"We never have a problem getting business (at the health office), she said. "We're always busy."

Tinkham feels the move hasn't been too inconvenient, be-

cause their new location on second floor Assisi is not too far from their previous Rosaria location.

"We've had no complaints from the students," said Tinkham. "No one has said they cannot find us."

However, Reyno says Physical Plant still gets many calls asking where the various offices in Rosaria have moved. So here is a run-down of who has been relocated where:

Physical Plant

Assisi Hall behind reception desk (old trunk room)

Registrar/Admissions

Seton Annex 1 (Old Duet studio on lower level)

Student Affairs

Dean
Secretary

Evaristus 203
Evaristus 202

Career Placement Office
Campus Ministry
Continuing Education
Health Office
Housing
International Student Advising
Student Counsellor

Evaristus 204
Evaristus Lobby
Seton 313
Assisi 2nd Floor
Rosaria (Old Bank Space)
Rosaria (Old Bank Space)
Evaristus 124 & 122

Vinnie's may lose wet/dry licence: "We failed," says Thorpe

by Alana Wiens

Vinnie's wet/dry liquor license was put in jeopardy last Wednesday night when four out of six patrons carded by a Liquor License Board inspector were underage and holding drinks.

"The only thing that saved us is that he didn't see any of them sipping their drinks," said Student Union President Cathy Thorpe.

It was a particularly busy night at Vinnie's with 200 to 400 patrons through in the evening. By 11:00 p.m. the line-up was out the door and down the stairs.

The Liquor License Board inspector arrived at about 11:30 p.m., according to Thorpe. The staff had been forewarned of the inspection.

Don Lawlor, Assistant Director of the Liquor License Inspection department, said that the check was part of a routine inspection. "The inspector saw a system of wet/dry stamping that didn't seem to have any rhyme or reason for who was getting stamped," said Lawlor.

Said Thorpe, "We tried to make sure everything was okay...we failed."

The pub was given a second chance to tighten controls by this Wednesday. "If there isn't something done," said Thorpe, "we're going to lose our wet/dry license." The present solution appears to be plastic bracelets similar to those sold at fairs. Wet patrons will wear the bracelets. "It's unfortunate that these drastic steps had to be taken," said Thorpe.

The bracelets cost over \$700, but Thorpe says the expense is worth it to protect the income generated by Vinnie's and the service the pub provides to students.

"We must take steps to protect [the wet/dry license] because this is a service to our students," said Thorpe.

This Wednesday's inspection will be crucial to the future of the pub. Lawlor said that the decision to give an establishment a second chance was up to the discretion of the individual inspector, but "we had no past record of problems at Vinnie's." Establishments rarely receive a second chance.

"I'm really glad we got the second chance to work on this," said Thorpe. Addressing a Student Council meeting on Friday afternoon Thorpe said, "You know whose butt is going to be flapping in the wind if we lose this liquor license."

The inspection last Wednesday was prompted by a phone call made to the board by a mother whose 18 year-old son had gotten drunk at Vinnies during Orientation.

Underage drinking is always a concern in a campus pub.

"I had thought it had gone pretty well in the past," said Thorpe. "If that is going on, it has to be stopped regardless of the liquor license problem."

Thorpe cites "residence girls" as the worst offenders for underage drinking.

Council is appealing to residence students and the university community as whole to help control the underage drinking problem so that Vinnies' wet/dry license is not lost.

"Everyone tries to sneak into a bar," said Thorpe, "but we have to protect our wet/dry license." ♦

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Coffee Culture

An armchair trip through the halls of Metro coffee shops, from the esoteric to the mass-produced. Got the jitters yet??!

by Bob LeDrew

Aaaaahh. The almost pained sound of milk being frothed. A wet, almost regurgitative sound.

But where, you ask, can you get your favorite dose of caffeine, that wonder drug of a thousand uses? And where, you ask, is the right spot for you? Read on. We're going to take a little trip, you and I. From the Mount to the South End, fuelled by coffee.

First stop:

Rule number one: avoid the new coffee machine in Seton. The cappuccino is reclaimed industrial waste, and the espresso has been proven to cause cancer in sea sponges.

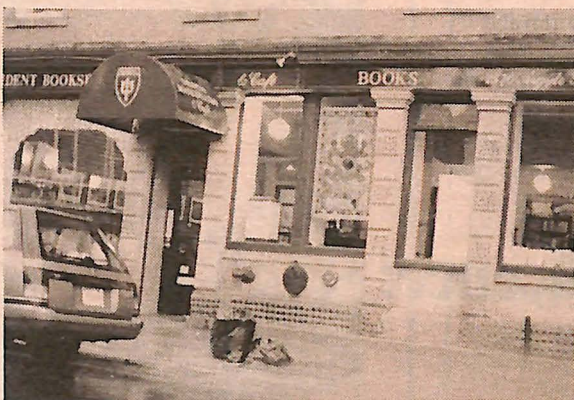
So it's off to **Dunkin' Donuts**, Bedford Highway. If your fingers get cold and stiff at the bus stop waiting for that #80, hit Dunkin' for a cuppa and a donut. The pastries here are surprisingly good, although the place is a little grungy looking overall, and patrician types may find the clientele a little industrial.

Mall Central

Ding! Pull the cord and get out on Scotia Square. Scotia Square is a 60's architect's dream -- all squares and concrete. In the mall, below the office towers full of faceless bureaucrats, you will find what must be the most profitable **Tim Horton's** in the city. Any time of day will find the lines back to the doors.

But beware of the baked goods: the cigarette smoke permeates them. Eeeewwww.

For the deep-pocketed, the **Second Cup** is across the way. Lots of different coffees, in brewed or bean forms. I find their exotics (capps, lattes, cafe au laits) too expensive, but they do offer what



they call Skinnies (exotics made with skim milk) for the calorically-minded. Hint: try the chocolate covered espresso beans for a hit of caffeine like nothing else.

Downtown

Once you leave Scotia Square, the landscape clutters. A walk up Argyle, past the Herald building with its ever-present security guard (what are they afraid of, anyway?) brings you to **Trident Booksellers & Cafe**. A friendly family business, Trident offers the best Cafe latte (double espresso in a tumbler with

tons of steamed milk) in the city. Trident also distinguishes itself with its smoke-free policy, cool used books, excellent baked goods, and good-looking furniture and artwork. An excellent place to leaf through the *Shambhala Sun* and take a date for a leisurely, intimate chat.

Just around the corner from

Trident on Blowers Street sits the **Green Bean Coffee Co.** Owned by the same family that owns **Java Blend** (Maritime Mall & North Street), this is the cool place to be for NSCAD students and other humans who wear black, smoke incessantly and live on caffeine.

The other Mecca for intellectual/bohe-

mian types is a hop, skip and jump up the hill to Brunswick Street. **Cafe Mokka** is very beat, and very hip. Acoustic open mikes, poetry readings, more cigarettes, and oh-so-self-consciously-loud deep discussions.

Spring Garden

Jangled yet from that fourth espresso? On your way from the Mokka, you will find **Grabbajabba** at the corner of Spring Garden & Queen. A charming little shop for some, but for me -- too yuppie, with a cookie-cutter McCappuccino feel

to it.

Between Brenton & South Park Street are two very different shops. **The Great Taste** was a Second Cup once upon a time, and hasn't changed much but the name and prices. Yikes! Expensive tastes are indulged here.

Two doors up sits the coolest magazine store in the city--**The Daily Grind**. In front, racks and racks of magazines featuring everything from military aircraft to sewing patterns to things best not discussed here; in back, a plain but comfortable area in which to sit and peruse that latest *Vanity Fair* - or is that *Frank*? The Grind is rapidly gaining a clientele as eclectic as its selection of magazines; one recent visit allowed this writer to eavesdrop on conversations about: religion, art, life, love, and more important topics.

On the ground level of the Garden Park building on Spring Garden and Summer, **Smitty's** offers that famous bottomless cup and some major-league breakfasts.

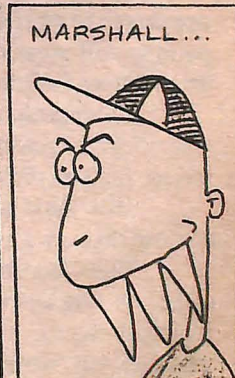
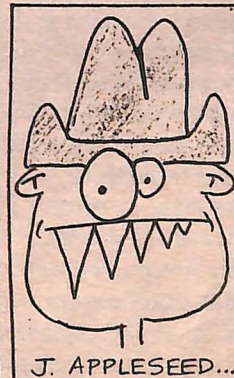
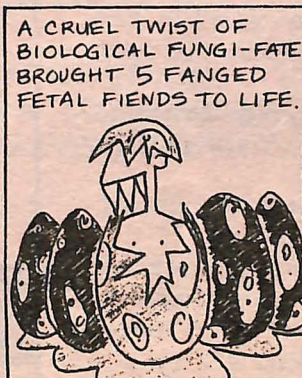
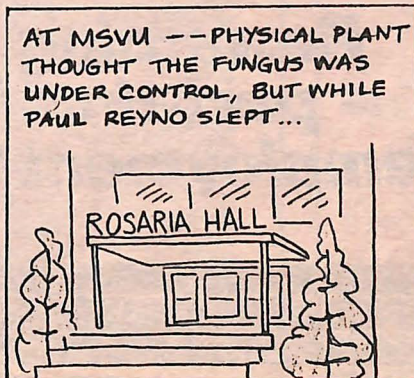
Elsewhere

Quinpool Road is coming along, coffee-wise. **Bagelworks** offers solid standard brews with its yummy bagels, etc; **The Coffee Shop** is an underrated place for friends and lovers to meet, sip, and eat; and there is a -- wait for it -- **SMOKE-FREE Tim Horton's** by the Sobeys's store.

And although it's not really a coffee shop, no student can live in Halifax without a visit to the **Ardmore Tea Room** for large portions and small bills.

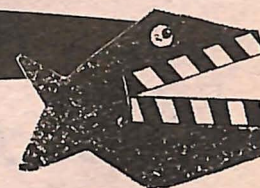
North Street boasts a **Robin's Donuts**: Good pastry; smoke-free; a good place to warm up while that #2 or #4 bus chugs up from Water Street.

Clayton Park has its very own **Bagelworks** -- try the special cream cheeses -- and a Tim Horton's with an unusual mix of mall workers and skateboarding teenagers. ☘



Atlantic film Festival

September 24-October 3, 1993



by Andrea Simmons & Tara Lynn Bayne

A week of gala screenings, educational workshops, midnight flicks, and specialty children's features lay ahead as Halifax hosts the Atlantic Film Festival. The festival is an annual event which brings some of the best film in the world to Halifax. Canadian, and in particular Atlantic films are a main focus of the Festival.

A new dimension to the festival, ScreenScene, is being introduced this year. ScreenScene, focuses on film and television for young people; a festival for, by and about kids. The program includes five family features, five thematic school programs, and five educational workshops and seminars.

ScreenScene kicked off on Saturday, September 25 at 1:30pm at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic with a blast off featuring crafts, live entertainment, and music.

A second dimension that has been added to the Festival this year is the Midnight Madness events. Four demented selections shown at midnight, guaranteed to shake up your weekend. To make decisions a little easier, included is a brief listing of Festival highlights.

GALA SCREENINGS

M. Butterfly & Franz Kafka's It's A Wonderful Life

Friday, September 24, 7:00 pm Park Lane Cinemas

Director David Cronenberg and actor Jeremy Irons are reunited in this film about Rene Gallimard, a French diplomat serving in China. Gallimard is overtaken by emotion when he sees Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*. He meets and falls for the star and devotes himself to her, until he learns a shocking truth that transfigures all he has experienced.

It's a Wonderful Life is a short starring Richard E. Grant as Kafka, stumbling over how to complete the first sentence of what was to become his masterpiece, *Metamorphosis*.

Small Gifts with The Goode Olde Days on Signal Hill

Saturday September 25, 7:00pm Park Lane Cinemas

Based on a story by author David Adams Richards, *Small Gifts* is set in the Miramichi region of N.B. It is a story of a delightful young quirky couple, who find their financial situation worsening as Christmas day approaches.

The Goode Olde Days on Signal Hill, is a humorous, tongue-in-cheek look at the human history of Signal Hill in Newfoundland.

The Piano

Saturday October 2, 7:00pm Park Lane Cinemas

Ada, her nine-year-old daughter and her piano arrive in the remote bush of nineteenth century New Zealand--commodities in an arranged marriage. For Ada, who is mute, the piano is everything. When her husband refuses to transport her piano, she strikes a deal with her neighbour, for him to care for it. The arrangement draws them into a complex emotional, sexual relationship, remarkable for its naive passion and frightening disregard for limits.

MIDNIGHT MADNESS

The Atlantic Film Festival's "Midnight Madness" movies are sure to appeal to werewolves, insomniacs and anyone else who wants to see a movie "too bold to be sold at any other time." All screenings of these movies will be at midnight at **Wormwood's Cinema** on Gottingen Street. Admission for all is \$6.00.

Tomcat - Friday, September 24

After becoming injected with feline RNA, Tom, played by Richard Grieco becomes a "rampaging, sex-crazed, animal" in this feature directed by Halifax native Paul Donovan.

Accion Mutante - Saturday, September 25

Accion Mutante is a Spanish (sub-titled) gore-fest about a gang of mutant exiles who rebel against the evil "designer titans" in the year 2012. Although this movie is excessively violent, it makes some interesting comments on beauty and technology.

Wicked City - Friday, September 30

A film from Hong Kong and heavy on special effects, *Wicked City* is the story of a peace treaty gone awry.

Jack be Nimble - Friday, October 1

This is "the family film we've all been waiting for." Dora, psychic and Jack, psycho, separated at birth, reunite to get revenge on their parents.

Pick up a program which includes a full schedule of films and workshops. Schedules are available across metro, or at the Atlantic Film Festival office, located at 2015 Gottingen St. on the second floor.

Make the most of The Atlantic Film Festival, and take in as many films, workshops and seminars as you can. ♦

Film Info Line: 422-6965

Stolz & Stolz review the 1993 SU Handbook: Thumbs down

With the start of a new school year comes another Student Union-issued handbook -- and believe me, kids, this one's a beauty.

The tidal wave of clip art and the crooked ads aside, this year's Handbook offers Mount students a special bonus.

In a masterpiece of time management, Student Union has taken the initiative to reorganize the Gregorian calendar to better fit our needs. From now on (according to said Handbook), all months in the scholastic year will begin on Tuesday

and end on Wednesday with 30 days in each. This will provide the average overworked student with the chance at the end of each month to wallow in a five-day hole in time (I suggest handbook staff take the time to acquire prescription eye-wear).

Despite this bonus, the Handbook is drowned in a

hopelessly boring layout which would even send the staff of the MANUS society brochure into a deep slumber.

However, once you reach the Student Council blurb section, this book really takes on the form of a page turner.

You'll find yourself frantically flipping each page more furiously than the last,

wondering when the barrage of mug shots and the phrase "hi my name is..." will ever end. Until eventually, drenched with sweat and drained from exhaustion, your quivering hands go limp letting the book fall helplessly into the toilet.

The end result is a masterfully crafted (ahem) handbook that any student would be ashamed to carry. Just a suggestion, maybe in choosing the paper stock they should've gone with two-ply instead of bond. ♦

PS: \$4,200 of your student fees were allocated to this masterpiece.

FEBRUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

The new, improved 30-day February:
more days for spring break?



The Picaro WANTS YOU!

Contrary to rumour (and some fervid fantasies), *The Picaro* is back for its 29th year. Sure, we don't have luxuries like an office, a phone, a computer, honoraria, or anything at all that you might think a newspaper needed to exist, but we're here.

The Picaro is Mount Saint Vincent University's student newspaper. What does that mean? That means that our agenda is your agenda. Not any one society; not the administration; not the student government. We exist to reflect your views back to you, to entertain you, to inform you, and to provide a sort of unofficial opposition party that will try to 'comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable.'

So why don't we have any of the aforementioned stuff? Because we haven't completed negotiations for an autonomy agreement with your student government.

Despite the fact that we are democratically-run and are a member of the Canadian University Press; despite the fact that we have served you for 28 years; despite the fact that they acknowledged our right to student funding on March 26, 1993; despite the fact that we have asked for bridge funding and office space to publish this issue, the student government has chosen to treat us as if we were the Chronicle-Herald or some outside interest coming on campus to take your money.

And what do we want? As much money as we got last year -- about \$13,000. If there are 3,600 students paying fees at MSVU, that's about \$3.61 per student.

What have they offered us? At most, \$7,400. Plus, while your government was negotiating with us, they ratified the constitution of another newspaper to be controlled by the government and the presidents of MSVU societies. We consider that bad faith, and even worse judgement.

What the Mount needs is *not* a student newspaper that caters to societies, to government, or to any other single group. The Mount needs a newspaper that is accessible to any student who wishes to contribute to it.

We have been accused of being inaccessible in the past, of being insular. We don't believe that is true. There are students of all years and programs on staff here, and contributions from many perspectives.

But it's hard to be accessible without an office. It's hard to be accessible without a phone. We're trying. But to make *The Picaro* the best it can be, we need some help. We can't serve the students when we can't have a meeting in our own space or work on our own computer.

We don't think \$3.61 is a lot to ask of each student. We don't think your government should be effectively silencing a student newspaper that's been read and enjoyed since 1965. We don't think that you should be forced to be without a newspaper because of your government's recalcitrance.

But we do think we can be a student newspaper the Mount can be proud of, if we're given the tools and the resources to do our job. ☘

If you want your government to fund *The Picaro* this year, please call them or drop by and tell them. It's your money. Call President Cathy Thorpe or VP Finance John Andersen -- 457-6123/443-4224 or visit them at 4th Floor Rosaria.

If you want to contribute to *The Picaro*, call Joe Strolz at 835-2260 or Bob LeDrew at 443-7155. All contributions welcome.