

THE PICARO

VOLUME ONE

ISSUE ONE

WINTER 2005

Think You've Got A Better
Name For Your Newspaper?

Maybe you do...Details Within

Special Report

Province will put
funding back into
N.S. Universities...
But at what cost?



A Conversation
With Our Student
Union President
Gives Answers and
Raises Questions...

Miss Canadiana Comes To
MSVU

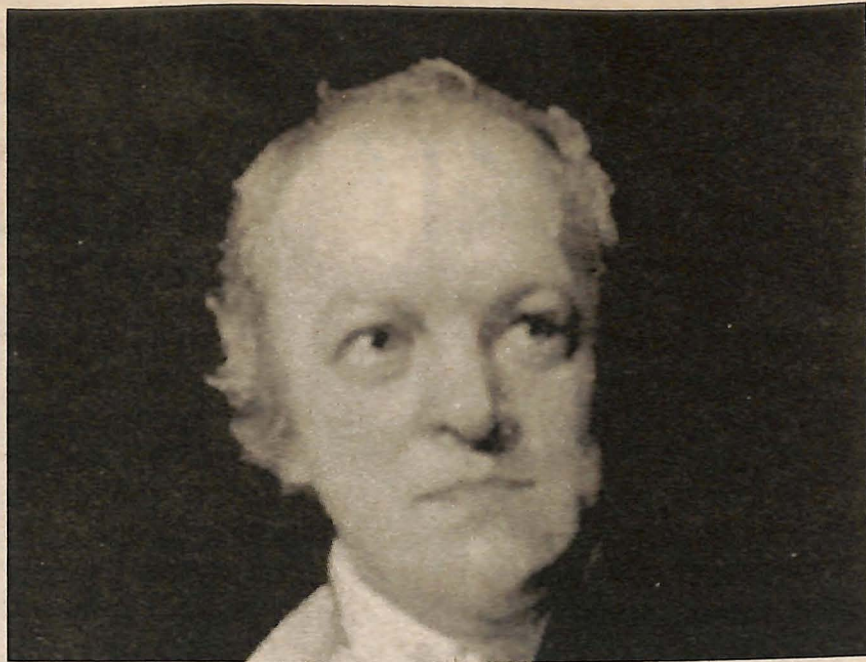
Art Gallery Exhibit Showcases Artistic Beauty Queen



In most newspapers, this is where the staff list would be located, along with other typical text. However, the only staff at the moment is the Editor in Chief who also put this issue together.

Think you can put a newspaper together better than he can?

Maybe you can, and if so, read his editorial, and get cracking! Join the team! Come join us.



"They pulled me from the grave for this?" William Blake subbing in as Editor in Chief portrait.

What Doesn't Die...

Editorial by Scott MacDonald

Well, well, well; here we are ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, children of all ages, the first issue of your student newspaper of this school year. For some of you readers, you might be shocked to learn that the paper is back; hell, some of you might be shocked to see that we even have a student newspaper at this lil' ole educational institution I like to call Mount Saint Vincent University. But in the worlds of thrash-metal legends Anthrax, "You cannot kill what doesn't die."

I for one am grateful to be here writing this so-called editorial. For this issue, I'm essentially going to thank a few people, and not actually be critical.

Thanks must be given to all members of our Student Union for the support they have given me; to the Editorial Board for their guidance and advice; and to the late great William Blake, famed British author and artist for keeping my creative juices flowing at 2 in the morning, while I racked my brains out for ideas.

However, I must comment on some rather pressing issues right now. Currently, I am the only official staff member on your paper; this needs to change people! This isn't my paper alone, it belongs to all of you.

What I ask of you now fair readers is your support. Don't like something in the paper? Tell me. Have an idea for new and exciting content in the paper? Tell me. Want to write for the paper? Please please tell me. Do you want to join the staff of the paper, and help it become something truly great? For the love of God and all things Holy, tell me! I want to get as dynamic a group of people together to build upon each issue we print. I need your help and I know there must be some journalism nuts out there that have been itching for a chance like this. If you have the time and are dedicated, come work for the paper. It's the best way to change things you don't like.

Also, there is the matter of our paper's name. For the first issue, it was decided that we would publish under "The Picaro", the long standing paper of yore. However, I do not want to keep the name, but I also don't want to choose a new one. This is where you folks come in; if you think you've got a better name for the paper, email your suggestions to mountpaper@yahoo.ca or drop them off at the info desk in Rosaria.

I hope you enjoy this first issue. Ciao Baby!

The Picaro

Rosaria Student Centre 112

116 Bedford Highway, Halifax Nova Scotia

B3M 2J6

email - mountpaper@yahoo.ca

Editorial

MSVU Student Union President
Chantal Brushett Comments on
recent decisions made by the
Province concerning tuition

MSVU Signs Memorandum of Understanding with Province

On December 7, 2004, Mount Saint Vincent University (MSVU), along side all other universities in Nova Scotia,



signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Nova Scotia which principally guarantees that there will be tuition fee increases in each of the next three years.

If the principal of this agreement is not bad enough, the Board of Governors Executive at MSVU did not confer with the Students' of MSVU before agreeing to sign a memorandum which ultimately impinges on the students in the end.

The MSVU Students' Union is shocked and offended that their input was not solicited regarding this intricate agreement.

"You can dress it up anyway you want, but a hike in tuition fees is a hike in tuition fess, and student input is imperative", says MSVU Students' Union President, Chantal Brushett.

Not only was the MSVU Students' Union the only Students' Union in the province who were not asked by their Board for an opinion regarding this matter, they were also one of few Students' Unions that did not receive a copy of the Memorandum from their University President prior to the signing of the agreement.

However, it should be noted that the University President, Dr. Sheila Brown, has communicated to the Students' Union that she was asked to keep details of the agreement confidential prior to its signing on December 8th and therefore respectfully kept her word.

The MSVU Students' Union have been dealing with this matter, and can assure students that they have voiced student concerns to the Board of Governors. The Students' Union welcomes all feedback and/or concerns regarding this matter.

Contact:

Chantal Brushett, President
Mount Saint Vincent University Students' Union
www.mountstudents.ca
(902) 457-6434 or (902) 233-6788
president@mountstudents.ca

"The Margaret Wente's of this World"

by Andrea Newell

"The Margaret Wente's of this World"

In negotiating a fair off shore oil deal for Newfoundland and Labrador, Premier Danny Williams used some radical tactics to garner attention from Prime Minister Paul Martin. Ontarian Margaret Wente exploited her column in the Globe and Mail as an opportunity to voice her personal opinion towards the Premier's strategy. This is my response to her radical journalism.

Since the battle of the flags is over and Danny has brought home the goods, what has Ms. Margaret Wente learned from her journalistic mouthing off? Hopefully she has learned which battles to pick. In her reflective column in the Globe and Mail on January 18th, she said, "I never meant to say, nor do I believe, that Newfoundlanders are lazy welfare bums. My comments were meant to describe the province's doleful economics and its history of bad policy leadership, and to reflect exasperation at Mr. William's heated rhetoric." Well my dear, while you say you did not intend to offend Newfoundlander's living at home and abroad, you've gone and done it! As you have learned through the real teacher – experience, Newfoundlanders are a proud breed.

"Where does she get off? Just where the hell does she get off?" one voice echoed after reading Margaret Wente's January 6th column that put a toxic taste in many Newfoundlanders' mouths. The article, which the writer suggests was directed at the Premier, disgraces the culture, heritage and pride of Canada's most easterly province. Merely repeating her words gives them power.

Who is Margaret Wente anyway? Before she decided to take swipes at Newfoundland, she was just a journalist adrift in a cold sea of others. As some suggest of children, negative attention is the same as positive attention. At least she has gotten some attention and has certainly made a name for herself in the minds of Newfoundlanders.

In every corner of this world you will find Newfoundlanders, and let me tell you buddy – not only are they proud, but after reading your antics they may well be as you suggested "prickly and mad as hell."

The only thing that we can thank Margaret Wente for is her contribution to our colourful language. A new phrase, be it a tainted phrase, now accepted on the rock refers to some as "The Margaret Wente's of this world."

As the saying goes "keep your friends close and your enemies closer." So why not come to our island Margaret? Come to Howley, Flower's Cove, Bonavista, or how about Cupids, Harbour Grace or Little Heart's Ease? Because after all, 'we like you Margaret, we really do.'

To the right (joke intentional?),
Margaret Wente0.



The Arts

News From The Art Gallery

by Jodi McLaughlin

The beginning of winter term at the Mount was marked by the appearance of Miss Canadiana, Camille Turner. Her public outing on campus was greeted by local Haligonian media and unassuming Canadian Studies students, who were under the impression Miss Canadiana was a beauty queen. However, everyone who attended her visit in January were actually engaging in a site-specific performance art piece. Camille Turner, who is an attractive woman, has not been crowned as Canada's lead beauty. In fact, she is a Toronto based media/performance artist who helped open Racing The Cultural Interface: African Diasporic identities in the Digit Age at The Mount's art gallery. Miss Canadiana is

one of four works being displayed in the gallery. Although her campus visit has come and gone, Camille Turner left behind her Canadian Kitsch Museum. The entire second floor of the gallery is everything cute and Canadian, including a star-shaped paper lantern bespeckled in maple leaves.

On the main gallery floor, visitors are given the opportunity to experience story telling from three different artist perspectives. Carmen Karasic delivers "With Liberty and Justice for All", which is an autobiographical installation of digital projections and interactive web art. While "pointing and clicking" on hypertext words in her story, the viewer is given the opportunity to explore the disjunction between the words of the Pledge

of Allegiance and the civil rights inequalities of the mid-Twentieth century.

Roshini Kempadoo further explores digital story telling in *Ghosting*, which is interacted with by use of a simplified West African Warri board game. This English based artist shows through a cinematic process the origins of the Caribbean cultural and its development over time through fictional characters she created.

Canadian-based artist, Wayne Dunkley, explored the public reaction in Montreal and Toronto to posters he created of himself based on runaway slave posters of the time of the Underground Railroad. He has archived the reaction and invited others to communicate their stories of racism on his

website, www.sharemy-world.net. The result of Dunkley's experiment of racial entrapment is gripping, especially when surrounded by the images he captured, which display coarse words and feelings left behind by certain people who interacted with his display.

Racing the Cultural Interface documents our thinking on race and cultural identity in a vastly imperial medium of digital technology. Enriching our minds with stories of the past and the harsh reality that people of African descent still face racial challenges, this exhibit delivers a revolutionary way of telling the artist story in hopes of its continuation in the digital age.

The World of Modeling by Raine Anne

I am known for two things; my bright blue hair, and my ridiculously severe case of A.D.H.D. For one reason or another, these two things seem quite appealing to the photographers of Halifax, and it's these two things that seem to get me most modeling jobs, and that got me my first one.

I met Wes Gould through an art community, and after many conversations via MSN he asked me if I'd be willing to model for him. I was quite ignorant to the world of modeling at the time- my only experiences having

been posing for my Uncle (a freelance photographer) and supplying drawing students with reference photos. Occasionally bands would approach me and want to use my 'image' on flyers around town, but for the most part I had no sweet clue what I was doing. I agreed to model with the compromise that we'd shoot around the university. That way I was in a public area should my photographer turn out to be a raging lunatic.

After a few minutes of waiting, my randomness (that I blame on A.D.D) decided to kick in, and I decided to have a little fun with my photographer. As I waited for him outside of Seton during a beautiful October

morning, I plotted.

Wes arrived totting camera bags, a tripod, a book bag, and a warm smile. After formal introductions he suggested that I take him on a tour of the campus and he'd just shoot as we went. I asked him if I should be posing in front of statues and such but he told me he'd like to get some candid-type shots first, he wanted to show my real personality.

The second those words left his mouth I opened my bag and donned a pair of bright blue angel wings that I'd purchased for a Halloween costume... I expected a shocked response, but instead I was met with a curi-

The Arts

ous smile and a click from the shutter.

The day was fun, I pranced around campus hanging from trees and waving to people. The passerby's gave us interesting looks and comments, I just smiled, and Wes just shot.

With no pressure to act like a sophisticated model, I simply let my randomness take me from Jesus to the duck pond and back again. By the time we'd walked down from the Mother House to The Link, I decided the best place for photos would be on the Library roof. Being a completely naive (and well let's say it... stupid) first year student and not knowing the rules or seeing any obvious signs... I conquered that my plan was fool proof. Wes agreed it would make a nice shot so I summoned my courage and climbed out onto a ledge draping my feet toward the tiny people below. I was oblivious to what people were thinking seeing a girl with matching hair and wings sitting on the very edge of the roof, so being the big geek that I am I waved to them all and blew kisses shouting "hello!"

I'd just gotten down next to Wes when I heard the screech of tires and spotted a car

with the word "Security" written across it in big bold letters. A security guard dashed out of the car and came ripping toward me with a distressed look. When he finally stood face to face with us a look of relief washed over him. He spotted the camera around Wes's neck and I could tell he was working it all out in his head. He was very polite all things considered! I'd even say charming. After looking me over I could tell he was trying to hold back relieved laughter. He explained to me that I shouldn't be on the roof and many obvious reasons why not that I simply hadn't thought of. He said we could still take photos but asked us to please take them some place else. After a few moments he scratched his head and wrote down my name and student number. He left as I turned to Wes... waiting for him to get into the car so I could burst into hyper-active giggles. Even Wes had a chuckle.

We continued on our way. Now getting stranger looks from passerbies, but I didn't care. I had so much fun that day; we went through 4 rolls of film in about 4 hours. It was defiantly an interesting, memorable experience.

Photos from the shoot can be found at: www.gremlindesign.deviantart.com

"If Your Vagina got Dressed, What Would it Wear?" by Andrea Newell

Out from behind closed doors they came, women from all walks of life, to share stories about their best kept secret – their vaginas. For the first time, students from Mount Saint Vincent University proudly took to the stage and refused to be hushed.

Signature events to mark V-Day take place from February 1 to March 8 internationally to heighten awareness of women's issues, fight violence against women and fundraise for local charities. As part of this initiative, women at MSVU took part in the V-Day College Campaign by presenting Eve Ensler's play "The Vagina Monologues," on February 12 and 13.

Kathryn Lear and Mary Rachelle Cherpak, both second year students, decided it was time for the Mount to take off the cloth after reading the play in a Women's Studies course.

"I had seen the play before and loved it!" says Kathryn Lear. "Mary Rachelle and I were excited by testimonials in the book about participating in the College Campaign, so we teamed up to bring the show to the Mount."

The duo embraced support from the Women's Studies Society, the Student's Union and the local community and started rehearsing in November. The cast of 17 women from a variety of backgrounds, expe-

riences and ages, and several volunteers and actors now form the new MSVU Performing Arts Society.

The provocative, yet librating, play was impressively preformed by the cast of young women. As Kathryn Lear suggested ahead of time, "The play is surprising in places and some people will be taken off guard by the subject matter."

Highlights included an interpretive dance, and a video of Mount women talking about their favourite topic – their vaginas! Anneke Vink is also to be commended for her version of 'The Woman who Loved to Make Vagina's Happy' monologue, that left the crowd in stitches of uncomfortable laughter.

"There's such a large female population at the mount; it's surprising the show has never been done here before," says Mary Rachelle Cherpak. "Some people did not know what to expect when they came to see the show, but regardless of age or gender, no one left without being affected in some way."

In reflecting on the success of the play, Jenn Gillespie, stage manager and co-producer, said, "the entire experience was a roller coaster, with the best kind of finish – success for our cause."

With a packed house both nights and tickets selling at \$10 per person, and a profit of over \$2000, the girls are a happy group of

vaginas as they donate 90% of ticket sales to Bryony House, and the other 10% to Iraqi women. As with other non-profit organizations, women's services in Halifax have been feeling the pinch from donations being redirected to tsunami relief efforts and are therefore relying greatly on proceeds from V-Day to meet budgetary demands.

To learn more about V-Day and the many events that are taking place, log on to www.vday.org.



Student Hawk: Thoughts and Insights

From the Minds of Students

Several Weeks Back...

by Chris Langille

Every analysis of Iraq, whether literate or illiterate, invariably begins by speaking of a polyglot nation, a land divided among Shi'ites, Sunnis, and Kurds (and Turkomen, and Assyrians, and Chaldeans, and so on). This is somewhat misleading, of course, though not without some use. The recent Iraqi elections, its results now certified, conform rather comfortably to such a superficial analysis; and these results, entirely predictable, are not wholly encouraging.

The 275 seats of Iraq's national assembly, the product of this election, have been distributed as such: 140 seats to the Shi'ite United Iraqi Coalition/Alliance, 75 seats to the Kurdish alliance, 40 seats to Iyad Allawi's Iraqi Ticket, and a scattering of seats for miscellaneous unaffiliated parties. The UIC, with its narrow but successful majority, will undoubtedly guarantee the certification of Ibrahim al-Jaafari, leader of the Islamic Hizb-Da'wa, as Prime Minister (the maneuvering of the tainted Ahmed Chalabi, notwithstanding); while the more ceremonial position of President, in turn, seems prepared for Jalal Talabani, leader of Patriotic Union of Kurdistan.

These results, spoils for the victors, petty they might be, do however expose the complete collapse of the former Sunni power-base. While many celebrate the near 60% turnout rate across Iraq, and a

turnout rate of 70-80% in some provinces, one tiptoes around mention of the Sunni turnout. For the Sunni Iraqi minority, from whom the former Ba'ath drew their elites, this election was either impossible or farcical. One goes no further than al-Anbar, largest province of Iraq, and home to Fallujah and Ramadi, to crudely illustrate this point: an electoral turnout of no more than two percent, a horrible illustration of Sunni alienation (to say nothing of the persistent violence, American and anti-American, that has plagued the region). It is this Sunni rejectionism, its provinces being the epicenter of the resistance/insurgency/terror (whatever your preferred nomenclature), that some nervously divine civil war as being "incipient."

The complete collapse of the American project and a collapse of Iraq into oblivion, is been considered, and being prepared for, by regional powers. Israel, if journalist Seymour Hersh is to be believed, had resigned itself to American failure as early as last Summer, and as such, has begun arming and training Kurdish *Peshmerga* forces as a buffer against any Iranian-backed Shi'ite militias. King of Abdullah of Jordan, mimicking Israeli fears in different form, blathers of an Iranian-backed "Shi'a crescent" extending outward from Persia into the Arab peninsula (no doubt agitating the repressed Shi'a minorities of Saudi Arabia and the

repressed Shi'a majority of Bahrain). And finally, Turkey sweats over the Kurdish repatriation of "Iraqi" Kirkuk (oil rich and historically Kurdish, though artificially Arabized over the last half century), reminding the world that any move towards Kurdish independence (that which would encourage its own Kurdish minority) would demand intervention. All of this is pretty gloomy material, no?

It is dreary, of course, and a dreariness punctuated by the second anti-Shi'a act of terror this week, as a suicide-murder attack on a Baghdad Shi'ite mosque kills 20 (so far). This killing, a blood-and-gristle disruption to the Shi'ite passion play of Ashura, presumably the handiwork of Zarqawi's *Tawheed Islamic Movement*, reminds of the similarly inspired Ashura massacre of 2003, where car-bombings killed up to 300 Shi'ite worshipers.

In any event, all this may be hysterical, innuendo of the most pessimistic sort. Perhaps Iraq, with its partly successful election and a constitution in draft, can emerge as a stable (il)liberal democracy, validating the entire process and justifying lives lost. This would be a most fortunate outcome, of course, and one that would make any cynic happy to have been in the wrong. Pray for the fantastic then, it is far gentler than the probable.

Girl Fight

by Lauren Wilson

What causes female on female hate? Can it be explained through Evolutionary Psychology? Is it actually an adaptive mechanism imperative to women's survival and reproductive success?

I'd like to address these issues because of the prevalence of cliques, gossip and back-stabbing among women. Maybe I'm hanging around the wrong crowd... but maybe these phenomena are inescapable when dealing with the female sex.

I grew up with two brothers and not many friends from my peer group.

When my circle of friends grew larger, it was mainly comprised of males. I received flak from girls who thought I was trying to put the moves on their boyfriends, but my relationships with these guys were purely platonic. I attribute this to my experience dealing with boys (my brothers) growing up. I have more recently acquired a group of female friends. I enjoy this, as it brings

Campus Events

New Grant at MSVU by Scott MacDonald

MSVU has received, along with various other universities, a grant from Human Resources and Development of the Federal Government for a Student Mobility Program.

6 universities (MSVU and York University of Canada; the University of Cincinnati and the University of Arizona of the United States; and Universidad de las Americas and Institution El Colegio de la Frontera Norte of Mexico) will be sending students to a different country than their own to study fields such as Women's Human Rights, and Citizenship and Identity.

Dr. Katherine Side was kind enough to speak with me to get some details about this great opportunity to study abroad (of course, students interested should definitely consult with Dr. Side). Dr. Side informed me that the process had been going on for a year before the grant was actually given to the Mount. Once this was finalized, there were 3 meetings between representatives of the 6 schools.

The grant allows a third or fourth year student to study abroad for one semester; also, the grant is for 5 years, so this isn't a chance limited to only current students. Students will apply in March and

April to study in September. The grant will help pay travel expenses and will also help with finding housing for the students. Students must be under the age of 30, since the Youth Employment Strategy is involved with the grant. There will also be a minimum GPA along with an application and interview process.

This is a great opportunity for students to travel, transfer credits, and of course, learn in a different and exciting atmosphere. For more information, contact Dr. Katherine Side.



"I Never Got To Say Good-bye" by Scott MacDonald

During Sexual Awareness Week here at Mount Saint Vincent, The Names Project came to the Multi Purpose Room in the Rosaria Centre for the second visit with the AIDS Quilt. I had a chance to speak with Michael Gillis, of the Mount Pride Society which hosts the AIDS Quilt, to ask him a few questions.

SMD: What kinds of feedback to you get people who view the quilts?

MG: I've been getting comments on how it's a beautiful display; one person became quite emotional. People have mostly been expressing very emotional sentiments. When they look at the names of Nova Scotians, it really brings it home to people. They see how AIDS is affecting the community. It also gives those that have passed a voice.

(Continued from previous page..)about more novel experiences.

However, there is something that goes on among females which is less than pleasant that is not a common occurrence among my male friends. A woman can look you in the face, smile in a friendly manner and talk to you quite kindly. She can then take few steps in the opposite direction and drag your name through the mud. It's sickening, but true. I myself cannot claim to be innocent of this transgression, but perhaps in questioning the basis for this offensive behaviour I can limit my own wrongdoing.

One possible explanation for the

SMD: How do you feel the quilt affects yourself and the students of Mount Saint Vincent University?

MG: I think in the same way that Sexuality Awareness Week does; it lets us hear stories of people who have died of AIDS. It lets us see AIDS as something that affects our homes. It's also a great celebration of the lives of the people who have died of AIDS.

While looking at one quilt, MSVU student Becca Green commented:

"There's a problem with how we communicate...It's not like it's their fault; people get stigmatized for their actions. We can't do that anymore....Some of these years are so short".

It's easy to see why people would feel very emotional looking at the quilts. The emotions that the pictures and messages from loved ones convey are undeniable. While perusing the quilts, I felt that

occurrence of this conduct is the idea that in being two-faced and manipulative women are able to create an advantage for themselves. It could be a means of defending one's territory and potential resources, i.e. men, a trait passed down through generations of women who successfully passed on their genes. In spite of this hypothesis, it is actually females who are the more sought after sex. Hence, female viciousness cannot easily be explained away as an adaptation to the environment. In fact, this type of behaviour is maladaptive to female survival. Being sneaky and underhanded causes weak ties among females and increases

the more direct the quote, deeper my heart would sink. Some of the messages are as simple as "We'll love you forever" of "My beloved Jerry". The message that made me stop and whipped a few tears from my eyes was "Why?".

As Michael said, the Names Project is about celebrating the lives of these people. So many of them were very young when they passed away; but it's vital to carry their memories with you as you leave the exhibit. Keeping their memory alive with love and hope is one of the greatest feelings I, and probably many others, can ever experience.

the possibility of acquiring enemies.

If females continue to refer to one another as bitches, sluts, and whores, then it only encourages the same kind of contempt from males. The Women's Liberation Movement took place over one hundred and fifty years ago, but it is women who are perpetuating a shameful disrespect towards the entire sex in the form of malicious spite.

Sports

Evaluating the Vince Carter Deal by Nick Longaphy

It has only been a few weeks since Vince Carter was shipped off to the New Jersey Nets in exchange for SF Eric Williams, PF Aaron Williams, C Alonzo Mourning, and two First-round Draft Picks (2005 and 2006). Normally trades take several months or even a few seasons to declare a winner or loser, this case is no exception. However one cannot help but wonder what positive effect this trade was designed to have on the current Raptor season.

When the Raptors four-time all-star selection Vince Carter demanded a trade before the beginning of this season, the teams GM Babcock was put in a precarious position. With local support for Carter weaning it was no mystery that the beleaguered Raptor wanted out of town. Under this kind of scrutiny, Carter was not performing up to his ability and the whole team seemed to be under a hanging cloud of mounting losses and trade rumors.

GM's around the league were salivating at the idea of Air Canada in their team's uniform, but not just because of the possibility that he might revert to his form of 3 years ago when he was undeniably one of the leagues best players. The pressure on Babcock to deal Carter for immediate help was coming Raptors fans that wanted the losing to stop. However, criticism of Babcock was not only coming from Torontonians. The national media was taking aim at the Raptors GM for waiting for the right deal to come along. The rumors

continued to mount, but more alarmingly so did the Raptors losses. Portland, New York, and Atlanta were all offering up packages for Carter and the voices calling for a trade became increasingly louder.

Amidst all this chaos, Babcock remained silent, refusing to make a deal for the sake of change. Finally the deal with New Jersey came and now, almost a full two months later we can see that the return was not as great as it could have been for Toronto. The players brought in from the NETS have not improved the team, except possibly financially, and Toronto has lost a chance to contend for a title in the weak Atlantic Division.



Alonzo Mourning will never suit up for the Raptors after negotiating a release settlement. Aaron Williams has decent defensive skills but is, to say the least, an offensive liability who averages around five minutes when he makes it off the bench. While Eric Williams, the type of hardnosed player that every team needs, cannot find his way on to the floor. This is such a surprise to a player who was the centerpiece of the deal for Toronto, that Eric recently issued a play-me-or-trade-me

ultimatum to management.

Now, lets look at the intangibles of this deal. The Raptors have saved almost four million dollars in salary, and acquired two first round picks. It is more likely that a large portion of this extra money will be spent on the draft pick acquired from the Nets in this year's entry draft. The problem here is that the unknown part of this deal keeps getting worse for the Raptors, with Vince Carter reverting to superstar form the Nets have been improving their standings while worsening the draft choice Toronto will receive. And even if the pick is top ten, who knows how that will work out. Kwame Brown was a high pick, as was Jonathan Bender, and each is so injury prone they are more likely to sign endorsement deals with Blue Cross than Adidas or Reebok. Who's to say the Raptors get anyone better than the discontented players already warming their bench?

In the end, this deal will be judged as most trades often are; who got the better deal in the long-term, the Nets or the Raptors? At least from Toronto's end the true value in this trade lies in the future, with two first-round picks and the four million dollars in salary to sign them. But in a division that has no team with a winning record the Raptors have passed up a chance to make an immediate splash in the playoffs by receiving two bench players for the reigning Eastern Conference player of the month.

Nick Longaphy

April 1st is the
Mr.Mount
Contest! \$200
For First Place!



March 17th is St.
Patrick's Day Pub!
Check out more details at
Vinnie's!