

The Picaro

Mount Saint Vincent University

Mid-February 1994

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Spring Elections

**SU Axes
Office Manager**

*A "Philosophical"
Protest*



S.U. Terminates "Most Valuable Asset"

by Monique Doucette

With only days to go before spring elections, Student Union has terminated the position of their office manager of five years, angering several councillors, and throwing the office into chaos.

Busy councillors took turns answering phones Friday after Jean Knippers was notified Thursday afternoon her position had been eliminated.

Knippers, who has never

had a complaint about her performance in her five years with student union, was extremely upset by the decision to terminate her job.

"There is no reason, no reason in my mind," she said. "That is why it is so unfair."

The student council executive maintains that this decision was made solely due to the "precarious financial situation" SU currently finds itself in not with Knippers performance as an employee.

Knippers, whose main responsibility is the administration of the health plan, said SU caused that financial trouble themselves--she did everything she could to keep spending down.

"I really liked my job," said Knippers. "I really enjoyed working with the students. It's too bad it had to end. It really broke my heart."

The decision was made Wednesday, the same day presidential candidate Sonia Baillon stated at an open forum she

would terminate Knipper's position, as well as that of the General Manager, Scott MacKay, if need be, in order to save money.

Board of Governor's Rep Todd Jackson is one councillor upset with the executive's decision. He said it isn't right to get rid of someone with that much experience -- especially in a financial crunch.

"She has a lot of years of experience. More than any of the executive," said Jackson.

"A couple of years ago, she saved us from a bogus health plan -- something a receptionist couldn't do."

"I realize this year's executive is only doing what they think is right, the best way they know how," said Jackson. "But I don't agree with what they think is right."

Human Ecology Rep, Lori-Anne Jones was distressed with the decision because the rest of council was not consulted, although it is technically an ex-

con't on page #7

"Morris Muses" his way into controversy

by Monique Doucette

It's been a rough week for the Nexus.

First, the column Morris Muses caused such a stir that several outraged students were prompted to write letters of protest when columnist Jeff Morris used a pejorative term for female genitals to describe his column readers.

Then, the weekend with the withdrawal of the J-Man column and the resignation of the editor Ian Cowan. The future of the paper now hangs in limbo.

The column has long been a centre of controversy in the Nexus. Each issue, Morris' character "J-Man" heaps verbal abuse on his readers -- but this time many students feel its gone too far.

"I don't think that 'piss-flap' is profane," said Morris of the term that caused the stir in his column. "I think it's a colloquialism, that albeit may be construed as a derogatory description of female genitalia, however, I don't think it is used in the same context."

Morris claims the inten-

tion of the J-Man column was to break what he calls the lethargy he feels is rampant among Mount Saint Vincent Students.

"I thought by a little bit of humor, a little bit of shock value, if you will, a little bit of fun, a little bit of poking and sarcasm I could bring about an enthusiastic response from the students at the school."

There has been any-thing but enthusiastic. The response has been one of outrage.

Lori-Anne Jones, a member of the Advisory Committee for the Status of Women, and the Sexual Harassment Committee was one of the first to write in response to the J-Man column.

"He's using the argument the school's so pathetic, they've never written in positively, they've never reacted before what's the point," said Jones. "Well, he's pushed us and now we're reacting."

Ex-editor Cowan said the column was printed because people liked it and it speaks to a certain population of students.

"Just like Black History Month, Pink Triangle Day and Women's Week of Reflection

speak to a population of students," he said, "So does the J-Man's column."

Cowan maintains the purpose of the column was to "get people thinking, rile them up a bit, but never get them angry."

Student Elizabeth Smith thinks there are more productive ways of shaking people up than to outright offend them.

"I think in an effort to shake things up, the Nexus may have sealed its own fate," said Smith. "Yes, they did want to shake things up, but they might have shaken themselves out of a newspaper."

Smith, who also wrote a letter of protest, finds it encouraging that the column was pulled, but feels it is too little too late. She's disappointed the column wasn't pulled because it was wrong, but because they got caught.

Morris maintains that the character he creates in Morris Muses is just that -- a character. Both Morris and Cowan compare the character to the Nick Zinck column which appears in The Daily News.

Smith draws a distinction, though. Unlike Zinck, Morris

does not use a pseudonym, but is named in the masthead of the paper as Jeff "J-Man" Morris.

"He makes no attempt to conceal his identity, therefore I assume and I think correctly, that it is his feelings. And I don't care if its Jeff Morris or Santa Clause -- he can use any name he wants. It doesn't give him a license to offend."

Morris feels the issue has come to the forefront because of the "hyper-sensitivity to the needs and advancement of women," at Mount Saint Vincent University.

Yet he insists he is "acutely" aware of the Mount's

mission statement and is distressed because he has been labelled as a promoter of hatred against women.

"Not only am I a supporter of the advancement of women, but I am a lover of women," said Morris. "I love women. I want women to be my peers, my equals in all respects."

However, Jones asserts that Morris is not as sensitive as he claims.

"From what I have seen, from the exposure I have had to him so far, he is an arrogant,

egotistical, shallow man," said Jones. "He creates these situations himself. He thinks he's being antagonistic and clever? He's being stupid, rude and mean."

"There is a line where you stop being clever and just start being mean," she added. "He's crossed it."

Cowan said the response to the J-Man column has made him disillusioned with the student body. "I thought there was a higher calibre of students out there," he said.

"If you're that afraid of the use of a term in university, what do you expect when you

get out into the real world?" asked Cowan. "They don't give you a helmet when you graduate."

Morris acknowledged he has gained a "dubious notoriety" as a result of his column, however, he has little regret.

"I regret if I truly, personally offended anyone," says Morris. "But I do not regret throwing a shock through the school. I think it needed something like that."

Student Union Launches "Philosophical Protest"

by Alana Weins

Student Union's petition regarding privatization of student loans, signed by over 650 students, was a philosophical protest according to the External Vice-President.

"The petition was started 'before all of the facts were known,'" said Jeff Benson, the external vice-president.

"It is more of a philosophical protest to tell them how we basically feel."

Posted in the Cornerstore, MANUS lounge, residences and Student Union office as well as 270 copies being mailed to professors, the petition protested the credit checks and the privatization of the loans. There was also a form letter produced that

students could sign an return to the Minister of Education, John MacEachern.

The protest began with a concerned student, who had read an article in a local newspaper about the credit checks, sending a letter to Student Union.

Though Benson had discussed the possibility of privatization at a SUNS conference, he was unaware that the changes had been made.

"I as given the feeling that this was pushed through," said Benson.

Both the letter and petition were highly critical of the government's policy and targeted the credit checks and the privatization of the student loan

system.

"We are greatly disappointed in the Nova Scotia Liberal government in their blatant disregard for the financial needs and concerns of post-secondary students," stated the petition.

The credit checks referred to in the petition are done on all students aged 22 and older applying for student loans.

The petition states, "The bank, CIBC, should not be permitted to refuse student loans based on past credit history, regardless of age."

In the form letter Benson elaborates that many students "by the simple nature of being students fall into the pitfall of missing a payment or two."

"A person who is 22 and older has had the ability to go out and get loans and credit cards," said CIBC National Director of Student Loans Sandra Ferguson. "They have had the ability to abuse the credit system."

According to Ms. Ferguson, only those students with a history of credit abuse, including bankruptcy, bills going to a collection agency or three or more missed payments, would be refused.

After speaking to government officials on February 4, Benson now agrees with the credit checks.

"I feel much more comfortable with what I know now," said Benson.

Benson went on to say that "there's no reason for the government to support people who abuse the system."

The problem that Benson now has is that once students have their loan applications rejected by the bank there is no appeal process. He just wants to "get the bugs out".

Said Benson, "We need an appeal process at the bank, that's where the problem is going to arise."

For this term the Minister of Education has made up the difference of those students whose loans were rejected by CIBC because of credit checks.

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A Word or Two

Well, things can certainly change in the newspaper biz, can't they? Not so long ago, an editor-of-another-newspaper-which-shall-remain-nameless was telling us all that his critics didn't count for s***. Now, he's resigned, along with a similarly-nameless-(and, it would appear, senseless)-columnist who suggested Mount women date him if they "crave abuse." Guess they've turned in their "Junior Journalist starter kits", huh?

We think the housecleaning at Nexus is a good start. Of course, we — and you, too — would be a lot better off if instead of cleaning the house, our student government would take the wrecking ball to it; but I don't see that happening while Council continues to be populated by the cliquish, mewling boys-and-girls club that is responsible for spending close to a million of your dollars.

This has not been the most wondrous of academic years for us. We have spent

our time trying to publish with no equipment, no money, and no honoraria. We've also had to keep our spirits up in the face of indifference and outright hostility from your student government, and watch themselves bend over backwards to find ways of avoiding resolution on the issue. Not surprisingly, this has taken its toll on all of us, academically and personally.

And this whole sorry affair has damaged the Mount's public image. Well over 20 stories have run in the media about the Picaro-Nexus affair, from MITV to Frank.

The one thing that we can say for ourselves is this: we have not changed the principles on which we began this fight. We believe that student governments should not tell student newspapers who to hire or what to print. We believe that governments shouldn't negotiate in bad faith, and that they shouldn't start up 'independent' newspapers to which they are the chief contributors.

And you have supported us. It was refreshing to see that

not one entry was sent in to the Name-the-Nexus contest; it was amusing to see space being filled issue after issue with press releases from the university, the federal government, and with propaganda from Student Union's fourth-floor Minitrue (1984; you could look it up). It was inspiring to see nearly 400 people tell the government they wanted their say on this issue; it was infuriating when the government decided 'they weren't informed enough on the issues.' (Of course, the 400 people who voted in October were much better informed).

As I write this editorial, my friend and co-editor is running for president of your government. I personally wish him luck.

What I do know is this: whoever gets in needs to clean up that government. The disturbing revelations of December added to the ring business added to persistent questions about SU legal fees equals one bloody mess.

It is our suggestion that the new council undertake a complete review of the Union's policies; procedures, and bylaws over the summer, with the goal of reducing the ease with which

money can be spent and increasing the ability of students to oversee their government's financial affairs. Aside from some easy answers, like dual or even triple signing authority on cheques, publication of monthly income and expense statements, and more convenient council meetings, I don't have solutions. But then again, I'm not running for anything.

I'm not sure when another Picaro will come out. The quick answer is "when we can get it together and pay the bill." If that turns out to be next year, good luck to all and congratulations to our new grads.

PS. We have heard that questions are being asked about our wildly-successful bake sale in December. Just to get everything out in the open: we made a bit over \$200 from the sale. That money was deposited in the Picaro's bank account. Over half of it helped to pay off our last printing bill; the other hundred is paying this one. Thanks to all who bought and supported us.

Why a Black History Month?

by Todd Jackson

Why is there a Black History Month for black people in Nova Scotia? After all the goal of our society is that all people are treated equally and fairly, right? We don't have a White History Month do we? The next thing that you know we will have International Year for Indigenous People, Pink Triangle Day and who knows what else. When will all of these special interest groups stop clamouring for these days and weeks and accept the fact that we are all Canadians?

Well the simple fact is that we, meaning special interest groups will stop pushing for

events that help us to remember where we came from and who we are when the contributions that we make to society are fully recognized. This society is not perfect and no matter how sweet the dream of total equality sounds I do not believe that we are all treated like Canadians should be. We take these times to remember and reflect because we are excluded from the "mainstream" of society. No, I am not just another minority member crying about rights. I realize that black people and other minorities have come a long, long way, but as Dr. King Jr. said we still have a long, long way to go.

People from the Sikh com-

munity can serve on the battlefields but they can't eat in the legions? Asian people can try to help the economy by investing but then that would mean they are trying to "take over" right? Women do just as much work as men but they really should not make as much money? White men who are lower income, blue collar workers (yes, I didn't forget you) are not supposed to get government jobs because they are not minority members, right?

Instead of banding together and trying to solve our problems we spend too much time fighting among ourselves. Instead of trying to include more

people we exclude everybody that is trying to take "our jobs" or is different from us in any way. We can't rely on our politicians to come up with a good solution can we? I wouldn't trust a certain premier with a United Way collection box. Black people said, "Hey! We are tired of discrimination!"

I won't pretend to have all of the answers or that I'm super smart but I do know that if you discriminate against someone because of their skin colour, sexual orientation, gender, religion or something that is not about to change, you make an enemy for life. I can't just stop being a black man.

Politics and other vices

In which the people who you get to choose from to be your benign dictators for the next year tell you which one you should choose. Bite the bullet and vote.



Sonia Bailon
President

If someone had told me during my first semester of university that I would be running for President of the Student Union, I probably would have quoted a line from Jim Morrison, laughed in an evil tone and walked away. I'm no longer interested in walking away.

By the end of my first year, I decided to see what made this place tick – so I ran for Public Relations Rep. (using Jim Morrison as a catalyst for my campaign). Surprisingly enough Student Council was something that I liked – but I needed a greater challenge, and more involvement in my new interest. So with a little help from Leonardo DaVinci, I

became Internal Vice-President. That's where you find me now. Now – as elections roll around again I find myself campaigning for the position of President – the ultimate challenge.

We have seen a year of fluctuation. We've been tagged as being "financially challenged," but I do not look upon the Union, our student body, as a hopeless entity by any means. In fact, our difficulties have given the place a whole new dynamic. Just look at how many people have offered their candidacy in this election. Apathetic – I think not.

This year has been a big learning year for me, without which I would not even consider taking on the job of Student Union President.

I'm not a very average person. I've been told on a number of occasions that I am "unique." I like that. I always try to approach situations in an innovative manner. I believe that creativity, perspective, and action are the launching pads to success.

Success, however, for us as students can only be achieved by taking on the major student issues. For too long now, this student union has been looking inward at the messy details. It's time to look outward. We

need to be dealing more intimately with issues like tuition, student loans, and rationalization. As Internal Vice-President I have seen the inner workings of the university community, and can also see that we need to place an internal emphasis on finances, student services, entertainment, and student accessibility to both services and buildings. But foremost, we need to focus on the big picture rather than look so deeply inward that we forget there is an outside world.

Although the student union has some serious issues to deal with through the course of a year, I believe that with the right approach politics can be fun. Without some fun what happens to school spirit and to the approachability of our elected representatives? Really, communication is the key to any good relationship and that's something we need to work at. I've got a lot of good ideas and enough vision to see them through. I'd like to do more than just communicate my thoughts to you – I'd like to make things happen. I hope you will give me the chance to do this.

So on the 15th and 16th I urge you to vote, and I also urge you to consider what you are voting for.



Trendal Bolivar
F/T B.O.G. rep.

I'm a fourth year Tourism and Hospitality Management student, currently holding the Student Union position of Full-Time Senate Rep. I am seeking your support for Full-Time Board of Governors Rep. Why? for two reasons: to further our education of the workings of the university and to voice our views and interests as a student body.

I feel confident that I have a good understanding of what has been going on here at the Mount. This is a result of my involvement in a variety of committees and elected positions; President of

BTHM society, two terms as BTHM Rep., one term as Senate Rep., Planning and Hiring committee, External Affairs Committee on Student council, University Presidential Committee on Access, Co-Chair of Mount Aids committee, CHOICE Committee, SUNS University Campus Assessment committee. I hold and have held various Executive Board positions in non-academic areas, in both profit and non-profit organizations, such as Treasurer of SAANS...enough of my resume.

I like getting involved to better understand and utilize the resources available allowing me to achieve my objectives. As a member of the Board of Governors my objective is to provide the student body with a better understanding of what is going on so that your concerns are voiced and addressed.

This is accomplished due to my open door policy, even though my door is a mailbox in S.U., your direct feedback is essential and greatly appreciated. I look forward to your support.



Joe Strolz
President

Accountability, accessibility and financial responsibility – these are traits that define a student union that serves the students. Sadly, our present council has none of these.

Our student council is accountable to no one – not even themselves. For example, they have *three* separate constitutions, all of which have been used at one time throughout the year for the

sake of damage control. A constitution should protect the *students*, not the Council Executive.

Let's talk accessibility. Sure those Sunday afternoon council meetings are fun (and seeing as no students are around, also convenient), but if elected I plan to change that – more open forums – more open discussions – more accessible meeting hours and places – 'nuff said.

As for financial responsibility.... Student Union has a multi-thousand dollar debt carried over from five years ago and they only found out about it this Christmas? Give me a break. It's either one of two things: they *really* are that dumb, or they think you are.

Show them you're smarter than they think. On February 15 and 16, send council one message they can't ignore...Vote JOE STROLZ for President.



Dawn Yochoff
External V-P

Although I was not directly related with this year's council, if elected I will bring a wealth of leadership experience to the Student Union. I am a first year student studying toward my BA. I have spent my year watching the politics of MSVU and believe they need a fresh face

with new ideas and opinions.

I feel I am the person to do this. During my high school years I was active in our students' council. In my grade 12 year I was elected vice-president and handled much of the work I would handle as External V.P.

When I was on this executive council I also attended the annual National Leadership Conference in Brandon, Manitoba. The knowledge I acquired there is still with me today.

Throughout that year, I learned the importance of communication between school on the municipal, provincial and federal levels. This is the job of External V.P. to communicate with other post-secondary institutions and inform the students at MSVU of any problems or situations that arise.

If elected there are many things I would fight toward on behalf of MSVU. The most current issue is the privatization of student

loans. I am a firm believer education is a right, not a privilege. With the privatization of the loans many students may not have the chance to obtain higher education. Possibly because they missed a payment of their telephone bill. This is not acceptable. As your external V.P. I will fight, not to stop privatization, that is now a fact, but fight for amendments to the agreement between CIIBC and our provincial government. I will fight for fewer restrictions on qualifications for receiving loans.

Over the course of the year many more issues will arise. I will meet the problems head-on. I will listen to your views and opinions and take them very seriously. I have an open mind and my time is your time. Any issue important to you is important to me. Together we can strive for a better MSVU.

It's the Dawn of a New Year!

Tara Duffy Ombudsperson

As a first-year student at the Mount, I am quite involved with your opinions of the school and what changes must be done to improve our great university! And this is why I am running for ombudsperson! My name is Tara Duffy and my promise to you is to dedicate my time & knowledge to this position.

I have been involved in many committees and societies in high school and loved every minute of it. I would like to extend this involvement to MSVU. So don't forget, VOTE FOR ME!!



Angela Hill
Internal V-P

"Student Union needs new ideas, creativity and imagination."

As Internal Vice-President one of my chief duties will be communicating with societies. I'll be in a position to help societies come up with new and creative ways to recruit members and get people involved. The Internal Vice-President's responsibilities also include fund raising and organizing charity events for the SU. With my active imagination I'll create new events and activities to try. My experience on the Tourism and Hospitality Management Society Executive has given me lots of ideas and ample opportunity to test out new and innovative approaches to otherwise ordinary events. As Internal Vice-President I'll put these ideas to work for you.



Todd Jackson
External V.P.

I do not think it is the job of a politician at any level to tell you what you want. You know what you want. You should be able to tell your student council what you want and their job should be to get it for you in the best way that they can. Too often candidates do not know the difference or are just full of promised. Talk without action is just talk. Vote for someone who will listen and is not afraid to "rock the boat". Vote Todd Jackson for External V-P.



Sherry Pendlebury
Internal V-P

I want to use my business experience, organizational skills and experience as Arts Representative to improve inter-school communication and fundraising. My other goals include working with all the societies and organizations to help raise funds, organize events and advertise these events. I will work to improve the communication between Student Union and the students and improve the availability of financial reports, monthly reports and minutes from all council meetings to the students.

I am available to answer questions or take suggestions. I want to hear your opinions and ideas so that I can represent you as the students to the best of my ability.

I would like to strongly encourage everyone to come out and vote on February 15 and 16. I am looking forward to meeting you!



Lori-Anne Jones
Academic V-P

After spending a year on council as the representative for the Human Ecology students of the Mount, I feel I have gained enough experience through my participation on various committees and through the organization of a number of fundraising events, that I am ready and willing to move into an executive position.

As a non-traditional student, returning to university after a six year absence I realize the crucial importance of perusing an education in the hope of securing one's future financial status. In those six years I seemed to have more jobs than fingers. Not because of any difficulties, but the name of the nineties game is flexibility and that's what I was. I

managed restaurants, organizing functions for over 250 people, including the actual cooking of the meal. I've taken care of people's children and mixed drinks, in costume, while giving a whale-watching tour. I think through these positions I've acquired enough character to last me a lifetime. The one constant that followed me through all the jobs was professionalism. The honest work ethic, diplomacy (how to get 125 bikers to unhandcuff my staff from a stair case without making them angry), tolerance, tact, and patience, patience, and more patience. I know how hard it is to be a student and how frustrating it can be at times when you need something and everyone seems to be sending you down the party line to the next department.

As the Academic V.P., if you elect me, it is your option to approach me and let me find the answers for you. As your representative, I will serve as a liaison between you and the administration. I am dedicated to keeping these channels of communication open and operating positively. I feel very confident about my ability to accomplish this task. If I can navigate the subways of Paris, I most certainly can find my way among the committees, sub-committees and administrative depart-

ments of the University.

I like the Mount very much and think it has a great deal to offer, from both an academic perspective as well as from a professional level.

Within the student council itself, I would like to see a number of things happen over the next year, whether I get into office or not. It is imperative to restructure and outline, in obsessive detail, the responsibilities of everyone on the team, including the support staff. There must be a check and balance system established that promotes accountability. Yes, lots of rotten things have happened in the past, and as horrible as some of them were, the future council must be dedicated to establishing a set of guidelines that ensure such liberties will not be taken again. I think this can be established through redesigning the constitution and creating a set of by-laws, without loopholes, that are based on sound business ethics.

To leave you with some thoughtful words that have always inspired me, "study hard, think quietly, talk gently, and act frankly." This phrase, for me, embodies the university experience. Please take time to vote, be concerned, after all it's you we want to represent.



Kofo Gill
Board of Governors

Educational Background

- Science major
- Speaks French and English
- University Positions
- Vice-President Business Society
- Acting Chair, Association of Collegiate Entrepreneurs
- Member of the Science Club

• Active member of the Christian Fellowship Group
Statement

I have been involved in student affairs activities during my course of full-time study at the Mount. I would like to continue to be involved, but in a more meaningful way on the Mount Saint Vincent University Board of Governors as your student representative, raising your perspective in all transaction as the Mount steers its course through these uncertain financial times.

As a student, I am aware of not only the good education I am receiving in this small and caring environment, but of the services, and opportunities for growth and involvement in a number of activities, that are contributing to my

rounded academic development. These provisions are taking place in a situation that is financially challenging. The headlines of the article in the February 4th edition of *The Mail-Star* on the financial outlook for universities confirm this challenging state of financial affairs. As a result, students need an alert and responsive representative who can bring their perspective and input to the Board when financial issues arise and plans are made.

My commitment to the values of a good education, and ability to get things done and come up with innovative ideas will serve all students well if you elect me to serve on the Board. I urge you to support me with your vote to represent full-time students during the next year on the Board of Governors.



Sheri Moore
Executive V-P

The executive Vice President has the unique opportunity to produce an environment conducive to innovation, responsibility, respectability and creativity.

It is important that the person in this position be accessible, approachable and enthusiastic. She/he must possess strong communication and managerial skills as well as being able to express students' views on various issues to administration. She/he must also be able to develop a strong team who is consistent and fair.

As a third year public relations student and a second year resident assistant (housing staff), I feel that I possess these qualities. I

have actively been involved in student issues since I came to the Mount.

I have many ideas about what I can do for you. I want students to be informed about the Student Union and issues that concern them. The onus is not on the students to get the information but on the council to supply the information to you. This will be my final year at the Mount and I want to make a difference. I have ideas that developed over my three years here and resemble your own. I am open to your input and want to work with you. Together, we can make a difference!

I want to make this council more responsible, accessible and accountable. Council can be an effective means of representation.

It is our responsibility to make the Mount a little better, a little brighter than when we arrived.

Good luck to all those who are running for positions.

Don't forget to vote. You really can make a difference. It's time to assemble a council that will make us all proud. This year our council can grow to its potential. We will all play a major role.



Rebecca Nelson
Executive V-P

Bringing my experience to a new Student's Council means recognizing, and drawing upon, the beneficial experiences I have encountered in my previous two years as an elected member of Council.

This past year has been a challenge for Student's Council. Fortunately this year's Council, as last year's Council was able to do, has not

contributed to the current Student Union deficit. In fact, significant plans have been designed to boost the Student Union's financial position in the upcoming (sic) year. To strengthen the Student's organization and the voice of their concerns.

Being an intricate part of these plans, and with new ideas of my own, I feel I am the best candidate to see these plans through as you (sic) Executive Vice-President on Student's Council. My detailed knowledge of Student Union activities, and present position, are crucial to the future success of the Student's Union at Mount Saint Vincent University.

My master plan includes; internal restructuring, increased accountability, capital funds (possibly a Student Union Alumni), improving present student services, and better communications between students and administrative deci-



Richard Smith
Academic Vice-President

The mandate of the Academic Vice-President is to "promote student participation in academic matters, act as a resource person, and ensure the academic welfare of the members of the union."

The role, then, is and should remain, primarily non-political. I don't want this position to change Student Union procedures. I want to ensure that you, as a student at this university, get a fair return on your investment.

If you have problems with a course, a professor, or University policy, come to me. If you need a resource or assistance and don't know where to get it, come to me. Even if you're just discouraged and need advice or someone to talk to, you can come to me.

sions made by the University regarding tuition, rationalization, and many other issues.

I intend to look out for your best interests as I have been for the past year as your Academic Vice-President. My experience with our university administration, my communication with students, and my rapport with people in general will help to provide a **United Union**, effectively bringing you the best representation possible.

Student Union is here to serve you. With your input, changes can be made to make your educational career more profitable and successful. Get everything you can out of Student Union.

Vote February 15th and 16th, vote for Rebecca Nelson as your next Executive Vice-President. My experience... Your voice... Our future.

Pink Triangle Day

by Rian Boutilier

During World War II, Hitler used symbols to identify people who he deemed were poisoning the perfect race. Jews were the most acknowledged victims, branded with the Star of David.

Hitler's hatred was also extended to gay men and women. Gay men were scarred with a pink triangle, gay women were scarred with a black triangle. The triangles were used to isolate gay people so that they may be tortured in the Nazi death camps.

Today, both triangles have been reclaimed by the gay community. Rather than remaining symbols of pain, they have become symbols of the pride gay men and women have in their efforts to

achieve complete social acceptance.

In the late 1980's, gay groups in the United States decided to pay tribute to the symbols with an international gay holiday. With St. Valentine's Day being a practical holiday for heterosexuals, February the 14th was chosen as the logical time to express gay love for self and symbols.

On February 14th, Pink Triangle Day, consider the following suggestions. Gay men and women, take a moment to reflect on the history of your symbols and the pride they have come to represent. Straight women and men, as you honour a day which has traditionally left your gay friends feeling isolated, join us as we celebrate our commitment to living and loving our lives.

con't from pg. #2
ecutive matter.

Thorpe stated it was "not at all" a matter to be discussed with council, regardless of the current financial situation. But, Jones was concerned about the ramifications this would have on the SU finances.

"One of the criteria that the council failed to mention in us being up and running according to the bank was that they couldn't hire or fire anyone during this period," said Jones. "Having done so, they've put us in financial jeopardy."

PR Rep Rian Boutilier described Knippers as the SU's "most valuable asset".

"I think it's more than just financial," he said. "The rumour and speculation -- it just abounds as to reasons why they would personally want her out of the way."

"I don't see how that executive can sit there and say that Jean's contribution to council as a consistent reliable link, five years of background education - how they can say that that's not valuable?" he asked.

Many councillors feel the

situation was handled the wrong way. For example, according to Knippers, the executive refused the release her unemployment papers until she signed a waiver releasing any claim arising from the termination of her employment. Knippers refused to sign.

Both Baillon and Thorpe deny this. Thorpe also stated this was "nobody else's business" and refused to comment further.

In addition, an executive council member refused to let her leave the office until she returned her keys, even though she was shaking so badly she couldn't remove the keys from her ring. Knippers describes the whole situation as "humiliating".

Knippers has the support of many councillors, who feel an element of continuity and stability has been robbed of SU.

Knippers is optimistic though. "If the lord takes me out of this situation," she said. "He's got something a lot better waiting for me."

Red Cross Blood Donor Clinic - Monday, February 14, MPR

MSVU Mystics Head Into Playoff Stretch Run

The fourth place Mystics Women's Basketball team is trying to make it to the provincial playoffs. Only the top four teams will proceed to the NSCAA Championships to be held March 5 and 6 at Nova Scotia Agricultural College in Truro.

"Right now we sit in fourth place with 8 wins and 8 losses. This is our first time ranked in the top four this year. Staying in fourth place depends on the outcome of our remaining games as well as the results of the games fifth place University of Kings College has left to play,"

says head coach Patsy Pyke.

With Mount Allison University and St. Thomas University joining two years ago and UNB Saint John campus joining the NSCAA this year, the increase in numbers increases the competitiveness of the conference as a whole.

Competition is at its height as each team strives for a place in provincial playoffs. "On any given day anybody can beat anybody else," says Pyke.

The next home games for the Mount are to be played this

coming weekend. The Mystics host STU Feb. 12 at 6 pm and Mount Allison Feb. 13 at 1 pm.

The men's team is in second place behind STU with 8 wins and 5 losses. They have scrambled their way to the top and with 5 games remaining before playoffs, they would like to take over first place.

Last year the men's team captured the NSCAA crown and travelled to Saskatchewan to play in the CCAA Nationals. They competed against teams from large colleges all over Canada and won a bronze medal. With

only four players returning from last year, winning a medal at nationals would be quite a feat.

The Women's Volleyball team is in the hunt for their twelfth NSCAA Title in thirteen years. The NSCAA Championships will be hosted by Nova Scotia Agricultural College on Feb. 19. The top four teams in the Volleyball League will advance to the CCAA nationals to be played in Calgary, Alberta.

The team is currently in second place behind Université

Sainte Anne, who by virtue of more games played have taken over first place.

The Mystics have played a lot of tournaments and exhibition games against high calibre teams this season to prepare them for the calibre of volleyball they will come up against at the National level.

A combination of seven veterans and four rookies makes the team a well rounded group. They are optimistic and confident going into the playoffs they will make it to Calgary this year.

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Nova Scotia Colleges Athletic Association Basketball Standings

Place	Team	Wins	Losses	Pts.
1	NSTC	13	2	26
2	MT. A	11	3	24
3	STU	12	3	24
4	MSVU	8	8	16
5	KINGS	8	8	16
6	NSAC	4	13	8
7	TUNS	4	13	8
8	UNBSJ	4	14	8

Men's Basketball

Place	Team	Wins	Losses	Pts.
1	STU	9	6	18
2	MSVU	8	5	16
3	NSAC	8	6	16
4	KINGS	7	6	14
5	MT. A	6	6	12
6	NSTC	5	7	10
7	TUNS	3	10	6

Women's Volleyball

Place	Team	Matches Won	Matches Lost
1	Ste. A	17	5
2	MSVU	16	2
3	STU	12	6
4	NSTC	11	10
5	NSAC	8	14
6	TUNS	5	15
7	KINGS	1	18