

THE PICARO

March 14, 2000

Volume 35 Issue 11

www.picaro.ns.ca

Blue Rodeo in Concert (pg 20)

Also in the
spotlight...



*International
Students take the
stage (pg 4)*



*The Picaro:
Time well spent.
(pg 14)*



*Students' Union
presents "the elections",
starring... (pg 4, 11)*

****VOTE*VOTE*VOTE*VOTE*VOTE*VOTE*VOTE*VOTE*VOTE*VOTE*VOTE*VOTE*VOTE****

****VOTE*VOTE*VOTE*VOTE*VOTE*VOTE*VOTE*VOTE*VOTE*VOTE*VOTE*VOTE*VOTE****

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Students' Union hires students all year round. We are currently seeking a student to fill the following position:

***Records Management position**

For more information about this position, please contact Brenda Harvey at 457-6558. Deadline to submit resume is March 22 at 5pm.

Students' Union is also hiring students for next academic year. The following positions are available:

***Vice-President Finance**

***Pub Manager**

***Publicity Assistant**

***Fountain Play Centre Manager**

***Corner Store Manager**

***Council Chair**

For more information about these positions, please contact Colette Nickerson at 457-6153. Deadline to submit resume is March 24.

St. Patrick's Day Party

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Vinnie's Pub

Friday, March 17th

Doors open at 8pm

Admission: FREE if wearing green or \$4 cover

PRIZES AND DRINK SPECIALS

Battle of the Bands

Vinnie's Pub

March 21st, 2000

****At least one member of band must be a Mount student.**

1st Prize: \$200

2nd Prize: \$100

3rd Prize: \$50

Contact Scott MacKay at 457-6123 for more information.

****VOTE*VOTE*VOTE*VOTE*VOTE*VOTE*VOTE*VOTE*VOTE*VOTE*VOTE*VOTE*VOTE****

Academic Advising Week: March 20-24

Departments will be organizing times for students to meet with advisors to help with course selection for the 2000-2001 academic year. Keep an eye out for more information.

****VOTE*VOTE*VOTE*VOTE*VOTE*VOTE*VOTE*VOTE*VOTE*VOTE*VOTE*VOTE*VOTE****

Canadian government takes over student loans

Banks and financial institutions jump ship

By Leslie Cheeseman

Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC) will take responsibility for over \$1.5 billion in annual student loans as of August. The federal government stepped in on March 9th after attempts to renegotiate a new five-year contract with banks and other lenders were unsuccessful.

According to HRDC, there will be no interruption in service. "We want to ensure there will be a student loans program in place on August 1st," says Thomas Townsend, director general of the department, in a news

conference. "The service they have come to expect from the Canada Student Loans Program will be unaltered and, from a student's perspective, they won't see any change."

The Canada Student Loans Program currently provides subsidized loans to over 350,000 students every year. It is the largest program of financial assistance for students in Canada, providing over \$15 billion in financial assistance for over 2.7 million students since its inception in 1964.

The federal government had financed and administered the program until 1995 when it made contracts with a group of financial institutions to operate the program as a cost-saving measure. Three major banks, the Royal Bank, The Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce and The Bank of Nova Scotia, had been the major players during the past five years, although a number of financial institutions such as regional credit unions, also participated.

Although officials from the Bank of Nova Scotia did not respond concerning its withdrawal from the program, some sources say that the Bank of Nova Scotia did not even respond in February when HRDC asked for bidders to renew the five-year deal. HRDC was unsuccessful in its attempts to secure another financial partner to replace Scotiabank.

Student loans are considered to be too high risk to finance without a number of larger banks to anchor the program. Since 1992, default rates—when a borrower does not make any payment for a period of 90 days—have increased. This has resulted in higher costs for administering and delivering the program. Financial institutions wanted a higher risk premium than the 5% they got in the previous contract. In negotiations, Ottawa and the partners settled on a 9.75% premium rate to cover expected future default rate and also built in additional protection should the loan loss rate be higher than expected. The government feels that it extended a "fair and equitable" offer of compensation and that financial institutions simply made a business decision about whether or not to participate. In the end, too few institutions indicated an interest to ensure viable delivery of the program.

"We recognize there are insufficient financial institutions willing to participate in the program in its current form," says Townsend, who also says that the department assuming financial responsibility for the program is not the best solution.

Reform MP, Maurice Vellacourt,

the human resources critic for the party, would agree. "I'm not confident at all," he says. "HRDC couldn't handle this in the past and that's why it went to the banks."

However, students seem to be welcoming the government's return to managing the program. Says Michael Conlon, National Chairperson of the Canadian Federation of Students:

"We predicted from the start that the banks' involvement in the student loan program would harm its value as a social program. The banks forced the federal government to

adopt policies such as the ten-year ban on student bankruptcies and the implementation of credit checks on student loans and continued to push for further changes. Students applaud the government's decision to finally stand up to the banks."

Mount Saint Vincent University Students' Union has not released an official statement on the changes to the student loans program and are waiting to hear more information on the matter. It does feel hopeful that students will be able to play a role in discussions about the program.

THE PICARO

Mocking Student Politics since 1965...
Volume 35 Issue 11

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

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The Picaro

Rosaria Centre, Room 114
Mount Saint Vincent University
166 Bedford Highway
Halifax, NS B3M 2J6
(902) 457-6386 fax- (902) 457-0444
email- picaro@msvu.ca
online- <http://www.picaro.ns.ca>



Tilley Photo

Melis Caha, Chief Returning Officer of the Students' Union Spring Elections, encourages students to vote.

Big Decisions at MSVU Students' Representative Council Spring Elections

By James Tilley

The fate of eleven candidates will be decided this Wednesday and Thursday. The newly elected council will be the ones bringing the Students Union into the next millennium.

There are only two contested positions this year. The position of President and Executive Vice President both have two candidates running for them.

This year there is also a referendum question. "Are you in favor of Students' Union withdrawing its membership from the Canadian

Federation of Students (CFS)?" This question is not a referendum to defederate, but a poll to see what course of action the new council should take. It is up to the next council to decide how to act on those results, says current External Vice President, Manal Mahshi. If you have any questions about the referendum you can contact her at the student union.

Poll stations will be set up around campus and the results will be announced at Vinnie's Thursday night.

Details about the candidates can be found on page 11



Tilley Photo

International Exhibit a Huge Success

by Amanda Dwyer

If you were lucky enough to be in Rosaria Center on the afternoon of Friday, March 10, you would have witnessed a fantastic International Exhibit. With colorful displays from 14 countries, music playing in the background, and some presenters in their native dress, the Exhibit was quite a spectacle. The various displays included pictures, flags, maps, wooden carvings, costumes, and a video, all of which added to the atmosphere. There was plenty of information provided about each country as well as an information booth set up by the Modern Languages Department. The Exhibit was not only educational, but also very pleasing to the senses and I would like to extend congratulations to the International Students' Society for the great job they did organizing this event!



Tilley Photo

A new definition to class trip

MSVU gets contract with Trinidad and Tobago

By James Tilley

The Republic of Trinidad and Tobago is getting an overhaul of their education system. This \$142 million dollar (US) project will bring the island country a new three-year Secondary Education Modernization Programme. This program will involve consultants from the Nova Scotia Department of Education and members of MSVU's Education Faculty.

"We have a considerable amount of education expertise in Nova Scotia and we are pleased that it is being acknowledged internationally," says NS Education Minister Jane Purves. "We look forward to working with the

Ministry of Education in Trinidad and Tobago."

Mount Saint Vincent, in partnership with the Department of Education, has been awarded a \$250,000 contract for their involvement. Dr. Robert Sargent is heading up the project that will develop and implement a new curriculum.

"We will help the people of Trinidad and Tobago determine what they want their education system to accomplish in the 21st century," says Sargent. "Formulating a national philosophy of education will in turn help design the modernized curriculum."

Federal budget disappointing for students

By Leslie Cheeseman

The 2000 federal budget was heralded as a taxpayer's budget. Over the next five years, Canadians can expect to be treated to the first tax cuts in 12 years, more low-income Canadians may find themselves in a reasonable tax bracket and everything from the research sector to the military will be subject to increased federal spending.

However, individuals pushing health care or education were openly disappointed. Finance Minister, Paul Martin, committed only \$2.5 billion to those priorities in a shared, one-time transfer payment to the provinces. How to divide this allotment between health care and education will be left up to the provinces.

Margaret Ann McIntosh, president of the MSVU Students' Union was disappointed. "Students were hoping that money for education would be ear-marked specifically for education," she says. "It's unfortunate that it has been split with health care—now the province will have to decide how much, if any, to direct towards education."

The Canadian Federation of Students was hoping for about \$4 billion, solely dedicated to post-secondary education, in order to restore government funding to 1994 levels.

"The transfer payment is not even enough money to begin with," says McIntosh. "Right now, funding to post-secondary education is not even at the 1994 level and this is 2000. As we speak there are two faculties on strike in the Maritimes, because their wages are so ridiculously low."

But McIntosh is sympathetic to the position that universities have been forced into. "Without government funding programs will suffer unless more money comes from another source. Unfortunately, for many universities, this other source is tuition. The government does realize that the problem of rising tuition is a result of lack of funding, but they have not done anything to correct it."

The Students' Union met with the Department of Education on Friday to voice students' concerns regarding university funding and tuition hikes. It has met also met with the Mount's budget and finance committees. The Students' Union would like to ensure that tuition will not increase for the next academic year.

McIntosh is quick to point out that this does not mean there should be a tuition freeze, as is currently in effect in British Columbia. "A tuition freeze could be very dangerous," she explains. "If there is a provincial election and a new government chooses to lift the freeze, then it will be up to the universities to determine

Federal Budget 2000 Highlights



More winners than losers, but the losers are us!

Winners

Low-income Canadians: With the middle tax bracket now beginning at \$35,000, not \$29,000 by 2004, more Canadians will qualify for the lowest—17 percent—tax bracket.

Middle-income Canadians: taxes will be slashed by \$58 million over the next half decade—the first reduction in 12 years.

Individual tax payers: \$1,000 increase in the basic personal exemption, bringing it to \$8,000

Homeless: \$753 million strategy to combat homelessness
Research, roads and military: \$4 billion for research and innovation in the high-technology sector, strengthening infrastructure (highways, affordable housing) and boosting the Department of National Defense

Losers

Health, Education: Despite an expected \$104 billion surplus over the next four years, only \$2.5 billion ear-marked for health and education—in a shared, one-time only, transfer payment

how high to raise tuition—it could be raised as much as it would have been increased over five years all at once. This would be even more devastating to students."

Nova Scotia's students are now looking toward the provincial government to make post-secondary education a priority in its up-coming budget. As part of a \$24 million promise by the Liberal government, universities could have expected an \$8 million increase from the province this year. However, like all social spending, payments to education are under review as the new Tory government attempts to resolve the province's \$767 million deficit. All government departments have been asked to find ways to cut spending by up to 25 per cent.

University presidents have warned that, if the province cuts funding to post-secondary education, undergraduate students could have to cover tuition increases of at least 10%, compared to recent average increases of about five per cent, \$200-\$300, a year.

Harley d'Entremont, president of Universite Sainte-Anne and president of the Council of Nova Scotia University Presidents, says that although university officials know tuition is high now, they may have little choice but to increase it.


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Students caught in the middle in two separate faculty strikes

By Alejandro Bustos

SYDNEY, NS (CUP) - Students at two Atlantic universities are facing the possibility they may not return to class this year.

About 115 professors, librarians and other specialists have been on strike at the University College of Cape Breton (UCCB) since Feb. 11, in a fight for more money and job security.

About 3,100 students are affected by the labour dispute.

Milton Veniot, a lawyer from Pictou County, was appointed as a mediator in the talks March 9, a day after negotiations broke down.

But any future settlement would have to bridge the large gap between administration and professors.

"The faculty at UCCB are the lowest paid in the country," said David Robinson, director of public policy for the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT). "On average they make less than 30 per cent of what other professors make."

According to figures from CAUT, a starting professor at the Nova Scotia University makes an average of \$33,600 a year. The highest paid professors at the school, meanwhile, earn an average of \$45,350.

At the University of Prince Edward, in contrast, a new professor earns \$45,550, while at the University of British Columbia the starting wage is \$57,000.

Suzanne Spencer, a spokesperson for the University, said administration is offering a 17.5 per cent wage increase over four years - retroactive to Nov. 1, 1997 - and a one-time lump payment of \$3,000.

Faculty representatives are asking for an increase of around 27

per cent.

This difference in wage expectations could keep students out of class for the rest of the year.

"Our plan A is to complete the term on schedule," said Spencer. "The next plan is to move the term back, but that affects students... The third plan is to acknowledge that the term is in jeopardy and that it cannot be salvaged. I don't think we are at the stage yet."

But with the term ticking down, the cancellation of the school year is becoming more likely.

Numerous calls to the UCCB Student Union went unanswered.

At the University of Moncton (U of M), meanwhile, negotiations between striking teachers and the administration broke down March 8.

The strike began on March 2.

According to University President Jean-Bernard Robichaud, the two sides are farther apart than before.

The University has offered a seven per cent wage increase over three years, while the union wants a 20 per cent hike.

The association representing the school's 300 professors and librarians is calling for wage parity with professors at other universities in the province, especially the University of New Brunswick.

Anne-Genevieve Ducharme, media co-ordinator for the Student Federation at the U of M, is worried the strike will keep students out of class for the rest of the year.

"We are stuck in the middle," she said. "I think we are going to be in this for the long haul."

Ducharme added that students at the University are facing a possible tuition increase as high as 45 per cent over the next three years.

Hackers break into York U server

By Shawn Jeffords

TORONTO (CUP) - York University officials are feeling exasperated following a series of attacks by hackers on the school's computer systems.

"We get pounded everyday," said Colin Rous, a spokesperson for Information Security at York.

Since the new year, six staff computers have fallen victim to attacks by hackers.

Rous says the University has received numerous complaints from Internet service providers around the world who say York's computer server is being used to send out harassing emails.

Rous says hackers access the York system and utilize it as a "mask" to hide their identities and to fool people tracing their paths.

"They take over our computers and try to hammer at another," he said.

The staff computers were compromised when hackers found holes in their operating systems, Solaris and Linux. Both operating systems are popular alternatives to Windows and Rous believes their independent nature is the reason they are so easy to penetrate.

Users often download the software and do not change the default passwords, making the system easier to hijack.

But Rous believes the attacks were not malicious in nature.

"It was just someone testing out their skills," he says, though he is wary of the potential for hackers to cause problems for York.

Ulya Yigit, manager of computing at York, agrees the University should be concerned with hackers.

She cites an incident two years ago that caused York to shutdown its server and rebuild its entire system due to an attack on the system.

"We'll see more of it," Yigit said. "The number of people using computers is increasing and we're depending on computers for every little thing, therefore it becomes more important to protect ourselves."

Kram Spence, president of the University's computer club, says hackers are a problem that have become increasingly more difficult to deal with.

But he adds that limiting computer access would be wrong.

"You need access to the outside world and the outside world needs access to us," said Spence. "York could restrict people but that would be against the reason for networking."

Spence also believes the recent attacks on the Internet sites like ZDNet and eBay are reminders that the net is being used improperly.

"I know for a fact that the Internet was not made for e-commerce," said Spence. "It's not stable enough."

Rous does point out that the hacker problem is not one that York is dealing with alone. Other universities also battle break-ins to their computer systems.

"We don't have the answers yet," he said. "Neither does anyone else. We have 12,000 to 13,000 computers [on the server] that aren't watched."

Recently, the servers at Stanford University and Berkeley College in the United States were used in the attacks on the major Internet sites, which are now being investigated by the FBI.

McGill students vote against Coke deal in referendum

By Jon Bricker

MONTREAL (CUP) - Students at McGill University have voted overwhelmingly against a proposed deal that would make Coke the exclusive beverage supplier on campus.

Over 5,000 students cast votes March 7-9 in student union elections and on the referendum question. The final count had 2,690 students, or 56 per cent, vote against the deal.

Following the vote, rumours began to circulate on campus that the student union planned to challenge the legitimacy of the referendum.

But the rumours didn't stop the No forces from celebrating.

"We sent a message not only to administration but to Coke as well," said No campaign organizer Phil

Gohier. "It's quite obvious we're not extending a welcome mat."

Jim Turk, president of the Canadian Association of University Teachers, said he was pleased with the vote.

"The university's response now has to be 'under no condition do we proceed,'" he said.

Students opposed to the deal have pointed to Coke's questionable human rights record and criticized the secrecy that has shrouded most of the contract.

But while University officials say they recognize the referendum results, they are in no rush to scrap the proposed deal, which has been estimated at \$10-million.

"The students have definitely given us a message," said Alan Charade, McGill's director of

Ancillary Services and the administration's lead negotiator in the deal.

He later added that the referendum results need to be taken with a grain of salt.

"A small minority even showed interest in voting on this matter," he said.

Campus student leaders who supported the deal, meanwhile, were focussing on their call for more post-secondary funding.

Andrew Tischler, Student Society president, called attention to what he says is a funding crisis that is forcing Quebec universities to look for more money in the private sector.

"What do you do when your government fails you?" he asked.

Tischler said those who supported the Coke deal were only

trying to make up for government cutbacks.

In response, Turk said that relying on private funding sends a message to governments that universities can replace money that has been cutback.

"It absolutely does let the government off the hook and at a time when they do have the resources," he said.

Coke officials, meanwhile, say they are willing to hear the concerns of students and university officials about the proposed deal.

"Our business is just about how do we satisfy peoples' thirst," said Sandra Banks, Coca-Cola's Bottling's vice-president of public affairs. "We are respectful of our customers and their decisions."

I wrote this during campaign week

by Melissa Melanson

When I ran for Student Council in high school it seemed like such a big deal. I had slogans, posters and little stickers with my name on them. I figured out which students would likely vote for me, which would not and targeted those who were undecided. In the end, those who voted for me were my friends, people who didn't like my opponent and those who thought my speech was witty, and liked how I looked in a skirt. But that was high school, land of artificial reality. Sadly, when you go out to the poll stations to vote for your Mount Saint Vincent Students' Union, you may be voting on an even more superficial level.

Because at the Mount, you're voting for a picture. There are some

candidates who are highly visible and will be recognized by many students. And these students will most likely get a lot of votes because of it. But what about the candidate who diligently works in the office, never to be seen by the very students that she serves? You probably don't know her. And in the end you'll probably pick the picture you like better.

I'm not criticizing you. It is not an easy task for everyone to research the candidates to the point that you can make an educated decision. The only information that the average student has on most candidates is the posters on the wall and the poorly attended speeches throughout campaign week. Speeches you say? You didn't know anything about speeches? The only time I've seen the times and locations of the speeches is

from a flyer that I stole from a candidate. I missed the first round of speeches. Who went? I asked another candidate. He was the only one that I knew who was there.

I'm not criticizing those students who are running. The truth is that if you want to vote, and vote responsibly, it is going to require a little bit of work on your part. The first step was going to the speeches. You can learn a lot more about a candidate in person than you can from an eight and a half by eleven piece of coloured paper. Missed the boat on that one? Take the time to walk up (or down) the hill to Rosaria and talk to the candidates yourself—you can probably find them there.

I know. You have three jobs, four papers, five exams, six chapters to read and seven days this week to do it all. I'm not saying that it is easy, but think about what's at stake.

These people who are running for student union want

to work for you. They want to take your money and they want to work in a position that provides a great experience, perks and a healthy addition to their resume. Your student union fees are what they are paid with and is what they play with. Maybe not exactly play, but do you really want just some face on a poster making decisions that will have impact on you and your university experience?

I'm looking for a summer job. When approaching potential employers I will not be sending them a headshot and waiting for the offers to come in. Why would you hire someone based on something so shallow?

Lessons Learned

To the Editor:

I was recently asked to participate on a student panel that had been planned as part of the International Women's Week events. When I arrived at the venue, I was shocked and dismayed to learn that this panel consisted exclusively of 'traditional' Mount students (read: young, white, female, Canadian).

I am graduating at the end of this semester. This incident has prompted me to reflect on my experiences as a Women's Studies major here at MSVU. I am indebted to my professors, who have taught me that it is the responsibility of every citizen to examine the ways in which they themselves perpetuate oppression, intentionally or not, in order to promote change. I have been inspired by their convictions and encouraged to overcome my reluctance to act on or speak out about my own beliefs and values at the risk of being labelled 'too feminist' or 'too political'. I have listened carefully and I believe I have been an apt pupil.

I was very disillusioned and disappointed when I discovered that this panel was in no way a celebration or commemoration of International Women's Week. I was upset to learn that the Students' Union had not been consulted about potential candidates for this panel (despite there being two valuable sources: the Vice-President of Race & Gender Relations and the International Students' Representative). I was surprised that the Women's Studies Department had not considered the contributions of International Students when forwarding potential participants to the committee.

But most of all, I felt betrayed. When I approached the committee organizing the event about my concern minutes before it was to begin, I was given lukewarm

excuses. I was told that 'this was not political', which surprised me considering the many readings and discussions in class applauding the much-heralded slogan, 'the personal is political'. I was urged not to ruin the event for the other panel participants. Most upsetting was that I was witness to the kind of lip service that is most guilty of perpetuating racism: well-meaning people refusing to acknowledge the racism that they are promoting by not actively combatting it.

I was reminded that while many people will acknowledge that the oppressed are disadvantaged, the same people are reluctant to acknowledge that it is because some are over-advantaged. They are even more reluctant to do so when it results in personal inconvenience. I ended up not participating in the panel, which seemed to be the only action I could take to demonstrate that I have learned what the professors here have tried to teach us. The hypocrisy of this event was just too blatant to ignore (a sentiment echoed by both the Students' Union president and the Vice-President of Race & Gender Relations). Sadly, the organizers of the event would do no more than weakly acknowledge this 'oversight'.

I know that my refusal to present my research at this event will not end racism and ethno-centrism. Still, I believe I was honouring all of the deserving students who could and should have been asked to participate but were not.

I was also honouring my professors by demonstrating that I have been listening and learning. I will continue to look to you for inspiration, guidance and support, if you remember to set an example worth following.

Jane Mulatz

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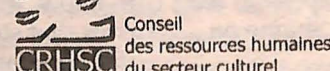
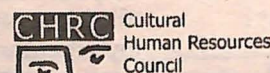
This event will feature performances, speakers, workshops and information booths and will provide students with the opportunity to speak with people working in the cultural sector.

When: March 23, 12-6
Where: Heritage Hall, Pier 21

For details, visit <http://users.andara.com/~culturalcareer/> or your on-campus career/employment centre

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More than we needed to know

To the Editor:

In the last edition of the Picaro I allude to university students with junior high school attitudes (p.8), and on page 19 of the same issue basketball players Rob Turnbull and Dennis Wright were kind enough to corroborate my assertion. So, Mr. Wright, you like sex and prefer "au naturel" to the use of condoms. Newsflash from a person more than twice your age. I've yet to meet a man who would argue with your choices. Most of us, however, do not need to broadcast it in a newspaper. I know, it is hard in a Jerry Springer world to learn about judgment and taste. My generation of testosterone charged males left such talk for the locker room; maybe we were no better but I'm old fashioned enough to think that there is a difference. Please, if you don't use condoms, make some other responsible choice. You certainly don't have the maturity to father a child at this point. By the way, did you send a copy of the paper to your fiancée's parents? I'm sure they would be thrilled.

Now, Mr. Turnbull, you are just so sexually accomplished. I'd like to think that you are full of false bravado, but I do suspect there are young women insecure enough to have sex with you. You feel the need to broadcast that you like "doggy style?" Fine, but that is really more than anyone on campus needs to know outside of your most intimate encounters. Too bad your mother didn't wash your mouth out with soap once in a while.

By the way, as an old man I'm interested in what you mean by "tagging." I'll admit that I'm long out of the "hip loop," but I thought "tagging" meant spraying your "urine trail" with paint on public and private property. I was wondering if you also do the inside of bathroom stalls. You must, however, mean something else by "tagging." While it is clear you are immature you certainly can't be bragging about being a criminal.

Listen, boys, I am no friend of political correctness and I've been known to enjoy an "off colour" joke myself (unfortunately, I always forget them before I can repeat them; must be some Freudian thing). However, your profiles are not funny; they are simply vulgar and sexist. You've succeeded in feeding every stereotype there is about stupid jocks and immature macho male jerks. I hope you grow out of this, but I won't hold my breath.

Stephen B. Perrott, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Psychology

What is being done with our money?

To The Editor:

Before Reading Week the MSVU Students' Union distributed fliers discussing the role of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), the role of the MSVUSU, and the reason that they no longer wish to be members of the CFS.

In its description of the CFS, the MSVUSU added the statement that two CFS protesters were arrested at the WTO protest last fall. Why was that put in? How is that relevant? And why was it considered negative that they also demonstrated to show solidarity with students in Mexico?

Why should that fact or the fact that the CFS have social agendas, other than education, be a deciding factor? Aren't students affected by these other issues as well? Or do we live in the isolated vacuum of academia?

One of the complaints they had was about what the CFS does for the MSVUSU. My contention is this: it is important to consider what the CFS does for MSVU students. Not just the MSVU student union executive.

I was surprised to find out that I could get my international student ID card through the CFS—no one at the student union ever told me that. Why haven't they ever bothered to make that sort of information public?

If the MSVU Students' Union executive has made the decision not to remain a member of the CFS don't they think they ought to have discussed it with the rest of us first? The upcoming referendum does not follow CFS guidelines, and therefore does not require the CFS to recognize the outcome. Do you think the MSVUSU does not realize this? Propaganda supporting the withdrawal from CFS being distributed this week makes no effort to explain both sides of the issue. If the CFS guidelines were to be followed, the CFS would have the time and opportunity to show you, the student, just what it can actually do, and does, for you. But the MSVUSU doesn't want to allow the time for that to happen.

It is my understanding that the MSVUSU has not paid its CFS fees. So what is being done with our money? If my CFS membership fees, that are a part of the regular Students' Union fees which I have already paid, are being held by the MSVUSU who no longer considers itself to be a member of CFS... well, then I want that money back.

M. Burrows

Comments for King Perrott, Ph.D.

In response to Dr. Perrott's letter, "An open letter to Mount students"

Dear Doc,

I have formulated my contempt into a provocative question; who do you think you are? Really, I'm curious. Are you the caring Prof. that teaches to the studious few in your classes? Are you the street smart, let-me-tell-you-about-the-real-world ex-cop? Or the geekish, never-done-anything-until-you've-been-to-The Gambia, Goodwill ambassador? Educate me. I want to know because before I insult someone I like to at least get to know him or her first. Obviously you don't. I know who I am. I get free school because my father died when I was 16. I sit in the back, sometimes. I put my feet up, sometimes. I also get good marks most of the time. Where do I fit into your schema? I went to Dalhousie for two years right out of high school, I wasn't ready, but I made the best of my time and learned lessons that changed the course of my life. You propose to rob students of these lessons. Shame on you Doc.

If I had had a professor like you during the time when I was at Dalhousie, who wrote to my school paper simply to inform me that I was a waste of time, money, teaching and potential, it would have turned me off to school entirely. Fortunately, I was taught by professors who took

the time to find out why my marks weren't so good sometimes. Others—maybe friends of yours—expressed nothing toward me at all. Or perhaps they were internalizing opinions about me as we spoke, "Two earrings? Little punk!" Wow, the nerve of some people.

Well Doc, to your surprise the person who wrote this reply is exactly the person who you thought would never even pick up the school paper. Make you wonder what else you could be wrong about? Your article, which should have been left as the faculty lunchtime bitch-fest I'm sure it originated as, has informed me and sparked my curiosity about your opinion and views. So I just had to write in.

Where do you get your views of your students? How do you make the Naughty or Nice list Santa? Is it by what they wear? Where they sit? How about race? Sex? I would like to know. Where you one of those cops that stopped every teenage boy in a nice car because they were wearing a hat back-wards? I could be right, or I could be wrong. The point is I don't know you, and you Sir, definitely do not know me. So don't insult me by trying to fit me into one of your Psychobabble paradigms.

I'm sure some of the students

who take your classes would like to know the answers to my questions. They could use what you have to say to prepare themselves better for class. They could get comfortable sitting in fear of being judged as opposed to sitting and learning. Better yet, they could make sure to smile and sit straight so when you cast your bitter gaze in their directions, they would be assured not to be classified as the "this is bull-shit, angry kids." and be judged, or marked, unfairly.

Give us some credit Doc. We are probably working harder than it looks. Besides, I don't remember checking any box on my application that said, "looks smart."

As for the lack of "thank you's", we are students; we should be thanking ourselves. It's our asses on the lines, our future. Your "thank you" should be from having the confidence in knowing that you have taught your students—all your students—with an open mind and all your effort and ability. You are a teacher. You should be respectful and damn thankful of the authority and power you have. You should be proud, you have the hardest, and most important, job in the world. I'll give you a thank you. Thank you for reassuring me that I will be a successful teacher, one that will be open-minded and non-judgmental.

Also, thank you for solidifying the fact that narrow-mindedness doesn't just lurk in downtown bars or is restricted to politics, but that it has infected the way in which I am educated. So thank you for letting me know your views so I can chose to place my "useless carcass," (as you so eloquently put it) into the classroom of a professional.

You've made your proposition, so here's mine. I propose that an attitude like yours be met with some administrative penalty. Let's cut your pay by 3 times. You're not worth it Doc. Sound harsh? Now you know what it felt like to be a student after reading your article.

You don't know me, don't look at me and pretend that the Ph.D. after your name enables you to read my soul. Don't pretend you know who I am. You sir, have been living in textbooks and lesson plans too long. I don't bring my problems and judgements to the classroom, so be considerate and leave yours outside as well.

You want to get to know me, GREAT. So if you can find your way off your throne to join the rest of us in the real world for a minute, I'll meet you at Vinnie's for a beer, my treat Doc.

Rob Chambers, Student

A school for all ages

Learning with each other, learning from each other

By Melissa Melanson

Everyday, Mount Saint Vincent University student Brenda Harvey gets up before 6:00 A.M. and leaves her home in Truro to make the one hour commute to school. She goes through the regular student stuff—a mix of boring and stimulating classes, dreaded deadlines, and worries about student loans. What makes Brenda's day different than a lot of students is when she returns home and is greeted with, "Mum, how'd you do on the midterm?"

Brenda, 36, works part-time as a technical advisor and technical trainer, is heavily involved in Girl Guides of Canada and is the current MSVU Students' Union Academic Vice President. She also has three children ranging from middle school to high school age—a far cry from the teenager entering university straight out of high school.

"I don't feel as though I'm different," says Harvey. "We all have our unique backgrounds, but the reality is we are all here for the same reason—to enhance our education."

Less than half of the Mount's student population can be characterized as "traditional" students—that is students coming to university straight out of high school. Mount Saint Vincent attracts students of different ages, different cultures and diverse backgrounds.

Two years ago, the Mount Association of Non-Traditional University Students (MANUS) was active as a society for non-traditional students and caused conflict with the rest of the student body. MANUS has since dissolved and it was decided that those students who did not come directly out of high school should not be set apart. Regardless of age or background they are all students, says Dr. Judith Woodsworth, MSVU Vice-President Academic.

"It is not desirable to categorize students," says Dr. Woodsworth. "What we're looking at is diversity."

This echoes Mount Saint Vincent's strategic plan, Blueprint 2000, and overall mission to provide a barrier free education to all students, particularly women. Primarily a women's university, the Mount sets out to attract women of all ages from around the world.

According to Dr. Woodsworth, international students give other MSVU students a new way of looking at things.

"By being exposed to international students we can bring the international experience to the university," said Woodsworth.

But, just as students can learn from other cultures, younger students can learn from the large population of mature students at MSVU—students like Brenda Harvey.

Mature students are attracted to MSVU's strong commitment to educational flexibility.

"We are aware that we have [a diverse student] public and we have to cater to them," says Dr. Woodsworth.

Part of that catering includes distance education, and offering courses both day and night. The Mount also offers the Child Study Centre and Fountain Play Centre for full and part-day child care for a nominal fee. And unlike many institutions, at the Mount, students can receive credit for courses completed more than ten years ago. The Mount does not want alienate those students who have been away from school for several years.

"We recognize that people may have taken time off school to raise

"I don't feel as though I'm different. We all have our unique backgrounds, but the reality is we are all here for the same reason—to enhance our education."

-Brenda Harvey

families. We don't want to penalize them for that," said Woodsworth. "We are pretty unique that we try to cater to the needs of different student populations."

That commitment to diversity is what attracted Marion Macaleese, 41, to the Mount. After her divorce in 1996 Marion realized she was not happy with her job and wanted more. She is currently in her 2nd year of an Arts degree with a major in English and a double minor in History and Business and works part-time at the Registrar's office. Although she admits the life of a student is full of ups and downs, as a single parent she believes she is doing what's best for her nine-year old daughter.

"I hope and I believe it sets a good example," says Marion. "She will never feel trapped in a situation that she does not want to be in."

Brenda Harvey, like Marion and all other "non-traditional" MSVU students, has her mind set on a university education. This year she will graduate with a Bachelor of Applied Arts in Information Technology and plans to return for a Master in Adult Education. She is also running for President in the upcoming Student's Union—a position typically held by a traditional student.

For Brenda the primary concern is the education of students—something that hits a little closer to home for her than most. When Brenda leaves MSVU and begins to pay off her student loan, her eldest daughter will be entering university.

"I want to make sure that this is an excellent university for those that follow me. Whether those people are my children or not."

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Christine's Cuisine

By Christine Kennedy

With the turn of the season less than two weeks away, Spring Fever has already hit me! I'm just itching to get in the kitchen and have some fun. Cooking dinner day in and day out can become pretty monotonous, especially during the winter months. That's all the more reason to spice it up a bit, be a little playful and enjoy yourself. Low Fat Oven Fries, Sponge Toffee and Fluffy Jello are on the menu and here's how to serve it up!

Low Fat Oven Fries

1 1/4 lbs potatoes, peeled & cut into 1/2" strips
 1/4 tsp salt
 1/2 tsp sugar (this is very important!)
 4 tsp oil
 1 tsp paprika

1. In a large bowl, combine the potatoes, salt and sugar and fill the bowl with cold water (until it covers the potatoes).
2. Preheat the oven to 450°F and lightly grease a cookie sheet.
3. Allow the potatoes to soak for 15 min. Then, drain and blot dry with paper towel.
4. In a large bowl, toss the potatoes with oil and paprika.
5. Place on the cookie sheet in a single layer.
6. Bake, turning often as they brown (and they brown quite fast) until cooked and crisp, approximately 45 min.
7. Sprinkle with salt and serve - makes 4 servings

- Per serving: 159 calories, 5 g total fat, 28 g total carbohydrates, 3 g dietary fibre and 2 g protein.

The sugar (and salt) are so important because they drain the liquid from the potatoes while they soak. This gives the fries a crisper bite.

Sponge Toffee

(This recipe is a lot of fun; it feels like an elementary school science project!)

1 cup white sugar
 1 cup corn syrup
 1 tbsp white vinegar
 1 tbsp baking soda

1. Place everything but the baking soda in a saucepan.
2. Cook over medium heat until 150° on a candy thermometer or at a soft ball stage (explanation below)
3. Stir in the baking soda, making sure that there are no lumps in it before you do.
4. Pour quickly into a baking dish (It hardens very fast and will be difficult to remove from the pan if not done immediately)

- If you know what happens when you combine baking soda and vinegar - have fun with step 3.

- Soft ball stage means that when you remove a small amount (1 tsp) of the mixture & place it in a dish cold water, it will form a small, pliable ball.

Fluffy Jello

3/4 cup boiling water
 1 package Jello, any flavour
 1/2 cup cold waterruit juice
 Ice cubes
 1 cup fresh or canned fruit (optional)

1. Pour the boiling water into the blender,
2. Add the Jello.
3. Cover (not tightly - it could explode & make a big mess) and blend at low speed until the Jello is dissolved. (about 30 seconds)
4. Pour the cold water into a 2 cup measuring cup and fill with ice until the water is equal with 1 1/4 cups. (Do not add more than 1/2 cup of water)
5. Add to the Jello and stir until the ice is partially melted.
6. Blend at high speed for 30 seconds.
7. Pour into dessert glasses or serving bowls. (Glasses are much prettier to use)
8. Spoon in the fruit if desired.
9. Chill until firm.

- Dessert will layer as it chills
 - Do not use fresh kiwi, mango, pineapple, papaya or figs.
 - makes 4 to 6 servings

I hope you like these as much as I do, enjoy!

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Student Union Spring Elections & Referendum



Brenda Harvey
President

Hello! My name is Brenda Harvey. In this year's Students' Union elections, I am seeking the President position. Over the past year I have served as your Academic Vice-President. My experience working with University administration and committees, including Senate, have prepared me to lead your Students' Union into the next year. In addition, it has been my pleasure to pursue the development and implementation of a Students' Union published Course Evaluation. My commitment to you, the students of MSVU, is to ensure that communications on the operations, advocacies, and policies affecting all Mount students are increased and maintained. Education costs to our university career must be continuously watched as MSVU enters each new budget year. Ensuring that student's voices are heard on tuition costs must be a priority for this and future Students' Union representatives. On March 15 and 16 vote for a strong voice in Students' Union, vote Brenda Harvey for President.



Colette Nickerson
President

Hello! My name is Colette Nickerson. Presently, as your Executive Vice-President, I represent students on several University committees. If elected as President, I will continue to be an advocate against rising tuition expenses, and I would like to improve the lines of communication among the students, MSVUSU SRC, and administration and faculty. Effective communication is detrimental for the productivity of the Students' Union, and therefore beneficial for accommodating the needs of students. Inter-university relations are also of great importance. Acquiring rapport with the other academic institutions would clear the path for stronger academic stability. Working together with other institutions toward common goals would provide a more professional, prominent, and vocal approach to making the government understand the students' point of view. It is also important for the individuals who attend this institution, and pay student fees, to be informed of the philosophy of the Students' Union. You have the right to know what we can do for you! Please vote for Colette Nickerson as your 2000-2001 President!



Shanna Randell
Executive Vice-President

Hi. My name is Shanna Randell. I am a third year Bachelor of Arts student. Seeking the position of Executive Vice-President of our Students' Union requires commitment to the operational areas of the Union. My work and study experience at the Mount and my experience in previous student government empowers me to provide students with a strong voice and work ethic in this position. One area of responsibility for the Executive Vice-President involves ensuring that Students' Union's policies and procedures guarantee reliable handling of office administration. It is also important that all students are protected, through the Union's daily activities, to those rules and regulations set out by the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. With strong communication and records management skills, it is my commitment to you to ensure that the operation and conduct of the Students' Union works for you, the student.



Vanessa Turner
Executive Vice-President

Hi my name is Vanessa Turner. I am a 4th year Biology student. Next year I will be returning in one of two programs. I hope you elect me into the position of Executive Vice President. I have two years experience on council. This year I have been a member of numerous Council committees, one of which is chaired by this position. I have helped write the Union Constitution, By-laws and Policies. I have an in-depth knowledge of the Council and this position. I believe myself to be the best person for this position and I hope you do to. Don't forget to vote on March 15 and 16.



Nancy White
Vice-President Internal

Hello fellow students: My name is Nancy White and I am running for the Vice President Internal position. I am a strong believer that there is more to university life than academics. Your university experience should be both educational and lots of fun. I have been involved with many committees and societies since my first year, and have improved my time management, leadership, and organizational skills. If elected as your Internal VP, I would continue to increase school spirit at the Mount and work closely with the existing and new societies. Also I will increase the awareness of events going on within the university. I would also be happy to answer any other concerns students might have. I would like to encourage you to get out and vote on March 15th and 16th. Make sure your vote counts! Nancy White for Internal VP



Ryan MacNeil
Vice-President External

The Vice-President External of our Students' Union is a key representative of the Mount. A marketing major with a political science minor, I am currently the Speaker of the Students' Council. This role has given me a great deal of council experience. When added to my seven years of experience advocating for youth I will be able to walk into this position and start fighting. Education is controlled on a provincial level, which means I would be meeting with other student unions, government officials and students in general to carry information both ways, as a voice for Mount students. My government appointed position on the Nova Scotia Youth Advisory Council gives me an easy route to the government decision makers. For a year now I have been pointing out the problems we have with the education system to them. And I hope to continue next year by specifically advocating the concerns of Mount Saint Vincent University.



Terri Roberts
Vice-President Academic

As VP Academic I will be the student voice on several university committees which deal with academic issues, such as curriculum. I will advocate on your behalf for the best possible combination of quality courses and professors. I will be your liaison with the larger Mount community on issues such as course evaluation and academic appeals. Making sure that students are recognized for their achievements is also very important to me. I will make sure Awards Night 2001 is a night to remember. I am interested in knowing what I can do to help you. As VP Race and Gender Relations I keep extended office hours, and plan to do the same again if elected VP Academic. I insist on being accessible to you.



Carlee Portolesi
Vice President Race & Gender Relations

As we all know, MSVU has a very diverse student body. I want to be sure that everyone's concerns are represented and dealt with in a manner of open-mindedness and awareness of diversity. I will advocate for students on such issues as: Gender, Race, Age, Religion, Sexual orientation, Language and Physical ability. If elected, my office will always be open for all students to come and discuss concerns or to recommend ideas for events. On March 15th and 16th, please take the time to check YES for Carlee Portolesi for VP Race and Gender Relations.



Jackie Thornhill
Off-Campus Rep.

My name is Jackie Thornhill and I am running for the position of Off-Campus Rep. It is my intention should I be elected for this position, to provide adequate and effective representation for off-campus students in the Students' Union. I also intend to aid them in taking the initiative to become a voice that has the opportunity to learn experientially and creatively though their interests. I intend to work with you to increase awareness, involvement and interest in off-campus activities. I also would like to aid off-campus students in participating in the aspects of Campus Life that already are present. I have had the experiences of observing and participating in Council meetings, working with both the Ath/Rec Society and SAA and being an active participant in campus life here at MSVU. It is through these experiences that I have developed a concern and a responsibility to Mount students. So on March 15 & 16 when you vote, please allow me to represent you as the Off-Campus Student Rep. in next year's Student Representative Council.



Caroline Gomez
International Students' Rep.

Hi! My name is Caroline Gomez and this is my first year here at the Mount in the public relations program. Since my first semester up to today, I have been actively involved in the International Student's Society through which we organize various activities. This is a remarkable society that gave me the opportunity to meet international students like myself. They are all incredibly friendly and kind with various backgrounds that are all so interesting. It is with their support and encouragement that I am running for International Students' Representative. It would be a great honor for me to be the liaison between the student council and the international students doing the best I can to be an excellent representative.



Kathy Jollimore
Science Students' Rep.

Hey MOUNT folk! My name is Kathy Jollimore and I am running for my second term as Science Representative for the MSVU Students' Union. If elected, I hope to continue to bring the Students' Union and MOUNT Science students as well as the Science Society closer together. In addition, as a representative for all science students, I plan to address any concerns science students would have. So, if you are a MOUNT science student, get out there March 15&16 and make your vote count. Thanx.

Referendum Question:

"Are you in favor of Students' Union withdrawing its membership from the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS)?"

VOTING DAYS: Wednesday March 15th, 10 am - 8:30 pm
Thursday March 16th, 10 am - 6 pm
Poll Stations are located in: The Seton Lobby, Royal Bank Link, Rosaria Mezzanine, and Evaristus (2nd Floor)

Vox Populi

If you were to get a tattoo what would it be and where?



HEATHER COLLIER
1st year CYS
"I already have a tree frog
on my left shoulder blade."



BECKY FLEMMING
1st year BSc
"I wouldn't get a tattoo I got
my tongue pierced instead."



MONIQUE BEATON
1st BBA
"A chinese symbol for
'passion' on my hip."



JENNIFER FALCONER
2nd year BPR
"I have a ying-yang on
my right thigh"



MICHELLE LAPIERRE
2nd year BA
"Tattoo of the Corner Store
logo on me behind"



MAGGIE EVANS
2nd year Bsc
"A little butterfly on my ankle"



LYNN CASHEN
Assistant, housing & financial aid - grad 1999
"A celtic band around my toe."



TAMARA ROZALOWSKI
1st year PBR
"I'd get a star on my backside"

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History... you're looking at it

By James Tilley

You open up the newspaper and what are the headlines that jump out at you? The student union holds a day of protest. Administration releases plans for a new facility. Apathy runs rampant through the school. Students worry about raises in tuition and increasing debt loads.

They say that no matter how much things change, they always stay the same. In the case of MSVU it is very true. The university has changed in so many ways. Originally the women's college was run by the Sisters of Charity. Then after a fire and a series of changes to the programs, the campus and the student population, the Mount has evolved into its current state.

But one of the constants has been The Picaro. For the past 35 years The Picaro has been informing and entertaining the students, faculty and staff at Mount Saint Vincent. It is a tradition that is carried, even to this day.

Picture it, 1965, a small group of students headed up by Eleanor Blackmore and Theresa Hartlin decide to start a student newspaper for their fellow students. By October of that year the first edition of the monthly paper is published.

This four-page document was filled with informative articles. The front page contains an article on the A.A.S. (Atlantic Association of Students) as they declare October 27th as National Student Day — the day they marched in an orderly silent manner to the legislative buildings in Halifax. The cover also has an artistic rendition of the new residence being named after Sister Francis D'Assisi, the new student center which will have a cafeteria, student & faculty lounge, a bookstore, a snack bar and student activity rooms including publishing equipment. There was also talk of a new academic building with auditoriums, class rooms and an art gallery. The editorial talks about "Indifference [that] exists on all levels." A story on the fourth page talks of a "Crisis In Higher Education" as one student is concerned about amassing a huge \$1200 debt load by the time they graduate. Sounds all too familiar don't you think. There was even an ad for the House of Mei Mei, the Chinese food place down the street.

Picaro isn't just some name they pulled out of thin air. The name comes from early Spanish literature. The picaresque novel features a hero who lived by his wits as he traveled the country side. This rogue was a keen observer of life and he takes the philosophies of those around him to create an accurate report of what is really going on.

As time passed the paper grew by leaps and bounds and The Picaro

staff moved into an office where the Fountain Play Center now is. What draws people to The Picaro is their sense of pride in the Mount community. They want to contribute to student life and make their university lives more interesting.

"I enjoyed the friendship," says Anne Derrick, feminist lawyer, human rights activist and recent

needed when spending hours slaving behind their IBM electric typewriters, cutting and pasting the paper together. Derrick even grew accustomed to drinking beer and eating the cold pizza.

As the seventies gave way to the eighties the world changed but the lifestyle at The Picaro remained the same. The office moved into a

looks from the rest of the staff, but we'd break out the warm beer and veggie pizza and everyone would forgive us."

Cranston was an editor for The Picaro in the 88-89 academic year. Working at the paper gave her the experience and knowledge needed for her future job, more so than what she learned in class, Cranston explains, "It [the paper] got me my career, much more so than any courses I took. In fact, my PR degree was a hindrance to getting a journalism job, since PR people are dismissed in our business as annoying 'flacks.' So having a stack of clippings to show the editor was a good thing."

During her tenure as editor the paper hit one major snag in production. A faculty strike kept postponing the production of the paper because of a lack of students.

The Picaro has endured far worse obstacles than a little strike. Student journalism was almost eliminated from the Mount campus entirely. It was the spring of 1993, when The Picaro was kicked out of their office. Now the details of why have been lost in the annals of history, however the shortened version is that the student union, under the leadership of Cathy Thorpe, had a serious disagreement with the paper. The student union constitution stated that the student newspaper was to receive funding from the students. This doesn't explicitly state that The Picaro is that student paper. Tensions continued until drastic action was taken and The Picaro staff was asked to remove all personal belongings from the office within the week. The locks were changed and The Picaro just ceased to exist.

Then a newspaper called The Nexus came into existence. This Student Union run paper was being produced out of the Ex-Picaro office. The senior editor was Ian Cowan, he and his staff produced a paper with content dictated heavily by the student union. However, the Picaro didn't truly die.

The Picaro "rogue" resurfaces in the form of Joe Stoltz and Bob LeDrew. They continue the work of The Picaro from a carrel in the library. This underground paper was produced and distributed without any assistance from the student union. So the two papers waged war over who is the true Mount Saint Vincent Student Newspaper. But as time passes the choice was becoming obvious. The Picaro produced with little to no money and a very limited staff, remained provocative and interesting. While the funded Nexus was substandard in comparison. Stoltz ran for and won the position of Student Union President and took the steps to reinstate the paper. A

continued on next page



recipient of an honorary degree from the Mount. "The opportunity to work with other students, and it introduced me to student activism as it was then."

Derrick was co-editor for The Picaro for several years in the early seventies. The future student union president, enjoyed her experience with The Picaro. It gave her an opportunity to develop skills for initiative and creativity. They were

"broom closet" on the top floor of Rosaria. This is where the small staff would labor on The Picaro late Wednesday night. Fortunately layout night coincided with the Pub night.

"So co-editor Christine Gallant and I would race down to the pub," says Marla Cranston, an entertainment writer for The Daily News. "And work out our frustrations on the dance floor. Then we'd go back upstairs and get dirty

continued from last page

referendum was held in the fall of 1994 to officially make The Picaro: The Mount Saint Vincent University's Student Newspaper.

Despite this victory, The Picaro was still in much trouble with some of the groups on campus. Many of the older students and faculty still had bad feelings about the paper. One such group was some the members of the MANUS (Mount Association of Non-traditional University Students) executive. They were strong proponents of a "no" vote during The Picaro referendum. This animosity continued through the years until a second time the paper was "removed" from campus.

"My most memorable moment must have been when MANUS walked into the meeting," says Brian Kerrigan, Assistant Photo Editor for the National Post. "That whole experience showed me the strife that the paper draws to itself. But the big thing for me was that it showed me the political landscape of the university. You got to see who was affiliated to whom."

Kerrigan, following in the footsteps of his sister, was the Editor-in-Chief for the paper in the 1996-97 year. A photo journalist by training,

he learned many new skills at The Picaro. This included the ability to look at things more critically and to take the roll of devil's advocate. He feels that editing is a thought process. It is not like riding a bike, where you just learn how to do it. You have to learn a whole other way of thinking.

He was the features editor when members of the MANAS executive arrived during a staff meeting holding garbage bags filled with every issue of The Picaro from the campus that had been distributed the night before. They felt that the material was inappropriate. The staff then mobilized and personally handed every issue to students along with an attached page explaining what censorship was. The fiasco attracted the local media's attention and many letters to the editor.

As the millennium passes The Picaro continues to be dedicated to informing, challenging and entertaining the students of MSVU. The paper provides the Mount community with a forum to air their views. With the support of new student contributors and a few other rogues, the next 35 years of student press on campus will be brought to you by your friendly neighborhood Picaro.



Taken from Volume 1 Issue 1, The Picaro circa 1965*

Why "Picaro"?

For those of you who have never taken a course in Spanish Literature, an explanation of the newspaper's name is in order.

"Picaro" is the term applied to the hero of early Spanish literature. He is a person who roams the countryside, retaining the ideas and philosophies expressed by the people he encounters. From these various ideas, he divulges his own philosophy.

The term is relatively appropriate for a newspaper, since the objective of any newspaper is to give an overall picture of the times, the events and the people who create and supposedly solve the problems that arise.

By no means do we of the Picaro intend to solve any problems, but we do intend to express our views, and those of the university. How much roaming about the countryside we do is also tentative. However, we hope that through the media of this first newspaper of our university, we can give an accurate picture of what is going on here, and the people and events that make up life of this school.

* Issue 1 Volume 1 as well as many other editions of the Picaro are available in the MSVU Archives

SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING...

by Martha Martin, MSVU Chaplain

Is there life after death?

There are many who believe the traditional Christian doctrine of a physical heaven and hell, two opposite places to spend one's eternity—reward or punishment depending on one's actions in life. Our current culture, movies and TV shows depict angels at every turn, angels to guide us, angels to protect us, angels to save us from ourselves, angels to give us a second chance—angels of life and angels of death. For the price of admission or a phone call, psychic channellers converse with our departed loved ones, who send messages from beyond telling us they are happy and fine. Bogus nonsense, or absolute truth?

There are many books written about folks who have had near-death-experiences. These stories tell of people of all ages, cultures, and walks of life who have been officially declared dead and then have been brought back to life. Their experiences all have similar themes, with the main one being that they live their lives from the near death experience on not afraid of death. What can this phenomenon tell us? In a culture that is so blatantly death-denying, it is remarkable that in an instant the fear of death is removed from one's consciousness. Studies have shown that it has a profound effect on the way one lives the rest of one's life.

Some faith traditions believe in reincarnation—a belief that the soul doesn't die, that what you do in this life affects who you will be in the next, and that what happens in one's current life is a direct result of what one may or may not have done in a previous life. Others believe that we live on in our children, in the people we have touched, in the deeds we have done, in the stories people tell about us. Still others might believe in some kind of continuance of the energy of the soul after death, but that as humans we are not able to comprehend the mysteries of the vast universe, except to know that this energy is somehow connected to all that is and all that will be.

Others might say that heaven and hell are metaphors for how we can live our lives right now—heaven, the vision of a just and fair world, where everyone has enough and is happy, valued and loved, or hell, a vision of a world where physical pain, intense fear, and broken community rule the day. There are many examples in our own cities and communities, and around the world of "hell on earth." These folks would say that the challenge is to work to bring about "heaven on earth", the not in the future, but now.

What do you think? Does it matter if there is an afterlife? What do you believe? Send your comments to me at
Martha.Martin@MSVU.ca.

The Chaplain can be reached at 457-6466; email
Martha.Martin@msvu.ca



Blue Rodeo rocked at the Metro Centre Thursday night.

Hanson Photo



Hanson Photo

Blue Rodeo visits Halifax

by Carlee Portolesi

After three months of anticipation and excitement, Blue Rodeo finally made it to Halifax for their first show here since the Great Big Picnic last summer.

On March 9th, we headed to the Metro Center to sit in our great side stage seats, only to be disappointed because of huge posts that would block our view of lead singer, Jim Cuddy. That didn't last long, as we complained to our friendly ushers who suggested new places to go. We might as well have been on the floor we were so close.

Okay, so enough about that, I'm sure you would really like to know about the show. The opening act, The Sadies, came out and finally left the stage 45 minutes later, leaving me feeling as if I was in an old Hee-Haw re-run. Needless to say, I was not impressed with these guys. Their loudest cheer came when they announced they would be playing their last song.

Blue Rodeo started about half an hour later, getting the crowd going right away by playing Somebody Waits, their latest single from "The Days In Between."

The best thing about Blue Rodeo is that their music is so eclectic. They have great range in their musical style, playing music that is bluesy, jazzy, country, and alternative all at the same time.

They most definitely showed their versatility, bouncing from beautiful ballads such as Lost Together, Try, and Bad Timing, to more upbeat songs such as Better Off as We Are, Till I Am Myself Again, and I Love The Way You Come To Me.

It was an amazing show. Blue Rodeo is full of energy, and they proved it for a full two and a half hours. They put on such a great show, the crowd called them out for two encores, which brought the show down to a mellow close.

Blue Rodeo always puts on a good show. I would definitely recommend them to anyone, and can't wait until they come back again.



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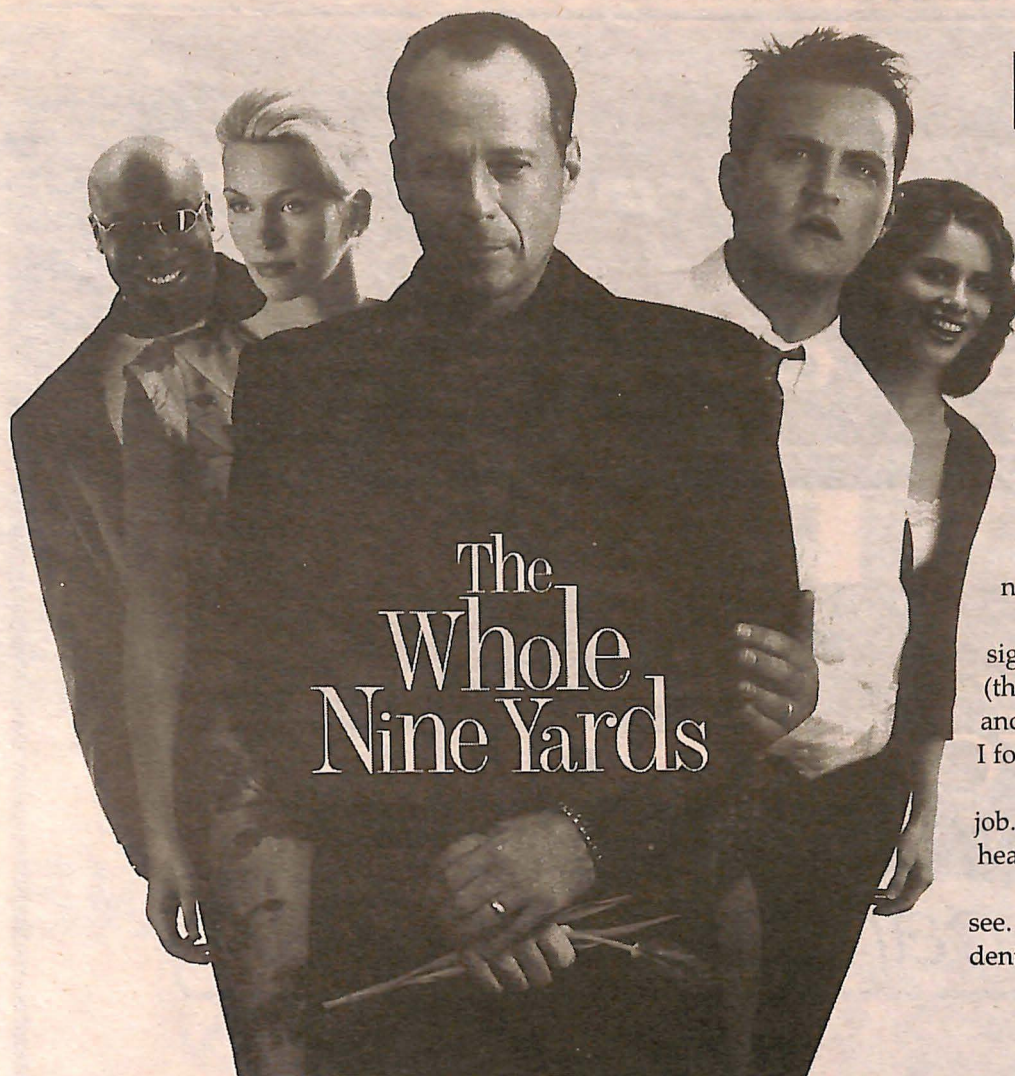
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Life is a comedy. It's all in the execution

By James Tilley

Montreal, Quebec was the setting of "The Whole Nine Yards". The movie is the recent comedy starring Bruce Willis and Matthew Perry.

The essence of the storyline is that Willis is a former hitman for a big crime family and he is hiding out in Canada. He moves in next door to Perry, a really nice and innocent dentist who recognises the contract killer next door. Then the madness ensues.

The movie is hilarious, I laughed for most of the movie. The movie is very sight gag oriented, like the fight between Perry and Michael Clarke Duncan (the big guy from the green mile). The movie poked a little bit of fun at Canada and some of their little habits, like mayonnaise on a burger. And as a Canadian, I found it quite enjoyable.

Now I really dislike "Friends," but in this movie Perry did a pretty good job. And Willis, for some reason always seems to play a really good cold-hearted killer. Everyone else was equally amusing.

You should check out this comedy. It is just a good clean fun movie to go see. That's if you don't mind a few swear words, a little blood, brief nudity and dentist drills.

STEPHEN SHEPPARD HAS A JOB!



STEPHEN SHEPPARD
BBA '98, CERTIFICATE IN INFORMATION
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"I started talking with their technical person about Mpowered before the interview began...asking what type of connection Mpowered was (ISDN versus ADSL) etc. During the interview he asked if I knew about DHCP. Thanks to Jeff

Uebele, LAN instructor! I was able to talk knowledgeably about the topic. **Result? I was hired for a full-time position in Halifax one week later."**

"**Hooray! Full-time job!** I'm learning a lot and gaining valuable experience as I go! Who knows where this could lead?"

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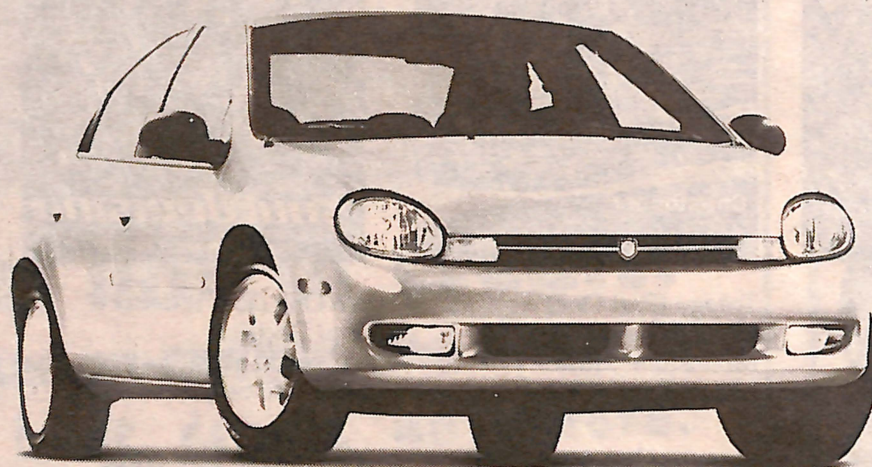
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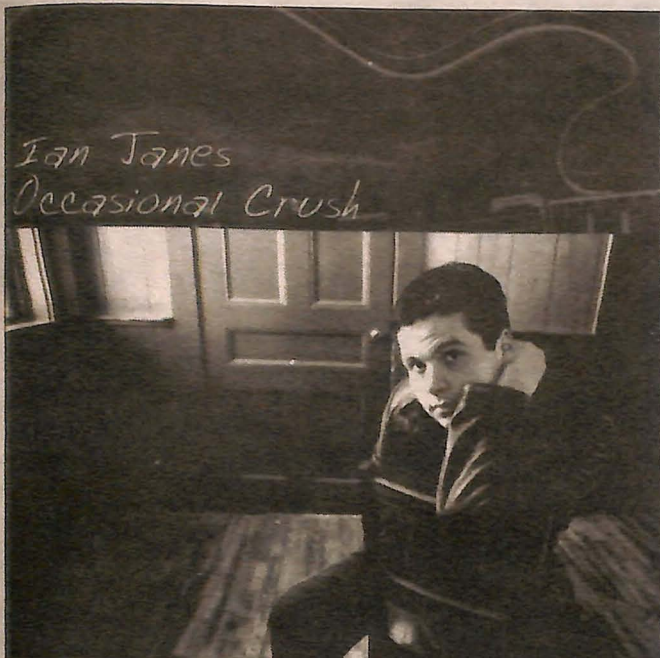


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Occasional Crush

Ian Janes

by David Roddis

Before I begin, I must admit that I jumped at the chance to review this album. I attended high school with Ian and wasn't surprised he'd continued to be involved in the music scene. What did surprise me was the quality of this album. While I expected the typical beginner's album, the truth is far from that. This debut album is polished and superbly produced, and shows maturity beyond what I expected. Janes is a superb guitarist but never do his skills overpower the songs. His phrasing is subtle and is well complemented by the splendid horn

section. Ian's voice carries hints of both strength and sensitivity and translates into a very easy listen. For a final word I'd like to recommend this album to all, it's well worth the purchase. On a numeric basis, I'd rate this album an 8/10. This is not a sympathetic 8/10 for an Atlantic Canadian album, I'm talking overall. Keep in mind I've rated some of Clapton's stuff at a 7. Keep your ears open, this young man is going places.

Ian Janes plays with The Main Event at Vinnie's Pub Wednesday, March 15 (8:00) and at the Rebecca Cohn March 18.

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Every year The Picaro runs a parody issue. It is where we make fun of anything and everything. But we also want your help if you have any ideas or do you want to contribute an article, comic or photo please call the office at 457-6386 or drop off your article to the Picaro office (room 114) Attn: James Tilley

PICARO

MOUNT COMMUNITY

Family Studies and Gerontology Society

The FSGN Society is having its next meeting on Thursday, February 24 at 12:00 Noon until 1:00 PM, in EVE 360 D, to discuss the upcoming career night. For more information, please contact shaunalee.vincent@msvu.ca or check out the bulletin board outside the FSGN office, 3rd floor EVE.

Student Union Elections - VO T E! Elections-March 15th and 16th.

Science Society Dinner Theatre
Friday, March 17th 2000

FOUND

1 Korean-English Translator. Please claim at Assisi front desk.

METRO COMMUNITY

The Saint Mary's Commerce Society presents...

The Most Prestigious Event of the Year...

CAREER EXPO 2000

The time has come to sign up
Wednesday, March 22nd, 2000
10am-4pm.

McNally Theatre Auditorium

This is a forum where students can gather information about career options. Exhibitors include everything from financial institutions, to government agencies and post-undergrad programs.

Seminars: Will be on main stage

FREE ADMISSION

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Tuesday, March 28th, 12pm-4pm

Rosaria Multi-Purpose Room

All donors require signed I.D.

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Nova Scotia Talent Trust Year 2000 Scholarship Program

Established in 1944, the Trust provides financial assistance to Nova Scotians who demonstrate exceptional potential and commitment to become established artists in film and video, literary arts, performing arts and visual arts. The Trust gives priority to applicants not yet established in their chosen fields who are undertaking programs of study that will advance their artistic development. An eligible applicant is anyone who is a permanent resident of Nova Scotia, including those Nova Scotians who are temporarily studying outside the province.

The trust has three deadlines each year. The first is April 15 for applicants who plan to continue or begin a program of study in the Summer session. The second is June 1 for those beginning or continuing a program in September. The third deadline is October 15 for those beginning or continuing a program of study in the winter.

Editors Note: having all that said, there is free \$\$\$ involved and lots of winners each year. Therefore for me to have typed out that spiel, each and every one

of you should really get off your keister and apply. To do that and find out more about this great program, call the Talent Trust at 424-4442

Humans Against Homophobia

Humans Against Homophobia is a working group of the Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group (NSPIRG). Our working group is dedicated to doing research and public education around issues of homophobia and heterosexism. We are currently trying to compile a booklet/ display which details people's experiences with homophobia and heterosexism as a way to inform the public of these issues and possible ways to respond. So, to solicit submissions we would like to include a little blurb in your paper.

Humans Against Homophobia is looking for submissions that communicate your experiences with homophobia and heterosexism. We're looking for a broad range of experiences in any material. All ages and orientations are welcome to submit, anonymously or otherwise.

Submit to the NSPIRG office in the Dal SUB, University Ave or to nohomophobia@yahoo.com. For more info call 494-6662.

Venus Envy Women's Basketball League

There are a few spots left for the Melba B recreational league. If you are interested, please call Marie at 453-5150.

Manna For Health is seeking volunteers to help in the collection, handling and distribution of food. Please call 429-7670, your call will be returned!

Career Corner

If you are looking for a job, whether it be for part-time, full-time or for the summer, stop by the Career Planning Centre and check out the Job Board. Some of the job postings are as follows:

Job Type	Position	Employer	Wage
Arts & Sciences			
Full-time	Internships	Canada China Business Council	Unknown
Full-time	Computer Program	Provincial Airlines	Unknown
Full-time	Research Coordinator	Southwest Regional School Board	\$18.50/Hour
Professional Studies			
Full-time	Teaching Position	School District 59 Peace River South	Unknown
Part-time	Counsellors	New England Center for Children	Unknown
Full-time	Teaching Position	Fredricton School Board	Unknown
Part-time	Marketing	Bylo Marketing & Promotions	Unknown
Full-time	Financial Planner	London Financial Center	Unknown
Summer	Sales and Marketing	Sights and Sounds Production	Unknown
Summer	Various	Farmers Co-operative Dairy	Unknown
General Employment			
Summer	Landscape Construction Crew	NS Agricultural College	Unknown
Summer	Various	Camp Rotary	Unknown
Part-time	Sales Associate	Tip Top Taylor	Unknown
Part-time	Senate Page Program	The Senate of Canada	Unknown
Summer	Management Team	Jeremiah Farm Park Ltd.	Unknown

Nova Scotia Teaching Job Information Fair

Where: Nova Scotia Teacher's Union

When: April 7 from 3-6:30pm & April 8 from 8:30am to 12:30pm

All Education Students Welcome !

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Approximately five million adult Canadians cannot read, write or use numbers well enough to meet the literacy demands of everyday life.

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Don't just read about it!

SWINGTIME CANTEEN

— A RIP-ROARING SHOW

—A WOWSER

Mount Saint Vincent University's Speech and Drama Department presents **SWINGTIME CANTEEN** a rip-roaring canteen show which takes its inspiration from the films and personalities that helped to define the national consciousness known as "the war effort". Laughs, tears, emotional fireworks, air raids and a celebration of women during the war punctuate this hilarious and heart warming story.

Mount students Jenny Senior, Gillian Costello, Heather Harris, Michelle Bowe, and Krista Norman will portray five archetypal film characters from the 1940's, who prove their mettle while they sing over 30 vintage classics from the war years. Songs include: *Don't Fence Me in; I'll Be Seeing You; Sing, Sing, Sing; How High the Moon; I Don't Want to Walk Without You*, and other favourites.

Not your standard nostalgia-fest **SWINGTIME CANTEEN** promises an exuberant excursion back to the days of World War II!!! The show is directed by fourth year student, Terri Roberts, with music under the direction of Trevor J. Wentzell. The three shows will be presented in Vinnie's Pub, Rosaria Centre, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, March 24, 25, and 26. All seats \$5.00. Advance Tickets are now available from Debbie Fewer, Seton 533.

A look at...Player Profiles

Compiled by Rhonda Simser

#14

Name: Sara Bisson
Age: 19
Astrological Sign: Aries
Graduated from: Sackville High
Year/Program: 2nd, Arts
Sport: Basketball
Position: Post/ Wing
Marital Status: No
Markings/Tattoo's: No Way Man!
Favourite Song: Blue
Favourite Movie: R&B
Favourite TV Show: That 70's Show
Likes: money/food/boys
Dislikes: Mean people
Notable Achievements: High School Provincial Champ

Dislikes: Losing
Notable Achievements: —
Player's Quote: "She's not that tough."

Name: Stephanie Hurley
Age: 19
Astrological Sign: Aries
Graduated from: St. Stephen's High School, Stephanville, NFLD
Year/Program: 2nd, PR
Sport: Basketball
Position: Wing
Marital Status: Single
Markings/Tattoo's: Basketball Tattoo (back of shoulder)
Favourite Song: Nothingman - Pearl Jam, Back the Azz up- Juvenile
Favourite Movie: Beaches
Favourite TV Show: NBA games, NBA Inside Stuff
Likes: Pepsi, Reggie Miller, Chris Webber, movies
Dislikes: Knicks
Notable Achievements: Winning High School basketball Provincials
Player's Quote: "Yes Bye"

Sport: Basketball
Position: Forward
Marital Status: Single
Markings/Tattoo's: Not Yet!
Favourite Song: Got you Money - ODB
Favourite Movie: Dirty Dancing
Favourite TV Show: Felicity
Likes: Hands
Dislikes: None, I am fairly content!
Notable Achievements: Getting my a@# down!
Players' Quote: "If you don't try, you won't get it."

#6

Name: Julie Clattenburg
Age: 19
Astrological Sign: Capricorn
Graduated from: Sackville High
Year/Program: 1st, THMT
Sport: Basketball
Position: Point Guard
Marital Status: Single
Markings/Tattoo's: ?
Favourite Song: Dreams - Gabrielle
Favourite Movie: Grease
Favourite TV Show: Dawson's Creek
Likes: B-Ball
Dislikes: Losing
Notable Achievements: 2 time High School Provincial Champion
Player's Quote: "That was the past, this is now."

#0

Name: Erin Pelham
Age: 19
Astrological Sign: Leo
Graduated from: J.L. Ilesley
Year/Program: 2nd, Arts
Sport: Basketball
Position: Post
Marital Status: Single
Markings/Tattoo's: Dark framed glasses
Favourite Song: Imagine
Favourite Movie: Stand by Me
Favourite TV Show: Friends and Cops
Likes: Warm weather
Dislikes: Nadia's farts on the bus and the cold
Notable Achievements: Female Athlete of the Year: J.L. Ilesley, Most Improved Player: MSVU
Player's Quote: "You only live once."

#21

Name: Vicki Veinotte
Age: 20
Astrological Sign: Gemini
Graduated from: Parkview Education Center
Year/Program: 2nd, CHYS
Sport: Basketball
Position: Guard
Marital Status: Single
Markings/Tattoo's: Sun
Favourite Song: Freak Me
Favourite Movie: Sliver
Favourite TV Show: Friends and Passions
Likes: Food, money, boys
Dislikes: Body hair
Notable Achievements: Learning to force the baseline, and running out on the shot.
Players's Quote: "Staying positive wins the game."

#15

Name: Shannon Fraser
Age: 21
Astrological Sign: Virgo
Graduated from: Kennebecasis
Year/Program: 4th, BBA
Sport: Basketball
Position: Guard
Marital Status: Single
Markings/Tattoo's: Nope
Favourite Song: —
Favourite Movie: Grease
Favourite TV Show: Friends, ER
Likes: Working
Dislikes: Ice Cream
Notable Achievements: An MSVU b-ball chick! Won ACAA Championship
Player's Quote: "It ain't over till it's over."

#8

Name: Tara Kinch AKA "Tuffy"
Age: 21
Astrological Sign: Gemini
Graduated from: Queen Elizabeth High School
Year/Program: 4th, Arts
Sport: Soccer/Basketball
Position: Striker/Point Guard
Marital Status: Single, but taken
Markings/Tattoo's: —
Favourite Song: Big Butts
Favourite Movie: Hairspray
Favourite TV Show: Jem and the Holograms
Likes: Winning

#13

Name: Andrea Dickinson
Age: 18
Astrological Sign: Leo
Graduated from: Fredericton High School
Year/Program: 1st, Bsc AHN

Men's basketball team says good-bye

by Rhonda Simser

On February 21, 2000, Peter Turnbull played his last home game as a Mount Mystic. After a brief ceremony honoring the fourth year Arts student the game against the Nova Scotia Agricultural College got under way.

It seemed from the start that the Mystics might lose, they didn't seem to have their game together, and it also appeared that the officials were making some bad calls. At the half, the Mystics were down, and the fans dispersed to stretch their legs and mingle with other spectators.

Once the game resumed, the Mystic men appeared to have gotten

their acts together, and began to play a little better. The game went back and forth, and it wasn't ever clear who was going to win the game until the last few seconds when Jonathan Hall netted a three point shot that sealed the Mystics win. The final score was 61-56.

Although it was a game well played, Jayson Taker fouled out of the game half way through the second half, and our honoree, Peter Turnbull fouled out with only a few minutes left to go.

With the win, the Mystics finished their season with a 13-5 record. Congratulations on a season well played.

Mystics lose at ACAA playoffs

by Rhonda Simser

While most of us were enjoying the last weekend before Spring Break was over, our dedicated men's basketball team spent the weekend in Sackville, New Brunswick, trying to make it eight of ten years as ACAA champs. But it was not to be.

With a semi-final match up against the Mt. A Mounties, it looked like the guys were in for a good weekend of basketball. The Mounties led at half-time, 35-31, and with just over a minute to go in the game, the score was tied at 58. The Mystics pulled through and won the game 66-60. Peter Turnbull and Jayson Taker were high scorers for the Mystics with 19 and 17 points, respectively, while Mike Harris had 17 points and Shaun Alie had 11 for the Mounties.

After the win, the guys went on to play the St. Thomas Tommies in the final on Sunday, March 5. Although the guys played hard (I think they played hard, no one would tell me anything, and one of the guys asked me not to run a story about the weekend), they lost the game in the end, with a score of 76-63. The Mystics could not claim the championship again this year. Peter Turnbull had 15 points, while Alan Williams had 14 points for the Mystics. High scorer for the Tommies was Shane Butland with 39 points.

To top off the weekend, Peter Turnbull and Tara Kinch were named to the All Conference 1st team, while Jayson Taker and Vicki Veinotte were named to the All Conference 2nd team, for the 1999-2000 season.

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