

Thursday, January 28, 1988

mount saint vincent university halifax, n.s.

Students voice their opinions at Forum

by Marla Cranston

Albert has been losing sleep over the issue of underfunding of post-secondary education (PSE), and so have many students at Mount Saint Vincent University.

To find out how much sleep has been lost by the government on this issue, about 250 Mount students boycotted classes on Jan. 20 to attend a forum on "the Legacy of Restraint." The panel discussion and question period was hosted by the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) and the Students' Union of Nova Scotia (SUNS) as part of their National Week of Action.

Most students wore black armbands to protest their debt load (which has increased 100 per cent in the last five years), the lack of capital funding for, and accessibility to PSE, and Nova Scotia's tuition fees, the highest in the country.

The panel, including representatives from SUNS, CFS, provincial and federal governments, listened to the students' concerns and at the same time informed students of the complications in funding PSE.

The main problem is the provincial government's lack of accountability in the spending of federal funds for PSE. Until 1977, the provinces were given funds specifically for education. Now, under the Established Programs Financing Act (EPF), the provinces receive an unconditional block fund to cover both education and health costs.

Transferred in the form of cash payments and tax points, this money becomes part of the province's general revenue, so there is no record of how much of it is actually spent on education. To make matters worse, the federal government's policy of restraint has slowed the growth of the EPF block fund.

Marilyn Gaudet, Director of

Federal/Provincial Fiscal Relations, feels that the province's share of PSE funding is ever-increasing. Due to the federal cut-backs, she mentioned, Nova Scotia is losing \$180 million in funding.

She said, "The need to control deficits and the resulting costs of servicing the increasing debt load have meant that all facets of government have been subject to restraint. Despite that restraint, health and education have remained top priorities of most provincial governments."

In Nova Scotia, education related spending accounts for 24 per cent of total spending, according to Gerald McCarthy, special advisor to Edmund Morris, Minister of Advanced Education. Also the Chair of the Nova Scotia Council of Higher Education, McCarthy does not dispute the importance of education.

He said however, that the provincial government is already spending substantially more every year than its revenues. Over half of the provincial expenditures are on health and education. If any more is to be spent, he said, either the deficit will increase or taxpayers will be further burdened.

Representing Secretary of State David Crombie, Nigel Chippindale, argued that the federal government, not the provinces, is paying for the bulk of PSE. From 1980-85, he said, the EPF transfers totalled \$60 billion for all of Canada. The total from 1985-90 will be over \$90 billion. The rate of increase in EPF funds is now tied to growth in GNP (Gross National Product) minus two per cent, which works out to an EPF yearly increase of five per cent.

Chippindale believes, "This is a substantial rate of increase for a government in Ottawa which has committed itself to much

more severe restraints in other areas."

Royden Trainor, Chair of SUNS, and Paul Card, CFS National Executive Representative for Nova Scotia, are both disturbed that the federal and provincial governments speak in two different languages on the question of funding, as observed at the forum and on many other occasions.

Trainor said, "What we need is the consensus to eliminate petty bickering between two levels of government. We need to get on with making sure universities are accessible and that they are of a quality level. That may have begun with the National Forum on PSE (held in October in Saskatoon), but I wouldn't hold my breath until I see some results."

Trainor may not have to wait long for his results. In February, Secretary of State Crombie is meeting with the council of provincial Ministers of Education. Issues that were deemed priorities at the National Forum will be discussed.

There have been other moves made to benefit students. The maximum Nova Scotia bursary has gone up from \$1700 to \$2000. One student attending the forum suggested that this happened because 1988 is an election year.

At a technology and innovation conference in Toronto a few weeks ago, a joint research funding program was developed by the federal government and the private sector.

Prime Minister Mulroney recently announced a federal commitment to establish centres of excellence on university campuses nationwide, as well as to award new scholarships to students of science and engineering.

At her forum follow-up discus-

sion, Mount President Naomi Hersom expressed concern about Mulroney's announcement. She feels that these programs may just add to the accessibility problems by appealing to few people and by making universities too specialized.

However, Hersom is encouraged by other recent government commitments, such as the establishment of a Federal Student Aid Advisory Board. CFS leader Tony Masseroli will sit on this board. Gerald McCarthy mentioned that a similar committee will be formed in Nova Scotia, due in part to a SUNS request.

Paul Card is happy with committees and forums and all the talk about PSE funding, but he hopes that the talk will soon lead to some real action, such as the setting of national standards for PSE.

"The CFS is a strong supporter of the role of the federal government in PSE," said Card. "One of the ultimate goals of our organization is an education that is accessible to all, of the highest quality and nationally planned."

Despite the provinces' constitutional control over education, Card feels that students would be better off if a national education plan were developed. He hopes that Bill C-228, which called for a national advisory body on PSE, will be brought again before parliament. Chippindale insists that the bill is not defunct and its subject matter is still being looked at by a parliamentary committee.

Many students at the forum were disappointed that the government was represented by civil servants and not by elected officials. Card felt that the guest speakers understood the situation and provided useful information on PSE funding. At the same time, students made the bureau-

crats aware of their concerns, and these concerns will be passed on to the elected representatives.

A good example of this was one student's complaint about the long wait for his bursary, which still has not been received. Trainor mentioned that this is commonly the case. McCarthy was genuinely surprised and promised to follow it up.

The government and student panel speakers were pleased with the two-way communication experienced at the forum.

Card said, "There are so many cop-outs by the provincial and federal governments that it was important to get the students involved and to get them informed." He feels that students are quite informed already, judging by the variety of questions they asked.

Chippindale claims that these forums really do make a difference. If people communicate with the government regularly, he said their needs are likely to be addressed. Just in case, Card plans to contact Minister Edmund Morris to ask if student concerns expressed at the forum were brought to his attention by McCarthy.

Following the forum was a reception hosted by "average students on an average student aid budget." Kool-Aid and macaroni and cheese were served.

National Week of Action campaign coordinator Anamiki Krishna was happy with student reaction to the forum. She said that students from coast to coast showed their dissatisfaction with government funding for PSE through similar events during the week. She encourages students to continue voicing their opinions throughout the year. The government seems to be listening now and that is the first step.

Women's studies brings Nigerian students to Halifax

by Megan MacLennan

Nigerian students will soon be attending Halifax universities as part of a program designed to compare research on the status of women in Nigeria and Canada.

Two Mount Saint Vincent University professors were part of a small group which recently returned from a two-week trip to Nigeria. The trip is the beginning of a four-year women's development program between the Mount, Dalhousie, and two Nigerian universities.

"There are a lot of similarities

between women's issues in the two countries," said Dr. Deborah Poff, chair of women's studies at the Mount, and one of the five Halifax professors in the group. "They're worried about rape...about sexual harassment, and violence against women, the same as here."

She also said there are certain problems facing Nigerian women that aren't issues in Canada. For example, it is almost impossible for women to become economically independent. "Women aren't in powerful positions in

Nigeria," she said, "so they can't easily change their situation."

Polygamy is another serious problem. "They (the wives) find it pretty difficult...their husbands might have as many as seven wives, or more," said Dr. Poff. "A husband might be 80 years old, and take another wife."

"Family matters are very complex in Nigeria," said Dr. Susan Clark, the other MSVU professor involved in the project. "The multiple wives problem is a ma-

jor issue, but this also leads to other problems, like what each set of children can claim from the father, and how much of the husband's income each wife should get."

Dr. Clark, the Mount's dean of human and professional development, said basic concerns, like quality of health care and distribution of food, are also major issues. However, "the issues of women have to be front and centre for society there to develop," she said.

Both professors feel that the

trip was a successful start to the program. "I think it was a great beginning," said Dr. Poff. "People were very excited about the program in Nigeria, and treated us well."

Money to fund the project comes from a \$425,000 grant from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). A portion of this grant will give the Nigerian universities thousands of dollars worth of books, and will permit them to produce two anthologies on women's studies in their own countries.

Sermon on the Mount

Due to the overwhelming response from readers, as Editor, I am dedicating this week's editorial page to the community of Mount Saint Vincent. The only thing I ask is that, in future, readers use the Letters to the Editor section as a forum for discussing important issues. I believe it is above all of us to resort to name-calling and insults in a public arena. Thank you for your responses.

Jeffrey G. Mann
Editor

Letters to the Editor

DUET

To the Editor:

The determination of what is newsworthy on this particular campus sometimes leads me to frustration. For instance, whenever I hear of the new and probably wonderful E. Margaret Fulton Communications Centre, what I hear about are topics like library space and parking. These are important issues to be sure. The purpose of this letter is to remind you of a topic much nearer to my heart that has been almost entirely ignored.

The largest producer of live television in Halifax is located in the basement of Seton Annex, where since 1983 the Mount has been producing educational television for live broadcast over satellite and cable distribution networks. It may be said that the programming produced does not emulate well the Hollywood glitter we have all come to expect from network television. Instead, it is a functional use of technology to help distribute educational material to a dispersed and growing student body.

The new E. Margaret Fulton Communications Centre, besides being a badly needed exercise in the proper storage of books, will more than double the available space for DUET, enabling the project to continue to grow without sacrificing the emphasis on educational content which has made the Mount the leader in educational television in the Maritimes.

It is sometimes frustrating to those students who work at this most visible and public of Mount initiatives that we work in such relative obscurity. The emphasis always seems to be on things which the Mount lacks, has misplaced, or lost altogether. Sometimes there is too little recognition that the Mount has managed to step into the modern age of electronic media and computer technology without losing sight of the unique objectives and beliefs which make the University what it is. Sometimes those beliefs may be contradictory, as long-held beliefs are bound to be in a rapidly changing world. But through DUET the Mount has offered to the 230 current and several hundred past Duet students, as well as to a casual audience which

numbers in the thousands, a chance to enter a future that would otherwise pass them by.

I am not so naive as to think that an outward looking enterprise like DUET deserves a front page article in the *Picaro*. It would just be nice if note could be taken that the new building will contain more than a library. Malcolm Stanley, Member DUET Production Staff

* Editor's Note:

Unfortunately not all of the Mount's operations are run as effectively as DUET. In other words, there are so many problems on campus, that the good is overlooked. All of you at DUET deserve the congratulations and respect of the community.

Lighten up

To the Editor:

Having read the letter from Dr. Marguerite Anderson, I would like to make a few comments as a detached bystander. Although I am not a Distinguished Chair in Women's Studies, I am a student and feel this entitles me to have valid opinions as such.

I find that the Distinguished Chair seems to take a narrow view of things, and is overly sensitive to anything which could possibly be construed as sexist. I do not feel the editor's corrections of Dorothy Doucet's letter to be "squealing" or "ridiculing", they are merely facts which the editor felt were necessary to point out. (And chastising him for misspelling "sic" is really unnecessary.) Also, I do not find the male figures peeping out of "Spoof's Guide" in the Jan. 14 issue to be sexist. The point is not whether the figures are male or female; they represent "Spoof", and he happens to be male. That's not something he should be blamed for. I also do not consider the absence of "International Women's Day" and the Conference on Language and Sex to be significant in some sexist way, as the Distinguished Chair did—they are accidental omissions, accept them as such. (The fact still remains, March is totally devoid of any holidays for students).

Finally, I read "Art's Pond" (p. 6, Jan. 14) and found it humorous. There is a thin line be-

tween the humorous and the offensive, but, in my opinion, "Art's Pond" did not cross it. It was, perhaps, a "sick" joke, but funny nevertheless.

I would like to take the liberty to advise the Distinguished Chair of Women's Studies to try to look at the world with more humour in her soul. It is indeed a sad day for the world when people cannot joke about the things which concern them most, to relieve worry and tension. One must be able to find some humour even in the worst fears, to prevent our fears from oppressing and obsessing us.

So, lighten up!
Tracey Ernst

Accountant corrects

To the Editor:

There were several errors in the responses to Ms. Doucet's (Jan. 14) letter that I feel need to be corrected.

Keith Campbell is a retired C.M.A. (Certified Management Accountant) not a C.A. (Chartered Accountant). Keith brings twenty plus years of industry experience to the student union, and was easily the most qualified individual applying for the position. His supervisor, also chosen for being the most qualified, is a female student.

To obtain a chartered accountant designation in Nova Scotia an individual must have a university degree, be hired by and work for an approved public accounting firm for at least two years, complete an educational program provided by the Atlantic Provinces Association of Chartered Accountants (APACA) and then pass sixteen hours of national examinations that have a pass rate of approximately fifty three per cent. These examinations last four hours and are given on four consecutive days.

M.B.A. graduates often take longer to complete the APACA program than a B.B.A. graduate as they tend to have fewer of the university course exemptions given by APACA. Individuals with non-business degrees would be in a similar situation.

I hope this clarifies the misconceptions, noted in the responses to Ms. Doucet's letter.

Yours truly,
Bruce W. Densmore, C.A.
Assistant Professor
Business Administration Department

Radical remarks unsettling

To the Editor:

Please allow me space to respond to Ms. Doucet's letter (Jan. 14). I do not wish to dignify the non-issues, raised in support of her argument, with a response. Although, I would like to respond to the warped ideology displayed in the letter in question.

Ms. Doucet obviously harbours an ignorance for the needs of other human beings and, unfortunately, ignorance breeds intolerance.

I find her remarks not only infuriating and offensive, but unsettling. To address Ms. Doucet directly, similar ideals have led to the persecution and oppression of millions of innocent human beings. Ms. Doucet, do you recall the Jewish Holocaust? To refresh your memory, an identifiable minority was persecuted and oppressed on the basis of a visible difference...race. In keeping with that fact, I find your statement, "...if it is also a men's university, it shouldn't be." rather ironic, hypocritical and unsettling.

All too often, Ms. Doucet, the modern world is governed by precedent. If you were to set your precedent, where would you, and your cohorts, see fit to stop?

Ideals can be powerful weapons, Dorothy. I thank God that the ideal you advocated blew up in your face and not in anyone else's.

To address the Mount population, the radical feminism Ms. Doucet advocates, like all radical movements, proves to be sadly counter-productive. The Mount has definite potential to be a bulwark against discrimination and inequality of the sexes and is realizing this goal. The only way to continue is to "accept," rather than "except," on the basis of individual merit...not sex.

Sincerely,
Danny Gillam
2nd year B.Sc.
Psychology

Editors' views not shared

To the Editor:

As a past editor of the *Picaro*, current member of the alumnae Board of Directors and current member of the Women's Studies department, I am frankly disgusted by the Thurs., Jan. 21 issue of the *Picaro*.

The antifeminist attitude both of the editors and many of the letter writers blots the escutcheon of this university.

The cartoon which among other things uses the incorrect gender in declining the word alumna—alumna is sadly indicative of the inadequacies both intellectual and social of the creators of the *Picaro*.

How sad that this excuse for a student newspaper is read by those who will think it represents views of Mount students.

Thank God most of us know better.

Yours truly,
Mary C. Clancy

Now men know how women feel

To the Editor:

Thank you, gentlemen, for your tremendous response to Ms. Doucet's letter—which, by the way, was so very cleverly entitled, "Men do not belong at the Mount." Those letters of rebuttal exposed—however paradoxically—the same feelings of hostility, resentment, and anger

the *Picaro*

Once upon a time, a little man named *Picaro* proclaimed the news throughout the countryside. Today, he settles for the campus of Mount Saint Vincent University.

The *Picaro* is the students' newspaper, and contributions from the student body are always welcome. The deadline for copy and letters-to-the-editor is Friday at noon. All submissions must be signed, double-spaced, and typed. We will not consider publication otherwise. Anonymity, however, can be granted upon request. The *Picaro* reserves the right to edit for length and/or legality. Lengthy letters to the editor may be submitted as Hyde Park Corner features.

Views expressed herein are solely those of the author or artist.

The *Picaro* is a member of the Canadian University Press, and of Campus Plus. We subscribe to the CUP Statement of Principles, and to its Code of Ethics.

The *Picaro* is located in Room 403 of Rosaria Centre. Feel free to drop by. Excuse the mess...

Picaro staff can be reached at 443-4450, ext. 195.

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which women have had to suffer silently with for centuries. Suddenly sexual discrimination becomes a more serious issue, doesn't it guys?

As for your anger gentlemen, it is quite a natural response. However, remember this: At least yours can be expressed; until recently women could not even enjoy that liberty. Think about it.

H.A. Dunbar

P.S. Lisa "Honey!", why don't you "wake up and smell the coffee"? It is "women" like yourself who need "chivalry" (maybe you don't know what it means, nor what it implies), that "(give) the rest of us a bad name."

chiv·al·ry (chiv·al·rous)
1: VALIANT 2: of, relating to, or characteristic of chivalry and knight-errantry 3a: marked by honor, generosity, and courtesy b: marked by gracious courtesy and high-minded consideration esp. to women.
(Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary)

National week of in-action?

OTTAWA (CUP)—Some mourned the post-secondary education system in Canada by wearing black armbands, others boycotted classes, still others sent postcards to the federal government. And lots and lots of students just went to class like nothing was going on.

Last week, January 18 to 22, was National Action Week and student councils at many Canadian colleges and universities pushed their students to get organized and active about government underfunding of post-secondary education.

"There seems to be activity in every province," said Tony Macerollo, chair of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), the national student lobby group which coordinated the Week.

Macerollo attended a forum on January 19 at the University of Guelph, Ontario where classes had been cancelled for an hour. Macerollo and student council president Jim Ryan debated Guelph Conservative MP Bill Wineguard about the roles of the federal and provincial governments in funding of post-secondary education.

"We got about 500 students out and we had a frank discussion about transfer payments and the confusion between the two levels of government," said Macerollo.

A "bitch rug" was the most popular event of the week at Douglas College in New Westminster, BC, said student council vice president Fiona Cairns. Students wrote complaints down on paper, graffiti-style. "We just took this huge roll of paper and stretched it across our concourse. We taped it down and then attached all these pens and markers to it. Then everybody wrote down any complaints they had about school," said Cairns.

Cairns said many of the complaints were about the lack of adequate parking and other space problems on campus. Cairns said about half of the students who wrote on the "bitch rug" didn't take the exercise seriously, "but we got a lot of complaints that we can work on."

Cairns said the council also

tried to encourage students to wear black armbands to mourn the demise of Canada's post-secondary education system, but this didn't go over as well as the "bitch rug". "I guess they thought that wearing armbands was too radical," suggested Cairns.

Students at Memorial University in St. John's, Newfoundland and Simon Fraser University in Victoria dropped bottles containing SOS messages, into their respective oceans. "Exchanges between regions will be stressed, to get student unity in the forefront of national efforts," said Anne-Marie Vaughan, student council president at Memorial.

Students at Memorial also invited federal politicians to enjoy the traditional student aid meal of Kraft Dinner and took them on "underfunding tours" of the campus—outlining problems with overcrowding, day care, and inadequate sports facilities.

The University of Prince Edward Island reportedly held an Irish wake for education in Canada, and the students led provincial politicians on a "cutbacks tour" of their campus.

In the prairies, enthusiasm for the week was low. "Maybe we should be calling it the national week of inaction," said Lyndon Surjik, chair of CFS-Saskatchewan, about the lack of interest from post secondary institutions in the three prairie provinces.

"As far as I know, only the University of Regina and the University of Calgary grads are taking part in the one hour boycott of classes on Tuesday," said Surjik. The University of Regina students used the hour to host a forum on post secondary education issues.

"We will be asking students to get up and explain their beliefs about education, and we have invited the assistant deputy minister of education along to listen," said Surjik.

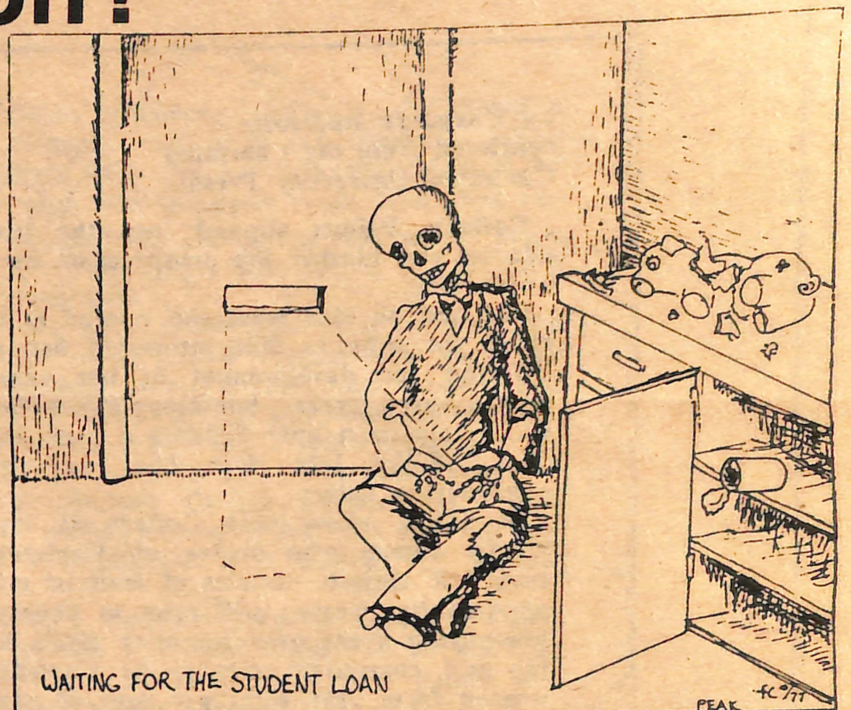
Saskatchewan and Alberta students are making use of the national CFS postcard plan which sends cards to federal Minister of Finance Michael Wilson and

Secretary of State David Crombie demanding the elimination of differential fees, and provincial accountability for federal monies earmarked for post-secondary education.

In Manitoba, only the University of Brandon participated in the Week of Action. Shelley Ireland, president of the Brandon University Students' Union, said she was surprised at the lack of support for the week. Brandon students only participated for one day—the "National Day of Mourning" on Jan. 20.

"We are trying to get students to focus on the issues in education which are not up to snuff, such as higher tuition, student aid, underfunding, and the problems native and international students run into," said Ireland.

"Unfortunately we have the problem of getting our students interested, too," said Ireland.



UVic rowers die in storm

VICTORIA (CUP)—Flags flew at half mast last week at the University of Victoria in memory of two UVic rowers who died in a storm during a practice on Friday, Jan. 15.

Gareth Lineen and Daryl Smith, both 19, were among the 18 junior varsity rowers who were thrown into the four degree celcius waters of Elk Lake when their sculls were swamped during a routine rowing practice.

Coach Lorna Ferguson had ordered the boats to return to shore after seeing whitecaps at the far end of the lake. She then ensured a pair (two person craft) that was also on the lake was safely to shore, then headed back to the two eights (nine person craft) to check their progress.

Ferguson found one of the eights overturned and loaded the nine men into her coach boat to take them to shore. But roughly 15 metres from shore her boat sank, forcing all to swim to shore.

It was then she realized the other scull had been swamped. The group found shelter at a

nearby house, and called for help from the local police and fire departments, who appeared within "fifteen to twenty minutes," according to Inspector Dennis Lush, in charge of the search.

Firefighters Ron Stubbings and Glen Goldie, found the eight men clinging to their broken craft some 45 minutes after it was overturned. "All we saw were hands reaching out of the water...they survived on pure guts and instinct...they encouraged each other, shouting at each other to keep holding on, and to keep alive," said Stubbings. Daryl Smith, from Youbou, B.C., died Friday night from hypothermia.

The search for Lineen's body continued through the weekend, but despite the aid of depth-sounding equipment, the searchers found nothing. The search was called off for the final time, Tuesday, Jan. 19, but daily monitoring of the lake will continue.

Students, family, faculty, and friends of the two arts undergraduates gathered at a

packed memorial service at UVic last week. UVic President, Howard Petch, also asked students unable to attend the service to recognize a campus-wide two minutes of silence.

Scholarships are currently being set up in memory of the two students.

Once ashore, a roll call revealed that Gareth Lineen was missing. While the other eight rowers were sent to the hospital to be treated for varying degrees of hypothermia, the search for Lineen continued. The first search and rescue team went out at 7:15 pm, according to Rita Boemer, a search and rescue coordinator on the scene.

A helicopter was called from up island, but could not fly to the site due to high winds. A coast guard helicopter arrived later, and scanned the lake with bright search lights, only to be forced away 15 minutes later by high winds. The search was called off at 9 pm.

Later Friday night, five of the rowers were released from the hospital, while two others remained until Saturday morning.

Strikes possible at Manitoba institutions

WINNIPEG (CUP)—Labour relations at Manitoba post-secondary institutions have reached a crisis level, with community college instructors on strike and two university faculty associations considering strike action.

The Union of Manitoba Community College Instructors voted in favour of strike action last week, citing wages, teacher workload and student-teacher ratios as the key points in their disagreement with the Manitoba government.

Red River, Assiniboine in Brandon, and Keewatin in The Pas are the colleges affected, according to Peter Olfert, president of the Manitoba Government Employees Association. He said

the union, which represents about 80 per cent of instructors of these colleges, is waiting for a final bargaining session before setting a strike date.

The University of Manitoba Faculty Association (UMFA) called a "Crisis within the university" forum Jan. 19 to discuss what they feel is an impasse with university administration.

Neil Tudiver, president of UMFA, said the current round of negotiations began in Jan. 87, and the last collective agreement ended on Mar. 31, 87. "Most of our major concerns are still outstanding, although a full twelve months have passed since bargaining commenced," said Tudiver. "Even though we started

with a relatively small number of issues for bargaining, the process is the most protracted in our history."

This is a scene which is being repeated at many universities across Canada, according to Tudiver. "Negotiations are often close to breakdown. The use of conciliators is on the rise. Strike votes are being seriously considered at several universities," he said.

At the University of Winnipeg, the faculty association (UWFA) has been working under a collective agreement since April while negotiators from faculty and administration try to hammer out a new agreement.

"We've been talking since

April, that's eight months and we still have not come to any sort of settlement," said Carl Ridd, president of UWFA. Ridd could offer no explanation as to why the talks have stalled, but thought the administration was being unreasonable at the bargaining table.

"They have moved micromillimeters in comparison to the concessions that we have made," he said.

The dispute goes beyond salaries, according to Ridd, and into the question of the decision making process at the university. "We ask for more money, they say there is none, we ask why and we get no answer," said Ridd. "We want a shared open-

ness about how the university is being run, and we don't want to run it by our-selves."

Ridd said the faculty does not plan to strike, "but it is a possible thing down the road."

According to a pamphlet put together by UMFA for their forum this labour relations crisis stems from the reorganization of Canadian universities in the past two decades.

"The management practices of business are being inappropriately applied to universities. University professors are losing control of their jobs. University faculties are losing influence over the academic directions of the institution they work in," the pamphlet reads.

Women trapped in

by Christine Endicott
reprinted from the Charlatan
Canadian University Press

Colleen Pellatt slipped into the trap of lower salaries and bleaker job prospects on her first day of university.

She had no idea what she wanted to study, so she chose the subjects that interested her without considering the development of her career. Colleen, now a third year Sociology/Psychology student, will likely earn only \$20,000 a year after graduation, \$8,000 less than the average starting engineering salary.

Statistics show that Colleen is typical of the young women who arrive on Carleton's doorstep each fall. Despite decades of feminist cries for equal opportunity, women still tend to choose traditional, low-paying areas over lucrative fields like engineering and computer science. At Carleton this year, women form only eight per cent of engineering students and 22 per cent of computer science students. In other technical and scientific studies, the numbers are still low: 24 per cent of industrial design students are female, as are 27 per cent of architecture students and 34 per cent of those who study science.

Statistics Canada reported last October that women are most likely to choose social science, education or the humanities when they enter university. "The concentration of female graduates in these fields suggest that a large number of women still make traditional choices when they select a career," according to the bulletin.

Fran Klodawsky, status of women coordinator on campus, says high school girls still believe they will not have to support themselves. "There's still that dream of the Prince Charming coming along and the girl not having to work."

In a 1984 study of 123 high school girls by Maureen Peats and Jessica Armstrong, 50 per cent said their first priority in life was family. Only 32 per cent listed career as their top priority, while 15 per cent said family and career can be effectively combined.

But statisticians predict today's 18-year-old will need a steady income for 25 years, if her marriage lasts all her life. And since 74 per cent of these young women will get divorced, they'll need to work to support themselves.

Klodawsky blames women's less practical career choices on societal attitudes.

"In children's advertising, the girls are being told they want dolls and pretty pink and blue fluffy things. Boys are being told they want airplanes and machines," she explains. "So from a very early age the idea is that boys and machines go together and girls and machines don't."

Experts say parents, teachers and guidance counsellors should be informing young women about careers.

But Ian Miller, manager of the campus Canada Employment Centre, says parents have pre-conceived ideas of what they want for their children. Some parents still push children into educations based on sexual, traditional lines. He says some parents come into the employment centre and tell him in what field they want their children to study. "Parents have at times too much influence."

The Peats-Armstrong study found that mothers and fathers were the main sources of encouragement for high school girls. Guidance counsellors and teachers come next in line.

But Miller says there has been a "real shortage" of good guidance counsellors. Although the situation is improving, he says, "high schools would be the first to admit that they could use more staff in those areas."

Nancy MacKinnon, a first-year journalism student, said when she went to consult her guidance counsellor in grade 11, he told her child care was a good option. She laughed and told him, "Absolutely not."

High schools try to specialize their students too early, MacKinnon says. She took math and science until she graduated because her parents and math teacher advised her to keep her options open.

When Claudia Zovatto, a third-year computer math student, told her high school guidance counsellor of her career choice, he suggested she go into arts because math was "too hard".

Girls may be turned off technical studies because the fields are so male-dominated, not because they are difficult. Third-year math student Kelly Adams said there was only one female math teacher in her high school, leaving female students who planned a career in math without role models.

Carolyn Maingot, a qualifying year psychology student, remembers her high school math club: "It was a bunch of guys who would just sit there and talk algebra all the time." There were no girls in the club.

There is little change in first year university. Women form tiny minorities in first-year physics classes. Physics professor Pat Kalyniak says 18 or 19-year-old women who have been used to half-male, half-female classes are "a little rattled" when they go into a room with 150 men and three women. Some women are not comfortable and opt for other studies.

Sexism is often blatant in the university classroom. Computer math student Claudia Zovatto says a professor once announced, "These questions will

traditional job roles

separate the men from the women." Embarrassed by his sexist comment, he then apologized and tried to explain that he meant it would separate the students from the non-student.

Kalyniak says young women also find math dull in high school and even in first year university. "You have to go through a lot of stuff that is boring before you have the mathematical tools to get to the interesting stuff."

Math student Kelly Adams says a lot of people have math phobia. She tutors a grade 13 student, who often declares she cannot do a problem before tackling it. "You have to work at it," Adams says.

In Ontario, high school students have the option in grade nine to drop math. Many girls do, closing down their career options. Klodawsky suggests the way math is taught is partially to blame. "What has been emphasized in the past is the right end as opposed to relationality," she explains. "Girls tend to be more interested in relationships than results."

If math could be taught with less emphasis on the final answer, she says it could attract more girls.

Cathy McCutcheon, a third-year math student, disagrees. "I used to do math in high school and just give the end result and they would mark me down for that," she says. "They're more interested in the steps."

Engineering professor Moyra McDill says some girls drop math because they're not as strong as they'd like to be in the subject. While dropping it may be the easy way out, it often prevents them from exploring many avenues in university.

McDill, the chair of the high school liaison committee for engineering, often goes to high schools to give talks about women in engineering. She says the talks, which are usually on career days, let girls know engineering is a possibility.

Sixty female students in non-traditional subjects at Carleton, University of Ottawa and Algonquin also visit high school classes to show girls that any career is possible. The program, called Pathmakers, tries to show girls that they need to support themselves economically.

Math student Kelly Adams, a Pathmaker, says they use graphic demonstrations to try to get their point across. They line up ten girls, telling four they will be divorced, one that she will never marry and another that her husband will die.

Cyril Garner, head of the Carleton math department, suggests having the program may establish a difference between boys and girls. "Are we reinforcing these stereotypes?" he asks.

Carleton also offers one-week mini-courses in all subjects for high school students. Every May, boys and girls have the opportunity to get a taste of university studies.

Naomi Griffiths, a history professor who wrote a book about women's choices in the seventies, called Penelope's Web, says the government should make it easier for girls who dropped math. She says the government should fund a program that would allow a different stream of entry into math, science and engineering programs.

But should the government push girls to enter the scientific world? Some people suggest that there are inherent differences between men and women and that women will always prefer arts over science.

"It's not that our minds can't apply themselves to things of that nature," explains sociology/psychology student Colleen Pellatt. "It's just that we view world problems not just looking for technological solutions but also looking for human solutions."

Aime Paikera, a business student, agrees: "There are a lot of women who tend toward social sciences and things like that, dealing more with people because we're more people-oriented."

Griffiths says universities and the society have to ensure that "women are seen as normal as men," but adds, "I don't think women are the same as men."

On the job market, Ian Miller of Canada Employment, says it is possible that women, as a group, may prefer certain occupational areas, even when they understand they have equal opportunity to study any field.

Until the number of women in technical fields rises, the token women who do study science, math or engineering have an advantage in finding jobs. Kalyniak says in universities, women professors have an advantage in getting tenure because universities often fear accusations of sexual discrimination.

When Zovatto first enters an interview for a computer math-related job, she says the employer gives her an "Oh, you're a girl" look. Then the interviewer asks her if she has to work harder than men in her classes.

"You do work a littler harder," she says. "You're there to prove to some of the guys that you really do belong there."

Some employers specifically want to hire women to prove they do not discriminate, Miller says. Because the number of female engineers is low, women have a better chance of landing a good job in their field.

The the number of women entering technical studies is increasing slowly. Ten years ago at Carleton, women formed five per cent of the engineering faculty; today, they make up eight per cent. In 1977-78, 32 per cent of science students were female; in 1987-88, the number is 34 per cent.

"It's a very slow process," Miller says. "It takes time. It won't change overnight." But, in time, it will.

U of T divests from South Africa

TORONTO (CUP)—Canada's largest university voted to divest its \$1.26 million shares in companies doing business with South Africa, Jan. 21.

The Governing Council of the University of Toronto passed the motion, calling for the liquidation of its investments in companies that have holdings in South Africa by a margin of 30 for and 12 against.

"I was a little surprised the vote was as decisive as it was," said Rachel Barney, the undergraduate representative who made the divestment motion. "I think it will have a significant impact on this campus."

History professor Michael Marrus, who seconded the motion, said the university could not ignore the divestment issue. "There were reasoned and humane arguments to be made on both sides of the issue," he said. "I think we chose a path that shows our university's abhorrence of apartheid."

But according to Mark Warner of the Anti-Apartheid Network, the divestment battle is far from over at U of T. Warner, who also

represents the African and Caribbean Students Association, is a graduate student who took part in the successful drive for divestment at McGill in 1985.

He pointed out that companies like Ford and IBM sold their South African plants, but licensed South African companies to make their products. Thus, he said, they still profit from apartheid and have not really divested. "There's a lot more to be done on the divestment front," he said. "We've reached the status quo of 1985 (but) we haven't captured the licensing agreements."

U of T President George Connell led the battle against divestment. "I do not believe that the university as a corporate entity should commit itself to a course of action the intention of which is to bring about change in the political, social or economic structures and policies of this country or any other," he said in a prepared statement.

"I was a strong supporter of the conditional divestment policy that has been in place for

several years," he later told a press conference.

That policy allowed investment in companies which follow the Canadian Government's Code of Conduct for businesses with holdings in South Africa.

"Members of council who support the motion are sending a signal that the University may be used by special interest groups as a means of achieving their goals," Connell said.

During the debate, Warner argued that U of T cannot divorce itself from politics. "The University has always taken a role in political and moral issues," he said. "There is a role for the University as keeper of common values to take a stand on issues like apartheid. We're talking about what we think of racism."

According to Barney, while universities should not take political stands often, "apartheid is a very special, very unique issue. We (U of T) can take action on apartheid because we have a policy against racism," she said.

Council members debated whether or not full divestment is a more effective sanction against

the South African regime than conditional divestment.

Burnett Thall, a government appointee to the Council, said the conditional divestment policy helps corporations make improvements in South Africa. "I think the present policy is not a neutral one, and that it is a satisfactory one. In the long run divestment will make matters worse and not better," he said.

Government appointee Annamaria Castrilli responded that U of T has little influence with companies which do business in South Africa. "I would be hard pressed to think that at a shareholders' meeting the U of T could have much clout given the size of its holdings," she told

the Council.

U of T's investments in companies with affiliates in South Africa comprise 0.4 per cent of U of T's total investments.

The divestment motion followed the release of history professor Archie Thornton's report recommending full divestment. The report was commissioned by Connell, who said at the meeting he disagreed with its conclusions.

The conditional divestment motion was passed in March 1986. In March of last year, the Council refused to discuss a full divestment motion, and 200 anti-apartheid demonstrators responded by storming the council chamber.

Farmers fight for rights

VANCOUVER (CUP)—They are mostly women, Indo or Chinese-Canadian, picking, gathering and harvesting produce in BC's Fraser Valley, and they number roughly 25,000.

BC farmworkers are also the lowest paid, and least protected workers in the country. But with the help of a five year grassroots education campaign by the Canadian Farmworkers' Union (CFU), they are learning the basics to better organize.

For the past five years, the CFU has been reaching out to farmworkers at a community level through its English as a Second Language Crusade. So far, they say they have reached 275 workers and their families. "We are trying to work in homes with people who wouldn't ordinarily be going to classes," said Cheryl Howrigan, coordinator for the program.

The CFU has hired 30 tutors this year, taking applicants from universities, colleges, and community groups. Howrigan says tutors were hired not as ESL teachers, per se, but for their interest in social change education. "People have to be committed. They are driving out to families, into people's lives," said Howrigan, a University of Victoria graduate.

The program is based on the 'popular education' methods of Paulo Friere, an approach which roots the learning process in people's experiences and participation. Depending on the group, she says, the ESL classes may be adapted for driver training, or protection from pesticides.

The CFU now has four certified locals, having recently won a decertification case against then-owner of Fraser Valley Food Products, BC multi-millionaire Jim Pattison.

Howrigan says most of the students are older women, who, because of their dual domestic/economic workloads, never learned English. "Many of these people are first-generation (Indo or Chinese-Canadian) which

means they haven't gone through the Canadian school system. But being illiterate in English does not mean you're illiterate," she said.

Despite small concessions in the past two decades, farmworkers in BC and Ontario are still not protected by minimum wage laws, worker's compensation, or health and safety regulations. With no basic hourly wage, farmworkers are paid for piecework, making an average of \$2 to \$2.50 per hour, says CFU President, Sarwan Boal.

When the BC Labour Code raised the minimum number of weeks to collect unemployment benefits from 10 to 16 weeks, conditions worsened for the farmworkers. "Most farmworkers can only find work from 10 to 12 weeks," says Boal.

But even if they can, many owners won't employ workers for the seven-day period—or keep records of their work—the farmworkers need to be eligible for unemployment benefits.

Because many of them don't have English as a first language, says Boal, farmworkers are open to dangerous conditions, abuse and intimidation by anti-union owners who want to keep cheap labour.

Last June, workers on a BC cranberry farm were told to mix toxic chemicals with their bare hands and spray without protective clothing. The workers said the container did not have a poison warning label. "Unable to read pesticide labels and untrained in application procedures, Vancouver-area farmworkers are slowly, and sometimes fatally, being poisoned," warned the CFU last November.

But despite several provincial inquiries recommending farmworkers be covered by health and safety regulations, Boal says the government looks to the growers as being responsible for the working conditions. "It's basically like slave labour on the farm," he said. "You don't have to go to third world countries, you can look in Canada."

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Olympic torch protested

WINNIPEG (CUP)—As the Olympic flame passed through the streets of Winnipeg, people shouting "share the blame" demonstrated in support of the Lubicon Indian band boycott of the Olympics.

Chief Louis Stevenson of the Pequis Indian band lead about 50 people in a protest in front of the Manitoba legislative buildings last week. "The Canadian government is being hypocritical for supporting the removal of oppression of people in other countries, but they cannot solve a small problem like the Lubicons and other Indian bands in Canada," said Stevenson, adding that the problem with the Lubicons should "have been dealt with more than 40 years ago."

Stevenson said the demonstrators are not calling for a boycott of the Olympics, but are showing support for the Lubicons. He spoke about the land claim battle which began over 40 years ago. Now, he says, 90 per cent of the band is unemployed and 20 per cent of the population have tuberculosis. "We are prepared to go to Calgary in order to support the Lubicons," he said.

While the demonstrators, carrying signs reading "Our spirit does not sing", "Justice to the Lubicons" and "Let the Lubicon spirit sing" walked to the legislative grounds, approximately 300 other people listened to speeches promoting the Olympics and ignored the demonstration.

'Throw Momma from the Train' mediocre

by Robert Caume

I honestly wanted to enjoy this movie. I was prepared to laugh myself silly, as many critics said I should. But the fact remains, despite the wonderful comedic talents of Billy Crystal, Anne Ramsey and Danny DeVito, that **Throw Momma From the Train** is mediocre at best.

You've all heard the synopsis. Owen (Danny DeVito) thinks Larry (Billy Crystal) wants his wife dead so he chucks her from a boat. DeVito only wants one small favour in return—to kill Momma, or more appropriately, throw her from a train.

The story doesn't go much beyond that. The characters, most of all Ramsey's, are poorly developed. You do however, find yourself wanting to hate Ramsey because she's so rotten. At the same time, you can't help loving her the same way you'd love

to hate Vickie Lawrence as Momma in the old Carol Burnett shows.

DeVito, who directed this picture should have concentrated on Ramsey's character to pull this movie through. Let's face it, she was the one in every commercial, and she was the one everyone was laughing at. However, she is in the movie for no more than 20 minutes in all.

DeVito and Crystal were merely fair in their roles. In all fairness, both men would have given wonderful performances, had the writing been better. Most people who have seen their other works are aware of their potential to have an audience in convulsions.

It's evident in this movie, as in others such as **The Color of Money**, that even a wonderful cast and directing crew can't pull a poorly written screenplay out of the water.



Anne Ramsey and Danny DeVito star in the comedy "Throw Momma From the Train"

What's happening on the entertainment scene

Winter Carnival is almost over and that means nothing is going on right? Wrong! If you are a pub regular, you will know that Wednesday nights are always big social nights. Friday afternoons are fun too—with hopping entertainment to keep you on your toes, or just a chance to relax after a long, gruelling week.

Wednesday pub nights often have themes to add to the festive spirit. Check posters to find out what's to come. Remember, the atmosphere is only as fantastic as you make it.

Starting at 3:30 on Fridays, there's usually something hap-

pening, whether its a band, comedians or the infamous Copy-cat machine that gives you the chance to be a rock star. Leave a message in the student union office, fourth floor Rosaria, if you are interested in participating or organizing a musical jam session with your friends.

Wrapping up Winter Carnival tonight (Thursday, Jan. 28) is a video dance featuring top tunes by Sights and Sounds Productions. Following the theme, "Mount Olympia", in honour of the Calgary Olympics, the dance is a "sport your favorite athletic (summer or winter) attire" event. Prizes will be offered.

Letter to the Editor

To the Editor:

I did not have the inestimable pleasure of being "abused" by "Lambert and James". Now before it's said that I have no right to criticize what I haven't observed let's be clear that the review in the **Picaro** of their show is quite sufficient to cause me to respond.

Jokes about gay people perpetuating the tattered stereotypes...No personal attacks when, I'm told, a letter to the **Picaro** from a woman who had the courage to express her concerns was made the specific brunt of abusive humor... "Humorous" reference to teenage pregnancy when, recently in the **Dal Gazette**, the lack of abortion facilities was clearly described as a major social tragedy and situation of real concern for Newfoundland women...And this duo is so popular it's hoped they will return soon!

Listen, sister and brother students. You rushed to the defense

when one brave student recently voiced her heartfelt opinion about women's need for solidarity, and roared your opinion of her supposed error in thinking gender equality had yet to be achieved. Yet you sat back, laughed and applauded at purile and vindictive attacks on real people who suffer real oppression.

We need humour, yes, How else survive in today's world. But laughing at others isn't humour, folks. Our anger at the real horrors of injustice and inequality which are a part of our world have plenty of outlets besides inane snickering. When you laugh at and with yourself you are healing...otherwise you are harming. I am scared at this indication of mindless and twisted "humour" and embarrassed to have to remind you to put yourself in the place of those being "abused".

Sincerely,
Roberta McGinn

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Downhill skiing great escape for students

by Cheryl Jenkins

When you push yourself off the top of the hill, ski boots tightly fastened, you will experience a thrill you have never known—downhill skiing is becoming more and more popular with university students in Nova Scotia.

If people knew the free and easy feeling you get from skiing, everyone would ski. "Skiing is something that just helps you pick yourself up, no matter how down you are," says Mount student, Natalie Bouchard,

an avid skier.

Breathing the fresh air and gaining speed by the second—you have no time to worry about the assignments that are due next week.

You no longer feel the stress from classes or the cold of the outdoors. The chill up your back is from the rush of adrenalin. All of your senses are at their peak.

You know that if you reach the bottom without falling you will enjoy a moment of personal triumph. You start feeling as

though you're losing control but then you see the bottom is near. One last, supreme effort to stay on your feet and—suddenly—you've made it!

As the saying goes, speed is the thrill, but control is the sport. Libby Brown, an instructor at Ski Martock, recommends "beginners and low to mid-intermediates should take lessons to avoid bad habits and learn to be in control."

For people who have never tried the sport and want to save

money, Labatt's Blue sponsor "Skiing is Believing," a learn-to-ski program. It includes a two hour lesson, an all-day lift ticket and all-day rentals for \$15.00. Last year over 6,100 Maritimers hit the slopes for their first time by means of this program.

Skiing is the sport that lifts your spirits, clears your mind,

challenges your body, and makes you feel just great. "For university students it is a complete break to get away from everything," said Brown.

Now as you stand triumphantly at the bottom of the hill—all you have to do is master the stairs in the lodge while wearing your ski boots.

MSVU, TUNS face-off in floor hockey match

by Marcel d'Eon

Last Saturday, Jan. 23, five spectators watched as the Mount's male floor hockey all-star team played against a similar team from TUNS in a game played at the Rosaria gym. No teeth were chipped. No stick-swinging duels occurred. In fact, very few penalties were called against either team. The absence of such unsportsmanlike behaviour (which too many people associate with the game of hockey) did not detract from what turned out to be a very intense and close game played by two evenly matched teams.

The game, an afternoon contest played from 2 to 4 pm., resulted in an 11-8 victory for the Mount team, which was trailing 4-2 at the halfway mark. The scoring for the Mount was spread among ten of its 16 players. Scott Gannon scored the winning goal late in the game.

The tournament game, scheduled as a pre-Winter Carnival event, was the first of what league organizer and referee Jim Hines says will become an annual occurrence during future Mount Winter Carnivals. Hines was quite satisfied with the way the game turned out and was also glad that both teams made a good solid effort to play competitively while keeping tempers and frustrations in check.

Said Hines, "Both teams played well; the goaltending was very good and the score was quite close up until the end of the game. This kind of game, where the guys from the Mount get a chance to play against somebody different, makes hockey more interesting and fun."

The players themselves also seemed to consider the tournament worthwhile, as evident by the enthusiastic turnout by players from both universities. Some players, however, felt that minor changes could be brought to the tournament to make it even more appealing for players and spectators alike. Ray Burns, who played defense for the Mount, is one such player.

Said Burns, "Such a tournament should definitely be continued, but it should be expanded to include other teams and more games...possibly even a round-robin type structure. The interest (among the players) appears to be high enough, I'm sure everybody would like to play."

Mount forward Dave Burchell echoed some of Burns' views, while adding a bit more. Said Burchell, "I enjoyed the game very much, and in the future there should be more games, played during a whole weekend, maybe. Also, instead of having four lines of four players per team, I think it should be changed to three lines of five players (plus two goalies). This way the players would be on the floor more often and be more involved in the game."

Both players felt that such changes would result in the tournament being better organized as a whole.

Added Burchell, "Little things like having more teams involved, more refs and linesmen on hand, and using the scoreboard in the gym would make the tournament more official. That way, maybe more people would come down to watch the game."

Mount captures tournament

Mount Saint Vincent University's badminton team is halfway through its 1987-1988 season, and so far it's been a good year. This year's team is composed of five returning members and five newcomers. The members are Rob Mackenzie, Vandalea Creaser, Eric Boucher, Carl Lingley, Lynn Amirault, Gail Ingerfield, Ray Bourque, Debbie MacDonald and Erna James. Once again their coach is Bruce Croft. Croft works the team hard at practices twice a week. The team works out on Tuesday nights from 9 - 11 pm and on Wednesday afternoons from 4:30 - 6 am.

So far this year the team has competed in a few regional tournaments. These tournaments are generally open only to small colleges and universities who do not have AUAA badminton teams. In November, the team travelled to Cape Breton to compete in a tourney at University College of Cape Breton (UCCB). Unfortunately, UCCB won the tournament with 31 points. However, the Mount's team was a very close second place with 30 points.

The latest regional tournament was hosted by MSVU on Sunday, Jan. 24th. The tournament lasted from 9 am - 3 pm and consisted of basic round-robin format. There were six teams from the area competing in the tourney. Mount Saint Vincent came in a very decisive first place. MSVU finished with 37 points, and UCCB was a distant second with a total of 26 points. The Agricultural College finished third with 24 points, while TUNS and the Teacher's College tied for fourth with 17 points. Rounding out the field with 11 points was the Coast Guard College.

Overall the tournament went smoothly. The team considers the tournament an excellent confidence booster for the upcoming nationals in Cape Breton. Everyone is working in preparation for this competition, as both first and second place players will be eligible to attend.

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Women's Basketball Game Wed., Jan. 27, MSVU vs KINGS 6:30 pm at Kings Gym. Come watch your team!

Men's Basketball Game Thurs., Jan. 28, MSVU vs KINGS 8:30 pm at Kings Gym. Catch the action.

Women's Volleyball Game: Thurs., Jan. 28, 1988 MSVU vs TUNS 6:30 pm in Rosaria Gym. Come down to watch it.

Sixth Annual Girl's AA Basketball Tournament: Fri., Jan.

29, 4 pm-10 pm., Sat., Jan. 30, 9 am-6 pm. Come watch the competition.

Basketball Doubleheader Wed., Feb. 3, 1988 MSVU vs NSTC Women at 6:30 pm, men at 8:30 pm. Come and watch our teams.

Intramurals: Coed Handball: Meeting for all interested people: Thurs., Feb. 7 at 3:30 pm in Vincent Hall Gym.

Coed Volleyball every Sunday in Rosaria Gym. Drop down any time between 7 & 10 pm.