

# THE PICARO

Championing Democracy since 1965

October 18th, 2000

Volume 36 Issue 4

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## Another year, Another election. Did You Vote?



### What's inside....

See what you can do  
with a little paint.  
page 8



I see the return of  
Vox Populi  
page 9



Meet this issue's  
Man on the Mount  
page 14



# FREE

# Meet the Mount Students' Union

Students' Union offices are located on the 1st floor Rosaria. Drop by to say HI!



"Students Helping Students"



As Executive VP, I am the manager of the Information Desk . As well as, the chair of the selections committee and the constitution policy and planning committee. I am also the resource person for the council, staff, and executive members. If you have any comments, questions, and/or suggestions please feel free to come to any representative at Students' Union. Students' Union has an open door policy so please come and visit, and hey, while your at it why not get involved?!! Visit Shanna in Rosaria 118C

I am a strong believer that your time spent at university should be both educational and a lot of fun. As your VP Internal, I look forward to working with all societies to increase the school spirit at the Mount, through society events and creating awareness of the events going on around campus.. I encourage you to visit me in Students' Union, if you have any questions, concerns, or any ideas for activities. We are here for you the students!!!

Visit Nancy in Rosaria 118E



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Volume 36 Issue 4

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Jennifer Henderson

**Features Editor**  
Hannah Miller-Siegal

**Arts & Entertainment**  
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**Community Editor**  
position available

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Simon Leither

**Distribution Manager**  
position available

**Advertising Representatives**  
positions available

**Contributors:**  
Reham Al-Ibrahim  
John Deg  
Cap'n Bottomheavy  
Petie Ping-Pongball

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**The Picaro**

Rosaria Centre  
Room 114  
166 Bedford Highway  
Halifax, NS  
B3M 2J6  
tel (902) 457-6386  
fax (902) 457-0444  
email picaro@msvu.ca

# 15 Minutes with a Pulitzer Prize Winner

## Author Carol Shields Talks with the Picaro

By Jennifer Henderson

When I received the press release announcing this year's honorary degree recipients for Fall Convocation I noted the tiny print at the bottom saying that interviews with the recipients could be arranged through the Mount's media relations assistant. This is how I ended up chatting to author Carol Shields at 12:30 pm on a Thursday afternoon. The acclaimed author of "Larry's Party" and "The Stone Diaries" among other works, lives in Victoria and assured me that 8:30 am Pacific wasn't too early for a phone interview.

*What did you know about the Mount, if anything, before being offered an Honorary Doctor of Letters degree?*

I always knew something about this university. I'm connected to the University of Winnipeg and they're similar schools in terms of size and liberal arts focus. As well, I know Mount Saint Vincent's president and I'm familiar with Halifax.

*Can you describe your niche as an author to students who may not be familiar with your work?*

In the 70s I started out telling about the unwritten lives of women. I felt this had been left out of contemporary fiction. I moved on to writing about men and women. It may sound old fashioned but I write about birth, life, love, death - the whole trajectory of experiences.

*Why do you think Canadian authors tend to lean more toward literary fiction as opposed to the desire to create popular fiction Americans seem to feel?*

I think it's partly to do with our having been a colonial country and having to define our own space. We're still engaged in defining our society. In the time since I've started writing the focus has moved from the rural to the urban and now on to the global. We used to think Canadian writing was in a backwater, then we began to believe the backwater was interesting and eventually we realized it isn't a backwater after all.

*Do you have a specific process surrounding your writing?*

I like a little room. The room I have now used to be a sewing room. I like to have a few books for reference and a fairly clean desk. I start the day re-reading what I wrote the day before. I usually end up editing and re-writing it before going on to new work.

*Are there any of your contemporaries whose works you particularly admire?*

I really enjoy Alice Munro John Updike, Bonnie Bernard and of course Margaret

vivid and deeper if you consciously keep that in mind when you're writing.

*Do you seek to inject themes or principles into your work?*

I write the best book I can at the time. Whether or not it's better than the last one is very random or chancey.

I don't feel responsibility. I write the best book I can at the time. Whether or not it's better than the last one is very random or chancey. I don't think authors have the market cornered on wisdom or morality. I'm lucky that I'm in a world where I get to work on projects that engage me fully every day.

Atwood.

*If 20 years from now universities were to teach your works is there one piece in particular you'd like them to focus on?*

I think Swann is the most interesting of my books. It deals with the idea of art and who makes it. It's still relevant today.

*Do you have a weakness in your writing you'd like to improve?*

*Do you have any advice for students who want to pursue writing as a career?*

If writers are not readers they're never going to get there. Look at what others are writing and more importantly what they're not writing. Write the books that aren't being written, what you want to read and can't find on the library shelves.

You can always make your work more



Honorary degree recipient Carol Shields

# One Down and One to Go

## Students' Union selects VP Finance, search for a General Manager continues

By Jennifer Henderson

Students' Union's staffing woes may soon be at an end. Hiring has been completed for the Vice President of Finance position. Due to its status as a hired position the selection must be ratified by the Executive Council before it becomes official. Preliminary interviews for the position of General Manager have also been completed. According to President Colette Nickerson finding a new GM is an ongoing priority for Students' Union.

"A General Manager is critical. He or she provides our only source of continuity from year to year. We need someone to make sure the business

side of Students' Union is run appropriately."

Nickerson says that surviving without a VP of Finance or a General Manager has meant an increased workload for the Students' Union members.

"We've never really had a VP Finance during the summer months. Executive Vice President Shanna Randall and I have taken care of those duties and the rest of the Executive Council has pulled together to make sure everything gets done. We called upon university resources and individuals who have knowledge of the financial workings of Students' Union to help us.

While both roles deal with the financial aspects of student government, Nickerson points out there are distinct differences between the Vice President of Finance and the General Manager.

"I see the role of VP Finance as a learning role for a student to gain the knowledge of business basics like accounting and marketing. The GM would report to the VP Finance but he or she is more of a middle man between the political and business sides of Students' Union."

Students' Union has had over forty applicants for the General Manager's position but Nickerson doesn't want to rush into a decision.

She says Students' Union has a specific skill set in mind for the job.

"It's important to have someone in before next term. We're looking for someone with a BBA or the equivalent and hopefully with experience working in a educational or political environment. The General Manager takes care of the health plan so experience in that area would be an asset. The successful candidate should have marketing experience and the ability to handle programming events for the university. Leadership is also important because this person will be working with a staff of 60, 70 or 80 people."

# Universities forge link with media mogul to offer on-line courses

By Jaime Kirzner-Roberts, The McGill Daily

MONTREAL (CUP) ñ Private, for-profit education sold by Rupert Murdoch's Newscorp may carry three Canadian universities' names as early as next year.

But student and faculty leaders say that the deal paves the way to an increasingly corporatized, inaccessible education.

McGill University, the University of Toronto and the University of British Columbia are all part of Universitas 21, a consortium of 16 universities around the world that have banded together to forge private-sector links and market their prestigious names.

Newscorp, which owns the Fox Network and major newspapers across the globe, has partnered up with Universitas 21 this May in a bid to compete for the increasing market for on-line education, Canadian University Press has learned.

While Newscorp will design and deliver the courses, Universitas 21 will accredit the courses and lend its name and the prestige of its member universities.

"I think this is an expression of McGill's openness to the world," said Dawn Conway, director of the Office of International Research and Universitas 21 (U-21) liaison.

"I think that U-21 offers McGill an excellent experience - it is very unique, very collegial, multinational, and also entrepreneurial."

There is currently a growing demand for education, according to

Conway, and a university with McGill's international reputation stands to make a lot of money by marketing its name. She added, however, that the exact dollar figures have not been disclosed.

"It's certainly not a charitable endeavour," she said. "We envisage links with the private sector which will bring benefits to us and other partners [of U 21], and which will raise our profile and recognition factor to all the institutions."

But student and faculty leaders don't have such a rosy view of the deal with Newscorp, a corporation worth \$40-billion and no previous experience with education.

"Universities like McGill are moving towards a corporate model, where education becomes a commodity which can be sold," said David Robinson, director of public policy at the Canadian Association of University Teachers. "You can also see that jurisdiction is being given to private corporations like Murdoch's that don't really have any stake or experience in undertaking the vital role of providing public education."

Michael Conlon, national chair of the Canadian Federation of Students, agrees. "The greater the corporate control you have over curriculum, the less you will have discussion over ethical and political issues," said Conlon. "These issues will be overshadowed as soon as they don't fit into the vision of Rupert Murdoch."

"The thought that corporate encroachment could change the discourse on campus is really disturbing," he added.

But Conway denies that courses prepared by Newscorp will be any different than courses offered at McGill or by any other Universitas 21 members.

"The quality of the product has to be consistent with our names," she said. "The names would reflect on our universities' reputations, so it's entirely in McGill's interest to ensure that everything that comes out of U-21 will reflect well on McGill."

Both Conlon and Robinson think that universities like McGill are increasingly made to look for private sources of funding to offset lost public funding.

But Conway says that government cutbacks have little to do with McGill's push to make partnerships with the private sector.

"We've responded to the cutbacks in various ways, and this certainly isn't one of them," she said. Instead, she cites potential benefits like heightening McGill's profile and an expanding its student exchange program.

"If we want to do business in other countries," she adds, "Universitas 21 gives us partners to work with who will provide us with information about how to do business in that country, what the academic policies are, who the leaders are."

But Conlon doesn't think that universities should be focused on those things. "The purpose of education is not to make money for empire-building university principals like [McGill principal Bernard] Shapiro," he said. "We need more leaders in our universities, not entrepreneurs."

Robinson believes that after all is said and done, students will suffer from the three universities' links with for-profit, online education.

"A lot of universities now are looking to cut costs over the long term. Universities are looking for ways to offer more online courses as a substitute for classroom education, just because it is cheaper and not necessarily better," he said.

He also thinks that the insurmountable tuition costs in the private sector will prevent low and middle-income people from having access to education.

"Whereas education was once the great equalizer, education may now serve in accelerating divisions, between different income groups, between people in different countries, and different minority groups."

Universitas 21 will offer courses designed by Newscorp as early as 2001. The consortium was founded in 1997, and has 16 members, including the University of Hong Kong, the University of Melbourne, and the University of Glasgow.

# Student survey their peers' drinking habits

By Andrew E. Carson,  
The Argosy, Argosy

SACKVILLE, N.B. (CUP) ñ Research by a commerce class at Mount Allison University has found that males and females spend \$1,200 and \$600 a year on alcohol respectively.

"This survey is a very good snapshot of alcohol [consumption] at Mount Allison and other North American universities," said Kris Trotter, a Mount Allison counsellor, citing a nation-wide survey by University of Western Ontario psychologist Louis Gliksmán that showed similar levels of alcohol consumption throughout Canada.

A survey by the class also found that students at the university drink between 24 and 49 drinks per month,

concerning counsellors like Trotter who are worried about binge drinking ñ defined as over four drinks per session for women and five for men.

Trotter said the prevailing notion on campuses is that three drinks are good, six drinks are great, and nine drinks are phenomenal.

"We want to change this attitude so that three drinks are good, six drinks are worse, and nine drinks are awful," she said. "Excess is overrated."

The survey also showed a strong association between binge drinking and grade point average. Thirty-six per cent of C students and 60 per cent of D students

acknowledging that they consume in excess of nine drinks per session, compared to four per cent of A students and 12 per cent of B students.

"Students can look at this and see it was fellow students who found a correlation between alcohol and GPA," Trotter said. "It wasn't Kris Trotter and it wasn't Mom."

Candace Roach, a second-year Chemistry student said she wasn't surprised by the figures.

"There is a lot of peer pressure involved in drinking and it is also a way to forget about all the stress in your life."

The surveyed also showed that 43 per cent of students believe the

university isn't doing enough to educate students about the effects of binge drinking, prompting the university's student services to step up an awareness campaign about the effects of binge drinking for both.

"This isn't about prohibition," Trotter cautioned. "No one minds you getting drunk, but not very drunk. This leads to sexual assault and broken bottles."

The survey results come on the heels of a decision by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) to pay \$4.75 million and endow a scholarship in a settlement with the family of a freshman who drank himself to death at a 1997 fraternity initiation.

## Tracking your investment

By Melissa Melanson  
Editor-in-Chief

It has been brought to my attention lately that the students of Mount Saint Vincent are a particularly generous group.

Over the weekend I spent some time with some girls that I have known since first year. I would consider them typical students: they go to class, occasionally involve themselves in school life and can't wait to graduate. What surprised me was that these typical students had no idea how \$106.40 of their money is being spent.

Maybe you don't either. Every student on campus pays \$21.28 per unit every year in student union fees. This might not be a lot when you consider how much you pay in tuition, but do you ever wonder what you're getting for this? Do you ever wonder where your money is going?

Contrary to popular belief, the Students' Union is not the small band of people in the first floor Rosaria offices. We are the Students' Union—every student who pays the fee. The people with the name plates on their doors—the Students' Union executive—are charged with the ominous task of serving the students in the representation and advancement of our needs.

Your student union fee may seem like yet another kick to your monetary guts, but take a moment to think about it on a more macro level. My math skills aren't great, but they tell me that the student fee times the student population is way more than no big deal. We hand this money over to these, our "servants, without ever knowing what they do. And sadly, sometimes we don't even care who they are.

Students seem willing to hand over their money to whoever is elected without ever knowing where their money is going or who these people are. One might say that this is generous, letting a group of students take your money and do with it as they see fit. I think this is alarming.

I'm not going to tell you where your money is going. You'll have to find that out for yourself. Even if you don't know exactly how every penny of your money is being spent at least make a point to choose wisely who will be handling it.

That's right. You choose them. They do work for you after all. And guess what? We just had an election. There were two contested positions, one being External Vice President. The External VP represents the Mount student population to all those big scary groups: the banks, the

government, other universities. But you probably didn't vote, if you have something in common with 92% of students last year. Think about it: If only 8% of students vote then only 5% of students had to agree on who makes up the Students' Union executive. The other 95% either didn't want the current executive or couldn't care less. I would bet on the latter.

I wouldn't pay my employees if I didn't know what they were doing and it would certainly be weird if I didn't even know who they are. Your employees have already been paid. It may be a little backward, but find out what they're doing and who they are. At the end of the year you may feel like your money was better spent, or at least you'll know where it went.

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### What's up with that???

News for the very common man, by the very lazy man.

First you had to pay for frosh kits and now Corner Store is selling off frosh kits piece by piece.

*What's up with that?*

MSVU's Student Population 4000  
MSVU's Crow Population 16000

*What's up with that?*

We all have paid 5% more this year for classes and the only major change to be seen for that is that they added a new railing on steps of Rosaria Center.

*What's up with that?*

N O W

Y O U

K N O W



## ABOUT WOMEN'S HIDDEN PSYCHIC POWERS

By Jennifer Henderson  
News Editor

A recent marketing class really drove home the complexities of the female mind for me. As part of her lecture the professor graphed purchases on a scale according to the time it takes to decide on them and the risk the buyer associates with the purchase. For women, the purchases they evaluated as taking the most time to decide on and carrying the highest element of risk were dresses and bras. When I gave it some thought, the rationale seemed perfectly logical. It was just another example of our uncanny fashion ESP.

As females, we can't fight this natural ability. It doesn't come from magazines, movies or taking pointers from well shellacked soap opera actresses. Our appearance quirks can be traced back to primal genetics. It may not have been documented in the history texts but one can almost envision the average cave woman pivoting before whatever passed for a mirror in those bygone days and wondering aloud if a v neck animal hide instead of a scoop necked one would make her chest seem more proportional. All the while, her Neanderthal mate shakes his head in disbelief. The animal hide keeps out the cold and hides blood stains, what the heck more could she ask for? The next thing you know the crazy broad was gonna want indoor plumbing and a Frigidaire.

Most women are themselves stubbornly unaware of the clothes picking prowess they possess. There are at least 12 types of necklines and 15 types of waistlines. Most of us can't name them all but since puberty hit we've known instinctively which ones look best on us. Flat chested? Wear shirts with front pockets and roll up the sleeves. Want a slimming effect? Pick a solid colour for the entire outfit, preferably black. Horizontal stripes are the devil's tool. Never wear patterns across your butt. The perfect pair of shoes will only match one outfit in your closet. The ultimate simple white t-shirt is more precious than an Armani evening gown. Calf length skirts are only suitable for retired elementary school teachers. And on it goes. These and a host of other neurotic little tidbits are bobbing around in our subconscious as we face the mirror each day. They may not have the aura of tradition that surround Grandma's secret

gingerbread recipe but the intuitive lessons are just as sacred.

A lucky few of our species have managed to decode these mental post-it notes and apply them to their wardrobes. When you see an elegantly dressed woman whose belt compliments her shoes and whose hair would put the hosts of Entertainment Tonight to shame it's a safe bet that she's well aware of her fashion ESP. Women such as these seem like unattainable gurus to the rest of us. The Beatles had the Maharishi, modern gals have Sharon Stone and Susan Sarandon.

In fact most women find having their appearance praised by other females much more flattering than praise from men. Men have ulterior motives. Men have hormones. Men suffer from colour blindness. Only other women can empathize with a vague uneasiness about wearing white jeans or shoulder pads. We've been there, we know. So if we tell each other that the leather skirt really doesn't make our hips look as wide as a four line highway it definitely rings reassuring.

The more I think about it the more it seems like a waste that the average woman can't somehow harness her untapped fashion brilliance. Wouldn't the world be a better place if we could all just get along and instinctively know how much cleavage is appropriate in an office setting? Think of the possibilities for global female bonding if we could only verbalize how insecure it makes us feel that only one in a thousand women can look good in pastel shades. As long as we don't tell the men.

Now you know.

*If you have an opinion about this, or any other topic, please email Melissa, [picaro@msvu.ca](mailto:picaro@msvu.ca) or stop by the office, room 114 Rosaria Centre. Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words and opinions pieces should be no longer than 500 words. All submissions must be on disk, in rich text format or emailed in the body of the email. The Picaro reserves the right to edit or reject stories, but chances are, if you have an opinion we want to hear from you.*

## Brad's Rants:

### Can You Find A Place To Park?

By Bradley J. MacKinnon  
Production Manager

In this day and age it seems that every family has a car. In many families you can find two even three automobiles. As a result many more people are able to take their parents' car to school (if they do not own a car of their own). This wouldn't necessarily be a bad thing if it wasn't for the fact that a parking spot at Mount Saint Vincent University seems to harder to find then the proverbial needle in a hay stack.

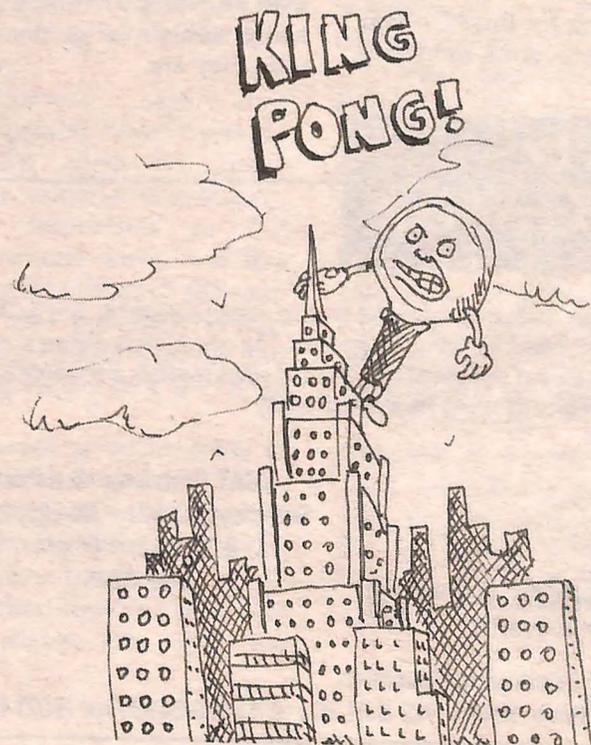
Every year someone seems to complain about the parking at MSVU but until the problem is solved, students, staff and faculty will continue to complain about it year in and year out. In my opinion, fixing this problem is as easy as a few little modifications around the campus and a little common sense.

The first barrier to parking is the parking meters: it seems to me that there are just too many meters on campus. I can't give you the exact number (simply because I'm not crazy enough to walk around campus counting the meters) but in a parking lot that requires a parking pass to park they could do with fewer meters. I know that every parking lot needs some meters to allow for those people that will only be parked for a moment, but all those extra spaces are being wasted while people who paid for a parking space end up taking the bus.

Another problem is the way that the parking lot is laid out. A great deal of space seems to be wasted. All of the medians in the middle of the parking lot are not necessary, if you were to remove those and make the parking lot more square you could surely put at least 50 more cars in the parking lot. I know that this would cost a little bit of money, (which seems to be in short supply around the school) but for the safety of the students' cars is there too high a price to pay?

What this boils down to is getting what you pay for. Many students spend their hard earned money to buy an expensive parking pass so they can have the convenience to park on campus. If you have to park at the top of the hill near the motherhouse that is not convenient, when students that live in residence have to park on the grass because no other spots are available this is not convenient, and when you can't find a parking spot so you have to park off campus and walk 20 minutes to get to Seton this is not convenient. If you pay for a parking pass you should be able to get a parking spot, it's a simple concept that makes sense. Right now parking at MSVU doesn't make sense and something needs to be done to fix it.

I'm Bradley J. MacKinnon and that's what I have to say.



# Our Jerusalem Will Always Remain...

By Reham Al-Ibrahim

It's a simple right for Palestinians to express their anger against the military occupation of their mosque, it's a just human demand for worshippers to pray without being sniffed by police dogs and asked to pull their pants down to prove that they have no weapons. It's a human right. But for Israel, Palestinians are demanding too much.

After heroic days, Palestinians have once more taught us a lesson of resistance. Tens of people died and hundreds were wounded. Al Haram Al Sharif is safe in the hands of her brethren; yet Palestinian wounds continue to bleed.

The massacre was not a Sharon-only massacre. It was a collective work of the Israeli government, police and army. The one thousand soldiers who accompanied Sharon in his provocative visit to Al Haram were assigned by the government that is allegedly striving to achieve peace with Palestinians. Thanks to Israel, we can rest assured that Israel can never be trusted when it comes to Jerusalem's holy sites.

Israel's repeated assaults at Muslim and Christian holy sites in the city, is another ugly reminder of the country's strong conviction that Jerusalem is exclusively Jewish.

As human beings with conscious, we can make a difference only if we try. Yes we may be too far away to donate blood to the crowded hospitals and to carry the injured on our shoulders to safety, but we are not as defenceless and helpless as we may think.

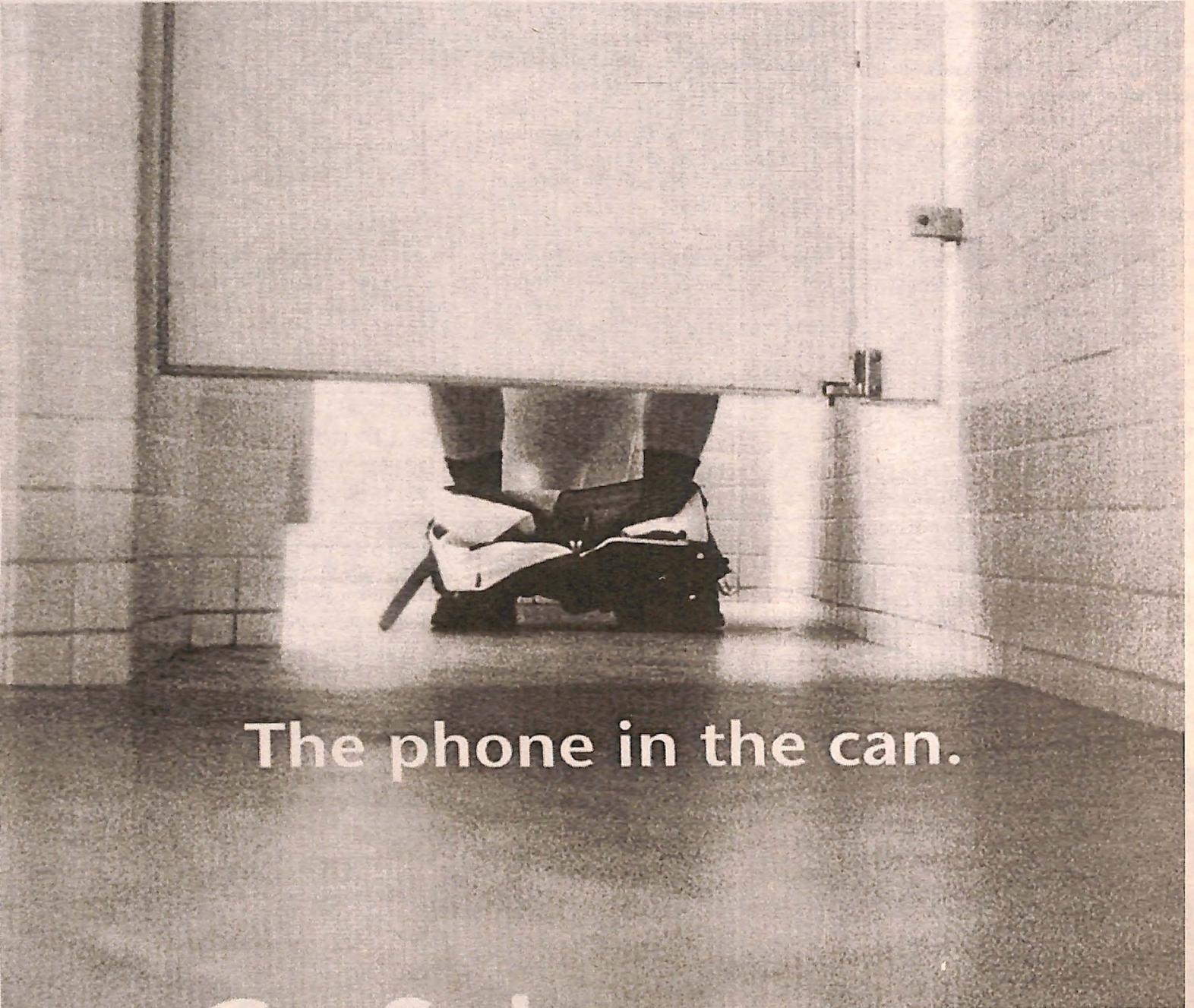
Many charity groups are ceaselessly working in Palestine to aid the devastated families and to care for the injured and the handicapped. We can support these organizations financially, so that they may continue serving the people of Palestine. We can sponsor the orphans of those who were killed by Israel, so they will not be forced to leave school, to join Israel's cheap

labour force. We can support hospitals that provide medical care for our fallen heroes. We can organize our communities wherever we are, and protest the bias of the media, the apathy of our governments, the

injustice of our time. It's never too late to take action..

So before you flip to the next page, please remember that you can make a difference in these peoples' lives. You may not be able to defend

the Aqsa Mosque with your bare arms as they do, but at least you can let them know that someone far away feels their pain, sympathizes with their anguish, and understands their tragedy.



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# Things to do in Halifax when you're **BORED**

## THIS WEEK: PLAYING WITH PAINT

*University is all about trying new things, expanding your horizons. But after a couple of months, or a couple of years in my case, textbooks and lectures get old, so I aspire to find different, interesting, affordable and worthwhile things for students to do.*

**By Melissa Melanson**

Martha Stewart I am not. But once in awhile, I don't know if it's seasonal or hormonal, but sometimes I wish that I could make something that people would see and say, "Wow, you did that?"

For my latest attempt to try something different I did something that I not only don't do, but that I also avoid doing. Being "crafty". It's such a weird little word that brings to mind funny little ladies with energy to burn and bags full of santas made out of coke bottles. But I've always been envious of crafty people who with McGyver like skill can create a masterpiece using only glitter, cardboard and a glue gun.

For my crafty adventure I decided to decorate a picnic table. I was going to paint it anyway, so why not have fun?

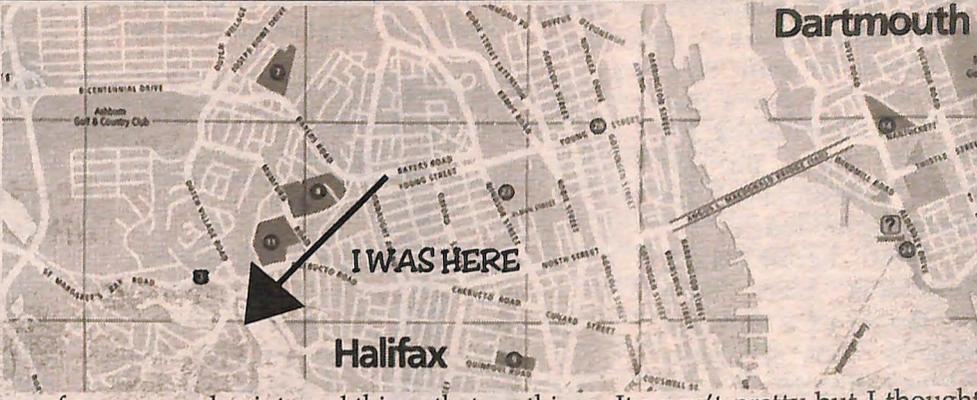
But where to begin? I told you that I'm not good at this stuff. One of the amazing things about crafty people is that they always seem to know what to buy. I didn't want to spend a lot of money, so I started at the dollar store. I assumed that they

would have bright shiny things that would attract my eye and make my decision easier. But they had nothing that would suit my purpose.

So I then proceeded to Shoppers Drug Mart, thinking that they might carry kids paints and things. I guess that I thought it would be more fun, or I wouldn't feel as dumb when it didn't turn out, if I approached it as a child would. Kids always adapt better when trying new things because they're not afraid to screw up. We miss out on a lot as we get older simply because we don't want to look bad. That's an approach that I'm trying to take when doing things outside of my routine. Regardless, Shoppers was no help either.

At Canadian Tire I had no idea where to begin. Enamel, latex, oil-based. I'm a hick, I should feel at home in a Canadian Tire, right? Well, I don't, and after a few trips down the paint aisles I left empty handed.

When I came up with the idea of painting the picnic table I had visions



of sponges and paints and things that I didn't really know the names for but seemed to fit in the picture in my head.

To make life easier, I decided that I would only use things that I could find in the room that I was working in. What I found was a can of

really old white primer, a can of mint green paint most likely purchased at the same time and some red, blue and yellow finger paint that had been watered down.

Finger painting the picnic table was not an option. The paint was too watery and it didn't show up on the wood (it was dark blue to begin

things. It wasn't pretty but I thought it was cool. And I had fun.

Saying that what I did is art is like saying what you used to do with your highschool boyfriend on your parents' couch is sex. But eventhough it might not be the real thing, experimentation is fun. It's fun to play with paints. It's fun to play period.

Getting dirty and doing something that you really don't know how to do brings you back to that kindergarten feeling, when a chocolate chip cookie was the highlight of your day, when you could convince your peers that you really were a wizard and when tall people were the freaks and short people ruled because they were cute. Those were good years.

Anytime you can be humbled, return to your childhood and have

**Saying that what I did is art is like saying what you used to do with your highschool boyfriend on your parents' couch is sex.**

### How it rated

**Socially:** I started out solo but then a friend joined in which made it more fun, especially when my work looked better than hers.

**Economically:** Everything I used was found. Cheap!

**Emotionally:** It brings you back to that kindergarten feeling. I could practically smell the paste and egg cartons.

**Physically:** I certainly didn't break a sweat, but I got dirty which was cool.

**Educationally:** I didn't learn anything other than what colour you get when you mix twenty parts mint green with one part red.

**Can anybody do it?:** If you passed kindergarten.

**Would I do it again?:** If I had to or if I had someone to guide me. I should probably get a book or something.



This is the product of a bunch of old paint and various objects.

with). So I took some of the white primer, mixed it with the red, blue and green and tried out some of the green stuff.

Then my dilemma was how to get the paint on the table. So I looked around and found toilet paper and paper towels, which work the same as a sponge. I also grabbed some straws, popsicle sticks and coffee stir sticks. When I got bored I also dipped a old pen's shaft and the top of an Ocean Spray bottle and made circles.

When I started out I tried to be neat and pretty—I even made little flowers. But then I just let go and had fun with it. Pretty soon the distinction between my hands and my "tools" were very blurry. My favourite part was when I used a piece of saran wrap to swipe a piece of wood with green and then used a stir stick to make these neat pink half-circle

fun is time well spent. Maybe I'll try to make picture frames or pot holders or fridge magnets or something. Actually, maybe I'll just repaint the table.

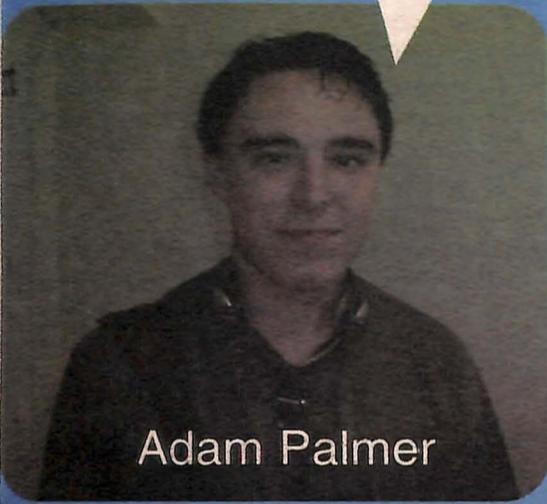
**If you know of something interesting for me to do in Halifax, or would like to recount an adventure of your own, email me at [thepicaro@hotmail.com](mailto:thepicaro@hotmail.com). The only criteria is that the activity is in Halifax, affordable and something that you've never done before.**

# Vox Populi

## Where all your Dreams come True!

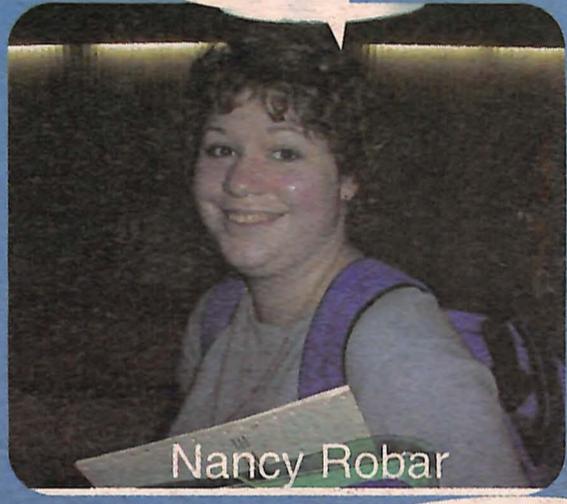
### What Do You Want Student Union to Do For You?

GO AWAY!!!



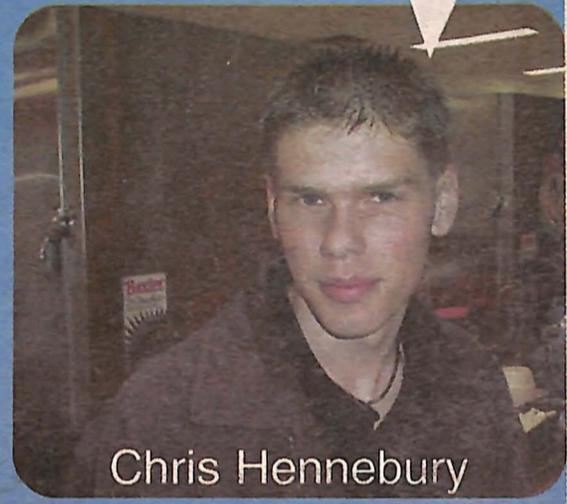
Adam Palmer

Decrease in Tuition



Nancy Robar

Get better Computers.



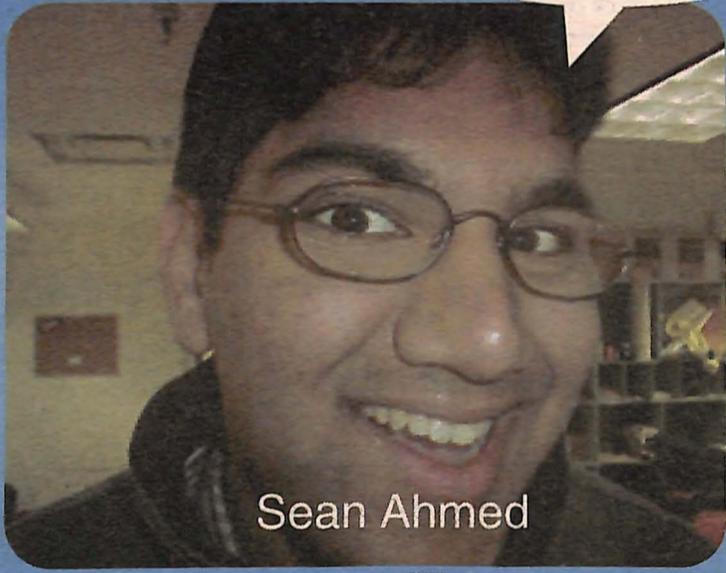
Chris Hennebury

International students need to be taken care of by Student Union



Kiran Sequeira

Is this going to be in the paper?



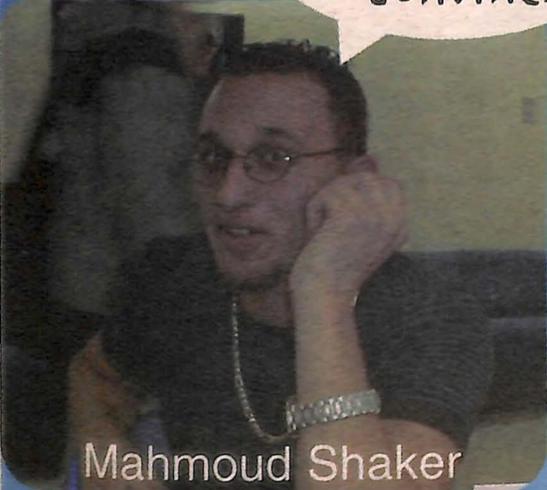
Sean Ahmed

Bring Corry Tetford Back.



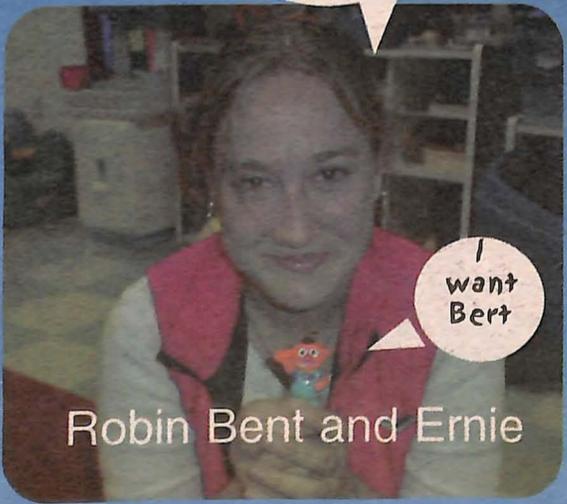
Laura Walsh

A new activity each month, more male activities.



Mahmoud Shaker

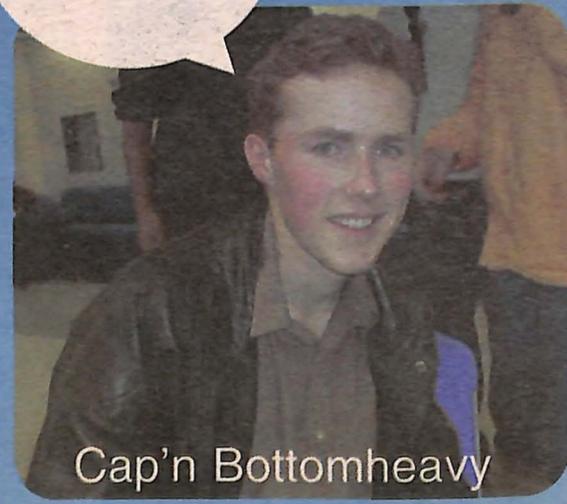
I don't know.



Robin Bent and Ernie

I want Bert

Bring in Donkey Basketball.



Cap'n Bottomheavy

# Horoscope: News that You Can Really Use



## Scorpio: 10/24 to 11/21

You will turn your back on everything and everyone in your life to join a cult. This cult is leaded by a dynamic lead that will convince you that there is too much sex and violence in the world and that you and the other cult members must use any means necessary to do away with it. In the end you will hurt two hotties in your warped attempt to bring morality to the world.



## Sagittarius: 11/22 to 12/21

You will come into a large amount of money and gain the serviced of a very desirable member of the opposite sex, the only catch is that you will have to win a gruelling tournament to do so. This battle will almost push you over the edge but to the victor goes the spoils and take it from me you want these spoils. Hard work will pay off as long as you keep your eye on the prize.



## Capricorn 12/22 to 01/19

Bad fortune is on your horizon, just as your whole world comes into focus and your are about to reach you ultimate goal an accident will take you out at the worst possible time. You will be hurt for a long time, but never fear, you will not stay down and sooner than you know it, you will be back on your feet with a beer in one hand ready to have a little fun and kick a little butt.



## Aquarius: 01/20 to 02/18

It is finally you turn, your day to shine and when you're given the ball you will run with it. Just at the right time you will climb to the top of the mount and be the best at what you are and no one will ever and I mean eeevvveerrr, be able to take that away from your. And if you play you cards right you might end up getting lucky tonight



## Pisces: 02/19 to 03/20

Do you like to dance? I sure hope so because you will find yourself doing it a lot, it will become something that you not only love to do but are really good at. Shakin' your booty will become one of your best gifts and this will just drive that special someone wild. Master the worm and you will just be too cool and too hot for anyone.



## Aries: 03/21 to 04/20

Did you harm your young brother, did something happen between the too of you that left bad blood? Well watch out pay back is just around the corner. That young brother is all grown up now and is coming for revenge. He will take away what is most important to you in this life and there nothing you can do, but at least try and look surprised when it happens.



## Taurus: 4/21 to 5/21

Bad news your going to be in for one hell of a bad day, you will go through a tremendous amount of pain, both physically and mentally, and after the dust settles and it's all said and done you will come up just short of your goal. Beware of tables, ladders and chairs, oh my, but cheer up you do earn a whole lot of respect for that failed attempt.



## Gemini: 5/22 to 6/21

I see a horrible fall in your future, maybe even two. Blood, sweat and tears will go into a great effort that will make you a better person and maybe even a little famous, but what ever you do watch out for thumb tacks.



## Cancer: 6/22 to 7/23

You and your best friend keep going back to that same bar all the time, right? Well stop it nothing good can ever come from going to that hell hole. Sure you drink a little beer and sure for one brief moment you will have a little fun but you can't pick up there and with the trash that's there who would want to. Mark my words stop now or you will need some protection.



## Leo: 7/24 to 8/23

You will fall for a much, much, much old person, it will be one of the most disturbing things for all the people around you. In the end you will some how think that the two of you will be expecting a child, but trust me that's just not possible and please keep your clothes on.



## Virgo: 8/24 to 9/23

You will find yourself in a situation where you become a national hero. You will have to say your prayers and take you're vitamins, so that you can get the job done. Be careful or else the red, white and blue will run wild all over you.



## Libra: 9/24 to 10/23

You will soon have a birthday and your best friend's (or at least he thinks he is), will try and surprise you by bring back people from your past for some happy reunions. But it will be a bad time all around because all you get is socks for your birthday and it makes your think you friend has rocks in his head.

# Nova Scotia Music Week sets the stage for the up and coming talent

By Nicola Hanson

Do you want to start a career in the music industry? The perfect opportunity to meet and network with music professionals is right around the corner. Nova Scotia Music Week is a three-day conference that examines the route to success for musicians and other industry folk.

The panels will look at topics such as road managing, media, marketing, touring, festivals, accounting, imaging, booking, publishing, and showcasing. The panelists include local industry people such as Brookes Diamond, of Brooks Diamond Productions, Wendy Phillips of Phillips Public Relations Limited, Lara Cassidy of the Cassidy Group, Wayne O'Connor, road manager for Ashley MacIsaac and Mary Jane Lamond, and media people such as J.C. Douglas from Q104, Greg Guy from the Halifax Herald, Sandy MacDonald from the Daily News and Bob Cowan from Global, just to name a few.

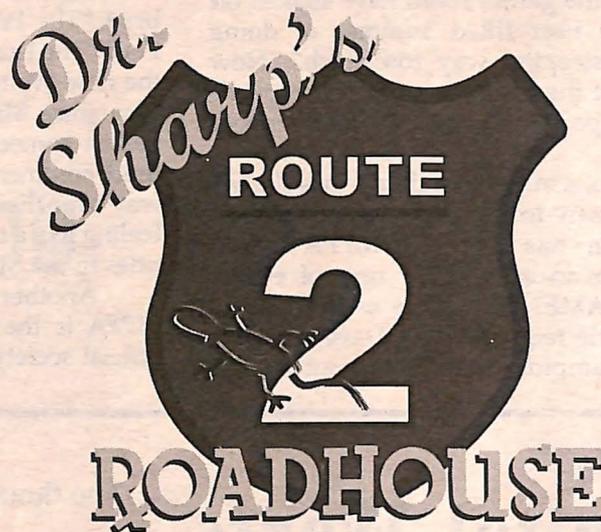
If you have any interest in a career in the music industry, Nova Scotia Music Week should not be missed. Student passes for a full day of seminars are \$20. The Awards gala is \$35 and includes such local

performers as Blou, Blue Engine Quartet, John Gracie, Kilt Jeremiah Sparks, the Nova Scotia Mass Choir, Lisa MacDougall and Madhat. The awards will be hosted by Canadian and internationally renowned musician Ian Thomas and a special recognition award will be presented to Symphony Nova Scotia, honouring them for their long-term contribution to the provincial music industry.

A songwriter's brunch will be held on the Saturday and will feature such local songwriters as John Curtis Sampson, Save Carroll (Sons of Maxwell), Cheryl Gaudet, Aaron MacDonald, and Carol Richie; the brunch will also feature a keynote address by Ian Thomas.

Tickets for Nova Scotia Music Week can be purchased through The Registration Company located at 1800 Argyle Street, Suite 444 or by calling 492-9000. Nova Scotia Music Week runs from October 26 -29th at the World Trade and Convention Centre.

Dig out your career map and haul your butt onto the route to success with the Music Industry Association of Nova Scotia.



Bands every Friday & Saturday

No cover for MSVU students with ID

October 19 Signal Hill

October 20 & 21 Signature

October 28 & 29 Montana

**Millcove Plaza, 961 Bedford Hwy.**

**ph. 835-3336**

## The Drawer Boy Draws a Crowd

By Christina Fraser

Sitting in the front row looking at the set you get the feeling that a chicken may walk by at any time. The rustic setting and the old fashioned kitchen put the audience in the right frame of mind for the opening scene. As the play opens it makes you think of everyday life for someone in a rural area with limited resources.

There are three characters Angus (John Dunsworth), Morgan (Richard Donat), and Miles (Christopher Shore) who through many antics make the show irresistible. Miles, a young actor from Toronto, is looking for some hands on experience in the life of a farmer as research for his show, The Farm Show. He happens to come upon two bachelors (Angus and Morgan) who offer to let Miles stay with them. What he learns is more of a lesson

about life in general rather than the life of a farm.

The first act is dedicated largely to the hilarious clash of rural and urban cultures. Much of what happens is predictable. As the show progresses the play slowly delves into a deeper philosophy about humanity lessening the humour but keeping the same style. The play flows from scene to scene so unnoticeably that you don't even realize that time has passed during the scene change.

All the aspects of the play were extremely effective, but lighting designer, Leigh Ann Vardy, went all out. The lighting made the show. Not one person could leave the theatre without at least one comment on it. The most memorable and breathtaking lighting technique was when all the lights were blacked out and only stars on the sky cloth were visible. It commanded attention and

deserved to have the recognition of everyone in the audience.

As for actors, John Dunsworth shone. He has the magic that captivates audiences. He was so engaging it was hard to believe that he wasn't really Angus. He was so in character that you couldn't even see a flicker of hesitancy in his eyes. He transformed into his character and never strayed. He made us laugh and tested our emotions. He took the show from the level of great to excellent.

I would recommend this play to anyone who likes to laugh and feel the need to cry all within two hours. The show plays with your emotions and leaves you wanting more. The Drawer Boy is one of the best plays that I have seen. I highly recommend that you go see The Drawer Boy. It runs from October 12-22 at the Alderney Landing Theatre.

DO YOU LIKE  
FREE STUFF????

Cds...  
Concerts...  
Theatre...  
Films

Write about Arts and Entertainment issues for the Picaro. Contact Nicola at the Picaro office.

# MPPA Action Heats Up

By Petie Ping-Pongball

Hold on and look out, the ping pong association has gone to a whole new level as those boys of the games room have shaken off the rust of a beer filled summer of doing nothing and sleeping way too much. Now these giants of the MPPA are back into prime ping pong shape and are ready for another beer filled season.

As hinted, a major title change has shaken the MPPA down to it's core as Jamie "The Dude" Taylor, has lost the MPPA World Championship, in a stunning turn of events Dave "The GAME" Searle has ended Jamie's nine month title reign. This is Dave's first go around as champion he is a veteran on the

green table and should be a great champion. Jamie for the time being has gone into intense training and said, " I will be a master trainer, teacher, and commissioner and will not seek out MPPA gold".

Another title has also changed hands as Brad "The Princess" MacKinnon has defeated Poul "The Ladies Man" Mathiesen making him the new Women's Champion. This is the first time since March of last season that Brad has beaten someone for the this title of disgrace. Brad commented, "my game has come along way over the last couple of months, I'm finally feeling like a true contender for one of the other titles in the MPPA".

Another important factor playing into the MPPA is the ratification of the MPPA as an official society. Thanks to a little luck and the

grace of Student Union the MPPA has been made into an official society. Rumour has it now that the MPPA is ratified the first act of this group will be to buy a new ping pong table for the games room. As well, in the not so distant future they hope to have a Pub Crawl, which will give the players a chance to mingle with the MILLIONS AND MILLIONS of their FANS. Well that's all for now.

This is Petie Ping Pong Ball saying GINP GONP

Warning: As the preceding story was retold by a ping pong ball and he has been hit one too many times with a ping pong paddle there may be inconsistencies in the interpretation of the facts.

## Genital Warts



The thought of them may make you cringe, but HPV – the virus responsible for genital warts – is the most common viral sexually transmitted disease today.

*You could be infected and not know it.*

Talk to your doctor, health clinic, visit your school's website or visit [www.ashastd.org](http://www.ashastd.org)

## TOP TEN !!!

By John Deg

### TOP TEN REASONS WHY I SKIP CLASS!

10. PING PONG IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN CLASS (DECATED TO PHIL "THE SAC" SAMMS)
9. MY PROF SUCKS
8. GOT DRUNK AT VINNIES AND WAS TOO HUNG OVER TO GO CLASS THE NEXT MORNING
7. WENT SLEDDING AT THE MOTHERHOUSE
6. THE THOUGHT OF WALKING UP ALL THOSE STAIRS IS JUST TOO MUCH FOR ME TO BARE.
5. I CAN WATCH IT ON DUET
4. I WAS DOING WORK FOR ANOTHER CLASS. REALLY, I WAS!
3. RELEGIUOS HOLIDAY. (I JUST MADE ONE UP)
2. I WAS TRYING TO MAKE DEADLINE AT THE PICARO
1. YOU NEED A REASON TO SKIP CLASS?

# Mystics Stay on Top

By Beth Whyte

After coming out of a tied game with Kings on October fourth, our women's soccer team came up on top of the conference with 16 points. UNB is trailing by five points and St Thomas is next with eight. Next is DalTech, King's and NSAC coming last with only three points to their credit. Below is a full list of the

standings as well as a schedule for all of the varsity home games.

Varsity games are free for any Mount student who presents their student ID card and two dollars for anyone else. Come and help cheer our Mystics to victory!

Soccer Standings found bellow.

Do You Have A Knowledge Of Sports?  
Do You Like To Write?  
Then Become a Sports Writer!  
If interested stop by room 114 and ask for Beth

WOMEN'S SOCCER		
September 15	UNBSJ @ MSVU	8pm
September 16	ST THOMAS @ MSVU	4pm
September 20	NSAC @ MSVU	4:30pm
October 15	KINGS @ MSVU	1pm
October 21	DALTECH @ MSVU	1pm
October 28	SEMIS @ NSAC	12 & 2pm
October 29	FINAL @ NSAC	12pm
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL		
November 5	MSVU @ DALTECH	1pm
November 10	MTA @ MSVU	1pm
November 15	NSAC @ MSVU	6pm
MEN'S BASKETBALL		
November 8	KINGS @ MSVU	8pm
November 10	MTA @ MSVU	4pm
November 15	NSAC @ MSVU	8pm
WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL		
November 19	UNBSJ @ MSVU	1pm
November 29	NSAC @ MSVU	7pm
December 2	U STE A @ MSVU	3pm

Teams	Games	Wins	Ties	Losses	GF	GA	Points
MSVU	6	5	1	0	15	3	16
UNBSJ	7	3	2	2	14	10	11
St. Thomas	7	2	2	3	6	10	8
DalTech	5	2	0	3	5	7	6
King's	6	1	3	2	10	10	5
NSAC	5	1	0	4	3	13	3

After graduation  
 there's only one thing  
 you want to do:  
 get as far away  
 from this place  
 as possible.

Perfect.



2000 CHRYSLER NEON

**THE \$750 GRAD REBATE** Graduating? Then you're eligible for a \$750 Grad Rebate that can be used in combination with any other offer when you purchase any new Chrysler, Dodge or Jeep vehicle. Including the completely redesigned 2000 Chrysler Neon. So you can put school where it belongs: in the rear view mirror.



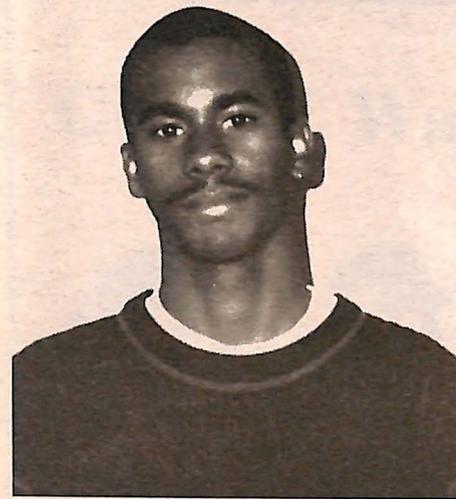
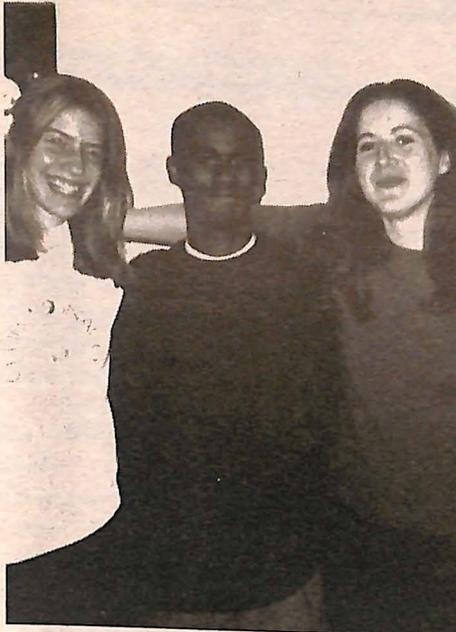
**\$750 Rebate**



Only at your neighbourhood Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep® Retailer.

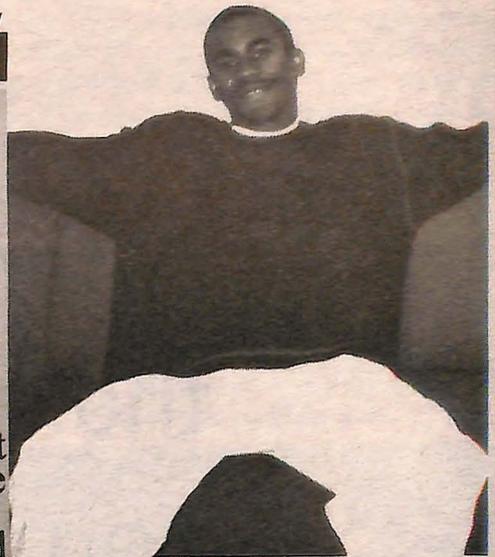
# Man on the Mount

The Mount's Most Wanted



**Name:** Chad Oliver  
**Age:** 21  
**Date of Birth:** January 10th, 1979  
**Height:** 5 feet 7 inches  
**Weight:** 157 pounds  
**Hometown:** Lower Sackville, N.S.  
**Degree:** BA  
**Major:** History  
**Favorite Movie:** Jerry MacGuire  
**Favorite Book:** Pride and Prejudice, by Jane Austen  
**Hobbies:** Giving sensual massages to that right woman, weightlifting keep in shape, looking for the woman of his dreams.  
**Likes:** Honest relationships based on trust and commitment, evenings full of laughter and fun, people who encourage others to always strive toward their dreams.  
**Dislikes:** People who see others only skin deep, when people feel that they can not be themselves around others.  
**About me:** Life is only as fun as you make it, always keep laughter in it. Bringing a laugh or smile to another person's face is even more satisfying than bringing one to your own.

*If you know a guy you would like to be "The Man on the Mount" then drop of sugestions at the Picaro office room 114 Roseria or e-mail us at thepicaro@hotmail.com*



## Sometimes you Just Have to Play

By Beth Whyte

Feel like playing a sport but don't think you are good enough or have the time for a varsity team? Maybe you are ready for campus intramurals! The intramural program gives students, faculty and staff a chance to take a break and play their favourite sport without the pressure of being on a team. You don't have to be good at the sport or even really know how to play it. The idea is to learn something new or get better at what you already know while having fun at the same time.

On Fridays there is a TGIF sports night the hour before the gym closes. You can drop by and unwind by taking part in your choice of activities. They also have a Free Agent Intramural Card that sends you all the information you need to know about intramural events. You will get contacted about the events and can even get assigned to a team.

Below is the schedule of the different intramural events that take place weekly.

*Schedule Found Below*

SPORT	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
VOLLEYBALL				7:30-9:30PM	
BADMINTON	12-2PM	12-3PM & 8-11PM	12-2PM	12-3PM	12-1:30PM 1/2 GYM
BASKETBALL		3-4PM	3-4PM		12-1:30PM 1/2 GYM
SOCCER	3:30-4:30PM			3:30-4:30PM	
TGIF SPORTS NIGHT					9-10PM (or last hour before close)

## What's up With the Moose?

By Beth Whyte

The Mooseheads have named one of their right wing players, Jason King, player of the month for September. He led the team in scoring with ten points from five goals and five assists.

The Corner Brook, Newfoundland native scored at least one point in five of the six games played in September. He scored two goals, one being the winning, and one assist in the season opening 3-2 victory against the Cape Breton Eagles on September 5. He added another two goal, one assist performance to the list at the game against Rouyn-Noranda on September 22.

The heard is now short two of their players on the roster after releasing right wing Mitchell Hardy and goaltender Carlos Sayde. However, both players will remain

on the Mooseheads protected list. Hardy will play for the Charlottetown Abbies of the Maritime Junior A Hockey League.

Halifax has also granted a tryout to Cody Glasper, a 6'05", 205 lb, 19 year old from the Ontario Hockey League. He has been given permission to tryout by Ottawa General manager Brian Kilrea. Glasper can play either left defence or left wing.

They also signed the paperwork allowing Sergei Klyazmin to have a 15 day tryout with them. This started on the eleventh in the Mooseheads' game against Victoriaville. They are in the process of trying to get a full transfer.

# Career Corner

*Brought to you by the Career Planning Center, Student Affairs  
(Evar 217)*

If you don't have time to commit to fixed working hours because of school or are not quite ready to hit the workforce yet, but need to have valuable experience on your resume, **VOLUNTEER WORK** is just what you need! In fact, the Department of Education is currently looking for volunteers for the 14th Meeting of the Commonwealth Ministers of Education being held in Halifax in late November. It's an excellent opportunity to gain experience in the PR, Tourism & Hospitality and Education fields, as well as a good volunteer/networking opportunity for almost any student. At the Career Planning Center we have information about numerous volunteer opportunities that can give you the experience you need *and* accommodate your busy schedule.

For all of you who are interested in networking with employers, an upcoming event that should be on your agenda is attending Canada Career Week (CCW) which is being held from Monday Oct. 30- Friday Nov. 3. Watch for the CCW Schedule, which will be available soon!

Or if your looking to find work during the summer, but think it's too early to start now, think again! The Federal Student Work Program Summer applications are now available! Tourism Nova Scotia is also hiring supervisors and counselors for several of their lodges in Yarmouth, Digby, Port Hastings, Bar Harbor, Amherst, and Pictou for jobs starting in April. Remember it's the early bird that catches the worm.

## Some of our current job postings include:

- Proctor & Gamble Managers, Marketing Development Organization, and IT Co-Op & FT opportunities
- Various opportunities in arts, craft, music, dance, instructors, coaches, etc. with The Halifax Regional Municipality
- Instructor with Spell Read P.A.T.
- Market Analyst for Canada Mortgage & Housing Corp.
- Security staff for the YWCA Wellness Center for Women
- And much more!

## Alumnae Welcome Brunch

All graduates and their families are invited to the Alumnae Welcome Brunch on Sunday October 22, 2000 in Rosaria Dining Hall. It's a great opportunity for new graduates to meet alumnae and learn more about the services and benefits available to an alum. Those who attend will also have the opportunity to win a frame for a degree or diploma.

There will be one sitting for the brunch starting at 11:00 a.m. which will coincide with the rehearsal time of 10:00 a.m. The cost is \$10 per person and you should reserve a place ASAP. For more information on how to register please call Laura MacDonald @ 457-6340.

# SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING...

By Martha Martin, MSVU Chaplain

**Picaro Question: What is my proof that God exists?  
Where do I see and experience God?**

One of the definitions of "faith" in the Oxford dictionary is "...belief in divine truth without proof." That's the easy answer to the first question - I don't need proof. My belief in God (as I described in the last issue of the Picaro) does not depend on my having scientific proof that God exists - it is just something that I know to be true. It's like love - to describe love is to describe an abstract concept. The only proof that I have that love exists is in the experience that I have of love.

In the same way, it's easier to answer the second question, "where do I see and experience God?" Many folks believe that because they haven't had an all out, "bolt of lightning" kind of experience of God, that God doesn't exist. Some call these "conversion experiences." In fact, few people actually experience God in that way. My own experience of God has been more gradual, even intentional. I have learned that if I want to see and experience God, I have to look for God - in all that I see and do.

The God I described in the previous column was not an all-seeing, omnipotent being, but rather a mysterious presence that is in each and every being of creation, and within creation itself. Because creation is constantly re-creating itself, or to put in another way, there is constantly new life in this world, this presence is always creating and moving in the world. When God is seen in this way, it's easy to see and experience God all around me each and every day. Not that I do of course - life gets in the way. I get grumpy, worried, caught up in the busy-ness of my life, caught up in the little things that we all experience on a daily basis. However, when I do stop, and challenge myself to look around me, and ask the question "where is God in all this?", I see the divine presence all around me - in the wonder of each new season and the cycle of life, in the wonder in children's eyes as they discover something new in the world, in the person who walks into my office with a life situation that is unimaginable to me, in the friend who phones me to say hello just when I need the support, in the little unexplainable, synchronistic events that happen all the time in my life.

This is why I am coming to the realization that prayer and meditation is so important in one's life. I don't mean prayer where I do the talking, but prayer where I do the listening - in silence, trying to tap into the quietness of my heart where I believe God dwells. This is a discipline, and does not just happen. It takes practice, and persistence. Another component of experiencing God for me is in the practice of "being in the moment", what the Buddhists call mindfulness - being aware that every moment is a gift, and has something special to offer. By being attentive to that moment, by being aware of all that our senses are offering us at any given time, we open ourselves up to the experience of God, to the experience of the divine life force in and through the world at all times. We realize that "conversion experiences" happen all the time.

- we just need to recognize them.

## Do you have a questions on spiritual matters?

Email me at [Martha.Martin@MSVU.ca](mailto:Martha.Martin@MSVU.ca).

Join us at morning prayer Tuesdays and Fridays at 8:30 am in the Evaristus Chapel.

Our Women's Spiritually Group meets every second Wednesday at 4:00 pm in the Evaristus Chapel

Taizé prayer, 1st and 3rd Sunday evenings of the month at: St. John's United Church (1st Sunday) and King's College Chapel (3rd Sunday) at 7:00 pm. Call the Chaplain, 457-6446 for more details.

Come and write  
for the Picaro



and walk a mile  
in our shoes!!!