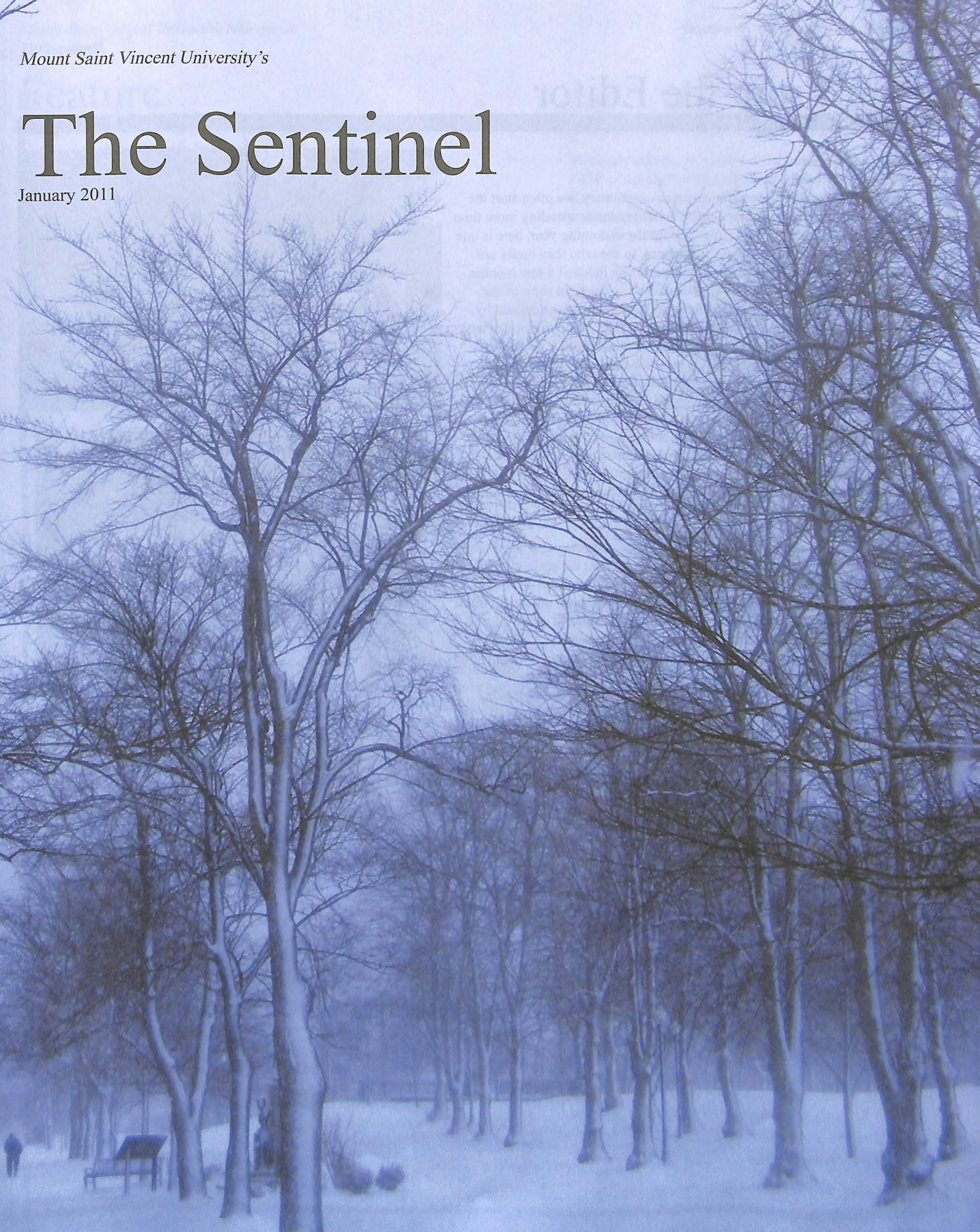


Mount Saint Vincent University's

The Sentinel

January 2011



Letter From the Editor

P. 2

Welcome back everyone!

I hope you had a wonderful winter break. As is customary, we often start the New Year with resolutions such as getting better grades or spending more time with loved ones. Whatever your resolutions for the upcoming year, here is one to consider: try to look past peoples' differences, to see who they really are. Why do I mention this now? There was a devastating incident a few months ago where unknown persons vandalized artworks displayed in front of the Spring Garden Rd. Memorial Public Library. The artworks were created by members of Team Possible, the youth branch of the Down Syndrome Society, to raise awareness and to promote acceptance of children and youths with Down Syndrome. On October 23, 2010 I joined their march (which was covered in the November/December Issue of the Sentinel), to support their cause. The unity among such bright and joyful children and their families was simply heart-warming. These children put so much hope and faith in their creations that were to be displayed for the public; can you imagine how they felt when their hard work was destroyed? Such destructiveness is not idle, it sends a message of intolerance and it says that these children are not welcome in their own communities. This is shocking to see in a pluralistic and smart city such as Halifax.

When the focus is on characteristics that set us apart, it is easy to judge others. However it is much more personally enriching to see past the surface, to understand and to treat others as we want to be treated. For those of us who think that this is already a reality, take a closer look. For those of us who think that this is a pipe-dream, hey! This is Halifax, the birthplace of many successful grassroots projects that were once believed to being impossible. A recent example is Canada's signing and ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, as a result of local efforts (see Feature article on page 3); this project has impacted our entire nation.

So let's give people a chance - because one thing that everyone has in common is that we are all human beings.

Good luck in the New Year!

Negar Sakhai
Publications Editor
publications@mountstudents.ca



Team Possible's walk to raise awareness was held on October 23, 2010

Feature

P. 3

Local Mother Makes a Difference



Halifax is known by many for its grassroots initiatives in environmental, social and humanitarian projects. Usually these ventures are group-based efforts but there is a shining exception to this movement. Local single mother, Robab Haghpanh, has single-handedly brought a ray of positive changes to the local community as well as at the provincial and national levels. Not only has Haghpanh never received any funding for her projects but as she explains, she has often had to rely on her own limited resources to make her efforts successful.

After moving to Halifax from Vancouver, Haghpanh was distressed to learn that the province did not fund therapies for children with autism as British Columbia had. Almost immediately she began lobbying for children with autism to receive government funded therapies; since 2003 was a provincial election year, Haghpanh spoke with different party candidates. She wrote to newspapers, spoke with parents, and met with MLA candidates and the provincial health minister. Finally, Haghpanh began gathering signatures from health professionals for her petition which asked the Nova Scotia government to provide publically funded speech and behavior therapy for children with autism. In May 2004, Liberal MLA Diana Whalen tabled Haghpanh's petition at the Province House, along with her own private Bill 76. As a result, on December 2, 2004, the provincial government announced that behavior therapy would be publically funded for children with autism up to six years of age.

Later in 2007, Haghpanh successfully gathered a petition asking for the Federal government to sign the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, handing more than 800 signatures to then-MP Alexa McDonough. Not only did Haghpanh gather signatures in person, she also set-up online posts through the Victoria BC based PEJ News site, urging people to talk to their MPs about supporting the signing of the United Nations Convention. Canada signed the Convention on March 30, 2007 and ratified it on March 11, 2010. This Convention has improved the quality of life for more than two million Canadians who are living with disabilities.

From her soft-spoken manner, one would not guess that Haghpanh is such a powerful public speaker but on December 7, 2006 she was a guest speaker on a panel, along with dignitaries such as Minister Bolivar-Getson. This panel was part of a conference to address the issue of violence against women, held at the Lord Nelson Hotel. Haghpanh was invited to speak as a woman who had made a difference in the lives of thousands of children with autism in Nova Scotia. Also in the time frame of 2006-2007, Haghpanh circulated her petition which asked the Federal government not to shut down 12 of the 16 Status of Women Offices across the nation. This petition was then handed to Alexa McDonough, who also signed it. Once again, Haghpanh was working hard to strengthen and benefit our communities.

Tirelessly striving to make a difference, in 2008 Haghpanh founded the Dalhousie Culture of Autism Awareness Society (DCAAS), to promote awareness. "We need to look at people as human beings instead of as labels," Haghpanh states, "Everyone deserves a chance."

In July of the same year, Haghpanh organized a public event honoring children with special needs and their families, through the Dalhousie Women's Centre, for which Alexa McDonough was a guest speakers. Bringing DCAAS to CKDU radio, on November 7, 2009 Haghpanh organized a panel discussion to honor children with autism. To present new perspectives on this subject, Haghpanh has invited several international guests to the program.

Still feeling that more needs to be done to promote societal acceptance, Haghpanh set out to produce a public service announcement; this project is still in the editing process. In the mean time, she is co-host and producer of *A Kaleidoscope of Lives* on CKDU radio. This monthly program focuses on bringing awareness by interviewing people living with disabilities as well as health professionals, supporting organizations, among others.

Although Haghpanh's work on autism is quite extensive, it is definitely not her only area of focus. Haghpanh also works with Nova Scotia Anti-Poverty Groups. She has been an active member of Nova Scotia Public Interest Group (NSPIRG) since 2006; she has also been on the board of the Dalhousie Women's Centre since 2007, as well as on the board of CKDU radio since 2008. Haghpanh is the Nova Scotia representative on the board of DAWN-CANADA, which is a national organization.

At the local level, Haghpanh actively opposed the Halifax Regional School Boards' motion to shut-down three elementary schools to replace them with one mega-school designed to hold more than 700 students. On the closing of the three South End elementary schools, one of which her son attends, Haghpanh campaigned tirelessly through meetings and the media to ensure that the schools would remain open. In June 2007 the Halifax Regional School Board announced that the three schools would remain open until 2011.

How does she do it? I ask her this, "I strongly believe in the humanistic values of assuring quality of life," she states, "particularly for people living with disabilities."

Haghpanh constantly dedicates herself towards obtaining justice for everyone in the community. As a single – parent, advocate, and candidate for Dalhousie's Honourary Degree, Haghpanh is an inspirational role-model for all of us. Whether she decides to stay here or move to Europe, as she aims to, she will always be a legend in the eyes of the people who know of her contributions to our society.

Richard Tuncer

Community News

P. 4

Canadian War Correspondent Sheds Light on Untold Conflict in the Caucasus: *Unreconciled Differences*, a book review



Photograph by Hollie Reid

“Despite being a war correspondent, an avid student of military history and an admitted news junkie, I have to confess that I had never heard of the Armenia – Azerbaijan conflict until the summer of 2006.”
- Scott Taylor, author of *Unreconciled Differences*, p. 147

Scott Taylor, columnist for the *Halifax Chronicle Herald*, is known for his unconventional reporting of conflict zones such as the Balkans, Iraq and Afghanistan. In his new book titled *Unreconciled Differences: Turkey Armenia and Azerbaijan* (2010), Taylor focuses on the continuous conflicts in the Caucasus, a region that has received very little Western media coverage. This review only looks at chapter six: “Clash in the Caucasus” which covers the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan that began in 1992; this includes the Armenian occupation of 20% of the country of Azerbaijan, the displacement of over 800 000 Azeri civilians from their homes, and the most recent case of large-scale ethnic cleansing committed against the Azeri population.

At the turn of the 20th century, Czarist Russia performed large-scale resettlement policies by bringing Armenians from the Ottoman Empire and Persia, into the area of Azerbaijan. After the Russian Revolution, the Soviet Union government continued with these policies of resettling Armenians in the Azeri province of Nagorno-Karabakh. Not surprisingly by the late 1980s, Armenian separatists in Nagorno-Karabakh began pushing for the secession of that province, with the intention of joining the Republic of Armenia. The government of the Republic of Armenia supported the separatists by sending troops into Azerbaijan and this resulted in Armenia’s occupations of seven provinces in Azerbaijan; according to Taylor, “the local Azeri populations were ruthlessly ethnically cleansed from their homes” (p.146).

One of the most notable incidents in this conflict took place in 1992 in the town of Khojaly, located in the province of Nagorno-Karabakh. As Taylor explains it, “Azeri authorities list 613 civilians as having perished that night of that total, 106 were women and 83 were children under age

of 12 years. In a brutal and bitter civil war, the Khojaly massacre would be described by Human Rights Watch as the most horrific slaughter of the conflict.” He states, “Although accounts of events differ slightly, the fact that a massacre was perpetuated against innocent Azeri civilians on the night of February 25/26 1992, is not in dispute” (p. 145).

The conflict in Azerbaijan is the only noted clash in Europe where no progress towards peace has been made since the conflict started in 1992. The situation in the occupied regions of Azerbaijan has only deteriorated in the last two decades, with fact-finding missions reporting that the Armenians are eradicating Azeri culture within the occupied provinces by repressively implementing Armenian cultural policies which as Taylor explains, is in open violation of the ceasefire pacts.
“The Armenians are actively seeking to strengthen their hold on this territory the old fashioned way through the artificially stimulated birthrate. Such a resettlement program and deliberate alteration of the demographics flies in the face of the United Nations resolutions which call for an immediate withdrawal of Armenian troops and the return of the Azeri refugees” (p. 157).

Issues of peace and conflict are complex but Taylor manages to create an easily comprehensible portrayal of the events taking place in the Caucasus region. Taylor is impartial in that he addresses all parties involved. Learning about the ongoing struggles however leads to greater questions about the lack of an international response to the horrendous events taking place in the occupied regions of Azerbaijan. Even though the United Nations has passed four resolutions to stop Armenian aggression in Azerbaijan, there has not been enough international pressure to enforce these resolutions. One reason is insufficient media coverage in the Western; no one really knows what is happening there. That is why this book is such a mile-stone in offering much needed information about the situation in the Caucasus.

“This book is dedicated to all those who have suffered and continue to suffer in a lengthy ongoing conflict that is perpetuated by disinformation.”

- Scott Taylor, *Unreconciled Differences* , p. 7

Elchin Mannadov

Community News

P. 5

Local Family Business, International Altruism



Passing the intersection of Henry and South Street on a cloudy day, I can't help but notice the bright yellow building with the blue base. It is an Asian grocery store with its windows filled with beautiful porcelain dishware and delicate décor. Upon entry, there is a warm and welcoming atmosphere, amplified by the friendly smiles of the store owners. Done 88 Asian Grocery is a local family business that is run by Peijuan Ji (also known as Jen) and her son, Don Tian. This is not just a grocery store; it is one of the few yet vital aspects of community support available for Asian international students in Halifax.

It is important to support international students because they contribute greatly not only to the university communities but also to the local economy as well. In order to encourage international students to stay here and finish their studies instead of pursuing their education in other provinces, as is often the case, the social and cultural barriers that international students face need to be addressed. Community members like Ji play a great role in helping some of these students. Ji, who came to Canada with a Masters degree in Information Processing, speaks three languages which enable her to reach out to a greater range of students.

"There are daily barriers that these students have never faced before," Ji explains, "which are concerns in addition to the challenges of studying in a foreign language."

Research shows that many students who are leaving home for the first time to study afar find that being away from their loved ones leads to feelings of alienation and often depression which then impacts the students' academic progress. That is one of the reasons why universities offer counseling services to students. Nevertheless, alienation is much worse for international students who must also deal with the culture shock that results from coming into a new society with its own customs, foods, language and expectations. That is why it is important to have community support for international students. Ji voluntarily acts as a cultural counselor, helping students to settle, reducing the impact of culture shock by reaching out to them. She helps new Asian students to find apartments, learn how to pay bills, access healthcare, and to settle into routines that locals take for granted.

Ji is also there in case of emergencies, for students who have no one to turn to, "There was one time when a student came in with a health condition and I had to rush them to the emergency room," she explains, "International students aren't familiar with the procedures for such cases."

Ji explains that since she herself is a mother, who understands the cultural expectations of youth from East Asian societies, she is able to help students. Also as a mother, Ji feels that she wants to help as much as possible. It is not just guidance that Ji provides, she helps fill the gap that many international students live with.

"A lot of times, loneliness is the problem. Students miss their families and friends, they need someone to talk to, someone who understands, to help put things in perspective," Ji explains, "It is very important to have someone who speaks your language when you feel all alone."

Tian, a third year Commerce student at Dalhousie University, works hard as a full-time student and full-time store manger when he is not attending classes. A very bright young man who speaks six languages, Tian explains that knowing different languages is an asset in helping customers who have language barriers.



"There aren't that many Asian grocery stores in Atlantic Canada," Tian explains, "We're one of the few Asian businesses here. People should come and visit if they are interested in Asian products." He states with a bright smile.

Ji and Tian play a great role in helping Asian international students. Their contributions to our communities are greatly appreciated.

Negar Sakhai

Community News

P. 6

Blocking Bill C-311 and the Need for Democratic Reform Halifax environmental groups speak out on Senate's sacking of Climate Change Accountability Act

It was another turbulent weather day in Nova Scotia as Gretchen Fitzgerald, director of Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter, spoke about the sacking of Bill C-311. Storm surge and wind warnings had been issued for the region; ninety kilometer gusts and heavy rains had knocked out power for thousands across the province. It was an ironic backdrop for a discussion on the now defunct Climate Change Accountability Act.

"I am appalled, saddened, ashamed...and I am frightened by this action" said Fitzgerald. "All of the passion that we saw from youth and activists in the lead up, the decisions of the people we all voted for, have been denied without debate by unelected people".

On November 16th, the Senate of Canada killed Bill C-311. First introduced to the House of Commons in October 2006 and passed earlier this year, the proposed Climate Change Accountability Act would have required government to enact regulations and policies to ensure the country:

- reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 25% below 1990 levels by 2020, and
- reduce emissions to 80% below 1990 levels by 2050

"The Climate Change Accountability Act was a fantastic initiative and a wonderful step, developed with science-based targets to establish necessary emission reductions for the country. And it aimed to go a step further, by legislating accountability on the part of government, to provide extra clout so that no government could wiggle out of it" Fitzgerald said. "A real plan on climate change has the support of many folks in industry, because they want a level playing field".

The Act, which also would have included mandatory reporting mechanisms for government, was approved by the House of Commons on May 5th 2010. But for the first time in some 70 years, the unelected Senate simply blocked a piece of legislation that had been passed by the House.

"Yet again now we will go into climate talks with no real plans" lamented Fitzgerald, referring to the scheduled international meeting in Cancun. "We are asking people to write the Governor General and tell him that legislation should reflect the majority of Canadians. We need this process fixed".

Many MPs who voted for the legislation have expressed shock and disappointment with the actions of the Senate on November 16th. Megan Leslie, MP for Halifax, voiced concern over the events in an email dated December 6th:

"With the guidelines for emission control as set out in Bill C-311, Canada was given an opportunity to be a leader in the fight against catastrophic climate change. From the outset the Conservative government has been vocal and unabashed in their opposition to this piece of legislation. By subverting the will of the House and using his appointed Conservative Senators, Prime Minister Harper has once again demonstrated his lack of commitment to honouring the wishes of Canadians. As a result of the vote by the Prime Minister's stacked Senate, Canada's already shaky position on the world stage has further been tarnished".

Leslie, elected to the House in the 2008 federal election, vowed "to not let this issue lie without a fight". But it is unclear what recourse if any the NDP has to argue the Senate's decision.

Brennan Vogel, Energy and Climate Change Coordinator with the Ecology Action Centre, expressed his views on the demise of the Bill.

"What happened to Bill C-311 is a function of systemic problems that exist in Canada's democratic system," he said. "Until the systemic problems are addressed, until we have Senate reform and reform within the electoral process, I don't think we're going to be getting the policies we need at the federal level."

"Stephen Harper has done what he promised never to do, and his government is providing a good case study for how dysfunctional this country is. This government does not represent the majority" he said.

Without any formal debate of the Bill in the Senate, citizens can't even be certain why it was in fact defeated. However, it is likely that the Senate's justification for the defeat is the same as the Conservative Party's justification for opposing the Bill: implementing such ambitious emission targets would hurt Canada economically. Is there any truth to this claim?

"Anyone who has looked into the issue knows that it is not a matter of environment versus jobs, but about choosing which kind of jobs and which industries we want to support" said Fitzgerald. "Do we want to be part of the clean energy future or not?"

Vogel also feels the argument is without merit. "Any forward-thinking government that knows what the challenges of the 21st Century are will be looking at a plan like this as an opportunity, not a detriment. By not viewing legislation like this as an opportunity Canada is being left behind on the issues of improving energy efficiency and other aspects of the green economy".

What can environmentalists and climate justice activists in NS do now that Bill C-311 has been ignored?

"There are systemic problems impeding progress at the national level. While we should continue to apply pressure there, the province still has progressive goals that are consistent with Kyoto, and we can continue to work at that level" Vogel said.

Fitzgerald expressed the same urgency to continue working at the provincial as well as municipal levels. And "now is not the time to lessen the pressure" on the federal government she said, despite the Senate's killing of the Bill.

She summed up her views on the current situation succinctly: "We've all changed our light bulbs. Now we need to change how our political system works".

Steve Caines
Halifax Media Co-op

Community News

P. 7

Building Prisons, Creating Prisoners Harper gets “tough on crime” and everyone pays

MONTREAL—“It’s wrong to believe that more time inside is what will make people safe,” says James*, who was recently released from a maximum security prison. “If you want to fight crime, put money into communities, like job opportunities. The best way to fight crime is to fight poverty.”

Since Prime Minister Harper took office, Correctional Services Canada (CSC)’s net budget has increased by 54 per cent to \$2.46 billion for 2010–2011; it is predicted to increase further to \$3.12 billion by 2012–2013, according to CSC. Much of this money is for capital expenditures such as construction of new prisons; in 2010, \$329.4 million is set for capital expenditures, and in 2012–2013 that is set to increase to \$466.9 million. The number of incarcerated people in Canada is expected to soar due to new legislation introduced by the Conservative government.

“These prisons that will be coming online aren’t even going to put a dent in the number of prisoners that they’re going to be creating [with] this legislation,” says prison justice activist Justin Piche, who notes that at least 22 new provincial-territorial prisons are being built in Canada and 15 additions are being made to existing facilities.

The Parliamentary Budget Office predicted in June 2010 that Bill C-25, which lengthens prisoners’ stays by eliminating the “two-for-one” credit for time served pre-sentencing, will incur over \$2 billion in construction, operation, and management costs over a five-year period. These costs correlate to the increased cost of housing these prisoners. The proposed Bill S-10, which involves mandatory minimum sentencing of six months for those producing as few as five marijuana plants, would add additional costs and increase the prison population in numbers that Correctional Services Canada says it cannot predict.

“It’s like they’re using a bigger net because they have to catch more fish. They’re trying to pull people back in,” says James. “There is no supporting data that this works, but nobody cares because it’s prisoners, and prisoners are seen as second class.”

Piche, co-editor of the *Journal of Prisoners on Prisons*, and author of the popular blog *Tracking the Politics of “Crime” and Punishment in Canada* says the government’s changes in legislation, though expensive, are not needed and will not make the streets safer.

This legislation is being introduced despite the fact that Statistics Canada reports that crime rates have been falling steadily since the 1990s.

As the numbers of prisoners is set to rise, the living conditions of prisoners are far below those of the non-incarcerated population. Overcrowding is worsening, according to the Correctional Investigator of Canada’s annual report, and incidents of prisoners facing violence from guards are also increasing. Suicide rates are more than seven times higher than the rest of Canada, HIV transmission rates are 10 times higher in prison, and the prevalence of Hepatitis C is 25 times greater. Access to clean needles and condoms is nearly non-existent, creating what many view as a health crisis inside the walls of prisons.

In an interview with *Maclean’s* magazine, the Correctional Investigator of Canada notes that less than three per cent of the budget for prison expansion is to go towards programming inside prisons.

“There used to be so much more in terms of programs, and the ability to learn skills and trades,” says James. “They take more and more of that away and we know that it’s not coming back.”

The Canadian government notes on their Public Safety website that 12 per cent of male and 26 per cent of female offenders have serious mental health problems; and about four out of five offenders arrive at a federal institution with a serious substance abuse problem. This reality, however, is not leading to a corresponding increase in the mental health treatment for prisoners.

James notes that psychotherapy used to be easier to access; but increasingly, guards hold the de facto responsibility for prisoners with mental health issues. “Now guards play the role of the therapists,” says James, “because they’re there full time. They [the prison system] save money.” The Correctional Investigator of Canada has repeatedly denounced the lack of funding for mental health treatment in prisons.

“It’s increasingly recognized that our prisons have become dumping-grounds for those suffering from mental illnesses, those who have substance-abuse addictions, and also other marginalized populations, particularly the poor, including Aboriginals, who are completely over-represented within our prisons,” says Piche.

The increase in spending on prison expansion comes amidst cuts in many other sectors as part of the “austerity measures” that Harper announced at the close of the G20 meetings in Toronto. Money for community spending, for Indigenous peoples, and for women’s groups have been slashed across the country.

Piche asserts that the over-representation of marginalized populations in prisons, such as people living in poverty or First Nations peoples, “indicates our inability to use appropriate services to address the needs of [these] populations. These populations are over-policed, over-prosecuted, they are sentenced in a disproportionate fashion, and this basically leads to their over-representation in prisons.”

Peter Collins, an outspoken prison justice advocate, reflects on the rising costs of the “prison industrial complex” in a time of “fiscal restraint.” “If you look at the way that they spend on things that they want to spend on, which is the military industrial complex and the prison industrial complex, you can see that they are not really in a time of fiscal restraint, they are in a time of abundant spending. It just depends on what they want to spend it on,” says Collins. “If it involves killing people or punishing people, there is a lot of money for that.”

Collins, who recently won the Canadian Award for Action on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights, is currently serving a life sentence in Bath Penitentiary in Kingston, Ontario.

Furthermore, Piche adds, “It costs more to imprison people than it does to put money into community programs, which actually address real social ills.” Indeed, the Parliamentary Budget Office reports the average cost of an inmate in 2009–2010 to be \$162,373, while community-based organizations across the country are fighting to survive.

(continued on page 8)

Community News

P. 8

(continued from page 7)

To Collins and many others, it is this basic lack of justice that is putting growing numbers of people behind bars for longer and longer stays.

“It is so many people from low economic situations [who are in prisons],” says Collins. When living in poverty children “often do not do as well in school, they’re going to school hungry or tired. Some of them have or develop learning disabilities [and struggle with school] and then you have schools operating with their no-tolerance attitudes...and when the kid runs afoul then he’s on the street,” explains Collins. “What are the kids supposed to do? When do we take some responsibility in society for that kid’s opportunity or lack of it?”

Though the Canadian government refers to its prison system as “rehabilitative,” Collins disagrees. He points out that it is not only poor conditions inside of prisons or the expansion of prisons that should be criticized, but the very idea of using incarceration as a solution: “At the end of the day, regardless of how pretty or how ugly a prison is, it’s still a prison. Deprivation does not work, you simply can’t rehabilitate someone inside of a cage.”

“They treat you like an infant, like a ‘bad child,’” agrees James. “They try to hold you in for so long, it harms you.”

Piche says these statements are supported by the evidence. “It has been demonstrated in studies about the US system of longer-term incarceration and mandatory minimums that indeed, though much more money is spent, American-style justice and imprisonment systems do not work in reducing or in preventing crime”.

Collins sees a deep injustice in a system he says doesn’t make the streets any safer but puts public money into locking away economically and racially marginalized people, while others walk free. “There are different ways that we can see criminals. If you look at the tar sands—the way that they’re pumping toxins into the Athabasca river and poisoning everybody downstream, and the air—how is that not criminal?” asks Collins. Collins has faced severe repercussions and the denial of his parole as a direct consequence of speaking out from inside prison, yet he continues to do so.

“There is a punishment for speaking out. But I think that there is punishment for shutting up as well. At the end of the day, if you know that something should be said and you don’t say it, you’re going to pay some price in terms of your integrity, your dignity. So you’ve got to make the choice of where you want to pay your toll.”

* Not his real name.

Robyn Maynard

Robyn Maynard is a movement writer, radio journalist, and activist based in Montreal. She co-hosts No One Is Illegal Radio and is involved in various grassroots campaigns for migrant justice, and against police violence and impunity.

The Dominion



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Notice From Ecology Action Centre

If you love cooking, gardening and celebrating sustainable local food, then volunteer for the Food Action Committee. As a volunteer you are welcome to be a part of helping increase the understanding of local sustainable agriculture through: workshops, events, education/ outreach and influencing policy change.

Ecology Action Centre
2705 Fern Lane, Halifax
Meetings are 5:30 pm, 3rd
Monday of the month

For more information visit www.ecologyaction.ca

Campus News

P.9

Career Decisions Matter - Mount Alumni Among Successful UFE Graduates

Reaching the top has never felt so good! Just ask either of the following Mount Saint Vincent University alumni who were among the 60 Nova Scotia Chartered Accountant students who received word that they passed the 2010 national Uniform Evaluation (UFE); completing the final academic ascent in becoming a Chartered Accountant.

Michael Crosby and Lois Oyuko.

"Michael and Lois now have an edge for continued success," explains Michele Wood-Tweel, FCA, CEO and Executive Director for the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nova Scotia (ICANS). "As future CAs, they have the superior financial expertise, plus the strategic thinking, business insight and leadership skills for a successful career in business, government, education or in the non-profit community."

Also among the graduates was St. F. X. University alumnus Kimberly Hartlin who placed on the 2010 Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants of Canada (CICA) National Honour Roll, placing first in Eastern Canada, receiving the Chartered Accountants' of Canada Gold Medal for the highest standing in Eastern Canada on the Uniform Evaluation. In addition, 2010 UFE graduate Steven Taylor – a Mt. Allison graduate -- also placed on the 2010 CICA National Honour Roll.

CICA President & CEO Kevin Dancey, FCA, congratulated the graduates, adding: "This is a proud day for those students in Nova Scotia and other provinces who have achieved a significant milestone in their careers. These are ambitious students who personally chose a challenging career path that can offer a lifetime of rewards. The Canadian CA profession carries an influential voice in today's global economy and is recognized for its leadership in financial management, standard setting, risk management, and governance."

Becoming a CA is the result of instruction, experience and evaluation. Along with a university degree, CAs must undergo a demanding and diverse professional training program administered in Nova Scotia through the Atlantic School of Chartered Accountancy (ASCA). Students also benefit from hands-on practical experience, working with approved CA Training Offices. And finally, they must pass the UFE, which sets the standard for entrance into Canada's CA profession.

"The CA qualification program is unparalleled in its ability to prepare students for a career in business," explains Wood-Tweel. "By providing the highest level training along with strong mentoring, it develops professionals who have a unique combination of integrity and expertise that distinguishes them from members of all other financial designations. Becoming a CA offers incredible opportunities and a rewarding career."

With more than 77,000 CAs and 12,000 students from across Canada and Bermuda – and more than 2,000 in Nova Scotia – the CA profession is the most prominent accounting designation in Canada. According to CICA's annual analysis of the Globe & Mail's Report on Business Top 1000 Companies, 57.4% of the chief financial officers in the 2010 ROB 1000 are CAs. Other leadership positions frequently held by CAs include chair (11.3%), CEO (11.1%), president (11.5%), secretary (14.6%) and chief operating officer (6.4%).

This year's CA graduates will be honored at the Institute's Convocation ceremony on January 29, 2011 at the World Trade and Convention Centre in Halifax.

For more information on Nova Scotia CAs, please visit ICANS' website at www.icans.ns.ca.

Joy Barkhouse
Communication Consultant
The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nova Scotia
(902) 425-3291
communication@icans.ns.ca



Notice from the Information Desk

Tia Larkin, Supervisor of Information Services, is pleased to announce that the Student's Union will have not one, but two information desks open to service the student population of MSVU!

We offer a number of services to students at the lowest cost possible!

Faxes
Printing/Photocopying
Laminating
Binding
Selling of Student Union Gear
AND MUCH MORE!

So please visit us! The Rosaria location is open Monday - Friday 9am-5pm
The Seton will be open Monday - Thursday 10am-5pm, and Fridays 10am-3pm.

To get all the information you need about your Students' Union, please check us out on www.mountstudents.ca or by our Facebook page: MSVU Students' Union

Art and Culture

P. 10

MSVU Art Gallery presents



François Lacasse, *Grandes pulsions XIII* 2008
(photo: Musée d'art de Joliette)

François Lacasse: Outpourings

Organized by Musée d'art de Joliette

Marie-Eve Beaupré, Curator

4 January through 6 March 2010

www.msvuart.ca

OPENING RECEPTION and ARTIST'S TALK Meet the artist and hear him speak about his work during the opening of *Outpourings* on **Saturday 15 January from 2 to 5PM. Artist's Talk to begin at 3PM.**

Organized by the Musée d'art de Joliette and curated by Marie-Eve Beaupré, this exhibition of paintings from 1993 to 2008 demonstrates Lacasse's gradual abandonment of figuration and quotation, and his growing interest in the process aspects of abstract painting. A major figure among Quebec painters, François Lacasse teaches art at the Université du Québec à Montréal.

In Lacasse's paintings the idea of pouring the colour takes on multiple dimensions. Lacasse's systematic act of painting consists of spreading the pigment on the canvas using utensils such as measuring cups and spoons. In the studio, each of his series is constructed according to precise rules and submitted to rigorous procedures of experiment and observation.

Although the predominance of gesture in his works links him to the history of abstract painting, particularly to the 1950s generation of American painters, his experiments with form and his research into application procedures involve physicality in a different way. The challenges he tackles do not spring from the performative act, since the drying time required for the superimposition of the layers of paint imposes a degree of detachment from the composition. His works, which require careful planning, take the form of major series in which each painting has autonomy and at the same time its place within the group.

This exhibition received financial support from the Arts, Department of Canadian Heritage Museum Assistance Program, the Ministère de la Culture, des Communications et de la Condition féminine du Québec and the Canada Council for the Arts.

msvu art gallery

Mount Saint Vincent University, Seton Academic Centre, Ground Floor
166 Bedford Highway, Halifax, NS

www.msvuart.ca

902 457 6160

Free Admission

Tuesdays to Fridays 11AM to 5PM; Saturdays, Sundays 1 to 5PM; closed Mondays



Canada Council
for the Arts

Conseil des Arts
du Canada



Patrimoine
canadien Canadian
Heritage

Student's Corner

Scent-Free, Please.

My name is Stephanie and I have been a student of MSVU since 2004. I did my first degree in CHYS and now I am working on my Bachelor of Education for Elementary. The entire time I have attended this university there has been a scent free policy. Unless an instructor brings it up in class it's been my experience that most people don't know and of those who do- don't care. As a person seriously affected by scents I wanted to share my story with you as well as my joy at the Mount's undertaking of an awareness campaign.

If you check out any of the new posters, pins or cards floating around the campus you'll be directed to the new portion on the MSVU website for scent free awareness. Clicking through the links you'll find out what environmental illness is, why scents are dangerous for anyone (not just the sick), and what you can do to help. As the girl in the class who feels like a jerk every time she has to approach a professor to explain that the person next to her is quite literally making her sick, I am so thrilled to see this information readily available.

I was born premature and as a result of experimental drugs used to keep my lungs inflating some of my brain receptors were damaged. In addition to typical extreme allergic reactions like swelling, dizziness, hives, and loss of breath my pain receptors start firing when I breathe in chemicals causing loss of balance, difficulty in movement, and the kind of pain a person can't stand. I have spent the past two years in extreme rehabilitation changing my life around and working very hard with doctors just to keep walking and moving. But environmental illness is one of those things you can't easily see and if you were to meet me on campus you'd have no idea from looking at me how hard I work just to function every day.

During my two degrees I have learned a lot about inclusion- a person's right to be included. Our university is an inclusive university with many supports for those who need it. I have a right to attend my classes without fear of ending up in the hospital or bed ridden. I have a right to be included. The government of Canada recognizes that scents can be dangerous so it's now actually illegal to wear them in health offices. The United Nations recognizes a student's right to attend school without exposure to chemicals and in Nova Scotia we have our own Environmental Health Center- an aspect of Capital Health covered by MSI for the many people living with environmental illness. Part of having environmental illness means legitimizing it to the rest of society. Getting people to understand how dangerous something as simple as perfume or body wash can be to others is no easy task and I'm just so happy to see that here at MSVU the job is not completely left up to the people who are sick to do it.

So I wanted to thank MSVU for being so forward thinking and inclusive of all their students. I hope those of you reading this will take the time to read the information provided on the MSVU website and learn about the dangerous chemicals we're being exposed to and consider changing your products around not only for your classmates like me but for yourself.

Stephanie Brown





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The Bitch is Back...



How Ray For

BRANDYWOOD

the 12th annual Mr. Mount Show

Hosted by the Legendary

Brandy Michaels

Friday January 14th, 2011. 8pm - Rosaria MPR

After Party in Vinnie's Pub

Tickets on sale January 5th at the Rosaria Information Desk
\$5 Mount Students. \$7 All Others.

Wet Dry for Mount Students. 19+ All Others.

