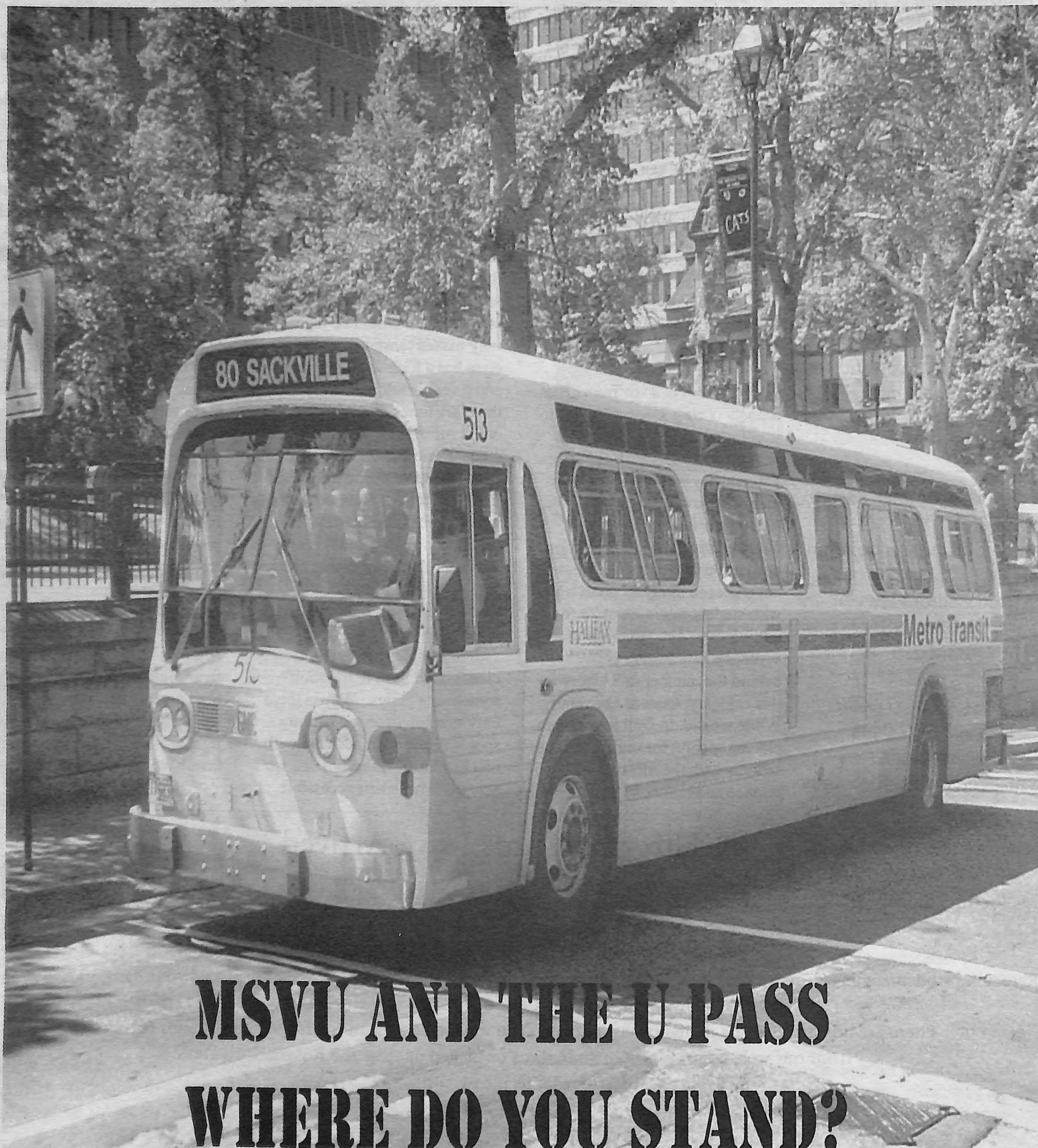


THE SENTINEL

MSVU's Student Voice

November 2005

Volume 1 Issue 2



**MSVU AND THE U PASS
WHERE DO YOU STAND?**



Allyson Marsh
Editor-in-Chief

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Maclean's, the Mount, and Me

by Allyson Marsh
Editor-in-Chief

What did you think about the Mount when you chose to come here? Did you choose it for the programs, location, or was it something else? Many people pick universities by what they hear from others and last week the bible of university information, the Maclean's University Rankings was published. So how did we do? This year the Mount stands in twelfth place out of twenty one schools in the primarily undergraduate section. Not too bad considering we were ranked fifteenth last year. But what about all those other categories you don't hear so much about? Well lets just say there is some room for improvement.

One of the few things that sets MSVU apart from other schools is class sizes. The school is notorious for being number one in this category. But perhaps I should say was as we are now number two behind UCCB. We hit number twenty nine out of the forty seven universities for proportion of students graduate, but we loose many students a year with student retention at 73.6%, putting us at forty four out of forty seven, exactly twenty percent behind the number one leader in this category, Queens University. While we did do well in one area, placing second for undergraduate schools with the most social science and humanity grants,

the majority of other categories followed the common suit of placing mid to low range. Despite all of this our arts program is the eighth most expensive program in Canada and our science program sits at number five.

Are we getting the bang for our buck? It certainly doesn't look that way. While we may boast about small class sizes this has caused problems for me on more than one occasion. I'm sure I'm not the only person that's has wanted a class but because of its size limit been put on a waitlist and have to either pick a new section or wait til next semester, or even next year to take it. I have noted that any section of a class I do want that has heavy registration usually has one terrible time, eight in the morning or three hours at night, that doesn't fill. Obviously these sections aren't preferred or their student count would be higher. It only makes sense to me that if a class has a long waitlist at one time and a very small student group at the other times that two sections could run at once to satisfy student's needs, but administration doesn't appear to see it that way. The even bigger problem is caused when there is one or very few sections available and it is only available that year. Some classes, such as higher level English courses, are only run on alternative scheduling.

Besides my opinion about class sizes I have to question some other things. Why is there only one handicapped parking spot for Rosaria, a building with one handicap washroom that isn't actually wheelchair accessible

because of the way the door moves? Why do we have so many part time professors, as this inevitably causes poor office hours and lack of concentration as they have to work other jobs or teach at other schools, which is in no part their fault. We have a great library with an excellent collection, but the weekend hours are not adequate for students needing to put in time on those days.

There are many other things I could mention but I'll stop before sounding like too much of a complainer. I have to wonder, though, why student satisfaction doesn't seem to be important to those that run MSVU. So many small things could help our school in such a large way. We should be striving to reach our potential. We have a lot to offer, a good student community, skilled professors, a hard working student union, services like the Diversity Centre that help promote awareness and help out students through its food bank. The Mount needs to find more ways to make our school unique and satisfying. Perhaps it should start with keeping some promises. A multimillion dollar grant was awarded to MSVU in 2002 which at the time was proposed to build and repair residences which it has done, but also add to floors to the library, redo part of Rosaria, and add a walkway between Rosaria and Seton. The prospect of something that would be nice around this time of year as freezing cold temperatures and snow storms are right around the corner. But until then have fun walking up the hill.

Health Plan Cards Have Arrived

Cards for 'first time users' of the plan have arrived. Please make sure that you have your student id card with you when you come to pick up your card (Rosaria Room 118F).

Returning students, you can reuse your cards. New cards have not been sent. If you lost or misplaced your card, please see me (Rosaria Room 118F).

Please note: There are no cards for the dental or vision plan. You must take a claim form with you. Claim forms can be printed from our website www.mountstudents.ca or picked up near the Rosaria Info Desk.

Any questions please contact:

Kim Coldwell
MSVU SU Health Plan Manager
Email: suhealth@msvu.ca

Rosaria Room 118F

MSV..U Pass?

by Shalen Hutchings,
Executive Vice President,
Student Union

This November, the MSVU Students' Union will be asking a question to the student body that many have long been waiting to answer: do you want a U-Pass?

For those unfamiliar with the U-Pass, here's the lowdown – the program is a mandatory fee on full-time undergraduate students' accounts, of about \$110 - \$120, depending on the institution. It allows members to have unlimited access to all Metro Transit bus and ferry systems from September to April.

The Mount Students' Union has long been in talks about the U-Pass. Metro Transit has stated both to the Union and in public minutes that the U-Pass is on the way for the Mount, yet now in 2005 it is still MIA. The Union even held a vote in the 2003 Annual General Meeting to find out if there was interest from the student body. The vote

was near unanimous that students wished the Union to pursue the option.

At a recent meeting with Metro Transit, director Kenny Silver stated that Metro Transit is open to the idea of the U-Pass program at the Mount. If the vote is yes and the budget is there, MSVU may soon join SMU and Dal as the latest metro University to adopt the program.

This is where you, the student, come in. It is imperative that you vote in this referendum, whether you are for or against the program. Weigh the pros (incredibly cheap bus fare, helping the environment), to the cons (no opt-out option, those who drive will still have to pay), and vote how you feel is right.

It is important to note that while MSVU may vote yes, Metro Transit may say no. They've been doing so for over five years. But this incredibly important first step shows that the Mount is closer to joining onto the program – if that's what the majority want. Keep your eyes posted around campus for dates and places for the vote.

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MSVU Students' Union Contests Turnitin.com

by Chantel Brushett,
Student Union President

Turnitin.com is a privately owned company which among other things makes a profit of a student's intellectual property. Recently it has come to the attention of the Students' Union that a number of faculty members at Mount Saint Vincent University are using this program to aid in facilitation of their curricula.

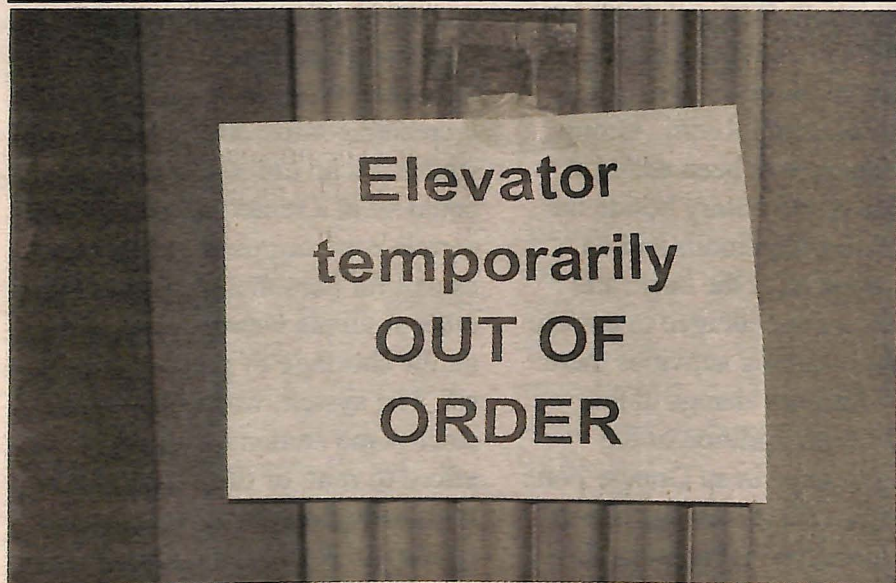
While the University does not currently have a policy that disallows the usage of this service, the Students' Union is adamant that this service not be used in any of the departments at Mount Saint Vincent University.

"Plagiarism detection software such as Turnitin.com raises an array of multifaceted and litigious human

rights and intellectual property issues and the MSVU Students' Union will not set back and see the students of Mount Saint Vincent University subjected to any of them" says Chantel Brushett, President of the MSVU Students' Union.

The law sees a person as being innocent until proven guilty, why should professors see them any differently; students should not automatically be accused of plagiarism if no evidence exists. As such, the Students' Union has asked the Senate of Mount Saint Vincent University to adopt policy that disallows the usage of Turnitin.com.

The Students' Union asks that the students of MSVU support them in this endeavour. There are currently petitions against plagiarism software, including but not limited to Turnitin.com, circulating around campus – please take a second to sign the petition. and lend your support.



Fire in Seton Academic Centre

by Allyson Marsh

Early in the morning of October 18th the transformers for the elevator on the right side of Seton Academic Centre set on fire because of an over heating transformer. According to Paul Renyo, director of the Physical

photo by Allyson Marsh

Plant, the transformer was over thirty four years old. Despite the fact that smoke came through the elevator shafts filling up the fourth and fifth floors, classes were held as usual. Students with breathing problems were not warned about the smoke before entering the building. The transformer has since been replaced and the elevator is back to working order.

The Women are In House

by Alex Kennan

Look around Canadian society. In many ways, it's becoming a woman's world. Huge gains in professional fields. Higher enrolment than men in post-secondary education. Shared maternity leave. There is even social acceptance of male-bashing jokes, while making fun of women is condemned.

The women's movement is alive and as feisty as ever, but one important citadel of social life remains male-dominated: the political arena. With half (or more) of this country's population being female, common sense should dictate that half of our lawmakers should be, as well. Yet women make up only about 23% of our current House of Commons, and only 145 of Nova Scotia's provincial legislature. And progress has been agonizingly slow ever since the first woman was elected to the House of Commons in 1921.

The numerous structural boundaries include economic

inequities and unequal access to the networks that help one to get elected (incidentally, also factors in the under-representation of minorities), extra family responsibilities and a hostile political culture.

Women in House is a program that seeks to demystify the political process and empower young women to become more involved. Started at McGill University a few years ago, the program came to MSVU last year with great success. Eleven students job-shadowed Members of the Legislative Assembly for a day in March, then participated in a panel discussion with MLAs Diana Whalen and Maureen MacDonald. It turns out that when the topic of women in politics comes up, people really want to talk about it!

Women in House will be returning this year, and the Political Studies Society is working on making it even better than before. No matter what your area of study, if you're interested in participating please send us an email at mvsu_womeninhouse@hotmail.com.

Customized Study Space in the Library

by Donna Bourne-Tyson,
University Librarian

There is a noticeable buzz of activity in the Library, especially in the Information Commons area and downstairs. Evening Reference Desk hours have been extended to 10:00 p.m. Monday to Thursday, to provide additional help with research assignments.

The Library has listened to student requests for more group study space and for more places to meet and talk, but at the same time to other student requests for a library that is quieter for reading and study. We have responded to these requests by creating three zones in the Library: Blue Zones where there is absolute quiet, in areas that are conducive to individual study; Orange Zones

where there is quiet discussion permitted, and computers, tables for group work, lounge areas for chatting and laptop use, and service desks where you can get staff assistance; and one Red Zone on the lower level near the Archives where there is a combination of comfy seating, tables for group study, and where a noisier, more vibrant atmosphere is the norm. Students can even hold meetings there on a first-come, first-served basis.

The Library has moved to zones is to keep the noise in the Orange and Red Zones, and make the quiet Blue Zone areas easier to maintain as silent study areas. Students will have a choice between quiet or noisy, instead of encountering an entire Library that is sometimes quiet and sometimes not. Students are encouraged to approach any Library staff member if they are being bothered by noise within a Blue Zone.

Students are welcome to

Food Resource Centre Update

by Jane Mc Cormack, SRC Manager

The Canadian Association of Food Professionals did something unique for the Food Resource

Centre this Halloween. Instead of trick or treating for candy they asked for food donations. This was a wonderful gesture and their efforts and team work provided the Centre with many items there were in short supply. Thank you to all those that took part.



New zones in the Library give students an opportunity to find an environment right for them photo by Donna Bourne Tyson

consume both food and drink in the Library in any area except at computer work stations and in the McDonald Room. Group study tables have been added at the front of the library beside the Information Commons and on the lower level at the back, and students are encouraged to engage in shared learning activities there.

Another change in the Library is the addition of the Laptop Lounge in an Orange Zone on the lower level just outside of the Information Technology & Services office; here one will find comfortable seating, access to the university's wireless network, and a relaxed environment where discussion is encouraged.

As was reported in the Sentinel in September, students are now able to sit at any carrel in the library, because the carrels are available to everyone on a first-come, first served basis. Carrels were rented to students for the entire year in previous years,

and while this system provided convenient storage of books and other items for the renters, it created confusion for other students who did not feel they could sit at a rented carrel. Many carrels were not used very often except for personal storage, while other students were commenting on the shortage of places to sit. The system wasn't very fair since some students couldn't afford to rent, or didn't get in line soon enough; Library staff were concerned it created a two-tiered system. A library tries to provide equal access and equal services to all.

Many students have contacted Library staff to provide feedback, positive and negative, on the changes in the Library and this feedback is most welcome. It is important that an open dialogue goes on as the Library continues to address changing student expectations.

Writing Round Table proves to be a rewarding experience

by Allison Saunders

Writing at the University level—a daunting task for some, a pleasure for others, nonetheless I think we can all agree that we've had at least one bad writing experience since beginning our post secondary education. Although writing isn't always an unpleasant experience, some of us in fact enjoy it, I think it would be fair to say that writing for University professors tends to be quite frustrating. The struggle to make the deadline, fear of approaching your professor for help, confusion with your essay topic or even feeling you're not meeting the expected writing level are familiar issues for university students. In the interest of hearing feedback from Mount students, the Writing Initiatives Committee held a Writing Round Table on November 2nd. The committee, which organizes writing activities on MSVU campus as well as sessions on writing and teaching writing, invited students to join a discussion about their writing experiences, both positive and negative. In a room full of faculty and students from a variety of disciplines, it was the students'

turn to lay out their experiences and issues for discussion. Split into small groups that had roughly two students in each, different topics were discussed in detail and then shared with the entire group. After talking about our best and worst writing experiences, factors that contribute to successful and unsuccessful writing, ideas for faculty, and other issues surrounding writing in University, we discussed what can be done to improve writing at the University level. It was particularly interesting to hear the opinions and ideas not only from the perspective of fellow students—but faculty members as well. The long list of information and ideas brought up at the Writing Round Table will be relayed back to the faculty of MSVU and will hopefully help to writing at the Mount a more pleasant experience for students and professors. The Writing Round Table was an opportunity to not only have our voices as students heard, but to pick the brains of our professors. The chance to sit in on sessions like the Round Table is one of the advantages of attending a smaller school and these opportunities should be taken advantage of by Mount students. If you're interesting in voicing your opinion and making sure it's heard—keep your eyes peeled for the opportunity to do so here at MSVU.

The days of waiting 25 minutes for the next bus to MSVU in downtown Halifax will soon be a thing of the past. At the end of November Metro Transit will launch a long-awaited remedy to the problem: route #81-Hemlock Ravine. This new bus route, which will operate from approximately 6:00 am to 7:00 pm on weekdays, will provide 30-minute service all day to and from downtown Halifax via the Bedford Highway, Bayers Road, Robie and Spring Garden. Sound familiar? It should if you use the #80 regularly.

"The routing is exactly the same as the route 80 from downtown Halifax," said Metro Transit Public Affairs Manager Lori Patterson in an email, "but

instead of going to Sackville the route will turn around in the Hemlock Ravine/Larry Uteck Boulevard area. Then it will return to downtown Halifax again on the same travel pattern as the route 80 Sackville."

The help the new route will bring to Mount students will not end there. Metro Transit intends to adjust the schedule of the #80 in order for the two routes to depart opposite each other and provide a combined 15 minute departure frequency between downtown and MSVU throughout the service day, to the delight of many Mount students. Regular Mount commuters from Dartmouth and the south end of Halifax endure long wait times and unbearable crowds on #80 buses every day, especially in the morning. Metro

New Bus Route #81 to Make Commuting Easier for the MSVU Community

By Daniel Cumming

Transit acknowledged that this matter has been a concern and a key reason for the creation of route 81. The increased service from downtown Halifax should alleviate the crowds and will give more passengers a chance to actually sit down to enjoy their commute. At the same time, it will reduce the time passengers spend waiting for a transfer, especially Dartmouth ferry passengers that are scheduled to reach Halifax just two minutes after the #80 leaves the corner of Duke and Barrington.

"I can't wait," said one student who requested that her name not be retained. "I have to wait more than 20 minutes for a bus to the Mount right now. It's really tough and worse in the winter."

The new route, along with

several schedule adjustments to existing routes, are set to go into effect on November 27. Among the other routes receiving adjustments are: #59; #63; #80; #82; #83; #84; #87 and Link #159.

Full details will be available in the November edition of the Metro Transit Rider's Guide and online at <http://www.halifax.ca/metrotransit/Schedules/index.html> and via phone at 490-4000

Remembrance Day Popular, Political Canadian Nationalism making Remembrance Day Popular - Historian

by Nadya Bell
CUP Ottawa Bureau Chief

OTTAWA (CUP) -- Watching the Remembrance Day ceremonies from her home in Ottawa, Nadine Garrett pulled out her old photographs, carefully saved in brown military envelopes labeled "Urgent" and "Confidential."

"You just think about the friends that you lost and the friends that you knew," she said, talking about the ceremonies. "I don't think about that very often. I don't live in the past!" she said, laughing.

Garrett was a sergeant in the Royal Canadian Air Force during WWII, but like many women who served for Canada, her job was mostly concerned with paperwork.

We Serve That Men May Fly was the motto of the women's division of the Royal Canadian Air Force.

"A lot of parents didn't care for it," she said. "I joined the day I turned 18. All my friends were going overseas and getting killed, I just felt that it was my part." Remembrance Day is traditionally a tribute to veterans, but as Canada's ceremonies are becoming more popular, they are also getting more political.

Over 25,000 people came to the War Memorial in Ottawa for the

morning of November 11 to honor those who served and died in wars for Canada over the past century. In the 1980s the service was attended by only a few hundred people.

About 75 veterans turned their backs on the Governor General Michaëlle Jean when she laid her wreath, but they were barely noticed in the large crowd. These people were protesting Jean's alleged connection to the Quebec separatist movement. Mike O'Brian, military historian at Memorial University in Newfoundland said Remembrance Day has become much more popular in the past 13 years. "This emphasis on remembrance day that seems to be linked to the whole question of Canadian unity," said O'Brian.

"The notion of war being a unifying experience for Canadians was just not the case," said O'Brian. "World War One and two were very divisive issues in Canada and there were bitter disputes over whether people should be forced to fight."

Canadians fought in the two world wars because of an alliance with the British. Signing up for the war effort was voluntary.

WWI is fading into history, as only five Canadian veterans from the war are still alive. None of them attended the Remembrance Day ceremony in Ottawa this year. "Commemoration of a war tends not to outlast the veterans," said O'Brian. "We don't commemorate the War of 1812 anymore. Once upon a time we did."

The political reasons behind World War One are no longer politically relevant today, said O'Brian. "Talk about a war



photo courtesy of CUP press

against Prussian militarism and people look at you like you have two heads. But it meant a lot in 1914."

As an event, O'Brian said Remembrance Day it should be seen as a tribute, not as a time to understand Canada's military history.

"I would much rather see it about honoring veterans than try to bring young people into a particular view of the past."

Media coverage of the ceremonies suffers because it removes individual stories from veterans from their context, says O'Brian.

"There is little about the internment of Japanese Canadians, which is just as much a part of the war as Normandy."

Although Garrett's experience of WWII stayed in North American, she was awarded the British Empire Medal for service beyond the call of duty, which in her case meant working long hours. "I didn't save any lives or anything," she said, laughing.

At the Photo Reconnaissance Unit of Rockliffe Air Station in Ottawa, her division tested cameras for the air force overseas. She maintained log books, keeping the Spitfires, Hurricanes and Lancaster airplanes in working order. Of the 20,000 women in her division, 20 were awarded the British Empire Medal. After serving male pilots throughout the war, Nadine Garrett learned to fly gliders, and held the women's record for altitude.

Belindia Stronach Visits Halifax, Announces Funding

by Anna Nauss

HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA - On Tuesday, November 08, 2005, at Pier 21, Belinda Stronach, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development and Minister responsible for Democratic renewal announced \$1.6 million in funding for eight projects across

Canada that will help integrate immigrants and foreign trained Canadians into the workforce.

The projects are being funded through the Foreign Credential Recognition Program (FCR). The FCR is the process of verifying that education and job experience obtained in another country are equal to the standards established for Canadian professionals.



"We recognize that Canada's future competitiveness depends on a highly skilled workforce and on high performance workplaces," said Minister Stronach. "It is so important for immigrants to have the opportunity

to make full use of their skills. That not only contributes to their personal quality of life, but it also benefits the health of our cities and our overall economy."

Recent studies have shown

that immigration will account for all net labour force growth in Canada within the next 10 to 15 years, and all net population growth within the next 30 years.

Tuesday's announcement is linked to Canada's Workplace Skills Strategy that aims to help Canadians become the best-trained, most highly skilled workers in the world.

Photo Courtesy of www.lpc.co.ca

Nova Scotia legislation restricts single-parents' access to post-secondary education

by Stephanie Oliver
The Xaverian Weekly (St.
Francis Xavier University)

ANTIGONISH (CUP) -- St.
Francis-Xavier University
Psychology lecturer Jennifer
Sullivan received her degree when
social assistance was available for
single-parent students.

"I like being a tax payer,"
said Sullivan. "It goes towards
helping other single-parents
become tax payers also."

But times have changed
and recent legislation introduced
by the Nova Scotia provincial
government has not been kind
to single-parents looking to
earn post-secondary degrees in
the province with the highest
university tuition in Canada.

Carol Taylor, a 28-year-old
mother of two, began her degree
in 2002, but has not returned as a
result of the Employment Support
and Income Assistance Act--
legislation that makes it virtually
impossible for her to care for her
child and get a post-secondary
education.

The Nova Scotia provincial
government introduced ESIA in
2000. It stipulates that single-
parents attending a post-secondary
education program of more than

two years are not eligible for
financial assistance if they have a
student loan.

A Nova Scotia provincial
government statement released
in 2003 found that a quarter of
families with children in the
province are single-parent families
and that the vast majority of these
families are headed by women.

In the early stages of
Taylor's attempt to get her
degree, she paid \$180 a week
for childcare and lived on her
Student Line of Credit, but making
ends meet eventually became
impossible and she was forced
to withdraw from the university.
After she withdrew, Taylor was
denied ESIA benefits until she
had a written letter from the
Dean proving she was no longer
attending classes.

Taylor's experience is
hardly unique in Nova Scotia.
Opposition to the controversial
legislation was voiced at a
recent rally to show Nova Scotia
Community Services Minister
David Morse single-parents
require greater support if they
are to attend post-secondary
institutions.

Single parent Jennifer
Hynes, who attended the rally,
said she pays \$6,560 for university
expenses and receives a maximum
student loan of \$11,000, leaving
her \$4,400 for food, clothing,
housing, childcare and other
expenses.

1992 St. F-X graduate
Bonnie Cotter, who also attended
the rally, blames the provincial
government's short-sightedness for

the current situation facing Nova
Scotia's single-parents.

"The government is always
talking money, but they don't think
about the numbers," she said.

She calculated a
government cost of \$25,000 for
her to attend university on social
assistance. Cotter believes she
saved the government \$80,000 a
year by getting a degree, a job, and
her own income.

"If they put 14 single
parents through school, they'd save
\$1 million," she said.

Rally organizer Dr.
Christine Lomore presented a
letter of solidarity sent from
Halifax MP Alexa McDonough.

As NDP Post-Secondary
Education Critic, McDonough is
familiar with challenges faced by
students.

"Your hope and enthusiasm
is met with skyrocketing tuition,

inadequate and inflexible financial
aid, and overwhelming debt
loads," read the letter. "You are
told financial and personal strain is
somehow your fault."

"It is not," it continued, "it
is, in fact, the result of bad public
policy."

McDonough is currently
working on a federal bill to
establish standards and guarantee
basic levels of access to post-
secondary education.

Meanwhile, Taylor is
currently seeking financial
counseling and living one day at a
time.

"I desperately want a
degree in Political Science and
explore those avenues," she said.
"If I had money, it would make a
world of difference."

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Movie Review- Saw II

by Shalen Hutchings

"Saw II a cut above"

Saw is a movie of mixed opinion. Some feel unsettled watching victims of the notorious Jigsaw killer perform acts to attempt to save their own life. Others claim the films are incredibly philosophical and cause viewers to think about how far they would go to save themselves. *Saw II* takes this trend and runs with it.

Saw II. The film opens on a man named Michael, who wakes up in a room with a device attached to his head called the Venus Fly Trap. When the timer runs out, the spiked plate on the

front will slam shut on Michael's face. The key to unlock the device was implanted behind his eye, and must be cut out in order to save his life.

If that makes you squeamish, I suggest that you avoid this movie, as it only gets worse. After the opening scene, the film switches over to a group of police led by Detective Eric Matthews (played by ex-New Kid Donnie Wahlburg) who have finally tracked down John (a.k.a. the Jigsaw killer), and are about to arrest him when they notice monitors and a timer in the room. The monitors show eight people trapped inside a house, one of which is Matthews' son. Pumping in through vents is a toxic nerve gas, which will kill them when the two hour timer runs out. It is up to the police to discover the secret behind Jigsaw's puzzle and free the prisoners inside the house.

Meanwhile, inside the house, the trapped members, who include returning victim Amanda (Shawnee Smith, the only one to survive Jigsaw's game from the first film), must find antidotes hidden within the house. Staying true to the series, there are plenty of traps, twists, and turns in *Saw II*, including an ending that many do not expect.

It is inevitable that when a sequel comes out, viewers will compare it to the original. In this case, *Saw II* has greatly improved. By having an area larger than a bathroom to explore, it creates more tension as the viewer never quite knows what's waiting behind the next door. The traps are very clever; the pit in one room has to be one of the most intense scenes in a horror movie that I have ever seen. The acting has also vastly improved, with no character over acting their role, as Carey Elwes

did in the previous installment.

Of course *Saw II* is not without its downfalls. Many characters are quite stereotypical, and the film does not take as much time to explain why they were chosen by Jigsaw to play his game. The film seems to pick up the pace too quickly towards the end, while having quite a slow start. Finally, the twist in the end is excellent, but careful observers of the film may be able to figure it out quite quickly.

Horror fans will appreciate *Saw II* for its addition to the genre, going back to its more psychological origins. For those who are looking for a good movie to see on a weekend, *Saw II* will provide lots of scares and plenty to think and talk about once the film ends.

No Time to Rest for Local Band Wintersleep

by Allyson Marsh

It has been a good year for Halifax's own Wintersleep. They have released their second untitled cd, made two music videos, are embarking on their second cross Canada tour, released their sophomore record on vinyl, and to top it all off opened for Pearl Jam's two Newfoundland concert dates.

Singer, Paul Murphy, said playing with Pearl Jam was the highlight of his career so far with Wintersleep. "They were very, very nice people, extremely personable and inspiring," Murphy added, "plus they put on an awesome show."

With that experience behind them the band has since left for their second cross Canada tour.

They may be local celebrities, but how is the response outside the east coast. "It's great," said Murphy, "We seem to be getting more and more people out every

And they have been doing well for themselves, packing venues and charting on local and national campus music charts.

On top of all their success

its way this year. The label was nominated for an East Coast Music Award as Gest label, a Nova Scotia Music Award for Company of the Year, and was voted favorite local

label in The Coast's 2004 Best of Music edition. On top of this three of its artists, Contrived, Brian Borchardt, and Holy Fuck have released new cds this year with high praise coming for each album.

If you want to learn more about Wintersleep or hear some of their tunes, go to www.wintersleep.com, or www.dependentmusic.com, or see the band live when they close up their tour here in Halifax, December 9th and 10th at the Attic nightclub.



time we hit a city, which is nice. Obviously the crowds are not close to being as big as those for the east coast shows we play, but it's fun to break into new cities."

as a band, Wintersleep's label, Dependent Music, owned partially by bass player Jud Haynes and Drummer Loel Campbell, has had its own share of good things come

photo courtesy of Scott Munn

David Gray— Life in Slow Motion

Reviewed by Taylor Moran

David Gray returns with his seventh album *"Life in Slow Motion"*.

This time out Gray enlists the services of producer Marius de Vries (Brian Eno, U2 & Madonna) to build on the well crafted sound that has made him a household name. *L I S M* marks a

transition in Gray's career, pushing his sound to its limits. Once whisper quiet piano ballads are now filled with complex string and orchestral arrangements. Effects that once complimented his songs, have now taken over.

The over produced opener "Alibi" is a gorgeous song covered in an unnecessary string arrangement. Instead of complimenting David, it competes with him, leaving your ears struggling to decide what to listen to. Gray's experimentation borders on self indulgence with "Now and Always", a sweet ballad stretched into an unnecessary seven minute instrumental.

Lead single "The One I Love" reveals glimpses of vintage Gray, with upbeat lyrics and catchy melodies. Proving Gray still writes brilliant pop tunes. Alas! A tune you dorm room smoothies can play for your girlfriends.

On "From Here You Can Almost See the Sea" Gray adds another dimension to his signature raspy singing falsetto harmonies, and rather well I might add.

The high point of the album is "Hospital Food" which is Gray's insightful response to the abundance of bullshit we are forced to swallow on a daily basis "Tell me something I

don't already know" he screams throughout the poignant track.

"Disappearing World" shows us why Gray is still one of the best songwriters around "I'll be by your side/Sailing like a silver bullet/Hit 'em 'tween the eyes/through the smoke and rising water/Cross the great divide/Baby till all feels right".

Finally, "Lately" will descend upon you and leave you humming its melody for days after listening. Although this album has its shortcomings, David proves he's versatile enough to rise above the hype of "White Ladder".

photo courtesy of davidgrey.com



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Special Noise- Self Titled

Reviewed by A.A. Wallace

On special noise's self titled debut they prove that a lot of sound can be generated by two people. It seems like recently every city with a decent music has spawned at least one two person rock band, and special noise have earned the distinction of being the flagship rock duo in this city. Songs like "synth" show the sillier side of the band, whereas tracks like "hits wreck kids" sound like 3 songs smashed into four minutes twenty four seconds in no particular order which is not by any means a bad thing. With this record being a joint release between youth club records and outoftouch, the similarities to other bands on these labels are abundant but not

overwhelming. The sound of the recording is reminiscent of the recent sharp like knives release, and the "interesting to dance to" time changes recall the work of the burdocks. If you'd like to hear what the last decade of Halifax music has been leading up to, go buy this record.

Feist to Play Halifax

by Allyson Marsh

Earlier this week it was announced that Arts and Crafts artist Leslie Feist will bring her show through Halifax on January 14th at the Marquee Club. Feist, who won a Juno award this year for New Artist of the Year, has also collaborated with other Canadian artists such as Broken Social Scene and By Divine Right. Tickets for the show are on sale now at the Dalhousie Arts Centre box office, \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door.



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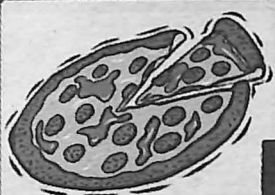
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Katie Stokes & Janelle Minty

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An Open Welcome to the MSVU Football Club

by Ty Treon
Club President

On behalf of the Mount Football Club executives, I would like to welcome you all to the University's first ever sports oriented society. Yes! We have finally been able to get the society registered and open for membership and would love for you to be a part of it. The Mount Football Club is a chance for students of the Mount and of the community to get a chance to engage in this breathtaking sport of football. But wait, there is more. It is a chance for YOU to have fun playing the game, or just watching it. We have a list of activities for the year, which include fundraisers for charity, (many of you will remember the success of our football game last April for the

Tsunami relief fund) Movie nights at the auditorium, Pub Crawl in the winter, BBQ's and of course the Big game we will have on Super bowl Sunday as well as other fundraisers for our society and charity.

Now, to be a member is simple, all you have to do is contact the executives or e-mail us at mountfootballclub@hotmail.com, sign a waiver and pay the \$5 membership Fee. We will also be having jerseys for sale. The jerseys will cost you \$20, which will include your membership fee. If you would like to see the design of the jersey, please contact the e-



mail address above.

We will also be having bi-weekly meetings, the date, place and time of the meetings will be notified to you later. We are very excited to see what we

hope will be a new era of outdoor sports at the Mount; I hope you will join our society just as enthusiastically as you score your first touchdown.

Cheerleading at the Mount

by Blair Bartlett,
president of the MSVU
cheerleading society

You may have seen the signs or you might have heard the word going around campus, and yes it's true, there is now a cheerleading society at Mount Saint Vincent. You may ask why a bunch of people would want to get together shout chants, dance around and giggle. In truth that is not what we or cheerleading are all about.

The stereotypical view of cheerleaders shouting out at games and wearing cute skirts is far from the extreme sport it really is. The involvement of tumbling and stunting creates a sport that is equal to hockey in its roughness. Cheerleading is a team sport where everyone on the team must work together. In field sports if you mess up you have the rest of the game to catch back up, in cheerleading one mistake from one person can cost you everything. An ideal cheerleader

has optimal cardiovascular ability, coordination balance, gymnastic skills, flexibility and strength and endurance. In the United States cheerleading has become a lot more devolved. After football the next biggest scholarships are for cheerleading and half of a squad would be made up of men.

So now you ask what are we doing? At the Mount there is a large portion of students who have at one point participated in this sport but no longer have the chance to remain on a team. As a society we have two goals. The first is all about us getting together and practicing our stunts and performing our sport at a recreational level.

Our second goal will be to create a competitive cheerleading team for the university. If the athletes are there why not bring the trophy home? It takes a lot to start any new team, so we have been meeting with the athletics department in discussion of the possibility at hand. Right now the schools that have competitive cheerleading teams are St' FX, Acadia, SMU, MUN, and many high schools and junior highs around the province. Dal is also

going through the same process as we are currently to start a team. I personally would be sad to know that our opportunities at the Mount are not advancing the same as our fellow university's around us.

Currently our society consists of 28 members made up of both experienced and newcomers to the sport. We have only had our beginning info sessions and at one of these done a couple of stunts. Starting soon we will be getting

started with a regular weekly practice and we hope to have a clinic to help the experienced fine tune their skills and to teach anyone who is new how to perform this sport.

We are always excited to have more participants so if you're interested or have any questions feel free to email the society at msvucheerleading@hotmail.com. Hope to see you on the mats.

Do you enjoy drawing? Are you an aspiring cartoonist waiting to show your art to the world? The Sentinel is currently looking for someone to draw a monthly cartoon. If you are interested please email newspaper@mountstudents.ca and get ready to show off your talent

Niger,- an Appeal For Help

by Ty Treon

As I was contemplating writing an article on Niger, I was asked by many why I would 'waste' my time on that issue, when there were massive terrorist attacks ripping through cities in Israel and Iraq. Sure, an article on the terrorist attacks would make for an interesting read for most and what happened in those cities was devastating. However, how often have we heard about the Niger famine crisis that is threatening to devastate that West African nation?

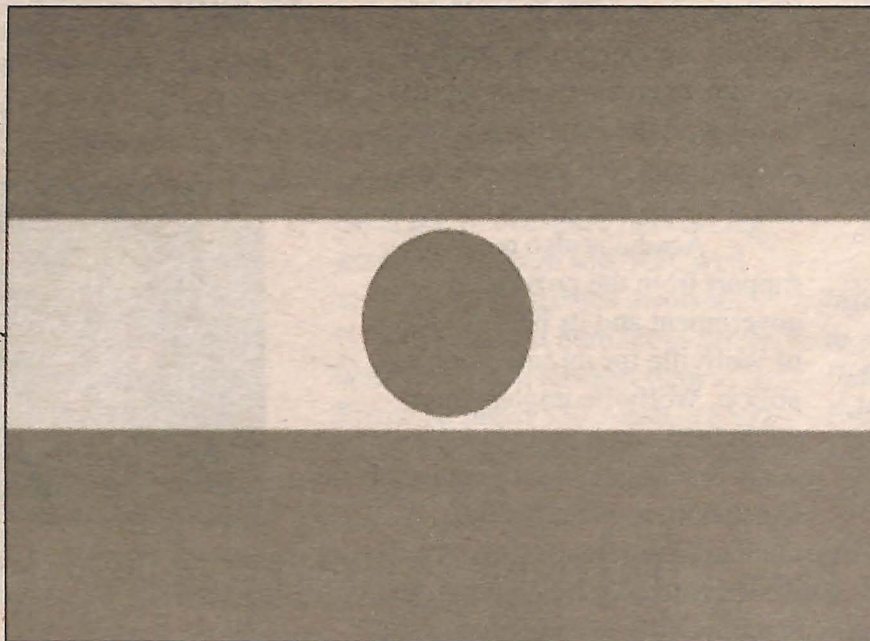
A landlocked country, Niger ranks 176 out of 177 countries on the UN human development index and is therefore the second poorest country in the world. Its economy relies on subsistence crops, livestock and some of the world's largest uranium deposits. Desertification, drought cycles along with an a3.3% population growth and a major drop in the world demand for uranium have undercut the

economy. The situation in Niger today is a lot worse; its economy has been dipped to even greater depths of ruins because of a massive famine that has struck the country.

There are about 3.5 to 4 million people, mainly women and children who are on the verge of starvation and death. According to the United Nations, Niger is 'The

worlds number one forgotten and neglected emergency.' The famine situation is even worse than it was about a year ago, when the UN first raised its emergency signal. A severe drought in late 2004 severely affected the crops; this along with an invasion of desert locust shrank cereal production by 200,000 tones. According to UN organizations and other

NGO's, families in Niger have no food and no reserves. Many in the smaller towns and villages are subjected to eating leaves and grass. Often people go for days



without food. The situation in Niger today might remind you of the devastation that struck Somalia a decade or so ago. A famine is a crisis that can be stopped if the International community, especially the rich and affluent western powers work together and realize the emergency of the situation. However, like always Niger is just one of the countries

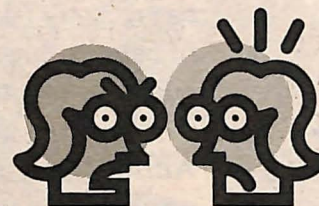
in this long list of countries that have been ignored by the Western governments and the media. How can we forget the complete failure of the west to act and possibly stop the Rwanda Genocide back in 1994? What is even more frustrating is the fact that the western media gave more coverage to the events in Rwanda 10 years after the genocide than they did during it.

The bottom-line is that those people need our help, now more than ever. Understanding the emergency of the situation, we at the Mount have decided to put-together a fundraiser for the people of Niger, starting January 2006. Our aim is to raise as much

money as we can and at the same time raise awareness of issues such as these that seem to have been overlooked by our national media time and time again. I urge you to come out and help in anyway you can, just like you did for the Tsunami relief efforts last winter. For more information please contact tarun_treon@yahoo.ca



Do You Need Advice



Have your questions about love, life, school, or anything answered in the Sentinel's new advice column starting in December

To have your anonymous questions answered email MSVUadvice@hotmail.com and let us help you



Acadia University to implement campus-wide smoking ban Latest Atlantic university to push for a smoke-free campus

by William Wolfe-Wylie
CUP Atlantic Bureau Chief

SACKVILLE, N.B. (CUP) -- While having to walk off-campus to smoke is a rarity for students at Canadian universities, it's about to become a reality for those attending Acadia University in Nova Scotia, as the university recently announced plans to become a completely tobacco-free environment.

One week prior to the announcement, a student forum was held on campus smoking policies to gauge the reaction from students to a tobacco-free campus. At the forum, which was well attended, some students expressed concern that restricting smoking on campus is a restriction of freedoms beyond what is necessary to ensure the health of fellow students, staff, and faculty. But the university rejects the idea.

"It's not," said Scott Roberts, Senior Director of Communications and Public Affairs at Acadia University. "You just can't do it on our campus." The announcement comes on the heels of an announcement by the province of Nova Scotia to severely limit smoking in public spaces throughout the province. Under the Smoke Free Places Act (SFPA) smoking will be banned in all indoor public spaces, workplaces, and at all outdoor eating and drinking establishments in the province by Dec. 1, 2006. Acadia University will join the rest of the province in being tobacco-free by July 1, 2006.

While the announcement is the most aggressive anti-smoking regulations in the Atlantic region, Acadia is yet unsure of how the new policy will be enforced. According to Roberts, the university's intention is to announce the intention to have a tobacco-free campus, which was the focus of Thursday's

announcement, but that policy details, enforcement, and application would come at a later date.

The university will engage in discussions with the student body as well as faculty and staff to come to an agreement which meets both the intentions of the university as well as the wishes and needs of those affected by it.

Acadia is also receiving support from the provincial government and its home town of Wolfville for its anti-smoking policy. Wolfville implemented public non-smoking bylaws four years in advance of the provincial legislation, in January 2002. A number of community programs designed to help individuals quit smoking have been invited to the campus and if demand for such programs increases as a result of the program, the university will respond appropriately, said Roberts.

The move toward an entirely non-smoking campus is the latest step in a long trend of post-secondary institutions to attempt to limit tobacco use on campuses.

The University of New Brunswick enforced non-smoking policies in buildings in 1987 and the Memorial University of Newfoundland since 1993. MUN has recently taken the extra step of painting blue lines around buildings to establish a buffer zone for non-smokers. Mount Allison University established non-smoking policies in 2000 and Dalhousie University followed suit in 2003.

The University of King's College in Halifax is the only remaining university in Atlantic Canada which allows smoking in residence rooms.

We asked Mount students whether or not they thought we should have a smoking ban on campus. Here is what some people had to say. . .



"I think smoking should be banned on campus because others get offended by second hand smoke, even when smokers are trying to be considerate to others"

-Allison Haley



"I don't think smoking should be banned on campus because it's too far to go off campus to smoke."

-Greg Ivany



"It's a good idea to have a campus ban but they should leave one specific section so the people that want to smoke can and those who don't want to be around it can avoid it"

-Amanda O'Brian



"I think there should be a smoking ban but that's because I'm allergic to smoke."

-Adrian Spicer

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The Halifax Career Fair

by Allison MacNeil
Career Planning Assistant

This year's Halifax Career Fair was a huge success! Employed as a student worker for the day, I was able to see firsthand all that was involved in such an event, which took place Friday, September 30th at the Dartmouth Sportsplex. Over 70 recruiting companies from various industries and 1000 students from the Mount, St. Mary's, and Dalhousie participated in the event.

The Halifax Career Fair gives students the opportunity to meet employers of various companies in a face-to-face environment in the hopes that this will allow students a "foot-in-the-door" approach to prospective careers. It is also a great way to gain contacts in the corporate world. According to Jill Curley, Acting Coordinator of the MSVU Career Planning Centre and member of the Executive Committee for the Fair, "the 7th annual Halifax Career Fair continued its tradition of successfully bringing together students and organizations in a forum open to discussing potential career opportunities."

With a change of location from the World Trade and Convention Centre to the Dartmouth Sportsplex, transportation services for the students were enhanced. According to Mary Ellen MacEachern, member of the Executive Committee for the Halifax Career Fair, even with the change of venue, things ran smoothly: "in spite of a new location this year, student turn out was high and the students, according to the employers, were well prepared. For the Executive Committee that organizes the Fair, that's great news. We were also pleased to welcome new employers to the Fair and delighted to see so many former employers returning. Plans for the next fair will be underway shortly."

Mount St. Vincent student

Gerri Ryder believed that the experience of the Career Fair was a positive one. She claims, "as an undergraduate student, I attended the Halifax Career Fair just to see what it offered to students. It was a great chance to practice networking with various companies and it allowed me to see what the employers are looking for in prospective employees." Another Mount student, Ryan DeBaie, credits the event for bringing such a large number of employers together in one place, making it easier for students - "without the job fair, it would

be impossible for me to meet with as many companies I had, in one day. The companies that showed up provided great information, and told students exactly what they were looking for."

The Fair was not without its perks to the student's participating. "This year three deserving MSVU students boarded the Tall Ship Silva for an exclusive networking experience which was very well received by all parties involved," (Curley). Also, a number of prizes were given in a random draw. Prizes included \$500 cash, a \$500 travel voucher, and a skybox at the

Metro Centre for eight friends.

For those of you who missed out on this opportunity, visit the Halifax Career Fair's website at www.halifaxcareerfair.ns.ca to see what you missed! There you'll be able to see the list of companies involved as well as what goes on at this important event.

If you would like information on careers available to you please visit the Career Planning Centre, room 218 Evaristus Hall

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www.gov.ns.ca/energy or call (902) 424-4575



Males in the Mount

by Andrew Morehouse

Here we are again another school year, another year when the campus is alive with activity. Familiar sights, sounds and smells have welcomed us all back. While I do look forward to my studies starting every fall there is this nagging feeling in the back of my head that it's going to be more of the same experience I have every year. I am talking about the overt belittling of men.

Now I'm not here to rain on feminism, in many ways I would consider myself a feminist. I am merely tired of learning about the feminist theory male that many of my classes seem to drag out and put on display. One, I must say, I have never met. He is always violent or highly aggressive, either a sexual predator now or will be one given the right opportunity, he is less emotional and far less intelligent than most females, and most often is in varying degrees sexist and racist. It is as if the females at this school are being told "Look at girls let your guard down and he'll get you"

I find it frustrating that stereotypes and jokes about females or any ethnic groups are fully shunned, and rightfully so, except when it come to men. In talking to groups of females at this school and hearing them describe a male

one would assume they should be wearing hard hats and working on a construction site whistling at passer bys. Men not being able to take care of children, cook or bake is also highly defended belief. The last bake sale I attended, and baked for, many seemed shocked and surprised, and tried the bake goods if only to see if they were poorly made.

As a male I am afraid to hold doors open for many people in this school after the time I did it in my frosh year and I was informed that she needed no help opening her own doors, and that I was in someway removing her empowerment with an act of kindness.

I do not pretend that all people in this school would react in such away, nor to I wish to change this school focus on educating women I merely ask that you give your male students the same treatment you would demand and fight for with your female students. I ask not to be stereotyped as violent or a sexual predator, and please if I hold the door open for you understand I don't want anything from you, I'm just doing a kind deed.

Got something to say? Wanna tell it to the world? Sent it in to newspaper@mountstudents.ca

***Want to write for the Sentinel?
Email newspaper@mountstudents.ca
and start sharing your stories with the MSVU
community!***

Supplemental Instruction (SI) at MSVU

by Heather Graham

Mount Saint Vincent University continues to offer free Supplemental Instruction or "Peer Tutoring" sessions for students in the following courses: Economics 1101/1102, Business 2221/2222, Chemistry 1011/1012, Chemistry 2401/2402 and Physics 1101/1102.

Supplemental Instruction is a series of weekly review sessions for all students taking a select group of courses who want to improve their understanding of the course material and improve their grades. The attendance at sessions is voluntary and the service is free! It's a chance to get together with other students in the class and discuss concepts, review material before a test and develop strategies for studying certain topics. The SI leaders are students who have taken the courses in the past, who understand the course content and

are there to help guide you through it.

"The sessions were just what I needed. I like being there with my peers and with a student as my instructor. This definitely helped and aided me in whizzing through my Economics and Accounting assignments on Sunday!" raves Vanessa White, Business Student.

"This is my second year as the SI Leader for General Chemistry. I think it helps to get information from a student who has been through the course and knows where students struggle and tricks that may help them to succeed in the class. I receive positive feedback from the students who attend, saying that they believe the sessions helped them to achieve a higher grade." says Danielle Cox, SI Leader for Chemistry 1011/1012

If you would like more information on the SI program or would like a schedule of the weekly sessions, please drop by the Deans' Office in Seton 302 or call 457-6400.

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