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These girls weren't camping out for Alanis tickets; rather they were pulling an all-nighter to secure residence rooms for next year.

More booze and boys

Changes to residence next year: some like 'em, others don't

By Melissa Melanson

With the introduction of drinking to residence and the increasing on-campus male population, Mount Saint Vincent is moving towards a more conventional residence life. And not everyone is pleased with the changes.

On March 31, the girls from Birch 3 sat up all night to ensure their place in residence next year. With the pending changes in residence, there is much dispute as to who gets rooms.

"It's totally ridiculous to give two days notice to need \$150," says science student, Jolani Rhodenizer, of this year's room draw—which really wasn't a "draw" at all as rooms were given out on a first-come, first-serve basis.

The method used to distribute rooms was not the only topic of discussion early Wednesday morning. Next year, Birch 3 will be made co-ed along

with Birch 4.

"There should [only] be one male Birch," says arts student, Crystal Whalen. The manager of housing and financial aid, Fran Cody, has yet to determine whether Birch 3 will have one or two male floors.

Some see the move towards a more "traditional" residence to be negative.

"This school was originally for women," says one tourism

student. "And now we're the ones waiting up for rooms because we're being treated as second best after the guys."

Next year's changes will also affect residence students further down the hill, as Assisi Hall will allow drinking for the first time this coming Fall.

"I'm pretty sure that Mount students will handle this with responsibility," says the current Don of Assisi, Sarah Devereaux.

"Either way, I think it is a change that is well waited for by the students."

Although Devereaux does not predict anything drastic will come about from this change, she recognizes the impact that the no-drinking rule has had on life in Assisi.

"Maybe that's why people leave on the weekends," says Devereaux. "[The new drinking policy] might entice people to stay

around." Unlike other university residences which liven up on weekends, explains Devereaux, Assisi is relatively quiet.

Many students see the changes to the drinking rules as more about choices than drinking or partying.

"If we are old enough to live on our own and pay for school, then we should have the freedom to choose whether we drink or not," says

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What's Inside...



And the winner is... Longer than the Oscars, the Student Union Awards Night gave students some deserved praise.

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This is it; your last exposure to culture-enriching CD and movie reviews before September, so stock up now.

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We just thought it would be fun to put a picture from Ath/Rec's Black & White party on the colour front page. Check out Sports.

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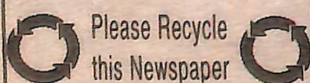
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Page three has been brought to you by the number three and the 1998-99 Student Council who wishes everyone "Good Luck on your Exams". And they want to remind you of the last pub night: Thursday April 8! The next council meeting is on Sunday April 11 when they will be debating bi-laws and presenting reports. Plus for those returning students Frosh Team applications are available at the Info Desk

The Mount's technology is supping up for Y2K *ITS to focus on eight key areas next year*

By Mark Sitter

The Mount's information and technology services (ITS) is looking to broaden its focus and further its initiatives before plugging into the year 2000 (Y2K).

Beyond ensuring all campus applications and systems are Y2K compliant, ITS director Paul Campbell says the university has developed a list of priority projects it plans on undertaking in 1999.

"There are eight initiatives we want to realize before the millennium," Campbell said in a recent interview from his office in the basement of EMF.

Assisi and Rosaria network

"We want to turn on Assisi for students, so they can access the school's network from their rooms," said Campbell. "About 1/3 of all students in Assisi Hall have computers. We've already wired the residence, we now just have to put the switch technology in

place, so they can log into the campus network and have full access to the Internet.

"We're going to turn on Rosaria. Student union offices will be hooked up to the network.

"In conjunction with student union, we're also going to implement a cyber cafe at Vinnie's. Soon students will be able to get coffee or beer while they check their e-mail."

Security and surveillance system

"We're going to implement security and surveillance technology all around campus," he said. "We're a women's university; we want all our students to feel safe. We want to do what we can to help decrease the number of crimes committed at the Mount. We've been putting a lot of money into technology, we want to protect our investment."

Improving the Mount's Web presence

"It's really

important we have a homepage that's easily navigatable and that all departments are able to contribute to the university's Website," he said. "Our server isn't robust enough to [enable departments to do so] right now. So we're going to upgrade it very shortly."

Furniture and audio/visual upgrades for labs

"We're going to improve the layout of the labs and equip them with modular furniture that is very ergonomic and aesthetically pleasing for the students who work there," said Campbell. "And we're also going to make Seton 345 and Evaristus 137 less congested by making work stations more spacious."

"And audio/visual upgrades, such as motorized overhead screens, will be integrated into Seton 315 and 316. They will help make class discussions more interactive. All the labs could use that

technology, but since we have limited dollars, we have to do things piecemeal."

Datatel Colleague system rollout

"Within the next year, students will have the capability to access the Datatel system to see transcripts, to add and drop courses, to change mailing addresses and to look up financial statements," explained Campbell. "Professors will also have access to the system so they can have up-to-date information on their students and advise them accordingly."

Uninterruptable power supply

"We want to provide backup power to our server," he said. "We already have a stable and reliable network. But if the power goes out on campus, we want the server to shut down and restart smoothly."

Re-engineering Help Desk services

"The Help Desk is

continued from page 1

Michelle Rippin, a first-year residence student.

"People aren't going to be drinking 24-7 just because they can," says first-year business student Johanne Linehan. She feels the change is good because it is better for students to be drinking in the safety of residence than to be sneaking around in the woods (or on the roof of the Physical Plant) where anything could happen.

However, not all residents agree with the new drinking policy.

"By making this a drinking rez, you're exposing drinking to those who don't want to be exposed to [it]," says one second-year student.

There will be two designated non-drinking floors in Assisi Hall next year. Only students who are 19 or older will be permitted to consume alcohol in residence.

It is uncertain how the new regulations will affect students in residence. Only time will tell if Mount Saint Vincent can make the transition from having a quiet girl's residence to a more "traditional" one.

hiring more information technology students who are very well equipped with problem-solving skills. And we now have software to track and log all the calls we get," said Campbell. "But we still have a long way to go before we can actually solve problems, as opposed to just logging them. It's time for the next step."

Training

"The underlining issue when upgrading technology is the need to train students, faculty and staff; making sure everyone has the skills necessary to take advantage of all features of the systems," said Campbell. "We're going to offer training in Windows 98 for students before the next school year begins, for instance. File management is also important. Users have to learn how to save their work to the network instead of just to the hard drive or to a disk."

Nunavut: Our land North of 60 New Canadian territory a reality

By Angie Elsinga

"The people of Nunavut believe in Canada and recognize that the successful growth and development of Nunavut depends upon a strong and united Canada. The people of Nunavut believe that their new government and territory will make a valuable and enduring contribution to Canada. Sharing and cooperation are Nunavut traditions and the people of Nunavut welcome all those who wish to participate in the development of Canada's newest territory and share in the opportunities that it has to offer."

-The Nunavut Implementation Commission

Canada now has a new territory.

Before April 1, 1999, Northwest Territories and Yukon were up North all alone, but as of last week they have a new next-door neighbour when Northwest Territories was divided into two—a smaller Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

Nunavut is made up of the Eastern and Central Arctic areas of the former Northwest Territories. The huge area of the country's newest territory represents 1/5 of Canada's total land mass. Since there are only 22,000 people living in Nunavut (2,000,000 sq. kms), overpopulation should not be a problem. There are three regions in the newly christened territory: Qiqtaaluk (formerly Baffin), Kivallik (formerly Keewatinepeople) and Kitikmeot (formerly Central).

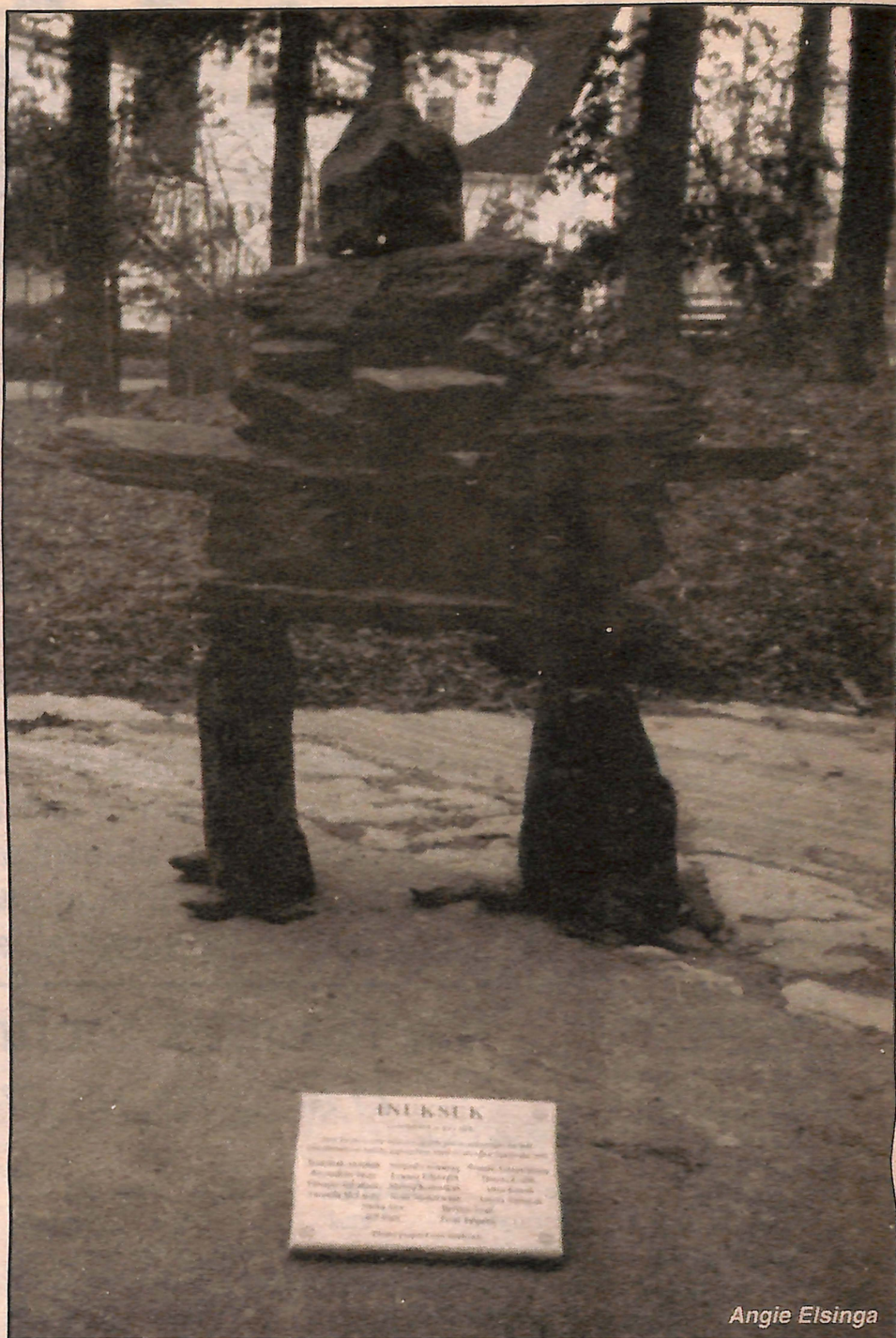
Nunavut has 28 communities, with the largest being the capital, Iqaluit (formerly Frobisher Bay), population 3,600; the smallest being O m i n g m a k t o k (formerly Bay Chimo), population 60. Out of these 28 communities, 16 of them are above the Arctic Circle, and this is represented by the North Star on Nunavut's flag. The people of the new territory chose to include the North Star on the flag because they are closer to it than to any other province or territory.

The people of Northwest Territories have wanted to divide into two since 1963. However, due to federal elections and dying legislation, the first proposal for Nunavut was not created until 1976. Two territory-wide referendums were held from 1982 to 1992, both of which passed,

supporting the creation of Nunavut. The legislation that brought us the new territory as we know it today was called the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement Act.

Eighty per cent of the people in Nunavut are Inuit and they speak Inuktitut—the Inuit language—which has four different dialects. Some also speak English and/or French. In the Inuktitut language, Nunavut means "our land."

The governmental policies are very different in the North than they are in the provinces of Canada. They have similar public governments, institutions, jurisdictions, responsibilities and functions in Nunavut, Yukon and Northwest Territories. They have sets of political boundaries, not strict laws. In Nunavut there



Angie Elsinga

Inukshuk was made by Inuit students at St. Mary's last year to celebrate the coming of Nunavut.

are no political "parties," instead the representatives run as individuals and people

choose their premier from those who were elected. The premier—now Paul Okalik—then

assigns cabinet positions to certain MLAs.

Feminist reproductive politics towards the millennium Dr. Maureen MacNeil's recent lecture

By Charity Baker

Feminist reproductive politics towards the millennium was the topic of Dr. Maureen MacNeil's lecture on March 25.

The speech of the former holder of the chair of women's studies at the Mount tackled a variety of topics.

Firstly, she looked at feminist views on both pregnancy and new advancements in fertility science. MacNeil pointed out there is a growing trend for women to look towards special treatment rather than attempt natural childbirth.

MacNeil went on to point out there is a growing number of organizations creating millennium capsules to be put into the ground to

represent events of our time. She thinks it is important that one of these capsules include items referring to reproductive politics.

MacNeil listed what she would put into a capsule to represent the reproductive ideas of our time. Her list included narrative fragments, such as infertility/sterility stories and consequential media coverage, as well as a story that a young child wrote detailing the reproductive steps taken by infertile ducks.

Other items she would place into the capsule would be Trente-deux Aout, a Canadian file dealing with pregnancy, the book "Our Bodies, Ourselves," which

she also suggested to be included on CD-ROM.

MacNeil also stated that she would include a copy of Toni Morrison's "Beloved," a collection of surveys about childcare and domestic labour, and an up-to-date and detailed international report on child poverty. This last item would attempt to point out the irony of all the effort spent on making women in rich, Western countries pregnant, while there are children in other countries who are starving to death. It would also point out how much is spent on reproductive science compared to the amount spent on helping children in developing countries.

MacNeil says there should be more concern about the reproduction of poverty; this sentiment was echoed by members of the audience. Currently, according to MacNeil, there are more and more women turning to reproductive technology.

As a member of the audience pointed out, "Women need to have good information, but there is no need for 'treatment' right away."

There are obviously difficulties with today's reproductive politics, says MacNeil. The rich can use whatever means they want to have children, while children in developing countries are starving

because their parents cannot afford to feed them.

In most countries, reproductive science is policed so lesbian and gay couples cannot have access to the technology. MacNeil believes all advancements made in this field are only for elite upper-class heterosexual Americans. If this information were to be put into a millennium capsule, it could really reveal the reproductive and general-life politics that are prevalent today.

Dr. MacNeil's lecture concluded with a reception where the audience, many of whom knew MacNeil personally, got a chance to talk to her dyadically.

Students criticize Newfoundland employment program

By Amanda Labonte

ST. JOHN'S (CUP)—The province's decision to re-invest in a student employment program has sparked criticism from leaders who say the program doesn't serve the needs of students.

In its March 22 budget, the Newfoundland government announced it would put \$2 million into the Student Work and Services Program (SWASP). The program will provide jobs for 2,000 post-secondary students this year, generally lasting 14 weeks and paying \$50 a week with a tuition voucher given out at the end.

The ministry of human resources and employment says the program, which gives students valuable work experience, has assisted over 12,000 students since 1994 and has won a national award for innovation.

But Jennifer Anthony, vice-president external of Memorial University's student council, says she has a problem with any program that holds back a person's wages.

"I think it's great that they're trying to encourage students to save for tuition, but the sort of control that's inflicted over people using the program is really repulsive," said

Anthony.

Anthony says while she thinks it's a good idea for the province to invest youth employment programs, the implications of the SWASP positions "are just ridiculous."

"The government has known that student leaders have been protesting against SWASP for years and anti-poverty activists have been protesting against SWASP for years and they're simply not listening to any of that," she added.

Allison North, chair-elect of the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Students, says the SWASP positions don't account for students living independently.

"From the people I've been talking to, SWASP programs can be beneficial to some students, no doubt," she said. "For the most part they are somewhat unrealistic for many independent students, in that the weekly pay covers little or none of their living expenses."

She adds that unless the recipients have another form of employment, the SWASP program doesn't ease the burden of the cost of a post-secondary education, particularly for students who have dependants.

Another unsatisfied subscriber... UPEI upset with Maclean's survey

By Sarah Murphy

CHARLOTTETOWN (CUP)—Students and administrators at the University of Prince Edward Island are questioning the methodology used by Maclean's magazine in its annual ranking of universities, saying one of its calculations is misleading.

Concerns over the magazine's November, 1998, Survey on Canadian Universities were raised in January, but were only recently made public.

Fourth-year student Crystal Doyle, who sits on the university's senate, asked in January for clarification of the university's operating budget that was reported in the survey.

Maclean's reported that out of the 21 institutions surveyed, UPEI has the highest operating expenditures per student, about \$9,577.

But after researching the matter, the university's senate reported that \$9,577 represented all expenditures related to day-to-day operations of the university, including salaries, utilities and supplies.

"The money needed to cover these operation expenditures come mainly from government grants and tuition revenues," said vice-president academic John Crossley in a memo to

the senate.

He added that if the cost of the Atlantic Veterinary College is taken out of the calculations, the expenditure-per-student figure would drop to \$6,761. This would place UPEI eighth out of the 21 schools surveyed by Maclean's behind schools like Mount Allison University and Lethbridge University.

Doyle says the survey is doing a disservice to UPEI by misrepresenting the facts. "This small error on behalf of MacLean's may be replicated in all university stats and could be the cause of many students taking their business elsewhere."

The issue has highlighted long-standing criticisms of the methodology used for the popular survey.

"Different universities may report differently on their operations. This would likely result in variations in calculations and discrepancies in results," Crossley said. "For example certain universities will include the amount of money spent on scholarship and bursaries in their calculation, unlike several institutions which will choose to exclude them."

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In the mind of a mad woman

By Charity Baker

It's been rumoured that several of the editors wrote their editorials while drunk. I decided that writing mine at four in the morning would probably have the same affect at a lower price. I don't know, you be the judge.

I really have no idea what to write this on either. I think that's probably a problem most of us have had. It's the end of the year, and we feel the pressure to be spectacular. You have to go out with a bang, because this is the paper that sit in people's rooms for a few months. If you screw up here, it'll be like you never existed. I have even had a professor tell me he is expecting a grand farewell performance from my last paper. Is that pressure or what?

For some of us, this last editorial is like a fond farewell. These are the

people that are leaving for good. No longer will their bellowing voices be heard throughout the halls. Their names will not be on the masthead. For them, this is their final hurrah, and I plan to outdo them all.

But that's where the problem comes in. How do I outdo them? At first it seemed simple, all I had to do was actually get this in on time and I had them beat for punctuality. But as I've already stated, it's four in the morning, and only truly mad people stay up this late. And that's when it hit me. I had what very few others can claim to have, my insanity.

Although I realize this isn't exactly the best thing to brag about, it will do. This way, I can be as opinionated as I want, without offending anyone, (although I'm sure someone will find something). My mental

problems are all my own, and they are completely mine to write about. I could go on and on about how I feel as an insane person, and that would be completely different from anybody else's perception of it.

I've determined that insanity is a wonderful thing. I may believe in vampires and witches, but at least I believe in something. It takes a lot to get through this world, and I have a lot to work with. I have a lot of freakish phobias, a lot of stupid ideas, and a lot of evil plots. With that combination I should be able to become Prime Minister, or wind up in a lovely padded room. Either way, I get to wear nice jackets and people take care of me.

I realize I might be rambling at this point, but it is still four in the morning, and as I've already admitted,

I don't put too much faith in my sanity. I am relying on my insanity to get me through life. If I can look at life with a smile, then everything is okay. As long as I am so out of it I have no idea what's going on, I think I can handle that. It's ironic isn't it? We put so much pressure on ourselves to be normal, when it's the freaks that have all the fun.

To go through life without any worries, that is my ultimate goal. Why should I be concerned about how much money I have. I'll let the government fight over that. As long as I can wander aimlessly and talk to myself, I'm happy.

Yes, I talk to myself, and I'm fully aware that most people would never admit to this habit, despite the fact that most participate. I have to say that I love talking to myself. I'm the

only person I fully listen to, and I'm the only person I care to talk to sometimes. I have my best conversations when I'm all alone. Mind you, when the most intelligent person is in the room with me, of course the conversations are going to be good.

You see, insanity is helping through everything. If I weren't insane, or at least questionable, I never would have written this editorial. Then, I would have sat, staring at the computer screen like a fool. If people would only allow their true, insane selves out, they'd have a lot more fun. It's about time we forgot about trying to impress others with our mental stability. Why don't we impress ourselves with our own unique outlooks on life.

What's in a name?

By Anthony Cushing

The variety of conversations that I get involved in never fails to amaze me. Here in the Picaro office today we started talking about obscure surgical procedures and then somehow moved on to family names.

We soon got into the subject of keeping maiden names after marriage. What's the point? Why should anyone keep their name? Well, why shouldn't they? Some women keep their names for a lot of reasons; They don't want to let go of their identity, they keep it because they have university degrees. They keep it because they don't want to conform to the "oppressive patriarchy."

Some of the more traditional thinkers eschewed the notion of keeping a maiden name. "When you get married you're supposed to take on the name of your

h u s b a n d , " commented one person. A voice emanated from the corner, "What about hyphenating your name?" There was a distinct lull in the chatting. The first person to reply was adamantly against name hyphenation, "NO! That is so cliché. It's been done."

T h e s e arguments will go around and around in circles forever. But what do people do when they can't get married, but are in m o n o g a m o u s relationships? My partner and I will never be able to get "married" in the traditional sense of the word. Some people will argue that we should never be able to be married simply because that is the old way of doing things. But, we have discussed this issue. We'll probably hyphenate our names so that, if nothing else, we will be related by name.

All things said,

it's really quite complicated. Let's throw another variable into the mix: children. When you keep your name, or you hyphenate a name or whatever, what name will your children get? If you're a same sex couple, which name will your child get? If you're Cher or Madonna (in which case you have no last name) what will the child be called?

I'm afraid that I can't offer any solution to this problem. It seems that this is another unfortunate side-effect of being politically correct. I'm not saying that political correctness is always a bad thing, but it's gotten out of hand. No one knows what to say anymore without offending someone. Everything, nowadays is a barb or insult whether or not it was intended as such.

Anyway, this is the end of my rant. It's been a good year. See you all later.

Chapters gets academic

By Anthony Cushing

To continue my anti-Chapters tirade from a couple of issues ago, I got a fax today about Chapters. They've just bought the controlling share in Barnes & Noble College Bookstores. It's official, they're starting to take over our schools now.

Geoff Swift is the President of the Chapters Canadian University Bookstores. He says that the decline of government funding and enrollment has forced universities to use their bookstores as profit centres. The problem arises where most bookstores don't have the inventory systems and warehouse space necessary to adequately handle all of the titles students need.

What do the universities get out of this deal? Who knows. It's for certain that the profits from the stores aren't going back into the pockets of the

university. They're going to corporate pockets and out of the community.

The encroachment of Chapters into the schools is part of a growing trend in educational consumerism. It's a sad fact of living in the corporate 90s. With the cutbacks imposed by the government, universities have no choice but to supplement their revenues by contracting out services to companies. We're compromising the integrity of our education by letting private interests control us.

Maybe in addition to the Chapters bookstores, schools can start opening CIBC cafeterias and Air Canada Registrars. What do students gain from this deal? Well, at least when we graduate, we'll have enough frequent flyer miles to go to Ottawa to pay off our student loans in person.

The Picaro would like to apologise for missing the following photo credits for Matte Stevenson, Photography Editor:

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EditorsNotes



So long, MSVU

By Tim Boudreau, Editor-in-Chief

Well, here I find myself writing my last editorial for The Picaro. I don't know if I should feel sad or relieved. I'm not only leaving The Picaro, but this university as well. I've been here for a total of five years and now it's time to move on to something else. I wonder, as I prepare to turn my back on MSVU, if I'll look back on my days here with nostalgia or nausea. The Mount certainly is a unique community and there are several things and people that I am certainly going to miss. Of course there are some things of which I can't hope to leave behind. Where do I start?

I started attending classes at MSVU way back in September of 1994. It seems like such a long time ago now, and I guess in retrospect it was quite a long time ago. My first year was kind of a lonely one, I didn't know anybody and everybody seemed to be friends with everybody else. I felt slightly ostracised at first, but I learned after my next couple of years here that it isn't hard to make friends. It was when I started to get involved and working with my fellow students that I met some of the friendliest students and professors that I have ever known. I learned that the reason I was so lonely my first couple years at the Mount was because I was doing nothing other than going to class, doing my assignments, and then going home. I wasn't taking full advantage of what the university experience has to offer. I found out that a little less time spent on assignments, and a bit more time spent on getting involved was the best way to meet people, to gain some great life experience and to basically have a lot of fun. If I was going to leave some advice for all of the first year students looking to find their place at MSVU it would be to follow the example of my good friend and layout editor, James Tilley: get involved in as many student groups as possible, do as much extra-curricular activities as you can. Of course one must remind oneself every now and again that the primary reason we are here is to get our education, but don't forget that there is much more involved in getting educated than getting good marks.

Of course my time at the Mount as not been all smiles and sunshine. Inevitably one must take the good with the bad, just as long as one remembers to always put the positive stuff first. I always say that I have a love-hate relationship with the Mount, but I would say that the good times certainly outweigh the bad. There was some pretty bad things that happened this year though. During the whole "Take Back the Bullshit" controversy (which we are still taking flack over) I felt like the entire Mount community hated my guts. After a little while though I realised that not everybody was against me, and not everybody wanted to see me burned at the stake otherwise I don't think I'd still be here working for The Picaro. Some other fun things that happened this year included a great little funding episode with our Student Union, and an incident where some thoughtful individuals believed it would be a great idea to relieve The Picaro of some of our computer equipment. Some people asked me why, with all the bullshit, didn't I quit as Editor-in-Chief and save my own sanity. Believe me, the thought crossed my mind once or twice. But as I said earlier, even when it seemed that there were people screaming for our blood there were just as many people backing us up. Besides, I wasn't going to let a few complaints, a few money problems and a few break and enters ruin my Good Times.

Anyway, that's enough complaining out of me, it's really not my style anyway. I would like to finish by saying that I wish the rest of my fellow graduates the best of luck. For those of you who aren't graduating, don't let anybody ruin your fun. Make the best of your time at the Mount, and try to rock the boat a little bit while your at it. That's all I have to say, I'm outta here.

What am I writing about again... Oh yeah, FOCUS

By Mark Sitter, R.I.P.

So, here I am in the Picaro office trying to think of something really cool and smart-sounding to write. This'll be my last submission to the Pic, since I'm leaving the Mount forever in a matter of days. FOREVER—I'll repeat it just in case you didn't catch it the first time. Hold your applause, please. Send flowers later. Choke back your tears for awhile—

—I've just been told by a cute little blond girl perched up on my desk that what I'm writing sounds cocky. But if the truth be known, I've always liked cockiness. It takes style to be cocky, right cute little blond girl? Anyhow, the way I see it, I can write whatever I want, because I ride the fuckin' axis of the globe I call my life. I'm all important. I'm the centre of my own universe, baby. My problems are more serious than yours. My tears are saltier. My secrets are more sacred. . .

Now, in all seriousness, I've grown quite sick of these fruity self-absorbed notions, which seem to surround so much of society, like cages in the zoo of psychological deficiency. Sure, we all have our own unique experiences and that. But that woe-is-me—because-my-excrement-smells-better-than-yours ideology should be flushed down the toilet. I'm no better than you and you're certainly no better than me, or that person sitting in the Link or in the SAC or wherever the students in Evaristus sit.

My disdain for such ideas adds to the irony that I feel like it's my noblesse oblige to write something really profound for my Picaresque epitaph. Something that, my id willing, will provide you all with a really deep insight into humanity. Something that will make me sound like Yoda.

So pay attention young Jedi Knights: After having this university suck away four years of my virile young adulthood—four good years—I must have grown wiser and, uh, smarter and, uh, yeah . . . I must have finally found "focus"—that little thing that so many people—younger and older—have trumpeted about in conversation. That little thing that I will devote the next 40 years of my

life to before I retire. That little thing that might give me a mid-life crisis or destroy a marriage—if it permits me to get married, that is.

Well, as it stands, I don't know what that focus is. I have no fuckin' idea what I really want to do when I grow up and leave Neverneverland. I definitely have dreams, but none of them really make me go: "Hey, that's it. That's the one. That's what I'm going to do. That's what I'm going to be." My life's canoe is still meandering around the river of focus, as I stoke my paddle with very loosey-goosey form—much like the way I chose to write this editorial. (The medium is the message, baby.) In any event, I always figured that when I finished university, focus would be mine. But, lemme tell ya, that's not the case.

And ya know what? Thank God! I'm only 23 years old—as if I want to be racing with the rats, yet. The way I see it, I still need to meet a few more interesting people, pass the travel bug through my large intestine and perhaps go back to school before I start thinking about what I want to do with the rest of my life—whether it involves public relations, journalism, teaching or just ruling the world.

I guess the essence of what I'm trying to say is: WHO KNOWS? Focus comes to different people at different times and in different ways. Some people find it in school, others capture it via non-academic experiences, and others probably go through their entire lives never managing to get hold of it. Different strokes for different folks.

I think Oprah, of all people, was right on when she said: "You've got to do what feels right now in order to put yourself in the best position to make your next decision." Life isn't a neat, linear path—especially for young people trying to figure out what and who they are. Sometimes we have to live one step at a time before we can do any long-term life planning.

Absolutely. Indeed.

So, just remember this: Focus-schmocus, abracadabra . . . poof . . . I'm gone, life steps on. Right, Peter Pan?

Nunsense II: The Second Coming

Due to a last minute rush and a lack of a program, the review of the performance of Nunsense II was lacking some vital information. When people take the time to put on such a great production, it is normally a good idea to include their names in the review. The following people were the cast members in this amazing show.

Maureen Riley as the Reverend Mother

Jennifer Gates as Sister Mary Hubert

Suzanne Fisher as Sister Robert Anne

Krista Norman as Sister Amnesia (Sister May Paul)

Chrissie MacEachern as Sister Mary Leo

The Picaro apologizes for the error and hopes that this correction can clear up any problems.

Letter to the Editor:

Having seen the March 10th issue of The Picaro, I am once again at a loss as to whether I should laugh or be angry. To say this has not been a stellar year for this publication would be a gross understatement. With the exception of one or two bright spots of thoughtful writing contributed regularly by students such as Charity Baker, Anthony Cushing, Mark Darrow, and Trina Roache, there is

rarely little that is worth salvaging. I finally refused to make further contributions after the misuse of "editorial privilege" and complaints regarding content fell on deaf ears, preferring to distance myself from the generally unprofessional quality of this newspaper. However, I feel I must comment on the article covering the Black Students Forum presented in February during African

Heritage Month. The article itself is competent and clearly states that both local and international students were involved, which makes me suspicious that the writer did not supply the sub-heading *A panel of African-Canadian students discuss their experiences at the Mount*. Three of the student panelists are not Canadian. That is a minor point in comparison to the un believably

insensitive headline *Enlightening Blackness*. Add to that the accompanying photograph which is so under-exposed that the identities of each of the students is completely erased. A more inappropriate and offensive presentation of race issues on campus can hardly be imagined. I can only hope that next year's editorial staff does not display such appalling ignorance.

- Janne Cleveland

Editor's Note:

I feel compelled to reply to Ms. Cleveland's letter because I believe it seriously misrepresents the conduct of this editorial staff.

First of all, I wonder why Ms. Cleveland believes The Picaro has not had "a stellar year," as she puts it. Perhaps she believes it is common knowledge, but why did Ms. Cleveland neglect to add any reasoning as to why she believes there is rarely little that is worth salvaging.

Secondly, I would like to take issue with Ms. Cleveland's accusation regarding what she calls "misuse of 'editorial privilege'." I must assume, since she does not clearly state where the alleged misuse took place, that Ms. Cleveland is referring to the controversy last semester regarding the "Take Back the Bullshit" opinion piece. I have already freely and publicly admitted to a lapse of judgement in allowing "Take Back the Bullshit" to run in its original form. I have apologised to the individuals who were offended by my decision to run the piece, and have assured them that I would be more aware in the future of the emotional power which exists in using certain words. I consider what happened to be a learning experience—an error made by an inexperienced student editor—even if Ms. Cleveland insists it was a misuse of editorial privilege. On a side note, the "Take Back the Bullshit" episode was a single event and has hardly ruined the entire year for this publication.

I must also say that I resent Ms. Cleveland's suggestion that "complaints regarding content fell on deaf ears." I'm not sure what this statement is supposed to imply.

How have complaints fallen on deaf ears? What actions of The Picaro suggested that we do not care about the complaints we have received? Perhaps what is being suggested—again I must speculate because Ms. Cleveland's accusation is unclear—is that after the "Take Back the Bullshit" controversy I should have denied the author, Stephen Brown, the opportunity to submit articles to future issues of The Picaro. There were certain individuals who stated quite clearly that they wanted Brown banned from The Picaro (and from MSVU as well, but that didn't happen either). As editor of The Picaro I did everything that I could to treat all complaints seriously. We devoted almost 10 pages of an issue of The Picaro to letters objecting to the article Brown wrote. However, I was not willing to take the draconian step of banning Stephen Brown from future issues of The Picaro. Such a move would not be right, every student has the right to be published in The Picaro because it is a public forum. Since Brown didn't write another article as flippant and disrespectful as "Take Back the Bullshit" I saw no reason to boot him out. I care a great deal about The Picaro therefore I am not willing to adopt an unjust, and discriminatory policy in order to appease a few individuals, and I should not be expected to make such a deplorable action.

In response to Ms. Cleveland's slightly more focused criticism regarding "Enlightening Blackness" I must say that I can't help feeling "damned if I do, and damned if I don't." I'm sure Ms. Cleveland would have been the first to lament the lack

of coverage of African Heritage Month had we run no story whatsoever. I must also say that if any of the individuals featured in the story felt insulted or belittled in any way then they have my deepest apologies. However I must point out that I have not heard any complaints from the individuals featured in "Enlightening Blackness" nor have I heard any other complaints regarding the supposed insensitivity of the piece's title. I must say that I do not see any outright or implied insensitivity in the headline "Enlightening Blackness", and once again Ms. Cleveland has neglected to supply any reasoning to support her criticism.

Finally, I find Ms. Cleveland's criticism of the picture accompanying "Enlightening Blackness" to be the epitome of "nit picking." I admit, the photo was embarrassingly underexposed, but this was, not trying to pass the buck, the fault of the printer, Daily News, not our own. Certainly it was not some sort of insidious attempt on our part to erase the identities of the individuals in the photo; such a suggestion is ridiculous.

Ms. Cleveland should realize that, as Status of Women Officer, she has a certain measure of political power and influence. Being a representative of MSVU's student government she should be more responsible and provide ample reasoning if she is going to accuse individuals of being "appallingly ignorant." I can only hope that next year's Vice President of Race and Gender can be more open minded and constructively critical than this year's Status of Women Officer.

Grading system very misleading

By Holly Brinton

Have you ever felt that your numerical grade wasn't a very good representative of your letter grade? I have experienced this feeling this year in a sociology course that I took in the fall of this year. I am a Sociology major and in the fall I took SOAN 3313 as one of my required courses for my major. The course ran from Sept.-Dec. On Mondays from 2pm-4:30pm. There were about 15-20 students in the class and most of them felt the same way about our final grades.

Through the term we had six assignments that were due every two weeks. On the six assignments my marks ranged from 7-8.5 out of 10. One assignment I received an 8/10 and the professor put a "B" next to the grade. According to the guideline in our school agenda an 80% would be at least an "A-." Our final mark was also made up of a class mark which included participation and attendance and our take home exam. I ended the course with a 70.3% and on my transcript in January my letter grade was a "C" and according to the "Guide to your Grades" in our school agendas I should have received a "B-" which would bring my GPA up a bit more. A "C" would be a numerical grade of about 64-66% which is not what I received for a mark.

The professor for this course felt that because the overall marks were too high that she was going to scale them lower. How can any professor determine grades are too high? If students work hard for a grade then they should get that mark and not anything lower. She laid out all our grades and found the middle and then she designed a letter grade to our numerical grades. Whatever she felt deserved a "B" would have fallen on the right side of the normal curve. If someone was to get a 60% for a final grade then that would have been considered a "D" and a 50% would have been a failure. The professor also assigned an "A-" or an "A" to a student that received a 10/10 which would be an

"A+" for a 100%. That does not make any sense either.

I honestly think that a professor should not be able to decide if our marks are too high and then go ahead and scale them lower. The only reason I can think of for doing this because the professor must have felt that they weren't hard enough in marking our assignments or exams. Everyone having high grades may have sent a message that this course was a really easy one. I thought that I was doing just fine according to the numerical grades that I was receiving and I did not try any harder and focused on my other courses. If she would have told us at the beginning of the course about how the grading was going to happen then at least the students in the class would have been prepared for the marks and to work much harder.

I am not upset with my numerical grade but with my letter grade because it lowers my GPA. What I work for in class, I would like to see a representative letter grade on my transcript. I also think that in each department there should be a set grading guide for all the professors teaching in that department there should be a set grading guide for all the professors teaching in that department. I could have received a 70% in three different sociology courses and received three different letter grades. That does not make any sense at all either.

A letter was written by a student in our class about how we felt about this issue and was signed by most of the students in the class. The letter was passed on to be read by the Dean and I think some others also. We found out that a professor has the right to lower grades if they want to which none of us agree with.

There may be other students out there that have experienced this problem. If you have, speak out and maybe something will eventually be done about it in the future. Thanks!

Screw Up, Screw Me and Screw Off

By Carolyn Evans

I am red-hot raging. Raging so bad my tongue may lash your face, so step away from the paper. I am raging at this university, purportedly the institution where "the educational needs of women are paramount". Well, I don't know about you, but I am a woman and my educational needs are not satisfied. I absolutely do not feel my educational needs are viewed as serious let alone paramount (could they patronize us any more) to the people who are supposed to make this university work. Work.... hey, that's an absurd thought!

Every one of us students has administrative needs. Those needs may not be glamorous but they are no less vital when pursuing a degree. It's a part of the package and it's a reality. So you may have to register, add or drop a course, pick-up a student loan, request a transcript, pay tuition or follow co-op procedures. Does any one of those administrative chores make you shudder, whimper or worse still, suffer from cold-sweat nightmares?

I suffer from nightmares. In fact, I've had a re-occurring nightmare for the past three years. It started in September 1996 when I enrolled at MSVU and had to stand in line for two hours to register for my courses. My nightmare hasn't yet subsided.

So much has happened in the past month alone. The registrar's office wait-listed me for all of my public relations courses until the public relations department decides which students have the privilege to be in each class. Privilege? The wait-list means I can not yet apply for a student loan because I still don't know how many courses I will be in and therefore how much tuition I will have to pay. Neither the public relations department and the registrar's office don't know when students will be taken off wait-lists. But I happen to know that student loan applications take a minimum of four to six weeks to be processed, provided the applications are 100 per cent accurate. So screw me for needing a student loan.

Onto the next wicket - financial services. Some time in March, financial services told me I couldn't have my T-2202 tax form until my tuition was paid in full. Stupid me for waiting by the mailbox for my T-2202 to arrive even though the office was legally required to have them all sent by the end of February! So I paid my tuition and was granted my tax form. Is it a happy ending? Of course not. The data on my T-2202 was incorrect, so I asked financial services to fix it. And they did.... two more times and two more

weeks before it was finally accurate. So screw me for wanting to file my taxes.

Down the hill to Seton Annex and into the co-op office. Having completed two work-terms, I find myself completely broke and unable to stay in Halifax for longer than one more semester. I want to finish my degree so I am finishing my public relations courses here this summer (provided I am privileged enough for the department to let me into the classes) and will finish the rest of my degree at Memorial University of Newfoundland. In order to also graduate with a co-operative education distinction, I was forced to ask the co-op office to allow me to defer my work term by four months so I could complete my courses here and then my final work term in Newfoundland, my home. But, because I am not pregnant or sick, just poor, I am not allowed to defer my work-term and will graduate without co-op. After all, according to the co-op office, most students graduate with an average debt of \$25-thousand. So my situation is not unusual and a deferral will not be granted. I guess I am naive to think that the co-op program should be flexible enough to let students decrease their debt even a little and also graduate with a co-op distinction (an asset in the workplace) since the reality is that student debt loads are insanely high. So screw me for being childless, healthy and poor.

I am a customer of this business, doling out \$745 per unit of credit and paying for a service that is supposed to include my administrative needs. It is not a privilege for me to beg, borrow and steal to pay my tuition. Why am I always led to believe that the registrar's office, financial service and the co-op office are doing me a favor? No one is doing me a favor by taking my tuition. I am paying for these services. If I were paying \$745 for an unsatisfactory meal at an "elite restaurant of higher-eating", I would certainly get a discount or a refund. Is a discount what I am, what you are, entitled to here? Who is accountable? Who pays for my stress, my inconvenience, my frustration, my disservice?

Like you know, the previously mentioned problems are only from the last month and I have been here for three years. I am finally escaping this horrid place at the end of August. And while some students will be looking back on fond memories of university life, I will always look back at screw-ups and all the times I was screwed over.

FRANK'S WORLD

By Stephen Brown

Frank says:

Life is inherently meaningless, amoral, and unjustifiable. The nature that a homo sapien sapien is born into is cruel and blunt. For an intelligent creature, whose defining characteristics are companionship and pity, this is almost impossible to reconcile. So the creature invents a meaning, a morality, a justification of its own existence. This ethos is complicated, growing with each fresh and contradictory experience. It can be passed on to issue or converts, and further mutilated and webbed to the experiences of those lives. It can be written down. It can be devoutly entrusted by millions. It can be a three-hour movie-of-the-week starring Charleton Heston. It can be consecrated by time, tradition, and constitution—but it will never be anything more than life giving itself meaning for the sake of living being meaningful.

Which isn't to degrade the sincerity of the belief—if anything, the expressionless non-answer intensifies the piety. It is also not meant to devalue created meaning. A lot of good has come out of that personal sense of lonely conviction that there is something grander. Also a lot of ugliness, which itself should not be devalued merely by the passage of time and wishful thinking. It is the contradiction that I am interested in.

Every mass belief system, every personal ethos, has some noble kindness in its root—some desire to assuage the pangs of isolated consciousness, some pity that extends that need to medicine the soul to others. But that generosity comes to an end when an opposing, or merely unaccommodating, ethos is met. The conflict that follows such encounters is rarely resolved by reason, tolerance, or withdrawal, but rather by the animalistic punishment of the weaker party—often in a way unrelated to the source of discord—by the one of resource and influence. As I have said elsewhere, there are gradations of power, and so there is a variety of ways to punish the heretic. The most common is social harassment, and everybody can do it and everyone does, including me.

Recognizing my hypocrisy does not excuse it, and it is a hypocrisy. There is no absolute and universal law of identity, and to presume that there is—and that your law is that law—is the shared egocentricity of life. It is an arrogance based in fear, as all arrogances

are: the fear that you might be wrong. If life has no meaning but that which you give it, then for someone to give it a different meaning introduces the possibility that you might be mistaken—and thus meaningless. So I—you—you—her attack contradictory lives just to feel safe in enjoying our own little plots of existence. It's as big as millenia-old religions and as petty as face-piercing, or holding your bus pass in your mouth, or being critical of everything—and no one likes a free-thinker, because he is free to think unyou thoughts.

I guess if there's one thing I'd like you to take from everything I've ever said, it's that. That life beyond you does not conform to your theories and philosophies—that as much as you enjoy the order your system brings to your life, she is enjoying the order that her system brings to hers. It doesn't matter if you don't recognize it as order, because you're not that important. It's her structure and you have to respect it. If you're engaged in a public debate in a public forum over how her life affects yours, and vice versa, then you can pontificate to heart's content. Hell, I'll go as far as to say that you are obligated to do so: to challenge, question, and offend people so self-centered and self-inflated that they deserve to be offended. But being offended by her not being you does not constitute a genuine effect on your life, so just hurling insults behind her back or in her face is the type of ugliness I despise. If her system stops working for her and she asks you for help, then you can blab your articulately constructed blind faith notions all you want... if you want to express disapproval, there are more constructive and less sociopathic ways than just projectile-vomiting invective. If you're offended by how other people live, grow up or shut-up is my only advice—given sincerely and kindly.

Admit your inconsequentiality. Admit your ultimate solitude as a thinker and a believer. Admit that you know nothing, but you ponder a lot, and maybe that means something, but who knows? If you can't do that, if you can't just live your own life the way you want without being judgemental, smug and obnoxious about how others live theirs, then please, stay the fuck away from me. You're my friends and I love you, but stay the fuck away from me because I don't want to hear it.

And then he walks away.

The Centre for Art Tapes is looking for individuals who wish to develop curating skills. These skills include critical analysis of the theme, research, writing and organization. Both experienced and new curators are welcome to apply, and all curators will receive assistance from the Centre.

A written statement must accompany the final project and in keeping with the centre's mandate the work must involve a time-based element (video, audio, new media, performance, etc...). Funding as well as curatorial fees will be provided by the Centre. The deadline for application is April 19th, 1999 and the project should be completed by August 1999.

For more information and an application form, contact the Centre for Art Tapes at (902) 420 4580.

Horrorscope:

Shouldn't these be in the Sicaro?

By Charity Baker

Taurus: 4/21 to 5/21

You shouldn't be so cocky. The only thing that has a guarantee on it is death. If you think you'll definitely be getting something, chances are you're wrong. What you need to do is convince yourself you won't be getting what you want, and then everything will be fine. Cause you'll be right!

Gemini: 5/22 to 6/21

If you feel that someone you know has been acting like a freak lately, you should call them on it. Maybe they've been avoiding you for a reason. I mean, once you look at it, everyone has been a little distant. I think I can help. The next time you meet someone with multiple personalities, ask if you can borrow one. Then see what a difference that makes. Once you actually have a personality, then maybe you can see about getting a life.

Cancer: 6/22 to 7/23

You are about to be struck down from your pedestal. The person who has been your chief rival will soon take your position from you. In fact, you may just end up going from the top of the pile to the bottom. That's a good place for you though, because no one can hear you. If no one can hear you, you can't make such a fool of yourself. Plus, you can talk to yourself, which is something you always enjoy doing anyways.

Leo: 7/24 to 8/14

Leo's are always independent. This is a good thing, because you are going to have to go a lot by yourself soon. Once all of your friends abandon you it will be up to you to keep yourself entertained. Luckily, you have experience at this. I mean, just about everything you do on a regular basis you do by yourself.

This may actually be a good time for you. The more time you spend alone, the more time you have to make yourself happy. Have fun.

Virgo: 8/24 to 9/23

I see a great cruise for you in the near future. It's a really nice boat too. Completely done up to look as good as it can. It's really fancy. There's only one problem, it's named Titanic 2 and well, you know how history repeats itself. Maybe next time you'll ask for that drink without the extra ice. Bon Voyage!

Libra: 9/24 to 10/23

You're going to hell, what do you need a prediction for?

Scorpio: 10/24 to 11/22

If you find yourself wondering why everything seems to be happening to you lately, I have an explanation. You see, the other day, you happened to piss me off. Normally this wouldn't have amounted to much, but I had just learnt a really good curse. I figured the best way to find out if it worked would be through practice. So, I have to thank you for being my unwilling volunteer. On the bright side, the curse ends soon. On the bad side, it ends when you die. But on the bright side again, I did a really good job!

Sagittarius: 11/23 to 12/21

For you I see great pain. I know this may sound scary, but there's a reason for that. It is damn scary! If I got hurt like that I'd be pissed. Then again, I guess you have a higher pain tolerance than I do. All I know is that you are certainly going to want to be wearing clean underwear now. I know that's something new, but trust me, you should try it.

Capricorn: 12/22 to 1/20

Don't you hate it when you end up with all the work? If so, you have every reason to be mad now. Everything that needs to get done will fall on your shoulders. Eventually the weight of all this extra responsibility is going to get to you. When you finally snap, I'll be there to see the explosion. It'll be great!

Aquarius: 1/21 to 2/19

Well, you're perfect, and there's not much more to say. I mean, if everyone were as smart as you, there would be no need for horrorscopes. So, in a sense, it's good that only Aquarians are smart, cause I need all the stupid people. So, it's great that you're unique, and hey, you look even smarter compared to all the other morons.

Pisces: 2/20 to 3/20

Ha ha! I thought I'd join in with everyone else and laugh at you. How stupid do you have to be to get caught doing that. And it wasn't even really worth it. You have to admit though, never in your life have so many people known who you are. You're almost famous, and definitely infamous. And just wait until the photos develop!

Aries: 3/21 to 4/20

So, you had someone play an evil April Fool's joke on you. That's a shame. Normally the best plan is retaliation, but I wouldn't suggest that for you. I say this because you screw up everything you try to do. If you plan to sling some mud, you'll probably just drop it on your head. I also have to add, that was the stupidest joke to fall for. I mean, how could you be so gullible? Oh right, it's you, never mind. Hey, did I tell you the sky is falling? Look Out!

I was told to make the Horrorscope in the last issue a nice one. I thought about it and then I remembered my philosophy. Never do anything you are told to do! This in mind, I decided that I should continue my sadistic rampage. So for those of you out there who really wanted a bright and cheery future, you get to figure out who told me to be nice. Then you can hurt them, I give you permission. Whatever you do, don't come whining to me, you're big kids now, and it's time you deal with all the crap in the world. Including my sick sense of humour.

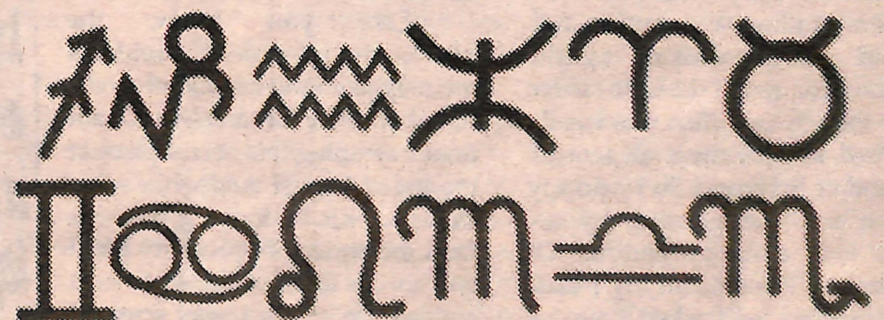
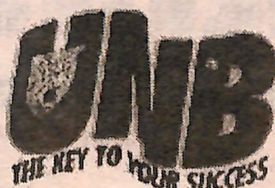
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Financial services rendered ably

By Anthony Cushing

In recent issues of *The Picaro* people have written about the poor service at Financial services. Tales of lost student loans and cranky clerical staff run wild all across the campus. From the sheer volume of complaints, it is clear to see that very few people are aware of all the work that goes on in the administrative offices of Evaristus.

Sharon Davis, Director of Financial Services for the Mount was quite willing to discuss what goes on in the offices. "They receive all the funds for the university... Approximately \$26 million," She explained. "That's a lot of work for anybody. The work that is done there is very complex; The staff processes billing, payments, loan monitoring, bursary cheques and a variety of other things." After talking with Davis, it is difficult to fully comprehend the massive amounts of work that goes into those jobs. Davis comments, "There is a level of complexity that people don't realize." Sometimes when people feel inclined to complain about the 'poor service' perhaps they are not fully aware of how the process works. Maybe they do not understand the process and need help to figure things out. Of course they will be frustrated when things do not work out for them, but the financial services staff does try to help smooth things out wherever possible.

As for the working qualifications, Davis says that only two staff members there do not have university degrees, but they do have several years of relevant work experience. Now, when anyone is hired, a university degree is requested. Also, the ability to think on one's feet is a strict necessity.

There are so many different customers that use Financial services. Part-time students, full-timers and foreign students all have different deadlines and fee schedules. When you combine 3,500 students with those different designations, immediately there is a lot of work involved. "We get hundreds of call and inquiries a day. We get things by fax and by email. It comes from everywhere," says Davis.

One thing Davis was adamant about was a comment in one article that stated staff does not care about the students. Davis insists that is not the case, "Things have improved immensely in the last few years for students." A few years ago the registrar's office and financial services were in separate buildings, forcing students to run up and down the hill (which would not likely please people) and spend hours in line. The four to six hour registration time has been reduced to a fraction of that. Also, what few people realize is that both the registrar and the financial offices switched to a new computer system in the fall. While the new system is meant to increase efficiency and ease of use, there is still a learning curve for the staff. "It takes time to figure out how to use the system to its full potential," says Davis. There were some problems with the automatic billing system, but Davis says that those problems have been resolved.

With the amount of work done in the financial offices it is easy to see why sometimes the staff may need a bit of a break. But they are always willing to help. Davis encourages people to contact her either by phone, in person or in writing if they have a pressing problem with their accounts. She says that once something is in writing they can work to resolve the problem as quickly as possible.

Awards night

By Charity Baker

This year's Annual Awards Night Banquet saw all of the people who get involved in campus activities gathered together for one last hurrah. The event was held on March 24th in the Multipurpose Room in Rosaria. As the people entered the room it was evident that this was going to be an event with a little class.

The Awards Committee spent months getting ready for this event, and had spent hours that day just trying to make the room look fabulous. They were successful. With a blue and white colour scheme the room screamed high profile. The night started out with a buffet provided by Aramark. After everyone had finished their meal it was time for what ended up being the highlight of the night.

The Awards Committee took

footage from throughout the year and edited it into three minutes of fun. The music that played in the background was appropriate. They truly were happy days.

After the video, the awards were presented. In what soon went on to be the longest Awards ceremony this year, members of the Mount community presented awards to those that had worked for them all year.

In the end, the Banquet was a success. Aside from the problems that Sheldon Miller had with the microphone and the poor choice of music during the meal everything was professionally done with taste.

The Awards Committee did an excellent job making sure that those who were receiving awards did so in style. This



Mark Sitter

Food and prizes... how can you go wrong.

was a job well done, and each and every member deserves a round of applause for maintaining a professional manner in their work.

All in all, this event was excellent. It was great to see the

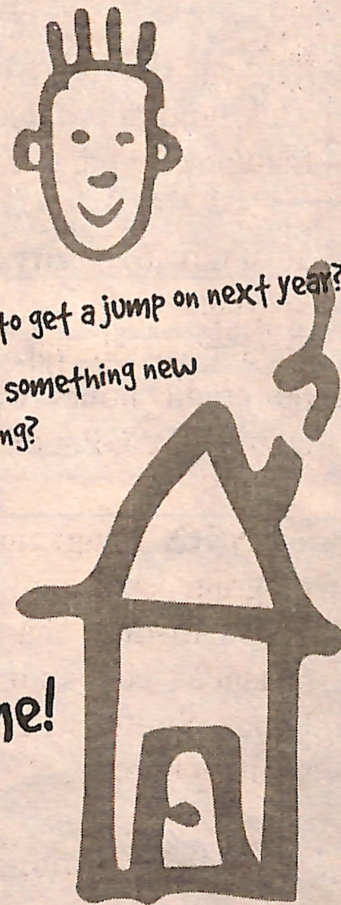
people who put actual effort into the university receive something for a change. Those who care enough to try deserve some recognition and the awards banquet was a wonderful place to give it.

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VOX POPULI

Compiled by Crista Stone and Melissa Melanson

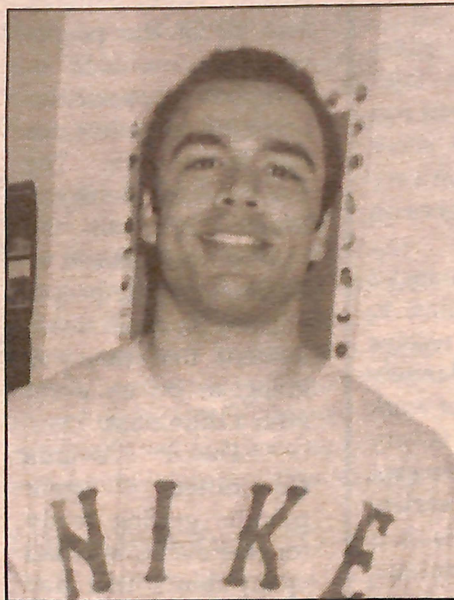
Where is the best place to have sex on campus?



"Pool table at Vinnie's Pub, that's right..."
Todd Huston, 3rd year IT,
Halifax, NS.



"The library, in the private study room!"
Jennifer Faulkner, 1st year PR,
Antigonish, NS.



"In the Studio, on the mats!"
Jason Bruce, 2nd year Arts,
Bedford, NS.



"Assisi Hall."
Sara O'Connor, 1st year PR, Souris, PEI.
"Picnic table area behind Assisi."
Sarah Martin, 1st year CYS, Sheet Harbour, NS.



"An elevator is an interesting place. Assisi in particular, 'cause that's where I live."
Margaret Ramsey, 2nd year BSC,
Moncton, NB.



"I just do it in my bed!"
Betsy Meade, 1st year BBA,
Long Reach, NB.



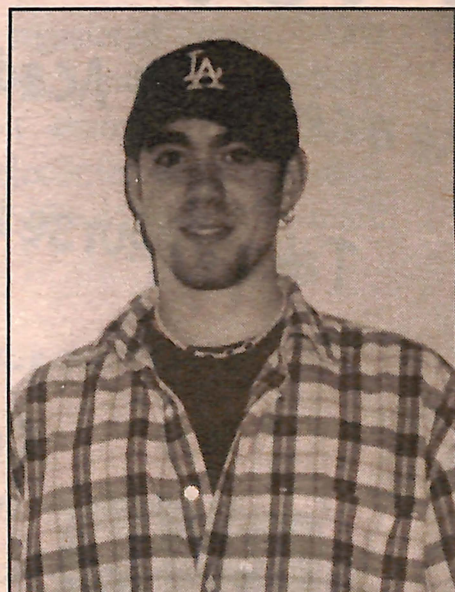
"By the crucifix in the woods."
Amber Miller, 1st year BBA,
Riverview, NB.



"During the spin cycle on the washers in Assisi."
Michelle Rippen, 1st year BA,
Dartmouth, NS.



"Woods behind the motherhouse."
Brian Tucker, 1st year BBA,
Truro, NS.



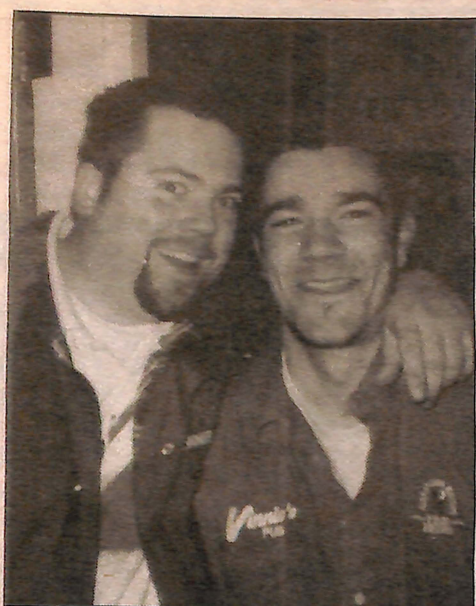
"Library and the gym"
Chris Gaudet, 1st year IT,
Bedford, NS.



"Behind Birch 4."
Brent Young, 1st year BA,
Bridgewater, NS.



"On the counter of the Corner Store."
Alanda Banks, 2nd BTHM,
Florenceville, NB.



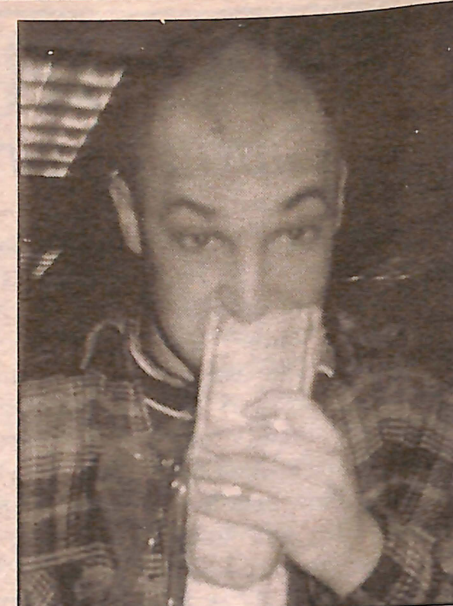
"In the Pub Manager's office."
Kyle Maryatt and Peter Turnbull,
Vinnie's school of hard knocks.



"Rosaria couches."
Gina Lambert, 1st year BSC, Harbour
Breton, NFLD. & Amanda Nickerson,
1st year BA, Shay Harbour, NS.



"On the lawn of the Motherhouse."
Collette Nickerson, 3rd year BSC,
Cape Sable Island, NS.



**"In amongst the chips at the Corner
Store, because of the sound effects -
POP, POP, CRUNCH!!!"**
Paul Benning, 4th year BSC (Nutr), Camper Down, NS.



**"Behind the gum rack, 'cause
no one ever sees ya!"**
Joey and Joy from the Cornerstore!



**"Under the piano on
second floor of Rosaria!"**
Matte Stevenson, 1st year IT,
Halifax, NS.

**Don't forget the
Sicaro just flip
over the Picaro.**

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SATURDAY NIGHT IN HALIFAX CITY

Club hoppin' with the masters of the top dancebars in town

By Mike Allen

So you passed in an assignment on Monday, slept through Tuesday, wrote an exam on Wednesday, handed in an essay on Thursday and on Friday you finished up some minor details - maybe to get your licensee renewed or pay a Visa bill. Now at the end of a busy week comes the reward....Saturday. The day of the week that you can sleep in if you don't work, and you'll need your rest because, unless you live under a really big rock, the clan will be calling you to see what's up. Suddenly you are faced with the Saturday night questions of what to wear, what to drink, whose house do you drink at, and here comes the big one.....which club do

you go to? That, my friends, is what I can give you some information on so that y'all know what's happening and which bar fits your style the best - maybe all of them for any "Klubbhoppers" out there. On the other hand, if you're one of those, "I'm gonna sloth around in my T-shirt, get drunk and wait for some asshole to fight" kind of folk, turn the page. (Oh ya, and there are boxing clubs in Metro but they're not located in the center Halifax's premiere danceclubs - sorry.) Now that we have dispensed with the wankers that ruin everybody's time, I have a few things to share with you about the hottest dancebars in our great city. On a rough

survey, we have the Dome, Mercury, Pacifico, and The Palace as the favorites in the dancebar category. There is a difference between a dancebar and a pub with a dancefloor. They serve different forms of clientele and are in different categories. Sure they both have lights and loud music, but a dancebar has the dancefloor cordoned off from the public thoroughfare as well as more lighting/special effects, and a better sound system. So which of our dancebars does what the best you ask? For each of our selected clubs I have an award, and make note that these awards are strictly pretenses based on my own assessment. Here we go. For special

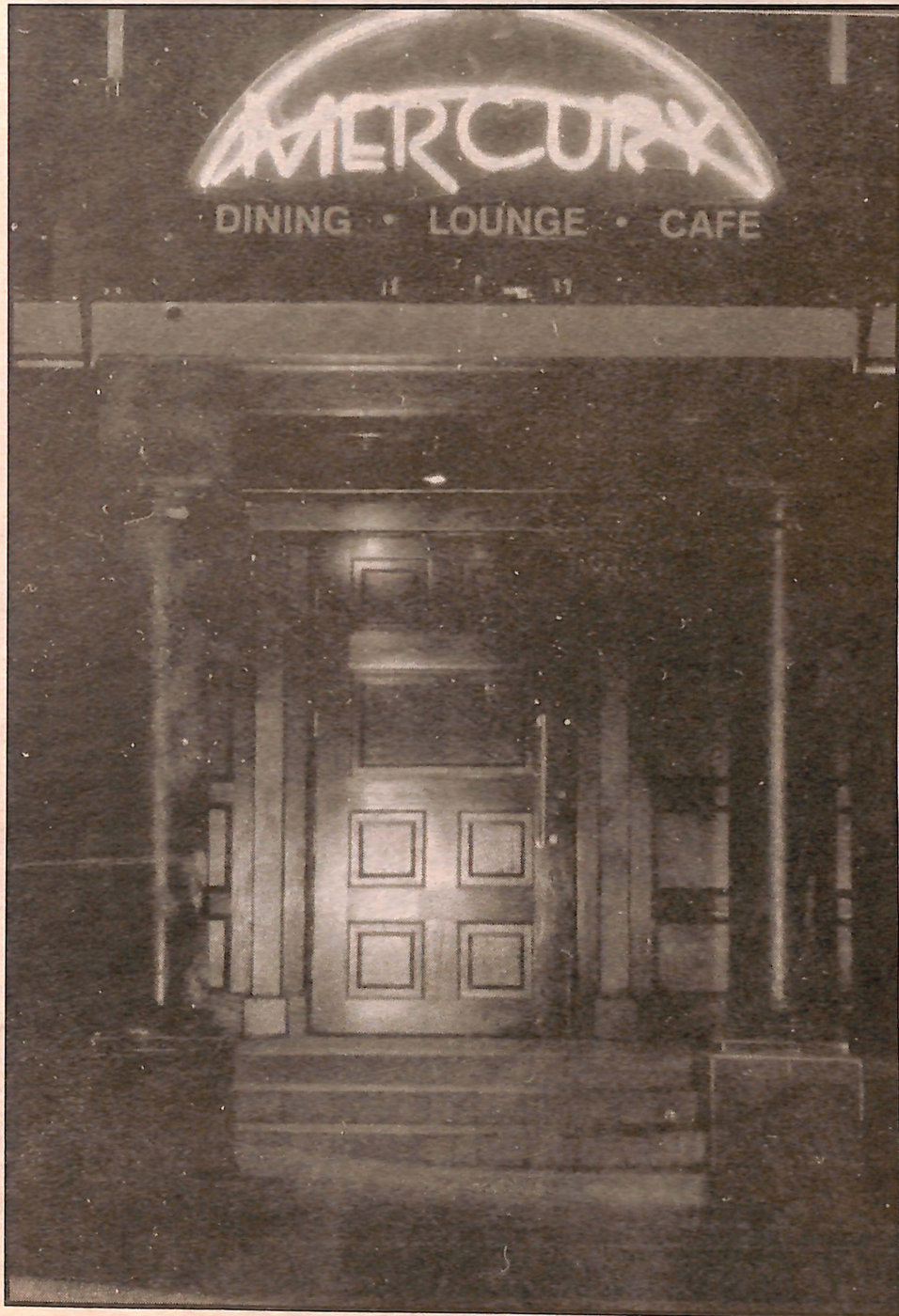


effects, I have the Dome as the winner. The lighting there is amazing, not to mention new, and they even have a dancefloor cam that projects onto the main screen - it's cool. Just sitting off to the side and watching the rafters for an incredible light show is entertainment in itself, so if you get up and get your groove on I guarantee it will mesmerize you as you move to your favorite jams! The Mercury wins my award for the best dancefloor. It has padded bogy box tops (the speaker for those who are club lingo ilit) and a really slick, finely

they receive the mood award. When you go there you usually remember your night out compared to other clubs. There is just something about it that can capture you, remove your thoughts from the real world, and hypnotize you into dancing with passion and enthusiasm. The Pacifico holds a place of its on the Halifax dance scene so put it on the list for an awesome night out! Moving along to the award for excitement, I believe The Palace has to get this award. It is just the whole "Saturday night excite" thing they've captured there having

danceclubs. We are lucky that our scene here in Halifax is really good. Each of our dancebars offers something unique and special, so no matter what mood you are in you can be captured and have a good time.

But wait a minute.....what about the music? Who is the best? The answer to that question requires your ear, your musical tastes, and some basic understanding of club formats. I can't tell you what mixes you think sound cool or what music you like. So why don't we meet the DJ's who spin at the top 4 clubs on Saturday



finished, dancefloor. This makes getting a good groove on relatively easy on the feet and extremely fun! If dancing is your thing, you have got to put the "Merc" to the test and testify your powers on their amazing dancefloor, it's awesome! Electric slide anyone? As far as atmosphere goes, I believe that the Pacifico is able to instill the spirit in me the best so

the DJ music, live rock bands and large crowds. Many people end up there as the night wears on, so you will usually see a lot of friends, and with a renovation currently taking place it's sure to get even better. If you are in the spirit and need a pure shot of over the top Saturday night excitement, you have got to go to The Palace. So there are my awards for each of our

night? To have a really good time, you should get to know the format at your favorite club as well as the DJ's style. Like I have mentioned numerous other times this year, you can enjoy something a bit better if you understand it. Here then, are the club formats, and most importantly, the masters who spin the shows for us on Saturday night.

continued on next page

Jerry's

Format: A musical jukebox: House, Party Rock, and Eighty's
Master: Tony Perrin
AKA: DJ Sensaonz (pronounced sensations)
Favorite music: Garage House. (you won't know many of the artists because this is how they succeed)
Style: To be as entertaining as possible. Try to follow the crowd and teach them at the same time.
Favorite sayings: "Be Safe" & "Bring on the House!"
Pet peeve: People who are not open to new music, they could have twice as good a time with a variety.

"I've been spinning for about 3 years but I have been in the "DJ'ing business for about 7 years. I love seeing people smile when they hear their song. I hate when people say, "change the music man!" I have a passion for the House music industry because it's happy, energetic and exciting. I hope the music never dies." Tony's passion for music and good times are evident in each of his sets, and his busy dancefloor.

Pacifico

Format: High Energy and music from around the world
Master: Geoff Wills AKA: Wills of Steel
Favorite music: Groovy House
Style: As fun as possible - make the girls dance
Pet peeves: Clubs not getting busy until late in the night, having to close early at 2am.

Geoff has been spinning in the clubs for 5 years now. Having done the whole student BAC thing, he now parties in a more sophisticated format. He likes trying to develop a unique sound at the Pacifico by playing music you will never hear at any other club in Halifax. In the true spirit of being a good showman Geoff likes: "importing big dance hits from Europe and the States to perfect the vibes!" Having personally experienced the "vibes" at Pacifico, I can tell he is right on the mark!

The Dome

Format: Mainstream Dance/ House/ some R&B.
Master: Jason Perrin AKA: Euphoria
Favorite Music: House/Electronica
Style: To make people dance, have a good time, and to make people go home tired!
Favorite saying: "Know your role"
Pet peeve: "That people still ask me for "Too Close" by Next, and that I have to work in the morning!"

Jason has been DJ'ing for 9 years and is the Vice President for the Atlantic Dance Music Association (ADMA). When asked what he likes the most about being a DJ he replied by saying: "I like being a DJ because I get the opportunity to play music and I get to DJ for a lot of people. Also I get a rush seeing the energy I create when I'm spinning." Anybody who has been to the Dome can tell you how Jason is able to build that energy and transform the dancefloor into a jammin' good time!

The Mercury

Format: Dance music, all types. (no rock, no country, no Nanna Maskouri)
Master: Stamos
Favorite music: House/Freestyle/R&B
Stamos' top 3 Pet Peeves: 1. When the dance floor is packed and somebody says "the music sucks!" 2. Somebody saying, "can you play this song, we're leaving in 5 minutes." 3. When somebody tells him they "know" what everybody wants to hear.

Stamos has been on the DJ music scene for many years. Put it this way, when he first started, Culture Club had their first release and Thriller was the number one album! Of his accomplishments he has won the DJ spin-off twice and has had 2 runner up titles and was voted as the Maritimes top DJ in 1987. "The thing I like the most about being a DJ is not having to worry about the dance floor...the crowd will dance to anything...it gives me an opportunity to play new music and still play the hits." Stamos's experience and good spirit can be felt whenever you hit the floor at the Mercury.

The Palace

Format: Top 40 Pop /Dance/House/Hip Hop/R&B
Master: David MacIsaac
AKA: Chicken Farmer
Favorite music: House
Style: Contemporary
Favorite saying: Ah yes!!
Pet peeves: Hip hop clothes (he hates them), cleaning the toilet, and people who say they're old and want some shitty song. He tells them "go away, I'm 31 and I love dance music."

Dave has been a professional DJ spinning pop and dance music for 13 years and spent 5 years in radio. He is responsible for the packed floor at the Palace every Saturday night and is also a promotional wizard. Although he can't stand playing Hip Hop or R&B music, if somebody wants to hear it he'll put it on. His main interests are German Techno and American House/Dance music. Something else to add is that Dave doesn't like people who don't understand the word "no." In case you were wondering, he has a few words for everyone, "DJ's are God's and I love women in latex. Oh hurt me!" Count on Dave for a busy dancefloor and an awesome night of groovin' excitement whenever he gets behind the turntables.



continued from last page

So there are the top 5 danceclubs in Halifax and a few of the personalities you will find spinning the music within them. A special thank you is extended to the staff of each of our 5 clubs, The Palace, Jerry's, Pacifico, The Dome and The Mercury for their excellent cooperation and input for this article.

Earlier I recapitulated the

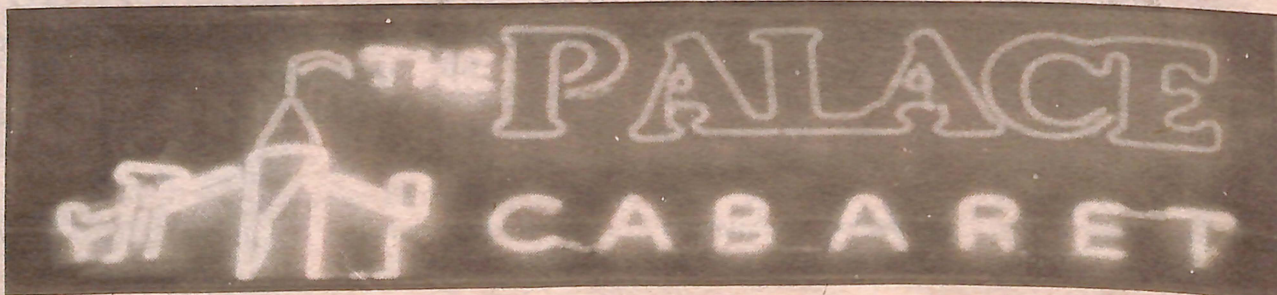
popular question of which danceclub to go to on a Saturday night. So what's the verdict? It's a tough call isn't it? Where our danceclub scene is so good we have an even match among the top 4. Each bar offers it's own style, atmosphere and has incredible talent behind the turntables. That makes clubbhoppin' a very attractive alternative if you want to have a little serving of each flavour on your

plate. Most times when you go out you don't realize the thought, enthusiasm, heart, and effort which goes into making each of our danceclubs a fun place to be. This spirit stems from the owners

directions on how they want their club to be, through to the DJ's who are proud of their club and want their dancefloor full of people who are having a good time. Maybe now when you go to

your favorite club you will look around and let yourself be captured by the unique style you will find there instead of saying "this sucks" because of biases you may have. So where are you and the clan

heading this weekend? Wherever you go my friends, enjoy the atmosphere and charm, let yourself be infected with the spirit of Saturday night, and as always, keep on jammin'!

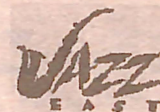


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Damn that Y2K

The Matrix - movie review

By James Tilley

I saw this commercial on tv, it had a very cool guy dressed in a trench-coat dodging bullets. There was funky upbeat techno music. And I figured that this was going to be a very cool computer/special effects-action movie. Those dreams were

liners and general "Whoa Coolness!" He has since graced the screen with such god-awful acting performances in Bram Stoker's Dracula, Walk in the Clouds and Johnny Mnemonic. All of these movies have exemplified what is

the best comedies of the year. This is one of the rare cases when I was wrong. I completely misjudged this movie.

Matrix did not have the Keanu curse. In fact Keanu was actual kind of good in this movie. The special effects were obviously

This guy hasn't really done a good movie since, well Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure, where his unique acting abilities helped him flourish in a role based on one-liners and general "Whoa Coolness!"

shattered when I realized the starring role was played by Keanu Reeves.

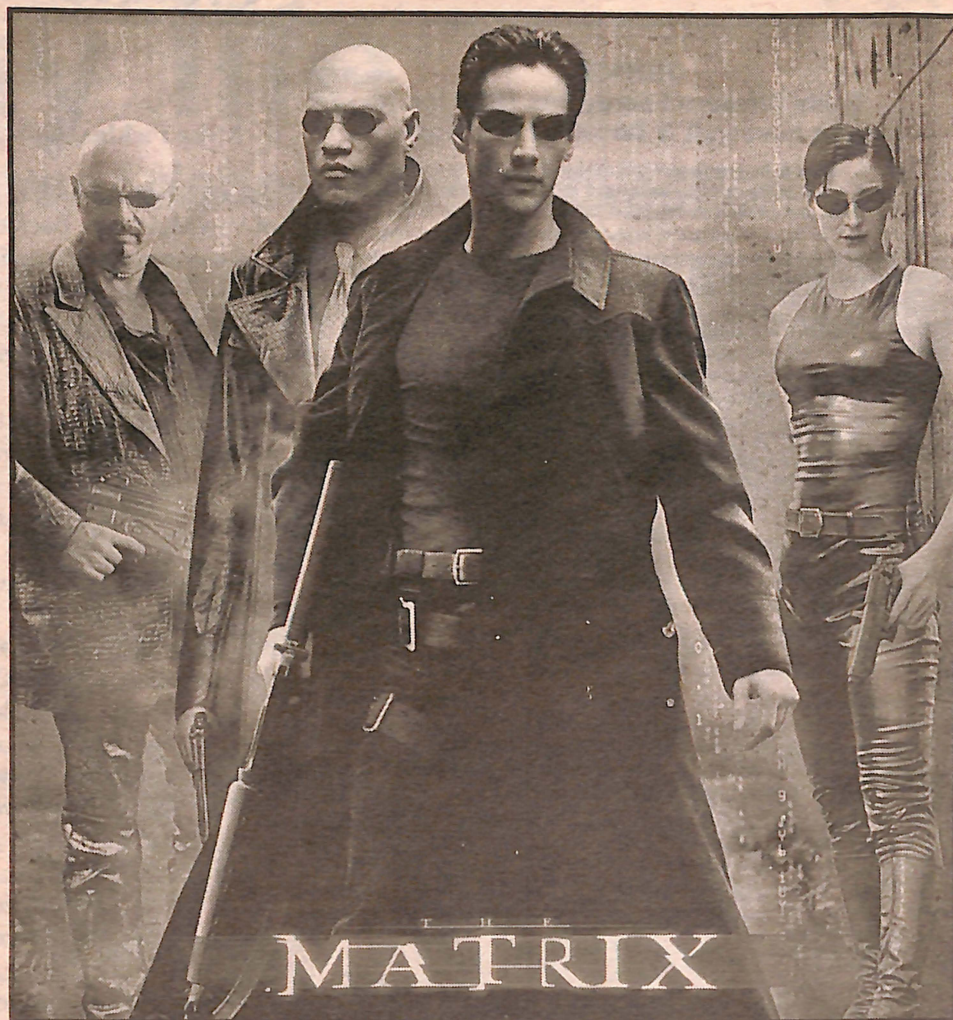
Ay-Carumba, this guy hasn't really done a good movie since, well Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure, where his unique acting abilities helped him flourish in a role based on one-

wrong with Hollywood today.

There was only one reason to go to this movie at all: the comedic value. I went to Kull the Conqueror for the sole purpose of laughing very, very loudly, and I did. I thought The Matrix was going to be one of

done by computers, but they were still pretty cool; nothing that we haven't seen before but cool just the same. The music was pretty good and I hope the soundtrack is as well.

The story was kind of out there, but all science fiction movies are. This one



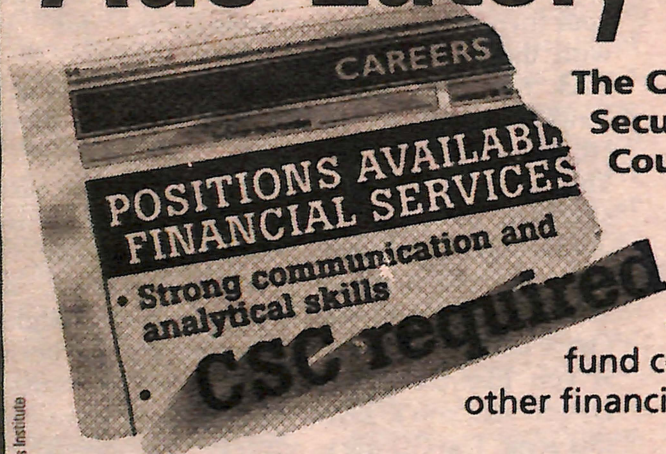
had many little details that were based on facts as we know them so the story seemed believable as long as you accepted the odd really weird idea, like the entire world being enslaved by artificial intelligence computers.

Acting-wise, Keanu wasn't too shabby. His character didn't exactly call for deep emotional states; he was a computer nerd, after all. The action was very nice and exciting: lots and lots of bullets, some

great—but sometimes corny—Kung-Fu fighting.

The movie was quite enjoyable. A good one to go check out, especially if you're into science fiction or, god forbid, Keanu Reeves.

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The rumours are true!

By Catherine Worth

Millennium Cabaret opened on March 24, and had a huge welcome by friends of the old Rumours bar. Everyone seemed to have a great time dancing in Atlantic Canada's largest gay bar.

"The new adjustments made to the Cabaret made the place feel like a magical to feel free," one customer commented. The Millennium Cabaret has one of the largest dance floors in the Maritimes. The stage has the word MILLENNIUM written across the front of it, with pink triangles above the I's to represent that the bar is truly gay friendly. On the main bar, and on the DJ booth, is the famous rainbow flag, which uniquely

symbolizes gay pride.

On the first weekend the bar was open, a line could be seen forming down Göttingen Street, which later filled the Cabaret to the capacity. The owners and staff were pleased to see the outcome of support for their opening weekend. The Carol Ritchie Band played on the opening night. Everyone commented on her musical talents, and of her rendition of Torn (Natalie Imbruglia) and Time After Time (Cyndi Lauper). The band modernized the songs they did in their own way, and made them unique in their own phenomenal way. At 11:30, DJ Shaa took over the speakers and turntables, playing Metro's top 40 hits,

including Cher's comeback smash hit, Believe, along with its by Deborah Cox, Madonna, and Stars On 54.

Millennium was opened to provide a safe haven for Metro's gay and lesbian community once again. Using the old rumours building has brought back memories of the old club. April second and third saw a Rumours reunion party happen at the Millennium, with special guests and performers. It too, was a huge success.

Mount students are welcome to come to Millennium to check out this awesome new bar. All are encouraged to come and party. But only gay friendly people need apply!

NOTICE

**Sable Offshore Energy Inc. (SOE Inc.)
Call for Research & Development Proposals**

SOE Inc. Helping to Develop Natural Gas Research Expertise in Nova Scotia
SOE Inc. strongly believes in the benefits of a strong relationship between the business and research communities. As an industry leader in the province, SOE Inc. is committed to assist with the development of Nova Scotia Research & Development expertise in the natural gas industry. To that end, SOE Inc. is making a call for Research & Development Proposals for 1999 and 2000.

Call for Research & Development Proposals

SOE Inc. will accept for consideration Research & Development Proposals from any academic/research institution or group in Nova Scotia or elsewhere in Canada, however, 'first consideration' will be given to those from Nova Scotia.

Only Research & Development Proposals that have relevance to the natural gas industry will be considered.

Process Timeline
STAGE 1

April 30 - deadline for return of completed application pkg. (see note below) incl. 1-2 pg. "concept paper"

May 15 - SOE Inc. contacts authors of proposals selected to submit formal proposals

STAGE 2

June 15 - deadline for formal proposals

July 15 - SOE Inc. contacts authors of successful proposals

Selection Procedures

All proposals will be reviewed by a team from SOE Inc. This team may consult experts in the subject matter from outside the organization. Responses will be provided in writing. Time frames for responses will vary with complexity of the proposal.

To receive an information package, please send a letter to:

Natalie Stirling
Training & Development Manager
Sable Offshore Energy Inc.
1701 Hollis Street
Founders Square
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3M8

Phone: (902) 496-4922

Fax: (902) 496-0976

Email: Natalie_L_Stirling@email.mobil.com



Sable Offshore Energy Project (SOEP) is developing six natural gas fields that lie 10 to 40 km. (6 to 25 miles) north of the edge of the Scotian Shelf, approximately 200 km. east of Nova Scotia. SOEP will supply at least a twenty-five-year supply of natural gas and plans to deliver a daily average of 480,000 million British thermal units of market quality sales gas per day from onshore processing facilities near Goldboro, Nova Scotia to markets in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and New England. The SOEP fields will also yield about 20,000 barrels per day of natural gas liquids that will be processed at a fractionation plant at Point Tupper, Nova Scotia.

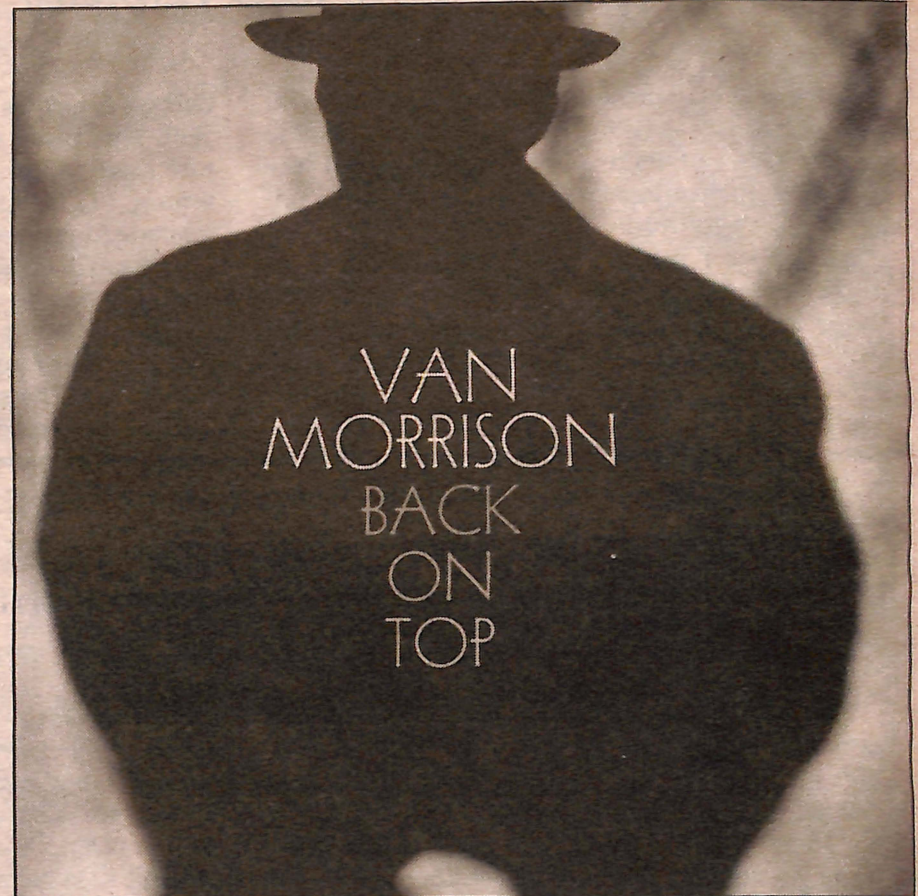
Sable Offshore Energy Inc. (SOE Inc.) will operate each facility, producing both natural gas and the natural gas liquids. The shareholders of SOE Inc. are Mobil Oil Canada Properties, Shell Canada Limited, Imperial Oil Resources Limited, Nova Scotia Resources (Ventures) Limited and Mosbacher Operating Ltd.

Review—Back on Top

By Mike Pickles, Your Friendly Neighborhood Bartender

Before I begin this CD review of Van Morrison: Back on Top, I must be honest with my fellow Picaro readers. Due to the exhausting number of presentations, overwhelming final papers, and never-ending deadlines, my CD critiquing skills are...next to nil. However, I will give you something to depart with.

Do you enjoy a lot of raspy vocals and acoustic guitars? This CD has it! Do you enjoy the sweet sound of the harmonica? This CD has it! All in all, if you are looking for a CD to pump you up to head downtown, leave this one on the shelf. If you are looking for a CD that allows you to kick back, have a few beers and relax with your buddies, then Van Morrison is your pick. In departing, I wish everyone the best of luck with their final exams.



Review—Something for Everyone (Baz Luhrmann)

By Shannon McPhee

If I had to summarize this CD in one word, it would be: diversity. Every song is different;

not just in the tempo, but in the musical style itself. When listening to it, you almost get the feeling it is a soundtrack for life, and your the main character.

This isn't the type of CD you put on when your friends come over, with the exception of track five, the speech song- Everybody's Free (To Wear Sunscreen). This song makes you stop and listen. It's a graduation speech put to music, and it offers some of the best advice I have heard in a while. If you like the poem Desiderata, you'll love this song. The CD track is better than the radio track, as there's some incredibly moving vocals and instrumental breaks.

I thought the rest of the CD wouldn't hold up to Everybody's Free, after all, that was the only song I thought I knew. The back cover says, "A collection of remixed and interpreted songs from the film, theatre and

opera of Baz Luhrmann." I was quite surprised when I heard remixes of Romeo and Juliet hits like, When Doves Cry, and Lovefool. I recognized a lot of the tracks once I heard them, but they all had been changed, sometimes for the better.

I did a lot of work while listening to this CD. In addition to Romeo and Juliet, some of the tracks came from Strictly Ballroom, La Boheme, Haircut, and Midsummer Night's Dream. It's not boring though as the musical styles range from pop-rock, to opera, to intramental, to show-tunes, to that Starbucks coffee-typr jazz. I think I almost heard a drum'n'bass line in there somewhere.

I like all types of music, and I liked this CD. If you need a bit of a motivation, buy this CD for track five. But you won't be disappointed, there really is Something for Everyone.

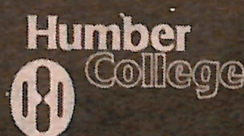
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It's my life

The must-have' album for every dance music collection

By Mike Allen

How many hot albums do you have? You know one of those releases that everybody who is anybody would have? For example, if you are into 80's I would wager that you have "Let's Hear It For The Boy," by Denice Williams, something by Rick Astley, "Axle F" or at very least, the "Ghostbusters" theme song. The point is that you would have to have something kicking around that was immensely popular at one time or

has a long way to grow, a lot of big hits aren't well known by the average Joe. If we had dance radio as they do in Toronto, the names of artists and their songs would have a little more notoriety.

Alrighty then, what about Sash? Well, he is one of the best DJ/artist/remixers in the world. He spins DJ compilation CD's like Shepp or MC Mario, composes his own songs, and he remixes songs by other artists as well. To put it simply,

album that will destroy any other dance mix CD ever created! Yes folks, it's that good. No matter what mood you are in, there is a song somewhere on the album that has you tagged - I guarantee it. Whether you want drum rolls, beat breaks that have mind capturing spirit, funky base grooves, or an in your face dance song, this album has it. What's your fancy?

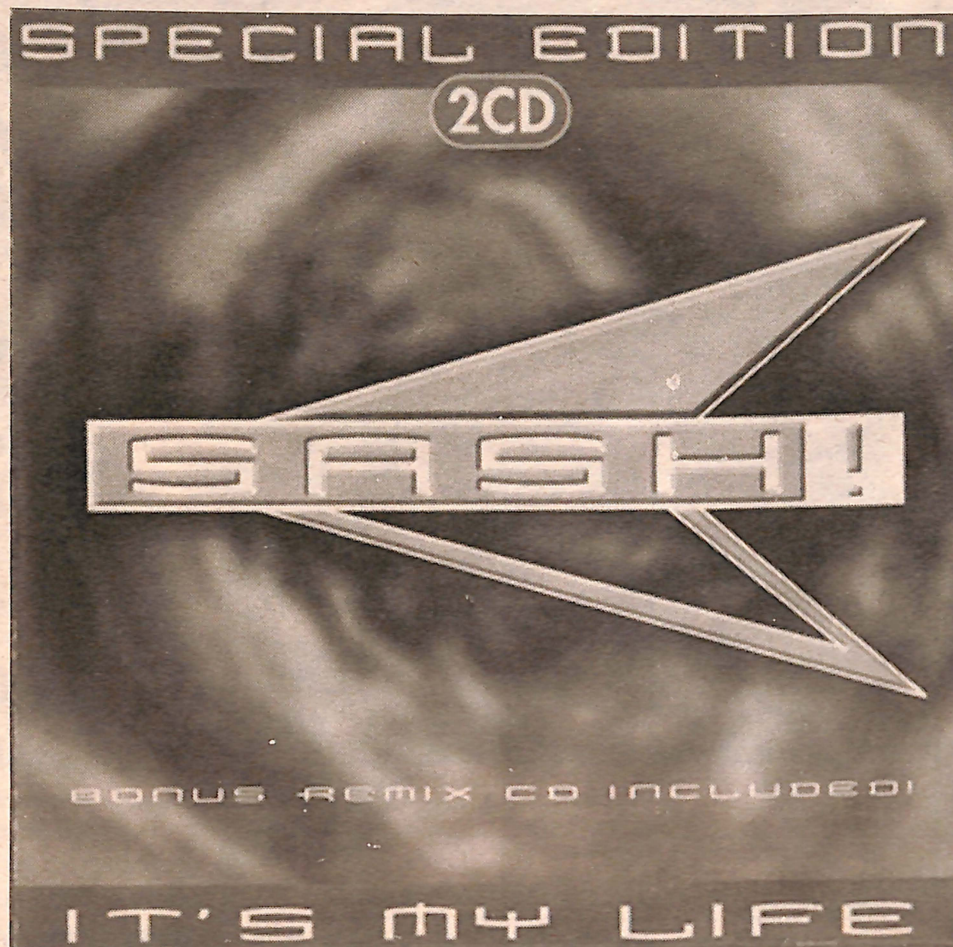
Alright, so now that you know a bit about this awesome CD

I am willing to bet some cash that anybody out there who loves dance / underground / house music has heard of Sash.

another. So what about your dance music collection, can you list off some hot albums that you have? If you own one of the Much Dance compilations, a Chris Sheppard compilation or an MC Mario Album, then you are pretty well in the mainstream - good work. (By the way, MC Mario has a new album out there, check it out.) Now comes the question, do you have anything by Sash? I know what you may be thinking, "here we go with another shit ass CD review that nobody has ever heard of." Not quite. I am willing to bet some cash that anybody out there who loves dance/underground/house music has heard of Sash. Some of his hits include "Encore Une Fois" and "Ecuador," which appeared on MC Mario Dance 2001. Even if these songs don't ring a bell, you would have heard his music played downtown in the bars. The thing about the dance music scene in Halifax is that where it

he's amazing! It is no surprise then that one of his recent releases is just as incredible. The album is entitled "It's my Life" and it is a special edition CD by Scandinavian Records. It isn't entirely new, a lot of the songs have been around since late '97, but it is an album that simply can not be passed by. It has all of Sash's huge hits plus a second CD containing 11 remixes. There are tracks on there that I haven't even heard of and, trust me, I know my category. Every song on there is true to Sash's style, capturing and energetic. Many of his songs have a marvelous harmony of spirit and soul that makes them haunt the mind for weeks on end and hypnotize you to going back to your stereo and playing them over and over religiously. If that isn't enough, add the sensational remix abilities of Furture Breeze, Merlyn & Chuck mellow, and Boris and Beck, and what you get is an over the top off the meter

where do you get it? If you can't get it at HMV on Spring Garden Road, go to the ol' computer and try one of 2 web sites, www.musicblvd.com or 101cd.com. I am not all that familiar with 101cd but it is based in England so delivery may be expensive. The boulevard is located in the USA and has several hundred thousand albums including "It's My Life." That's where I



got my copy from. Oh.....ya...um the price is in the red zone if you are a bargain hunter. By the time you get it here with tax, shipping and what have you it will carry a red tag of about \$55. HMV may offer a bit better price, but the version I saw there doesn't have the remix CD with it. However ask if it can be put on special order - don't be a moonrock and say "screw this." You ask questions, you get answers. AND

remember, you get what you pay for.

Still apprehensive my friends? Well, just to assure I'm not fooling around here and trying to promote some no name artist, ask Kevin Fraser, Dave MacIsaac, Tony Perrin, Jason Perrin, Stamos, or any other DJ at the main dance clubs downtown who Sash is and if he's any good. You'll get a good review. Or check the single disc album out yourself at HMV, and if

you like it then ask them to order in the special edition so you can get the complete album. A true music lover stops at nothing to find a good album and is always in search of new pieces to add to their music library. I hope you will give Sash a try and look for his music next time you go shopping. A good dance music collection simply must have Sash in the house! Till next time keep on jammin'



~ THE ALEXANDER KEITH WAY ~



A blast with the past.

Back in the 1820s, the Maritimes were the place to be. Ships loaded down with goods from around the world berthed at the port cities. While down on the docks, soldiers and sailors, adventurers and merchants brought cosmopolitan flavour to the local scene.

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Athletics student awards

By Charity Baker

Once again, the athletes of Mount Saint Vincent prepared to accept the applause and admiration from the student body that they have been working so hard all year for. After a spectacular season it was time to give those that had worked the hardest what they truly deserved.

The Athletic (or Sports) Awards were given out at the Annual Mount Saint Vincent University Awards Banquet on Wednesday, March 24, 1999. Members from every team came to cheer on their fellow athletes in what turned out to be one of the longest Awards show this year. After everything was said and done the banquet lasted about five hours. The Sports Awards were given after the Academics Awards.

The Awards were presented by several members of the Mount Athletic community. The following people accepted awards for their contribution and hard work throughout the year. The Margaret Ellis Award was presented to Amy Bower for outstanding leadership in

recreation. The Intramural Team of the Year was the ACAA Basketball Championship Committee. They received this award for their display of outstanding school spirit.

After these awards the individual sports were given out. In Badminton, James Pasley received the award for most improved player while Chris White and Grace White were presented with the award for most valuable players.

In Men's Basketball, the most improved player award went to Ian McRae. Peter Turnbull accepted the award for most valuable player. In Women's Basketball the award for most improved player went to Sarha Gillis and the most valuable player award was given to Leanne O'Hanley.

In Women's Soccer there were two most improved players, Jennifer Hardie and Anna Phymmer. Lisa Patterson received the most valuable player award.

Once the individual sports were completed it went

back to the overall awards. The Recognition Award went to Karen Decker, for outstanding service and quality care of the MSVU Varsity Athletes. Karen is the physiotherapist who worked with the athletes when they were suffering from their hard work.

The CCAA Academic All Canadian Award went to Lisa Patterson while the Coach of the Year went to the Mens' Basketball Coaching Staff.

Finally, the award everyone was waiting for, the Athlete of the Year, was presented. This award was presented to Tara Kinch and Peter Turnbull.

At the end of the night, the athletes, and all the other people who won awards celebrated in Vinnie's Pub at the Post Awards Party. Everyone had worked hard all year to receive the awards they were given, and now it was time to have fun. Congratulations were given out and everyone went home happy that their work was acknowledged and appreciated.



James Tilley

The Black & White Party was another success with its swing dancing lessons (with Marco DiQuinzio) and the famed balloon drop.

Elite Women's Spring League

Mount Saint Vincent University is hosting an Elite Women's Spring League. Participants must have MELBA, College, University, or Grade 12 playing experience (or equivalent). The league is played on Monday evenings, beginning April 19, with a Player Draft scrimmage night on April 12, from 8:00-9:00pm. Cost of the league is \$50. For more information, or to register, call 457-6420.

Midget Girl's Spring League

Mount Saint Vincent University is hosting a Midget Girl's Spring League, for players aged 12-15. Participants must have at least one year of Bantam or Junior High experience. The league is played on Friday evenings, beginning April 16, with a Player Draft scrimmage on April 12, from 6:30-7:30pm. Cost of the league is \$50. For more information, or to register, call 457-6420.

Men's Spring Basketball League

Mount Saint Vincent University is hosting their annual MSVU Spring Basketball League. Participants can register individually or as a team. Players will compete Sunday and Wednesday night for nine weeks. A draft night will be held on Sunday, April 18 at 7:00pm. League play will start Wednesday April 21. The registration fee is \$70. The league will be filled on a first paid basis. To register and for more information call 457-6420.

Quebec sweeps senior women's hockey nationals

By Jasmine Hogg

MONTREAL (CUP)—Members of Concordia University's women's hockey team traded in their school stripes for the colours of Team Quebec last weekend when they travelled to Mississauga, Ont., to upset Alberta in the final of the 18th annual Esso Women's National Championships.

The 4-2 win over the defending champion added one last gold medal to the Concordia team's 1998-1999 season collection.

Concordia Stringer Julie Healy acted as head coach for the Quebec squad for the third year in a row and says this year's team was the best she's ever coached.

"We played fast, in-your-face hockey, and we didn't let up for

anybody," Healy said after the tournament.

But Quebec also played by the rules, Healy noted—an endeavour that earned them Most Sportsmanlike Team honours at the closing banquet on Sunday.

The championship, which featured eight provinces including two-time defending champion Oval X-Treme from Alberta, showcased the best in Canadian women's hockey. The tournament boasted 17 of Canada's World Women's Hockey champions, 14 of Nagano's 1998 Olympic silver medalists, 16 members of last December's Three Nations Cup winners and nine players from

Canada's Under-22 National Team.

Team Quebec opened the tournament at Mississauga's brand new Hershey Centre with a resounding 4-0 win over Team Saskatchewan, then defeated Alberta 5-2 and Prince Edward Island 11-1 to sweep the round-robin in Pool A.

In Pool B, the Beatrice Aeros—Ontario's top team, star-studded with eight national team members—came out on top after going undefeated in the preliminary round, but lost unexpectedly by a 2-1 margin to Alberta in the semifinal.

Ontario subsequently took out their frustrations by giving New Brunswick a sound 11-0 beating in

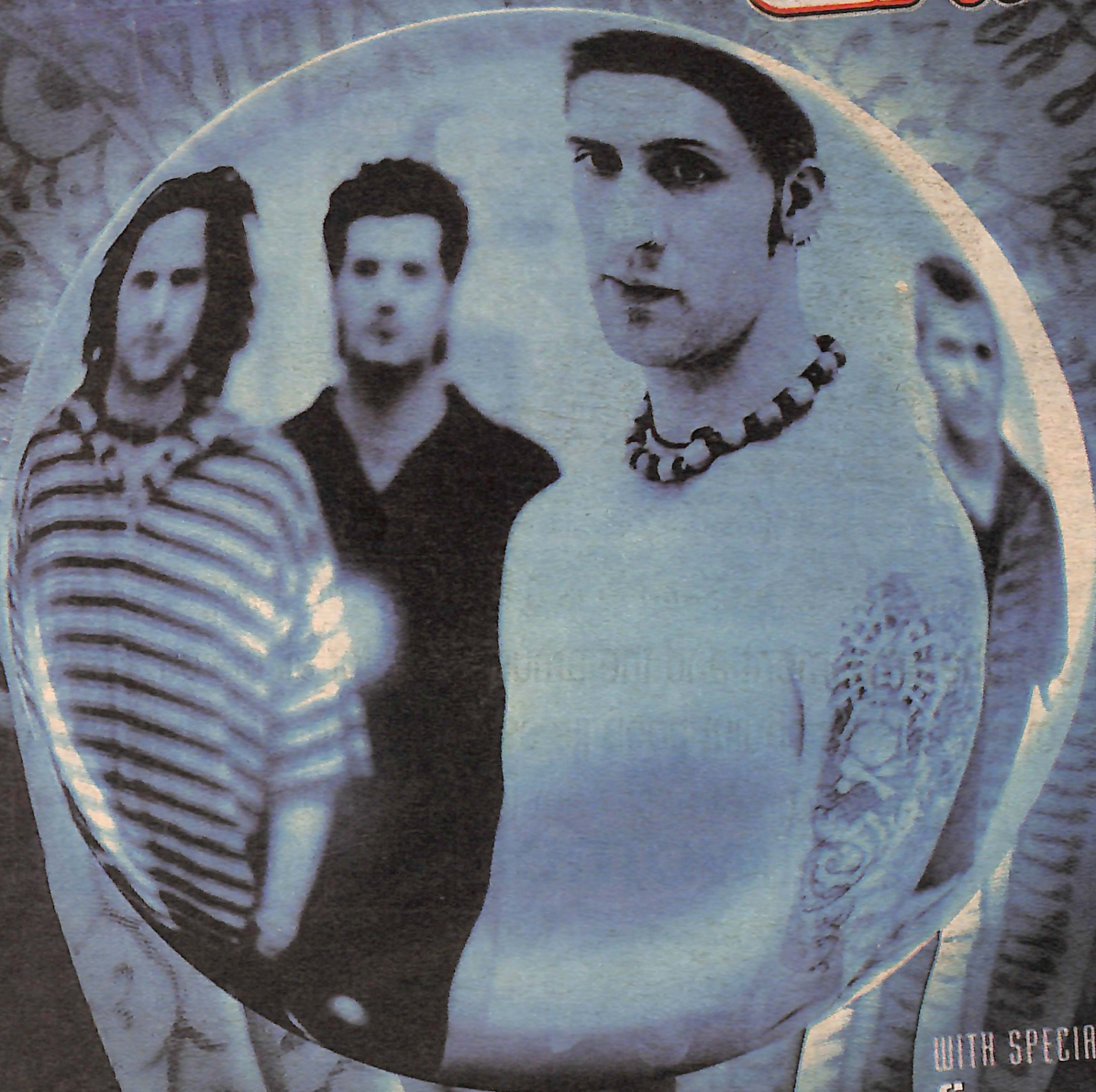
the bronze medal game.

Riding their three-game unbeaten streak, Quebec went par for the course in their semifinal round by shutting out Team New Brunswick a numbing 10-0, and advancing to the championship game against tournament MVP Hayley Wickenheiser and the Alberta squad.

nger Allard ended the tournament well, collecting a total of seven points on one goal and six assists in five games. Her Stinger teammates put in equally noteworthy performances. Quebec's leading scorer, Caroline Ouellette, was named the tournament's top scorer for her eight goals and five assists over the weekend.

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That is it. You have reached the end of the *Sicaro*. It is just a matter of flipping the paper around to read a normal edition of the *Picaro*. Admittedly, the *Picaro* is not quite as fun as the *Sicaro*, but I suppose all good things must come to an end. For our own the amusement and the amusement for all of you. Enjoy the *Sicaro*! warned everything contained with in is a fictitious. Meaning we just made it all up Your are at the end of the *Picaro* . If you want to shock your senses. But be



To: The Members of the Mount Saint Vincent University Community

From: Janne Cleveland, Status of Women Officer, Student Union

Re: The Picaro

As the Status of Women Officer, representing the concerns of students on campus, I feel it necessary to apprise the members of the Mount community of the utterly reprehensible and irresponsible use to which the student newspaper has been put recently. Knowing it is the last issue, clearly the editorial staff are under the assumption that they cannot or will not be held accountable. Many of you will have seen the issue, in which a parody of the Picaro, named the Sicaro, has appeared. While it has been traditional to use this format in the final issue each year to poke some harmless fun, the editors of this particular edition have gone well beyond the acceptable bounds. Contained within its pages are many examples of racism, homophobia, and blatant misogyny, which need to be addressed. The following are some highlights of the Sicaro:

- page one presents a homophobic innuendo wherein homosexuality and the image of the Mount are visually and textually reduced to childish behaviour and shame
- page three allows that the student pub has turned a profit as the result of prostitution
- also on page three a female student is presented as a sexual object
- page four pictorially reduces three women to sexual body parts, while simultaneously maintaining a racist, misogynist, and homophobic tone
- page five uses sexual innuendo to discredit the institution
- page eight reduces the incoming President of Student Union to an alcoholic with no moral character
- page eight also reduces the winner of the Student Union President's award to a sexual sycophant
- page eleven is a full page of instruction in sexual positions supposedly endorsed by various members of the student body
- page sixteen reduces one of their own editorial staff to the status of "invisible" for having the temerity to criticize the newspaper
- page sixteen also pictorially presents another of their staff as a brainless and insatiable sex object
- page eighteen renders another member of their team as a sexually insatiable misogynist
- page nineteen demonstrates more of their cut-and-paste finesse by representing a young woman performing fellatio on one of the editors
- page twenty presents another member of the newspaper staff as a former reproductive slave taking refuge in the Mount's largely female population - this one is also homophobic

At an educational institution whose student population is predominantly female, many of whom are non-traditional, mature students, these representations are abhorrent and unacceptable. Aside from the usual spelling and grammatical errors (and they are legion), the issue discredits the institution and shows a complete lack of respect for all members of this community. It also reflects a complete incomprehensibility of the concepts of parody and humour. This total lack of judgement and the clearly evident malicious intent of the articles, none of which are credited to any author, should not go unchallenged. Every member of this community should be offended



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STUDENT UNION
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HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA
B3M 2J6
PHONE (902) 443-4224 • (902) 457-6123
FAX (902) 457-0444

April 10, 1999

An Open Letter to Members of the Mount Community:

This letter is in response to the latest issue of The Picaro. While we assume that The Picaro intended the *Sicaro* segment of the newspaper to be in good fun, the majority of the segment was clearly in poor taste and unfairly portrayed members of the Mount community. The Picaro **should not** be used as a vehicle to disrespect, alienate or embarrass any individual or group of individuals. By doing so The Picaro disrespects and embarrasses us all.

The Picaro is an independently incorporated body, autonomous from the Student Union. Because of this fact and considering that this was the last issue for this year, we have very little recourse other than to voice our displeasure and extreme disappointment with the decisions made for the last issue. It may be comforting for members of the community to know that we have recently finalized a contract between the Student Union and The Picaro. One of the clauses in this contract will require a Publishing Board be installed in September before The Picaro is eligible for funding from the Student Union. It is our hope and belief that this agreement will prevent problems such as this from occurring, or at the very least it will provide an avenue of recourse.

The Picaro is "Mount Saint Vincent University's Student Newspaper" and as such we feel that it should represent the Mount and all members of the community fairly and in good taste. The Student Union respects the autonomy of The Picaro, but with this autonomy comes responsibility. We strongly urge the editors and staff to use better judgement in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Sheldon Miller'.

Sheldon Miller
President

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Alison Druhan'.

Alison Druhan
Executive Vice-President

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Janne Cleveland'.

Janne Cleveland
Status of Women Officer

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Ron Pottie'.

Ron Pottie
Vice-President (Academic)

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Margaret Ann McIntosh'.

Margaret Ann McIntosh
Vice-President (External)

To: The Members of the Mount Saint Vincent University Community

From: Tim Boudreau, Editor-in-Chief, *The Picaro*

Re: *The Sicaro*

April 16, 1999

Since the release of *The Picaro's* spoof issue, *The Sicaro*, there has been a great deal of anger expressed regarding its content. First of all, we at *The Picaro* wish to apologize to those who are angered by our spoof issue. Publishing a spoof issue is a common practice for any student newspaper in Canada; it gives untrained editors a chance to experiment with excess and satire. Working for a student newspaper is meant to be a learning experience for aspiring journalists who wish to develop various styles of writing. Satire is but one of these styles. Granted the quality of *The Sicaro's* satire may not be of "professional" calibre, but it should be remembered that we are an amateur paper with untrained writers and editors. It would be unfair to judge us against the same criteria as a professional publication. Other Halifax-based universities have published similar spoof issues, arguably as racy as our own. I might add that these other papers are distributed as widely on this campus as *The Picaro*. However, those who are angered by *The Sicaro* believe that a student newspaper created at a university dedicated to the education of women should not print the same material as a paper from another school. In other words, what is appropriate at Dal, for instance, is not appropriate at the Mount. So to these people, the editors of *The Picaro* would like to express our sincerest apologies.

In our opinion, and in that of others, *The Picaro* has in fact been a good paper this year. We have responsibly covered news stories and have even broken a few stories. Over the course of the year, *The Picaro* has published several articles which have been very appropriate and beneficial for the Mount community. For instance we started the year with a feature story on Rosa Parks, the Mother of the Modern Day Civil Rights Movement in North America, who received an honorary degree from the Mount last summer. In addition to this we also ran an informative feature on Rohypnol: the date rape drug. We ran a full color two-page center spread on the Week of Reflection, as well as a two-page center spread on Eating Disorder Awareness Week.

It should be pointed out that a significant number of students at this university believe *The Sicaro* was appropriate. We have conducted an on-campus petition in which we received, in less than an hour, more than one-hundred signatures, predominantly female, supporting *The Sicaro*. Nevertheless, we at *The Picaro* do believe a specific apology should be given to Janne Cleveland. We understand that many feel we were attempting to personally attack Ms. Cleveland in *The Sicaro*, which was not our intention. *The Picaro* did, in fact, issue an official letter of apology to Ms. Cleveland on April 8, 1999.

Once again, *The Picaro* would like to express our apologies to those who are offended by *The Sicaro*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Boudreau", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tim Boudreau, Editor-in-Chief, *The Picaro*