

# the PICARO

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## New study suggests educational imbalance across Canada

By Darren Stewart and Christie Tucker, Ottawa Bureau

OTTAWA (CUP) - A new study of Canadian universities suggested massive imbalances in educational opportunity and quality across the different provinces.

Independent think tank and research group, the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA) released "Missing Pieces II," Wednesday, which uses a unique and extensive set of rankings to rate the services and opportunities provided by universities.

Report co-author Erika Shaker said the CCPA discovered some disturbing trends and occurring in higher education across the country.

"Accessibility to university and college is now largely determined by income bracket and province of residence," she said.

Ontario and Alberta universities are doing badly compared to other provinces according to the study. The 10 provinces were compared in terms of equity, accessibility, quality and public accountability and further evaluated based on 19 indicators from the percentage of women in faculty to tuition rates. Three highest-ranking provinces overall were British Columbia, Quebec and Manitoba, while the lowest three were Alberta, Saskatchewan and Ontario. Manitoba's improvement from sixth in last year's ranking to third this year is partially a result of the government's recent imple-

mentation of a tuition freeze.

But, as co-author Denise Doherty-Delorme said at a press conference in Ottawa, even top-ranking provinces still had much room for improvement.

"First place by no means implies perfection. Superiority is only on a comparative basis."

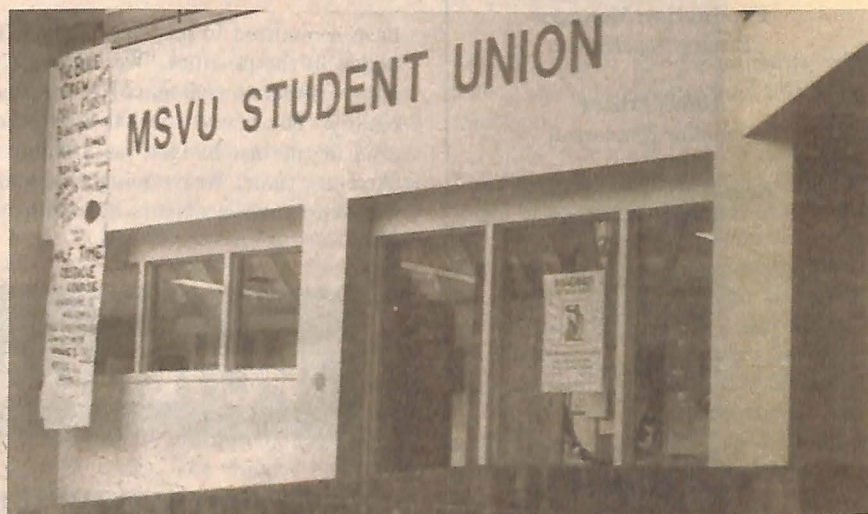
Doherty-Delorme said the study is important because of its deeper discussion of issues necessary to be considered in a system of university rankings, unlike some more popular ranking systems.

"This is not a tinkering exercise," said Doherty-Delorme. "When dealing with education what is needed is a complete discussion based on the evidence, including information on social and economic inequities associated with pursuing an education."

She said that studies like this show important trends that need to be addressed by governments of all levels in Canada. "People from lower socioeconomic backgrounds aren't even applying [to university]," she said.

"There are massive inequities entrenched across the country. The face of campus is changing as accountability is being limited," added Shaker. "We hope that this report might be a wake-up call for the governments."

Alberta Ministry of Learning representative Randy Kilburn said that Alberta is and has always



## Students' Union slashes spending

President and General Manager aim to "do more with less"

By Jennifer Henderson

Mount Saint Vincent Students' Union recently tabled its 2000-2001 budget. The new, leaner budget is a dramatic departure from the spending of previous years.

"With this budget we cut everything. Where there was extra money we cut it," explains Students' Union president Colette Nickerson.

Nickerson says the downsizing was necessary in part to cover carry-over costs incurred in past years. She cites funding to on-campus societies as one of the major cuts. Society funding is listed as \$2000 for 2000-2001 compared to \$7000 in 1999-2000. Although the \$2000 must be divided between 30 societies, Nickerson believes there is enough to go around.

"Most societies don't spend any of the money we give them," she says.

Edna Mabodoko, president of the International Students Society sees things differently. Mabodoko is disappointed about the \$45 grant given to the society. She noted the significant difference between this year's allocation and the approximately \$300 provided last year. Mabodoko says the International Students Society relies on Students' Union and the proceeds of a bake sale to fund their activities for the year.

"That \$45 is all Students' Union plans to give us. We won't be able to do any of the things we had planned. We were hoping to hold a fashion show but now we can't even

afford to hire a deejay."

Although President Nickerson has reduced funding for societies, staff conferences and miscellaneous items, one area she refuses to cut is honourariums to Executive Council members. Last spring, the Executive Council approved a collective pay raise for themselves. Nickerson says it would be unfair to roll back the pay scale at this point.

"We haven't given any thought to this. I don't think the decision can be reversed. These people took these jobs based on what they would be making this year."

She hopes new revenue generating ideas in the works will give Students' Union bank account a boost.

"We're thinking of ways to increase revenue but not at the expense of students."

This is a sentiment echoed by Students' Union General Manager Kenny Fitzpatrick.

"Our motto at this point is 'less spending, more activities.' We want to take advantage of what we have," he says.

Fitzpatrick hopes to implement a vendor program where commercial and service vendors will be able to set up kiosks in the Rosaria Student Centre to market to students. Each vendor would be charged a rental fee for use of the space.

"It would work on two levels; bringing in cash for Students' Union and offering a service to students," he says.

... continued on page 2

## What's Inside

News	2
Editorial/Opinion	3
Arts and Entertainment	4
Sports	7
Special Features	8



**Volume 36 Issue 8**

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**Educational imbalance**

... continued on page 1

been committed to post-secondary education in the province. "We have added more to student assistance [for post-secondary education] than to any other area in the last budget," said Kilburn. "And stay tuned. We're going to be making some announcements about important

aspects of post-secondary education very soon."

Alberta was identified by the report as the province with the most extreme tuition hikes between 1990 and 2000, at a 208.8 per cent rise in that time. Shaker said that tuition was of particular concern to the study. "We have to look at the degree to which students are becoming impoverished for what is basically now a job requirement," she said.

This is the second year the CCPA has released an evaluation of the

provinces' educational commitment. Shaker said that the organization was concerned that conventional university rankings overlook government responsibility when they evaluate individual schools. "We wanted to provide a forum for students and faculty to broaden their discussion of the state of higher education," said Shaker.

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**NOVA SCOTIA**  
Economic Development



# Perspectives on the non-funding of the student newspaper

By Picaro staff

Seventy-five cents won't buy you a textbook. Seventy-five cents won't buy you lunch. Seventy-five cents won't even get you from point A to B on public transit, but it does provide you with a free student newspaper. Or at least it use to.

You pay \$21.28 per unit in Students' Union fees. In the past, less than a dollar of this money went to fund the Picaro. This money supplements our advertising revenue and allows us to print every two weeks for the academic year. On December 1st, Students' Union's budget was passed and we found, to our surprise and extreme disappointment, that this year would be different. Next to the line item for The Picaro was a zero.

The Picaro has always been funded by the Students' Union and since 1999 we have had a contract with them. Students' Union doesn't run the Picaro; it would be inappropriate to do so. After all, should the Federal government run the Globe and Mail? At the time the contract was signed, the Union recognized the importance of free student media on campus and made the commitment to fund 45 to 60 percent of our budget. This money does not come out of Students' Union's funds but is taken from the student fees that each student pays. Thus we all fund The Picaro indirectly when we pay these fees.

This year we operated under the assumption that we would be funded as we had always usual. In fact, in the summer we were assured by the executive that we would be funded. When the Union failed to provide funding by the October 28th deadline we were again assured that money was on its way. By the time that we found out that they had no intention of funding us, we had accumulated serious debts. This had never been a problem in the past; we would operate on credit, our funding kicked in and we rolled right along.

The Picaro has some pretty big expenses, printing costs being the most significant. There is also delivery costs,

equipment repair and office supplies. Normally members of staff receive an honorarium. Nothing huge, considering most editors put in 20-40 hour weeks, but an extra \$1000 over the course of a year can be quite significant. Some of us can't really afford not to have a job. Because of the honorarium, we can get paid for doing something that we enjoy. However, when money is tight, staff are the last to be paid. We've all been working for free since September.

Had we known from the beginning that we weren't going to receive funding, provisions could have been made. We would have printed less frequently, made smaller issues, and those of us that needed to work to support themselves could have found outside jobs. Hopefully, we could have worked with the Student Union to find another form of funding, something that couldn't happen over night. In reality, the Picaro cannot exist without outside funding. Operating strictly on advertising would mean a paper made up mostly of ads.

As of this issue, the state of the Picaro is becoming critical. We owe our printer thousands of dollars, we're running out of office supplies and our creditors are demanding payment. But we won't give up. The students of Mount Saint Vincent deserve an unbiased forum to air their views, and hold the university accountable for its decisions.

We are committed to working with members of the university community towards a solution that is in the best interest of the students. We believe a healthy, successful student newspaper to be part of this solution.

If you would like to part of the solution, or would like more information please contact us at 457-6386 or visit us at room 114 Rosaria Centre.

By Students' Union Executive

The MSVU Students' Union unanimously passed the 2000-2001 budget in council on Friday, December 1st. Budget implications are that wherever it was feasible to decrease line items, that action was taken. This was true for many of the line items. We have a team of competent Executive and Councillors who have spent countless hours trying to balance a budget that would be in the best interest of the students and also realistic for the welfare of the future of this organization. This budget reflects our goal of responsible management of student funds. The budget had to be trimmed to ensure the maintenance and accountability of the Students' Union. Each and every line item of the budget was considered, and cut down to the actual amount that has been spent so far this term, leaving a very modest amount left over for the remainder of the term. The budget is the means by which we

are accountable for the students who belong and subsequently fund this organization.

Cuts were made in every area, with The Picaro feeling the biggest financial loss. I would like to point out that in the MSVUSU Financial Statements for April 30, 1997, that "The newspaper is no longer operated by the Students' Union", and this should clear up any misconceptions about our financial obligations to The Picaro. The Picaro is neither a Students Union society nor service. Although the Students' Union is not momentarily funding the Picaro this year, there is still other types of funding that still exist. The MSVUSU continues to provide The Picaro with a large office, and we pay for their phone, faxes, and photocopies. I would urge any student who has questions to contact Students' Union at 457-6434.

## I found my place at the Mount

by Charity Baker, alumna

My first year of university was an awkward time. I expected university to be a lot like high school, and because a few of my friends were going to the same school, I really thought that I would basically spend my free time with them. Because I wasn't living in residence I didn't really take part in frosh events so the only people I really knew in university were the people I knew from high school.

Before long, the people from high school were finding their own places in the university. Whether it was joining the Business Society or the Badminton team, they really didn't have the time to hang with me, a general studies student who couldn't find a place to fit in.

It wasn't until part way through my second year that I discovered what I came to think of as the general melting pot of Mount Saint Vincent University. I was walking through the school when I saw a notice that the Picaro was looking for writers and editors. I liked to write, and I had submitted some pieces to my high school paper so I thought maybe I had found a place to meet some people and spend some time. A way to get involved.

The Picaro was probably the best thing that happened to me during my time at the Mount. When I walked in everyone there was more than welcome. I got the position as Features/Sports Editor and I made some great friends.

The Picaro isn't limited to one type of people: there are PR students, Business students, General Studies, or like myself English students.

Due to my involvement in the Picaro I've met some wonderful people, both at the Mount and from other universities. Above that, my place at the paper helped me get involved in other activities like Frosh week.

I've been connected to the paper during some of the worst times. If I haven't been directly involved with the paper, I've been friends of those who are. This paper is one of the best parts of Mount Saint Vincent University. As I said before, as the general melting pot of the school, it is totally accepting and welcomes everyone into its tiny space.

The Picaro is a vital part of the school, that allows people like myself, who really have no other way to get involved in the school or get to know other students, a meeting place. This paper has a lot to be proud of, and it should continue to be there for the students and the Mount community.

I didn't find my place at Vinnie's, at the gym or on student council. So, if you're wondering if it really is worth your student fees to have a student newspaper, consider the students like me. Many students get a lot from this paper, and who knows, maybe if you give it a try, you'll get a lot out of it too.

If you have an opinion about this, or any other topic, please email Melissa, thepicaro@hotmail.com or stop by the office, room 114 Rosaria Centre. Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words and opinions pieces should be no longer than 500 words. All submissions must be on disk, in rich text format or e-mailed in the body of the email. The Picaro reserves the right to edit or reject stories.



# So you want to work in the entertainment industry?

*A guide to getting your dream job in the biz...*

By Nicola Hanson

## Part 1: Music

Finding a job in the music business is not as hard as it seems. As with most jobs, you must be willing to start at the bottom and work your way up. I know, you did not go to school for this many years, finding yourself this far in debt only to be the administrative assistant for the person who has your dream job. However, rumour has it that Steven Spielberg started that way!

Some of you are still working on your degree. But, you have to have experience beyond crunching numbers for a fictitious clients for an accounting class, writing a Psychology test on Freud and his ideas on the Oedipus complex, or writing an English paper analyzing Yeats' Leda and the Swan and H.D.'s (Hilda Doolittle) retort Leda. Right? Of course. Your love of music, alone, is not enough land you a job in a record store never mind employ you in a position where you get to hang out with the semi-rich and famous.

So, how do you get this experience? There are many ways, including volunteering. There are many volunteer opportunities in Halifax, Nova Scotia and across the Atlantic provinces. Here are a few non-profit organizations:

- \* Music Industry Association of Nova Scotia
- \* Jazz East
- \* East Coast Music Associations
- \* Songwriter's Association of Nova Scotia

Here are some positions found in the corporate world of the music industry. These descriptions come from Sony Music Canada, but most of the music companies operate similarly.

### Artist & Repertoire

A&R can be considered the research and development arm of the music industry. A & R representatives continually seek out new talent and work to ensure current talent is developed.

### Music Publishing

Music publishing department is in itself a business. They control the copyright of songwriters' music and administer the royalties (money music makes) earned. Publishing actively pursues creative collaborations between songwriters and performers and encourages other performers to record our songwriters' music. They also pursue opportunities in

film and television for songwriters' music.

### Engineering & Maintenance

Distribution, comprised of Distribution Customer Service and the Distribution Warehouse. Creative Services/Video Production. This is a diverse group of people who provide Marketing and Sales with the tools to do their jobs. They are the people behind the scene creating the visuals you see on TV, in a store window or the CD you purchase.

### Marketing

The Marketing Division creates the need to own a new piece of music, or the work of a new artist. The combined efforts of the Marketing Division, whether genre specific (Classical, Jazz, Children's, TV broadcast) or Label specific handle the myriad of details surrounding the release of an album.

### Media Relations

Major Canadian and International music companies (most have offices in the major Canadian centres):

**BMG Music Canada**  
www.bmgcanada.com

**EMI Music Canada**  
www.emimusic.ca

**Sony Music Canada**  
www.sonymusic.ca

**Universal Music Canada**  
www.universalcandada.com

**Warner Music Canada**  
www.warnermusic.ca

Smaller music companies:

Festival Records

www.festival.bc.ca

Naxos Canada

Select

Koch

www.kockcan.com

Distribution Fusion

www.fusion3.com

Trend

www.trendmusic.com

Indiepool

www.indiepool.com

Oasis Entertainment

www.oasis-ent.com

Outside Music

Government

N/A

N/A

The Media Relations department coordinates all activities between the artist and media outlets. Beginning with the mailout of the album to interview opportunities, they also create biographies, select media photos, and build relationships with media outlets, writers, and reviewers.

### Finance

The Finance division consists of 5 major groups: Business Planning & Analysis, Corporate Business Processes, Finance Administration, Financial Reporting, Internal Control & Operational Audit and Talent Financial Services, each with very different roles and responsibilities. Tasks range from collecting revenue and paying the bills, to managing corporate systems, to providing reports and analysis that support

strategic decision making throughout the company.

### IS

Through the integration of innovative systems and technology, the Information Services Division partners with all aspects of the business.

### New Media

The New Media Group is responsible for creating an online presence for all the artists.

### E-commerce

This department is accessible through the World Wide Web, and offers a unique customer experience with exciting contests and promotions, exceptional

customer service and has the benefits of



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#### Legal & Business Affairs

The Legal & Business Affairs division interacts with all other divisions within the company, in its role in ensuring that the interests of the company are protected and enhanced. The division is involved at all stages of the development of artists, from their initial signing, the recording of their albums, videos, etc., as well as other aspects of their careers.

#### Sales

The main focus of the Sales Division is to motivate customers to purchase various products and to ensure the availability and awareness of these products to the end consumer.

#### Promotion

The Promotion department works primarily with radio programmers to secure airplay for artists.

There are a few government agen-

cies dedicated to promoting and enhancing the cultural industry in Canada. They do not hire as regularly as the major music companies, there are fewer employees so they generally look for people who are efficient, enthusiastic and able to multi-task.

Department of Culture and Heritage  
Foundation to Assist Canadian Talent on Record (FACTOR)  
Arts Council of Canada  
Nova Scotia Arts Council

#### Not-for-profit Associations

Similar to government organizations, not-for-profit do not hire permanent employees often, however they do contract out work during peak seasons. In order to gain permanent employment, you should be enthusiastic, multi-tasking, and able to handle the stress of not having enough funding. For most of the people who work in not-for-profit organizations, there is no other way of life; you

are able to do what you love, assist people from all walks of life, and facilitate the growth music industry.

#### Music Publishers

While some distributor have an in-house team that takes care of music publishing, in many cases it is a separate company under a corporate umbrella. For example, under the corporate umbrella of EMI Music Canada lies EMI Music Publishing Canada. What do music publishers do?

Music publishers control the copyright of songwriters' music and administer the royalties (money music makes) earned. Publishing actively pursues creative collaborations between songwriters and performers and encourages other performers to record our songwriters' music. They also pursue opportunities in film and television for songwriters' music.

There are other areas of the music business which require formal training. These areas include music video production and sound recording. Support services for the music industry include many trades such as: booking agents,

accountants and music industry associations.

The major points I would like to make when looking for a job in the music industry are:

1. Get involved with the music associations in your area. That is the best way to know who the players are in your area.
2. Work for a record store. You will expend your knowledge of all kinds of music, learn how the music industry works, and meet the people in the music community.
3. Read trade publications. That is a great way to keep your finger on the happenings in the industry.
4. The thing you need to remember above all else, people are in the music industry because that is what they love. You should love music is this is what you want to do for a career.

#### Next Issue: Part 2

So you want to work in the Entertainment industry?

A Short guide to getting your dream job in the biz... Film

### *The University of Prince Edward Island Career Development Centre presents:*

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The studentships are supported jointly by Cancer Care Nova Scotia and CaRE, the Cancer Research and Education program sponsored by the National Cancer Institute of Canada, the Dalhousie Faculty of Medicine and the Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation.



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(902) 473-4698  
(902) 473-4637



Cancer Care  
Nova Scotia



# Man on the Mount

## Mount's Most Wanted (He's Mantastic)

**Name:** Keegan John Dawson

**Age:** 20

**Height:** 5'7"

**Weight:** 193 lbs

**Home Town:** Halifax

**Degree:** BA

**Major:** History

**Favorite Movie:** Lion King & Gladiator

**Favorite Book:** Have a Nice Day (by Mankind a.k.a. Mick Foley)

**Favorite Song:** Always by Bon Jovi, or Jump On It by Sir Mixalot

**Likes:** David Letterman (not in that kind of way), Ladies, Weight Lifting, Football & A Fine Cigar.

**Dislikes:** White Socks with Black Pants, Mess left in the link & Jay Leno

**Quote:** "I'm like a Peach, soft and furry on the outside, but hard to the core (P.S. give blood)"

If you know someone you would like to be "Man on the Mount" then drop off suggestions at the Picaro office room 114 Rosaria or e-mail us at [thepicaro@hotmail.com](mailto:thepicaro@hotmail.com)



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Canada





# Mount Superfan Is Star of the Game

By Beth Whyte

The average MSVU student goes to classes, makes an appearance at Vinnie's, eats the odd Aramark meal and goes to a sports game or two. There are some who do not go to the games, or to Vinnies, but for the most part this is how their lives go.

Then there is Dave Scholten, MSVU's very own superfan. When not in class he can be found at Vinnie's dancing up a storm, or sometimes seen dancing in the Assisi parking lot. Other times he beats boredom by piling as many people in a van as possible for a road trip to Truro with our sports teams.

Scholten believes his efforts and those of other fans are very important to the teams. He went to just about all of the women's soccer and basketball games, as well as the men's basketball games. He sees himself as a personal cheerleader for the women and feels all the teams really appreciate when he leads the cheers he has made up for them.

And do they ever. Ian MacRae, co-captain of the men's basketball team says, "The main thing is it gets us hyped up when fans like [Scholten] come." It makes them feel more worthwhile when a lot of fans come to watch the games.

All of the teams feel it is very important to have fans, an area that hasn't been lacking here at MSVU. "A few years back we had playoffs here and it was very packed," says MacRae. He goes on to say the normal games have not been much different, with many fans yelling and just plain making the teams feel good about what they are doing. Of course, no matter how packed the place gets out superfan manages to stand out in the crowd.

Support is good for everyone, whether it is a sports team, or something less competitive on our campus. To know we have so much support in all these areas makes this school a good place to be. I'm sure our superfan speaks for everyone when he yells out, "Go Mystics Go!"

## A CAREER IN ORTHOPTICS/OPHTHALMIC MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY

Orthoptics is the clinical science of ocular motility and binocular vision, and related disorders of the eyes. An Orthoptist is an allied health professional who works with ophthalmologists, (eye physicians and surgeons) analyzing and treating patients unable to use both eyes together because of an eye muscle or sensory abnormality. An Ophthalmic Medical Technologist assists the ophthalmologist with a wide range of diagnostic tests and procedures requiring a great deal of technical expertise.

In July 2001, the IWK Grace Health Centre will commence an accredited Twenty-four (24) month training program leading to a Certificate of Orthoptics and Ophthalmic Medical Technology. Applications are now being accepted from individuals holding a baccalaureate degree with courses in any of the following areas: psychology, physiology, biology, anatomy, physics, statistics, research methodology. Work/volunteer experience in the health care field will be considered an asset. Candidates should possess good communication skills, sound judgement, emotional maturity and a demonstrated ability to relate well to small children and to adults.

Financial assistance may be available to qualified students.

Deadline for application is February 28, 2001

For further information regarding a challenging, interesting and rewarding career in the health Care field, please write:

School of Orthoptics/Ophthalmic Medical Technology  
IWK Grace Health Centre  
PO Box 3070  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 3G9

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## OFFICIAL LANGUAGES: JOB OPPORTUNITIES AND BURSARIES

### WANT TO GET PAID FOR A LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCE?

Help students learn English as a second language. Work as an English monitor in the Official-Language Monitor Program!

- As a part-time monitor, you'll earn \$4,000 plus allowances.
- As a full-time monitor, you'll earn \$12,500 plus allowances.
- You'll also gain valuable work experience, improve your second-language skills, and supercharge your résumé.

### WANT TO LEARN FRENCH IN SUMMER 2001?

Study French at the Summer Language Bursary Program this summer!

- \$1,625 bursary covers tuition fees, meals, accommodations.
- You'll have a chance to see another part of Canada.
- A five-week course leaves you lots of time to earn money during the rest of the summer.

### WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Contact your student awards and placement office, the office of the provincial or territorial coordinator nearest you, or visit us online at [www.cmec.ca/olp/](http://www.cmec.ca/olp/), or call 1.877.866.4242. Ces renseignements sont disponibles en français.



Council of Ministers of Education, Canada  
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**Canada**



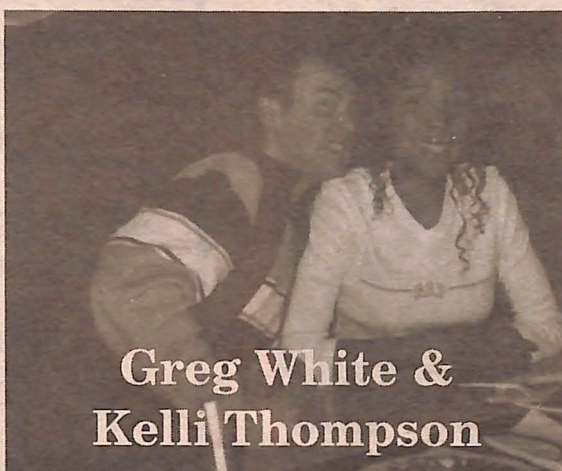
# Vox Populi

## How do you feel about Students' Union budget cuts to societies?



**Jasmine Marshall**

"Students need to be represented. They need money"



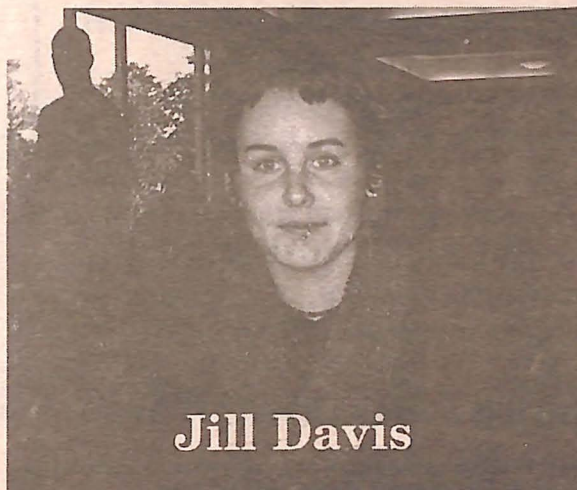
**Greg White & Kelli Thompson**

"What Funds?"



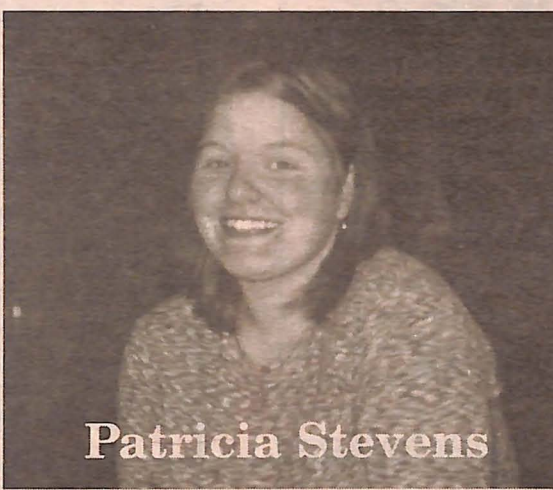
**Jason James**

"I'm against any slashing to funds, especially relating to education."



**Jill Davis**

"Who's getting my money? What can the Women's Studies Society do with 45 bucks!"



**Patricia Stevens**

"I want to know what happened to the money if societies are losing funding."



**Erin Donahoe, John Moshett & Exa Batiz**

"I want to know where our money is going instead of societies."

## A note on the new look of the Picaro:

You may have noticed that the Picaro looks different this issue. Although we continue to work to provide a better student newspaper, most of the changes were dictated by finances. In an attempt to operate despite our non-funding, we have cut back on size and number of pages. Unfortunately, we were not able to print as much content and until such time as we are funded the Picaro will continue to be lean. Nevertheless, we encourage students to contribute stories and editorial content. We are your voice and we hope to continue to be an integral part of the university community.