



The Picaro

Mount Saint Vincent University

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It's Evaluation Time Again

by Jennifer Amend

For three months now, professors have taken red pen in hand to mark away on midterms, assignments and term papers. Evaluating students' performance is, of course, part of their job as educators.

This week, students got to evaluate their classes and professors, and some may wonder just how course evaluations are used after those brown envelopes are taken to the dean's office.

"They're used by faculty members to see how they've done in a course, how the students are responding, and what sorts of adjustments they might have to make," says Reginald Stuart, Dean of Arts and Sciences.

Faculty often find students' written comments just as, if not more, valuable than the statistical data compiled from evaluations.

ations.

The numerical data provides a " cursory summation," says Professor Ellen Farrell, but written comments related to the size of groups, or response to the text book and projects are useful because they often reveal patterns suggesting a problem, or success, with an aspect of a course.

"If you find that the majority of students are saying that the textbook is not useful, then obviously I'm going to try to find a better text," says Professor Judith Scrimger. "The problem with evaluations is that students don't always tell you why."

This makes evaluations less useful, say faculty. And what happens when half the class says it likes a part of the course, and half doesn't?

"Information is often in-

conclusive in the sense that you may get a lot of polarization, which makes it hard to interpret," says Professor Gilles Deveau.

Evaluations are also used by department chairmen and deans to help faculty members solve any problems that might be developing, particularly with new faculty, says Stuart.

"There have been times in the past when I've certainly done that," he says. "And I know that some chairs have used these as a way to help faculty members improve their teaching."

Some faculty feel that evaluations aren't used enough in this way, and that they instead end up having more of a punitive function when faculty are up for promotion or tenure.

"Ideally, I'd like to see teaching evaluations used as a

tool to help people become better teachers," says Scrimger. "Instead, in my experience, it's often used as an evaluation device when it's too late."

Other concerns expressed by faculty are that evaluations are administered at a time in the semester when students are preoccupied, and that it takes a very long time to get the results.

Course evaluations are governed by university senate policy, which sets out who should be evaluated, how often, and by what procedures.

"Before a faculty member is tenured, every course is evaluated every year," says Stuart. "After that, evaluations happen at larger intervals."

Tenured faculty are evaluated in one course each year, according to the Dean's office, and faculty don't know which course will be selected. But more frequent evaluations can be requested by chairmen and faculty, says Stuart.

Several students said that

they would like to see tenured faculty evaluated on the same schedule as non-tenured professors.

"I think all courses - for tenured or untenured faculty - should be evaluated," said first-year public relations student, Heather Atiyah. "Feedback is important, and regular evaluation keeps people on their toes."

Department chairmen and faculty members will often ask for more of their courses to be evaluated than they're scheduled for, according to Stuart.

Faculty agree, and think that professors should make an effort to get student input as often as possible.

"A good teacher goes beyond the evaluations and looks for feedback throughout the course," says Scrimger.

Evaluations are accumulated for faculty members each year, forming part of their permanent academic file. These are

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The Mount Commemorates the Montreal Massacre

by Brooke DeLong

The Mount community will remember the 14 engineering students slain at Ecole Polytechnique in Montreal, Dec. 6, 1989.

A memorial service will be held at the Art Gallery at 12:30 p.m. on Dec. 6, 1995, the sixth anniversary of the Montreal Massacre.

"We had a commitment from the university that there would be no exams during this time," said Martha Martin, Mount chaplain.

Martin and Lori Anne Jones, the Student Union's Status of Women officer,

formed a committee of faculty, staff and students to plan the commemoration service. The memorial marks the end of the Week of Reflection, an awareness campaign that recognizes women who were victims of violence.

Following the service, 14 ribbons will be placed on trees as a tribute to the 14 engineers killed because they were women. Purple ribbons will be distributed to participants to place in many

of women who were abused.

Students are encouraged to wear a purple ribbon during the Week of Reflection as a sign of support to female victims of violence. Proceeds from the Purple Ribbon Campaign go to local

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Memorial cont.

women's shelters.

The bookstore is selling buttons to promote awareness of the Montreal Massacre. These were purchased from the YWCA, which has produced them since 1990, the first anniversary of the killings.

Half the proceeds from button sales go to the national YWCA to support programs for abused women and children. The remaining funds are given to local transition houses.

Jones says the committee tries to increase awareness of abuse against women by educating fellow students. "It's about education and dispelling myths about women; as if the violence is under control," she said. "In effect, it's still an epidemic".

Men are also encouraged to become involved in the campaign against violence. Jones says she has seen many men wearing purple ribbons. "I don't think you can isolate responsibility on anyone's shoulder," she said. "The solution comes from both genders, not just women."

Evaluation cont.

then read by department members' deans, and members of the university review committee who decide on reappointment, tenure and promotion.

"And it's my sense that they're taken very seriously by everyone," said Stuart.

Some students, like education student, Stephanie Caldwell, may be glad to know this. While she feels that some profs take them seriously, she says "it doesn't often seem to result in changes."

Students should also feel that it's appropriate to speak directly to faculty if they have a concern, said Stuart. "I know a lot of our students have no hesitation in doing that," he said.

If they feel that they haven't had satisfaction as a result of this, they can go to the department chairman. And if they have a really deep concern or serious problem, those concerns should be put in writing.

**National Communications Department Doane Raymond**

by Patricia Murphy Globe

Joelle Dollard and Maureen McInerney-Northcott, two Mount Saint Vincent University business students, participated in the sixth annual Doane Raymond Atlantic Universities Accounting Case Competition. The competition was hosted this year by the University College of Cape Breton (UCCB).

On November 3 and 4, students from eight universities gathered in Sydney, N.S., to take part in the competition. Their task was to present the best analysis and response to a challenging accounting case. The students received the case early Friday afternoon and had until 7:45 a.m. the next morning to analyse and research the case, and prepare for their presentation to the judging panel.

In this year's case, the students were expected to determine whether one company should purchase another in the aquaculture industry in light of uncertainty surrounding the valuation of its inventory.

The event was chaired by UCCB faculty member Virginia

Murray-Butts. Judges for the competition were from Doane Raymond: Susan McIsaac, C.A., a senior manager from Amherst, Grant Burgess, C.A., a partner in the Sydney office, and David Hope, F.C.A., national human resources partner, from Halifax. In evaluating each team, the judges considered both technical content



McInerney-Northcott, Grant Burgess, CA, David Nunn

and presentation skills.

"Each group had its own strengths and seemed to hit something in our criteria," McIsaac said.

The team from Saint Mary's University won the competition and received a cash prize and an engraved silver tray to display on their campus until the 1996 event.

The case competition offers students an opportunity to challenge themselves and to find

out what their peers at other universities are studying.

"The competition gives you a chance to apply what you've spent the last two or three years learning to a real situation, and you get some practice doing presentation," said Natalie Gouthro, a member of the Saint Mary's team. "You never know what to expect from a competition like this, but it was a great time. I met some people with Doane Raymond and a lot of other accounting students from across the Maritimes."

The purpose of this annual competition is to promote the case method and higher standards in the education of accountants.

"The case method gives students a little more practical exposure than textbook work," McIsaac said. "A competition like this builds confidence in speaking in front of people and allows students to practice informing and convincing others of their point of view. It's also an opportunity to strengthen problem-solving and analytical skills without relying on a set format, because each case is different."

X Marks the Mayor

by Jenn Parker

For those of you just tuning in, Halifax is currently knee-deep in amalgamation hoopla. The municipalities of Halifax, Dartmouth, Bedford and Halifax County are being amalgamated into one large regional municipality, currently being referred to as a supercity.

The new city means a lot of changes will occur, including a new name, new law enforcement jurisdictions and of course, a new mayor.

As an off campus student, I've been aware of the battle for mayor for weeks since wherever I go I encounter huge, coloured signs displaying the names of the mayoral candidates. The candidates - all men, are Randy Ball, Pat Pottie and Walter Fitzgerald.

Given the concentrated population of eligible voters at the Mount, I started wondering why all the politics of amalgamation hadn't reached us yet. I spoke to several first-year students who are also first-year voters. Although all of them reported at least mar-

ginal awareness of amalgamation, none knew the date of the vote (Dec. 2) or the names of all three candidates.

Despite the fact that official enumerations are now complete, some of the students weren't sure if they'd been enumerated. Only half of the students I spoke with said that they intended to vote.

"I never really thought about it," said Wanda Mason, a first-year IMD student from Halifax County. "I only recently realized I was eligible to vote."

Kate Withrow, a first-year B.A. student, said she wasn't completely clear on the issue, since politics isn't her thing.

"Now that I'm a voter I'm supposed to have some say in the future of our country, but I really don't know enough about the candidates to vote responsibly," Withrow said.

Term paper season is upon us and exams are just around the corner. No wonder all these politics have taken a back seat to other priorities, particularly for students who aren't from the area.

But why aren't students from the affected areas showing more interest and knowledge on the subject? It appears that the mayoral candidates are ignoring a lot of important voters by not seizing the opportunity to meet with them or get their messages across.

Student Union President Joe Stolz said that the university would be willing to display information about the candidates but hasn't been approached about them advertising on campus.

"I think it would have been beneficial for the students to know more about it," Stolz said.

Ball, one of the candidates, said that he had not overlooked university students. He didn't feel more communication with them was necessary because many lived at home and could get the information there, and many other students weren't from the area and hadn't moved here in time to be eligible to vote. Ball seemed surprised to hear how little was known about amalgamation by the students.

"If that's the case, we can certainly get some information out there," Ball said.

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The Picaro is dedicated to informing, challenging, and entertaining the students of MSVU, and to providing them with a forum to air their views.

The Picaro reserves the right to edit or reject any material, particularly material of libellous, racist, sexist, or homophobic nature. The views expressed are not necessarily those of *The Picaro* or its editors.

NEWS

Mount to Lose Valued Professor

by Sarah Simmons

After 27 years in front of the classroom at Mount Saint Vincent University, economics professor Ram P. Seth will put down his chalk at Christmas on a technicality.

Mandatory retirement age policies, usually taking effect at age 65, have forced many Canadians to leave their current positions and move on to other things, but for Seth, there is nothing else.

"I will not leave teaching, no matter what," Seth said. "This is part of my life. It is a God-given gift which very few people have. I have enjoyed teaching and that is the best part of my life."

He is uncertain if the university will keep him after his formal retirement at the end of next term.

However, for Seth, chairman of the department for all but eight of his 27 years at MSVU, retirement does not mean he must stop teaching.

"I will be teaching," he said. "I can go and teach anywhere. My problem is that I don't want to leave Halifax. I could go outside the country - I wouldn't mind New Zealand."

No matter where his retirement takes him, Seth said he will continue teaching and writing because they are, and have always been, his life.

Staff in the economics department believe that Seth's retirement will prove to be a loss for both the department and the students.

"The students are crazy about him. They come and ask for principal courses in economics and if they can't have him, they don't want to take it," said professor Nargess Kayhani, a thirteen-year member of the department.

"As a colleague," she said, "I'm going to miss him. He is extremely understanding and helpful in any way he can be."

She added that his departure has come too soon.

"It's too early for him to retire. I think he could easily teach another 5 to 10 years," Kayhani said.

Seth's retirement comes at a difficult time for the economics department. His departure, along with the resignation of another staff member, would leave the department with only two full-time and three part-time professors. The university is considering leaving the two positions vacant, which Seth believes would result in an economics department at MSVU in name only.

"At the moment, we're trying to fight it," he said.

Seth, who holds a Ph.D. from the London School of Economics, won the first annual President's Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1981. In 1994, he wrote the book *Pricing and Related Policies of Publicly Owned Electrical Utilities*. Currently, he is working on a study guide in economics for MSVU. Seth also taught an introductory economics course on DUET (Distance University Education via Technology) which has been broadcast over the past two years.

Professor Wendy Cornwall, one of his former students, will replace him as chair of the department.

Despite his reluctance to retire, looking back on his career, Seth said, "I'm a very happy man. I feel very successful and I am very proud of my students."

HALIFAX STUDENTS LEADERS CONCERNED ABOUT RATIONALIZATION PROPOSAL

HALIFAX (CUP) — Student leaders in Halifax are concerned about a proposal to rationalize administrative services for the city's seven universities.

The plan, which was presented to Education Minister John MacEachern on Dec. 1, calls for the Metro Halifax Universities Consortium to save \$17 million over the next four years by centralizing some administrative services, and reducing academic staff.

Nova Scotia universities are expecting a \$46.3 million cut in government funding over the next three years.

The proposal suggests the universities could save money by rationalizing some programs and courses, easing movement between schools, and amalgamating student services.

The consortium estimates savings of \$5 million through staff cuts coming from early retirements, and attrition.

Students will only have to complete 50 per cent of their required courses at their home institution to qualify for a degree from that school.

Joe Strolz, student council president at Mount St. Vincent University, is concerned that students will be taking courses at different universities out of necessity, not by choice.

"The best thing I can say about this proposal is that it is the best of a series of horrible alternatives," said Strolz.

Strolz is concerned that students will have no say in the way the universities enact the proposal. He says, with students taking courses at several different

campuses, details like transportation will play an important role in whether or not amalgamation works.

"The cornerstone of this whole proposal is, how are you going to get students from point A to point B," he said, adding that the universities proposal doesn't adequately discuss the issue.

Geoff Wilson of the Students' Union of Nova Scotia agrees.

"There is only one line in the report about transportation. There is no dollar figure attached to say how much enhanced transportation will cost, they haven't indicated who will run the service," he said.

"This is a big concern to students who don't live in the downtown core."

Strolz is also concerned that students will have to put up with longer line-ups and more hassles if they all have to register for courses at the same location.

David Cox, student council president at Dalhousie University doesn't think the amalgamation goes far enough. He thinks the universities should have followed an earlier proposal by

Dalhousie president Tom Traves to completely amalgamate the seven institutions into one school.

"I'm an advocate of a complete merger, and that's what Dal's original position was. I think that true savings come when you eliminate all the presidents (except one), when you eliminate all the VP academics, when you eliminate all the faculty department heads, all the chairs," said Cox.

"I wholeheartedly believe that this consortium will either lead two things. Because it's not binding it might fall apart, or it's the first step towards a merger. And if it's the first step towards a merger then we could be accomplishing those [increased] savings now."

Under the consortium proposal, each university will retain its own Board of Governors and Senate, but the consortium will be run by an executive board consisting of the seven university presidents and three to five members of the community.

Strolz says that the university presidents are opposed to allowing any student representatives on the executive board.

"COMMON SENSE" COULD COST ONTARIO STUDENTS A FORTUNE

(Source: *The Varsity*, University of Toronto)
by Lori Turnbull

TORONTO (CUP) — Upcoming provincial funding cuts to post-secondary education will lead to catastrophic tuition-fee hikes for Ontario students, according to a student lobby group.

This projection is contained in "What will the 'Common Sense Revolution' Mean for Ontario Universities," a document released last week by the Canadian Federation of Stu-

dents-Ontario.

In the report, the group says students at Ontario universities could be hit with a 52 to 55 per cent increase in tuition fees over the next two years.

The report is based on the assumption that the provincial government will be cutting \$400 million from the budgets of Ontario universities, as outlined in the Conservative government's election platform, the Common Sense Revolution.

In order for universities to maintain current revenue levels after the cuts, the report says the bur-

den of paying for education will be shifted to students through an increase in tuition fees.

According to the report, the faster the cuts are implemented, the harder students will be hit.

If the \$400 million is cut in one year, Ontario students could be looking at a tuition increase of 55 per cent next year. But if the cut is phased in over two years, with 10 per cent cut each year, students could be looking at a 27 per cent tuition hike next year, followed by a 19 per cent hike in 1996-97.

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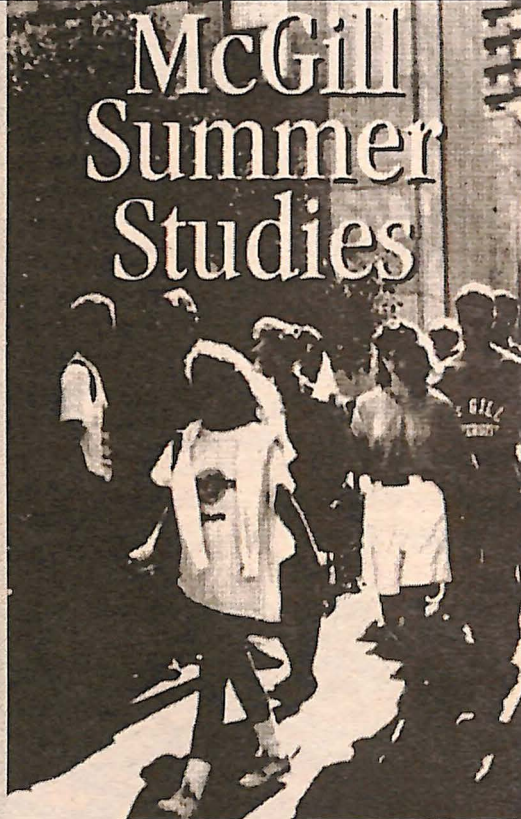
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Letter to the Editor

Dear Picaro:

My field of study was wrong in the latest issue of The Picaro.

My field of study is BAA (Child and Youth Study), not BA. You got what year I am in.

Please get the facts straight.

Catherine Trenholm

Dear Editor,

In the last issue of The Picaro one of your writers reported that Financial Services was at fault for the delay in receiving the health cards. This was not accurate. Financial Services is responsible for collecting the fees, generating the health plan user list and supplying to me on disk. This they did on time.

In fact, the rumour that the health cards are late is overblown. Normally, Student Union receives the health cards well into December, and until they arrive students can obtain coverage through a reimbursement process. The only conceivable delay at our end (Student Union) occurred when I sent the list to the insurance broker. The only reason this one week delay occurred because I was involved in a car accident and was subsequently unable to attend school or work.

If anyone has any further questions, please feel free to contact me at Student Union (457-6123) and/or come up and see me during my office hours - Monday and Wednesday from 10 am to 11am, and from 1 pm to 3 pm, Tuesday and Thursday from 10 am to 1 pm, and Friday from 10 am to 3 pm.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Kingston
Health Plan Administrator

Editor's Note: The staff of the Picaro stands 100 percent behind Kathleen Sitter's article. Sitter directly quoted Jennifer Kingston in regards to Financial Services and the delay in the health cards. We have evidence to support Sitter's article.

To the editors of the Pic,

I felt the need to write in response to the "Special Feature", for Week of Reflection, in the last issue. There are a number of problems I have with the page. First is being its position on the twelfth page behind almost everything else except sports and classifieds. As well, the page is not distinguishable from many other page and one could easily miss the segment or ignore it all together. The segment was not flagged on the front page nor was the importance of the Week of Reflection mentioned in an editorial of any sort. Yes, I realize editorial freedom dictates priorities, but in my opinion, I feel that the treatment of the Week of Reflection "section" was hugely negligent. Not only was the submission from a sole source, but when I enquired, if anyone from the Picaro staff had written articles for the Week of Reflection, I was told "No you go crazy." What that says to me is that "its not our priority but by hey if you want to focus on a dead issue we won't stop you". Violence against women is still epidemic at all levels of society and one of the best tools to combat the perpetuation of that violence is education. A university publication has a responsibility to its students, especially if they are 85% female, to report on issues that could potentially and do affect their lives. After all, this is where you receive your funding from, student fees.

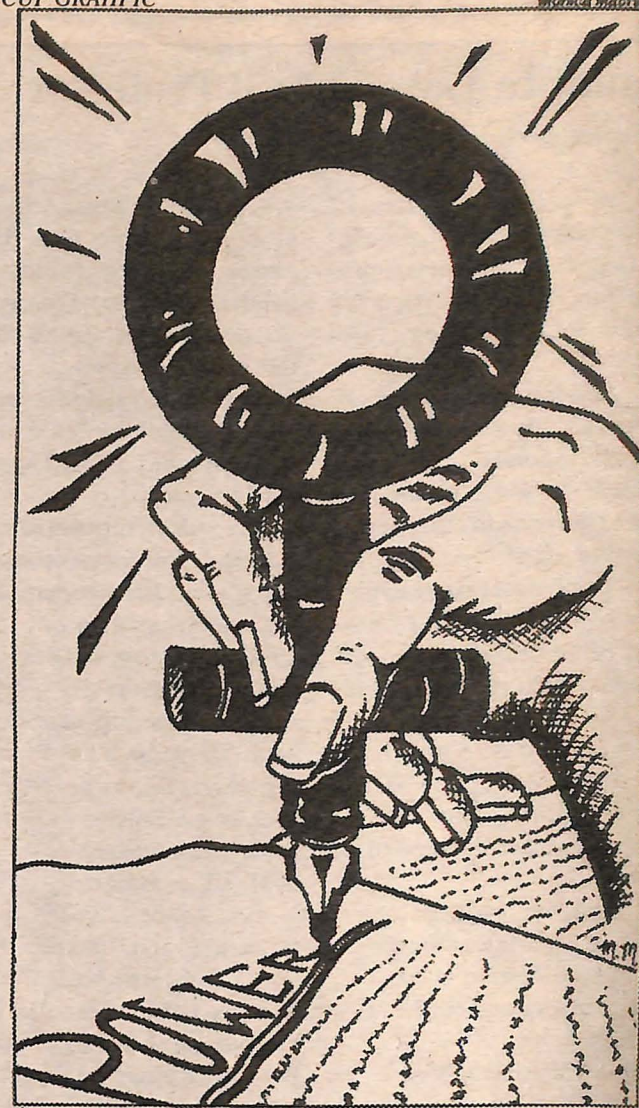
I feel your negligence contributes to the marginalization of women's issues and quite frankly, as a primary vehicle of communication on campus, it is completely unacceptable. With the responsibility of producing the publication comes the responsibility of investigating and exploring the environment that you exist within. At times it requires you to be critical, other times it requires you to be sensitive and inclusive, but you should always be representative, which in this case I feel you have not been.

This in my opinion is not an issue of editorial freedom but a result of editorial arrogance and I sincerely hope that International Women's Week in March will not fall into the same vacuous hole of ignorance and negligence as the Week of Reflection has.

Lori Ann Jones
Status of Women Officer
Student Council

Editor's Note: In Issue 6, "Week of Reflection, page 13" was stated on the front page. This issue has additional coverage on page 6 and 7.

*Don't like
what we're
saying? Vent
on paper.
Send an
opinion piece
or a Letter
to the Editor.
VENT VENT
VENT!*



Editorial

On Reflection...

December 6, 1989

Many of us vividly remember learning about the 14 women killed in Montreal. We remember the shock and the horror we felt and still feel. I was 18 years old then. I look around the Mount now and I know that they are some students who were as young as 12 years old when 14 women died because they were women. Soon a generation will past and those who attend the Mount will have no memory of Montreal.

Each year, the date December 6 startles and scares me. Maybe some people refuse to believe that violence against women is a problem. I don't know. But for me, there can be no stronger evidence of hate, sickening vile hate.

Two years ago I attended a presentation by Suzanne Edward-Laplante. Her daughter, Anne-Marie Edward was one of those who died. She and her friend hid in the school cafeteria as the killer walked the halls of Montreal's Ecole Polytechnique looking for women. They tried to hide, but their long hair gave them away. They died in each other's arms.

Recently I have been accused of editorial arrogance,

of not caring about women, women's issues and violence against women. That the Week of Reflection, to me, is a "dead issue."

No. Not true.

In fact, the Picaro has been planning to have a Week of Reflection section just before the Montreal Memorial for some time now. I do admit that I should have started soliciting articles earlier. But, hey, I'm learning how to do the job as I go along. It won't happen again, I promise.

I was told that the Week of Reflection was clearly marked in the school calendar as the week before December 6, because exams start that day. Well, the Picaro decided to cover the Week of Reflection in two issues, the week before the Week of Reflection and just before the Montreal Memorial.

But what is a "woman's issue?" We did receive one submission for the Week of Reflection that we decided not to run in the section. As an opinion piece maybe, but as an article, it had no place in our paper. It was a blatant, sexist attack on men.

I know that some people may read the articles in the Week of Reflection section and feel they are too strong or more

likely, not strong enough. These are the submissions we received. Do they focus enough on "women's issues?"

I have heard that the Picaro should focus more on "women's issues" because this is a "women's university." Well, as a woman, I don't buy this. Take a look at the Picaro staff and contributors. Yes, there are a lot of women. So each time I or another woman on staff sit down to write, we are communicating in a female voice. Maybe we are not writing explicitly about "women's issues" but we are speaking with a woman's voice and from a woman's point of view. Does that not count for something? Do I have to be complaining about oppression before my voice counts as a woman's?

There are many types of feminists. I do believe that women should have the same rights as men. No more, no less. That's the type of feminist I am. I don't believe any problems will be solved by perpetually criticizing men and shoving issues down people's throats. That's ineffective and alienates the very people you are trying to educate. Does that mean I care less about being a woman than anyone else? I don't think so.

Andrea Bannister

FEATURES



by Leanne Mosher
'Swiss Chalet'

By now you all know my love for chicken and as soon as I saw the advertisement for Swiss Chalet's 'Festive Meal' for the Christmas Season I was hooked. It is always nice to eat at a 'franchise' restaurant because you know that if the food is good in one place, it will be good every place. Their price of \$6.95 makes the offer really attractive and you get a quarter chicken, fries or mashed potatoes, special sauce, a roll, stuffing, cranberry sauce, and my favourite - a 'Toblerone' bar.

Last Friday night three of us went to Swiss Chalet on Kempt Road. As soon as I saw the lineup to get into the parking lot I should have left and tried another time. I stayed and that was my first mistake. We finally inched our way in and got parked. Once inside the door we realized that the front entrance was packed with people waiting to get into the lineup to

get into the eating area. However, I had made it this far and I was not leaving without my 'Festive Meal'. Well, the lineup did not move and we decided we would get our 'Festive Meal' to go. The take out area was busy but we waited (and one of the workers put on a real show for us as he swung his knife and quartered the chicken) and hightailed it out to our van to eat. The problem we had once we were in the van was that everyone driving into the parking lot would stop and wait for us to leave so they could park. Before we opened out 'take out' bag we exited the parking lot and drove next door and parked at Harvey's (hardly anyone was parked there).

The 'Festive Meal' was absolutely delicious! We were not as comfortable as sitting in the restaurant but we made do. One nice surprise was that the take out 'Festive Meal' is 50 cents cheaper than eating inside. After all we went through, we did enjoy the meal. A few days later I was telling a friend about our experience and she said that they had to settle for 'take out' too because they went on Saturday night and could not get in the restaurant.

So remember if you want the best deal in town right now (and I do mean the best - all those people cannot be wrong), go earlier than supertime or late at night - unless you want to picnic in your vehicle.

Since You're Asking...



by Nancy Dorey

Ahhh, Christmas time! And all around, the sound of bells can be heard ringing through the air - no, not jingle bells, but cash register bells. If you are like me, Christmas time is always approached with a mixture of anticipation and apprehension. I really look forward to all the gifts that await me under the tree on Christmas morning, but I really dread the amount of money it's going to cost me to try and find just the right gifts for all my family and friends. It's not that I don't like spending money on them, it's just that I don't have the money to spend.

Knowing that most of you are faced with the same situation, I have come up with a list of a dozen gift ideas and rules which you can use.

- 1) Enforce a strict spending rule on gifts for family members to say, \$20 - \$25.
- 2) Give your brother or sister a

lump of coal to let your real feelings show through.

- 3) Hold a gift exchange among a group of friends so each person will receive and give only one present.
- 4) Run downstairs early and replace the gift tags to read the present is from you.
- 5) Pretend you are a kid again and issue IOUs to your parents for household or other chores.

- 6) If you are creative, make your gifts (something artsy-craftsy, food or whatever is your specialty).
- 7) Recycle presents you have received in the past, hated and never used. Make sure they don't go back to the original sender though!

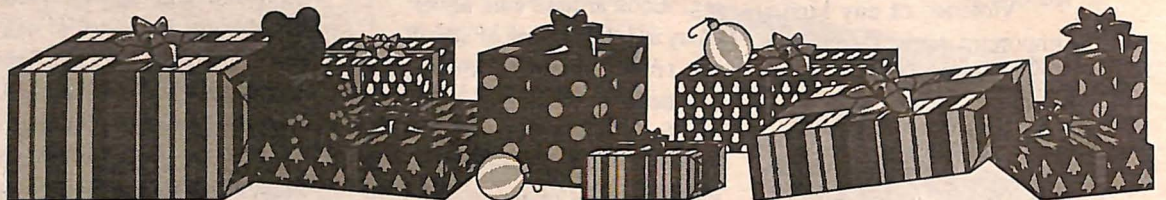
- 8) Give a lottery ticket. If it wins, you're a hero. If not, they knew you were cheap anyway.
- 9) For the environmentalist on your list, donate \$10 to "Tree Canada" in their name.

~ a practical advice column for today's impractical world

- 10) Tell your family that your presence is present enough (note: only works when you go away to school).
- 11) Instead of giving individual gifts, invite all your friends over for a holiday feast, lovingly prepared by you.
- 12) Go to Florida for Christmas and you can avoid the whole, snowy, cold situation!

I hope this will give you a good start on your Christmas list. Happy no shopping! [Disclaimer to my family and friends: Gift ideas listed above are purely fictional and any likeness to a gift, living or dead, received by you, from me, is totally coincidental!].

Please send your letters to "Since You're Asking..." fourth floor, Rosaria.



The National Graduate Register Comes to the Mount

by Brooke DeLong

Michel Legault, director of the National Graduate Register, wants to help graduating students get jobs.

Legault was recently at the Mount to promote this Internet™searchable database. Graduates from Canada's postsecondary institutions can put their resumes on-line through the NGR.

"The system itself is very user-friendly," he said. The NGR is accessed through Netscape under the <http://schoolnet2.carleton.ca/NGR> address. Students simply point and click the mouse on the information that best describes them. The categories include vital statistics, academic background, employment history and skills, languages, and desired field of work.

There are two sections where students input information. "I call this the high-powered sales pitch to the employer," he said. Students can be as creative as they want. They can elaborate on career goals or include a letter to employers.

Employers worldwide can view the resumes through Netscape on the Internet. "It's there, it's instant, the employer can access it from his desk," he said. Once employers have selected resumes from the database, they contact students through their university or community college.

There's an 80 to 90 per cent chance that employers will find a match for their job skill requirements among the students on the NGR. The program could be 100 per cent accurate but Legault said that wouldn't benefit students or employers. Students whose skills don't correspond exactly with employers' requirements could be passed up for certain jobs because the NGR's skill categories are general.

The NGR, which went on line on October 31, 1995, will be tested at 13 post secondary institutions in the Atlantic provinces over the next three months. Atlantic graduates have the advantage of being the first to use this fully bilingual service. Following the three month trial period,

graduates throughout the rest of Canada will be able to put their resumes on the NGR.

Students graduating in 1996 can leave their files on the NGR for three years. Students are given an identification code and password the first time they enter their resumes, which lets them change or update information at any time.

There are no user fees for

people who register during the next six months. After the trial period is over, students will pay a minimal fee to register their resumes. This money will go to participating secondary institutions. "It's a monetary incentive on the university's part to promote this," Legault said.

Legault, a career counselor at Universite de Moncton, has been developing the NGR over

the past year. His aim is for the NGR, sponsored by Industry Canada, to be self sufficient within three years.

The NGR is different from other recruiting devices because it is targeted strictly to postsecondary graduates. "The idea behind it is to give students accessibility to employment markets via new electronic methods," he said.



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Women and Violence

by Angela Jarvis

It's Wednesday, November 29th, and even though, exams are fast approaching, I am sitting here in Auditorium C waiting to hear a speech on "Women and Violence". As I look around the room a few people (both men and women) are slumped over in their seats half a sleep. Like me, they probably have a pile of work to finish by December 4th and no time to finish it. Everyone else is quietly talking to their friends. Being unable to coerce opps "invite" a friend to this lecture, I sat alone at the back of the room thinking about everything else I had to do. Unfortunately the guest speaker was unable to come and everyone headed back to class mumbling about "no free class" myself included. However, free class or not, women's violence is an issue that must be addressed. It was only a few years ago that the Montreal massacre occurred. If we forget what happened then this horrible incidence could happen again - possibly here.

Violence of any kind is an important issue in today's society because it happens again and again. I don't think a day has gone by that some form of violence has not occurred. What is it about our society that causes violence to occur? Violence occurs between men, women and children daily, and has become a major concern. It was once believed, and still may be believed by some that violence towards women occurred because the women provoked her husband in some way and therefore deserved to be hit. Others believed that the male is unstable. However 1 in 10 women in Canada will receive some form of violence during their life time. Therefore the above statement would suggest that 1 in 10 women "asked" for this to happen, or that 1 in 10 men are unstable. Many people, myself in-

cluded, find this hard to believe and they have started looking towards society in order to understand violence. What is it about our society that causes violence to occur, that encourages men to see women as victims, and teaches men that in order to be masculine they must show aggression? We may never know.

Our society feels that it is okay to show violence (of any kind) on television, in movies, and on advertisement. Doesn't this teach children that violence is okay, that it has always happened and will always happen so we should become accustomed to it? Let's take, for example, an advertisement for shoes. It displayed a garbage can with a woman's naked leg sticking out of it. On her foot was the shoe in question. What is this really saying? That women are trash or are we supposed to be conditioned to violence and not even think about what message the ad is really sending. Look around you, advertisers use these types of ads all the time to sell products. Maybe its time we stop sending these messages to society and deal with violence as a whole instead of ignoring it, thinking it will never happen to us.



The Hand that Rocks the Cradle

by Margaret Griffen

At a social gathering recently, a man asked if he could speak with me, I said yes and when I moved closer in order to hear him, he reached out and touched me. I moved back and said, "I gave you permission to speak to me, I did not give you permission to touch me." His reaction to this was a look that said "Who do you think you are, Lady?" I am of the opinion that some men, many really, have the notion that we can only hear and understand what they are saying if they make some sort of body contact. Sometimes, when a man speaks to me he does so in such a way that I wonder if he thinks I have the mental capacity of a two year old. If I had been a man this would not have happened, it is very seldom that a man will try to touch another man to whom he's speaking.

We need to have enough self-esteem and confidence in order to convey to men that we do not need to be touched, rubbed, patted or caressed during a conversation to stimulate our hearing, or most importantly, they do not need to punch or hit us to make us understand a point of contention.

If we want attitudes to change towards us, we must change our attitudes towards ourselves. Confidence in ourselves is what we need to exude, so that when we encounter a member of the opposite sex he immediately knows we are to be taken seriously. The point here is, we have to educate ourselves in the art of communication with male population, and in doing so we will also educate them. So many women are fearful that they will not be liked or accepted if they demand respect and consideration. Even my women friends, comment on what they perceive to be my negative attitude. My attitude is not negative, my attitude is to demand respect. A few years ago I would not

have done this, a few years ago I was in an abusive, subservient situation one which I endured for over 20 years. Breaking away from my marriage was one of the most difficult things I have ever done in my life, but one of the best. After seven years on my own, I feel great. Once I got to the point that I began to function and rationalize on my own, there began a transition in my thinking and attitude that was unbelievable. I did not do this alone, I had many supportive females, especially here at the Mount. I have emerged a confident, sensitive, no-nonsense female. I now find my relationships with members of the opposite sex very rewarding and enjoyable. I am now a member of the human race.

I think we do women a disservice when we treat them with a "poor you" attitude. Instead we should teach them how to gain self-confidence and self respect. We are not helpless!!! We females are strong and caring survivors, we have it in our power to raise our children to respect and love each other, and that all feelings and emotions are part of being human, never to be ashamed of. It is only when we let our feelings get out of control that tragedies such as the Montreal Massacre happens. Whoever said "the hand that rocks the cradle is the one who rules the world" knew what he was talking about. I think it was a "he" that said it wasn't it???

My intention here is not to absolve all the blame from abusive men, it is to perhaps encourage a different view. The message we need to relay to the opposite sex is — the reason you will not touch or strike me is not because I am a woman, not because it hurts, not because it infringes on my rights, etc., you WILL NOT do it because I DO NOT WANT YOU TO DO IT!!!

December 6, 1989 We Will Remember...



WEEK OF REFLECTION

My sister is being stalked

Anonymous

My sister is being stalked. There, I said it. I only wish she could too.

Five months ago my little sister broke up with her first real boyfriend - a man 12 years older than herself. It was hard, he was devastated, he even threatened to kill himself a few times. But she was firm, he was just wasn't right for her.

And she wasn't mistaken. A week after she broke up with him, he started his relentless campaign to get her back. He called her every day until she stopped answering his calls. Then he got his friends to call her. Once she was on the phone, he would come on and beg her to take him back. He dropped by where she worked. He sent her a 50 page letter, declaring his love. He sent her cards and flowers. He waited by our house. On and on and on.

But my sister and my

family kept hoping it would get better. That he would move on or get help, anything. My sister would say, "ok, if he does one more thing, I'll call the police or something..." A couple weeks would go by and he wouldn't do anything. The next time he called or waited or dropped by, my sister would say, "well, the next time..."

I don't know where she draws the line. When is it too much? Right now, she isn't very worried about him. Sure, he's an irritant, annoying, but is he dangerous? She half treats it like a joke, because he's never physically threatened her.

Five months later, he's not moving on or getting help. Two weeks ago he sent her a diamond ring at her new place of work. He placed a personal ad, signed "desperate but hopeful" in the paper. He also called her boss and told her how my parents are keeping him and my sister apart. If that's not scary

enough, he hadn't been told where she worked. The only way he could have known was to follow her. Not surprising. He has been seen hanging out near our house.

I'm mad, my mother's scared and the rest of my family treats it like a joke. Not very funny. And actually against the law.

My sister's ex-boyfriend could be charged with criminal harassment. For years, a women had to physically threatened or harmed before the police could step in and protect her. Now women being followed, stalked, harassed have an option. In 1993, the Canadian government changed the law to help protect women from harassment.

I don't know what my sister should do. She's afraid she'll make him angry if she calls the police. She's afraid that he'll come after her and try to hurt her. She shouldn't have to be afraid.

Subliminal Hate

by Karen A. MacGillivray

BITCH skateboards. The name of the product alone is enough to make any sensible person cringe. But when a company's idea of advertising is a logo with a man holding a gun to a woman's head (no



picture at all), I start to wonder what has happened to the world around me. A world where men and women would be equal; and where violence against women is slapped onto a logo and used to sell toys to kids and teens

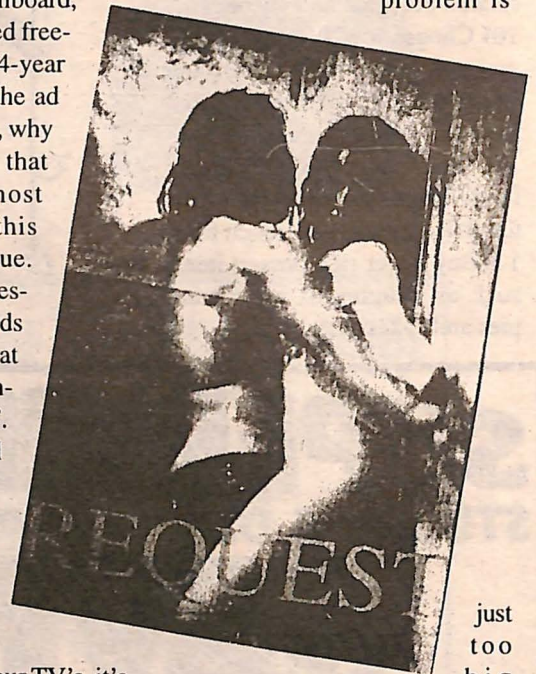
This is not an isolated case; you see it around you all the time, and in every possible nook and cranny. Consider the so-called "rape-ad"; picture a large man with his pants unzipped violently pressing a scantily-clad woman against a shower wall.

Picture it on a large billboard, overlooking a crowded freeway. Now picture a 4-year old boy pointing to the ad and asking, "Mommy, why is that man hurting that woman?". The most chilling detail of this story is that it is true. This prompts the question, "What do our kids see when they look at our supposedly harmless advertisements?". We can no longer fool ourselves into believing that they don't see it, or that we can shield them from it. It's in our magazines, it's in their schools, it's on our TV's, it's on the Internet; it proliferates within every media of communication that our North American Society enjoys. But why? Why has it become romantic to violate women?

The mass media also con-

tributes to another major malfunction of western society: the concept of an emaciated woman as the desirable woman. In a paper concerning the media image of women on television Tasha Smith writes "...Body image is influential in the teenage years. In particular, beauty is extremely important for young women. The emphasis placed on physical "beauty" by the media and society is devastating to (them)...". She also wrote "...Women who are not young, not thin, not Caucasian, or a combination of all three have a hard time seeing themselves as worthy...In reality, beautiful bodies come in all shapes and sizes. But the media has no room for this variation". These are well known facts; yet nothing is done to belie the myth that "skinny is beautiful". Don't people realize that this is a problem?

Well, in actuality, most of us aren't strangers to the concept that the mass media exploits and demeans women; unfortunately, most of us just slough it off because we think it doesn't do any REAL harm, and/or that the problem is



just too big

for us to solve. But what most of us don't realize is that it does the worst kind of harm, the kind that most of us don't see any more. The pain is internal; and it stings like a wound that may never heal over.

Remembering Single Moms

by Joanne Bernard

Well, it is three months into the school year and the crunch of papers and exams is upon us. However, for the single parents of Mount Saint Vincent University, the month of December is an even more critical time because we are feeling the ramifications of the cuts to our student loans.

Like many single parents, daycare funding that was allocated to me for this term is gone. Since I was only able to provide receipts for my daycare during the day, any extra daycare for late nights or weekends at the library must come out of our already absolutely stretched to limit monthly budgets.

In the past, because of the Career Planning Program (which is not presently available to university students) or sufficient funding via our student loans, we all had adequate daycare fund-

ing. Due to the changes to the Department of Education and the Department of Community Services, the ability to access higher education without having to worry about who is taking care of your kids and how are you going to pay the rent is a thing of the past.

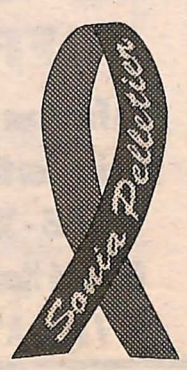
Now what I hear from single parents is their concerns about how they are going to make it through, financially, until the second instalment of their student loans come in January. Then, by March, we can go through all of this crap again.

Lately, I have noticed some parents taking their kids to class, something which benefits no one. I have also seen mothers racing out of class early to meet their children after school. Some single parents will have to turn to the Financial Aid office in this University for emergency funding.

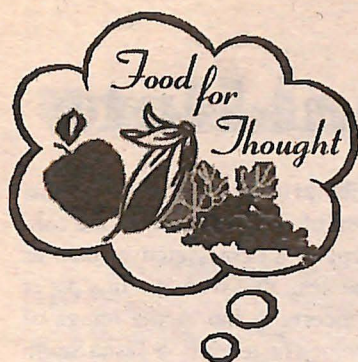
However, for the more determined mothers who appeal their

loans and go through the process (hoop jumping) of trying to access more daycare funds, the experience can be both humiliating and frustrating. Recently, I have seen a young single mother have to go to three different departments in order to get a letter explaining her academic situation as well as her financial situation. So much for staying in the "welfare closet" during your four years here at the Mount. The sick part is that she will probably get the money because she qualified for it in September; the only difference now is that administration and her professors know her financial situation and to some single moms this is a sensitive issue.

We did not give up our right to privacy when we went on welfare, but in order to receive loans in which we are qualified for, we must lose the anonymity of our financial status.



FEATURES

**"Healthy Shopping Tips"**

by: Jill S. Tokach
DNSA member

- 1) It is a good idea to shop for groceries on a full stomach.
- 2) Make a shopping list and plan a menu for the week.
- 3) Read food labels and choose foods low in fat and sugar.
- 4) Choose fresh fruits and vegetables in season, because often they will be the best buys.
- 5) Try to buy fewer snack foods, cakes, cookies, and muffins.
- 6) Choose lower fat milk products such as skim, 1% or 2% milk, yogurt, and cheese.
- 7) Select high fiber foods, such as whole wheat bread, beans and peas.
- 8) Choose cereals high in fiber; (4g/serving)
- 9) Select leaner cuts of meat and avoid processed meats such as salami, bologna, and bacon.
- 10) Choose low fat soda crackers, rice cakes, melba toast and watch out for some crackers that are higher in fat.
- 11) Select fewer high fat frozen foods like breaded chicken, battered fish, pizza, and french fries.
- 12) Buy fewer rich dessert items such as doughnuts, ice-cream, pies and cakes.

**Nowhere but now**

by Marco Tejada

"The last thing you write is the title," he said. "A well-written work looks impressive untitled, like the grave of a famous and unknown war hero. But a good title with nothing beneath is like an empty wine bottle, or a sheath without the sword."

"Or a Pez dispenser with no candy," Dawn added as she put it in third, cut into the left lane. She checked for cops, tore into a side-street and made for the university. "Yeah, something like that." He stared at the moon. It hung low; desperate, yellow and full. Any moment he expected someone to reach out and pinch it open, like a piñata. Or a pimple. But no one had the balls anymore. The world was a dull place. It was up to him, Maximillian Zenovia, to bust it wide open.

"So there's free booze at this party..."

"That's what they told us," she said, "free beer and rum."

"Then it might not be so bad after all," he said.

Dawn parked, killed the engine, tugged at the doorhandle. "That's the spirit Max," she said and they got out.

A halogen glow and crunching noises radiated from the football field. Large and powerful men ran about the artificial turf, broke tackles, punished those slower and weaker.

"I love football," Dawn said.

"Yeah, me too," he said. "So many people think it's a game for subnormals and meatheads, which in a sense is true. But there's so much they overlook; the strategy and deception, the determination."

"It's like full-contact chess." Her breath hung in the chill air.

"Exactly." A sound hit them, like a collapsing wall of skulls, followed by a whistle. He smiled, looked up. The moon waited.

They made their way to the office of the student paper- the Observer. What irony! From football; savagery and cunning in the guise of a game, to the news, which is essentially a game in the guise of writing and intellectualism. He'd played at both, with varying success.

Inside, people stood and sat in little clumps. There was a table laid out with food, someone's stereo on a chair. It played Christmas tunes.

"Wow," Dawn said, "pretty good turnout."

"Yeah, great, I'm gonna go check the kitchen." He found the fridge full of beer, grabbed two. In the

other room they discussed the news, Letterman, student life. He sucked at his beer, opened another, walked out and sat at the table. Some guys were arguing over a tv show, The X-files. Zenovia nursed his beer, waited for the debate to shift to comic books, Star Trek, role playing games...

He was looking for Dawn when a tall, crazy-looking fellow pulled out the chair beside him. A half-dozen empty seats and he chose that one.

"I'm Vince," he said, extending a hand, "I write news for the Look-out." They shook.

"I'm Dick Hertz, from Beeting - hey could someone change that CD?"

"Isn't that Clyde Struthers over there?" Vince pointed someone out.

"Never heard of him."

"He draws cartoons for the Observer. He's pretty good."

"He should be," Zenovia said, "he looks like one."

"Yeah, so what do you do?" Vince asked. "Are you with a paper?"

"I'm here with the crew from the Troubadour." He found Dawn, waved, she waved back.

Vince looked over. "She's a babe," he said.

"Yeah, and she writes good copy too."

"Do you write?"

"Sometimes. Right now I'm drinking. Help yourself, they're in the fridge. Grab me one while you're up."

Someone put on the soundtrack for the Bodyguard. Vince came back with two beers, handed one over. "So what do you write about?"

"Oh, stuff." He waved his arms.

"Stool samples, being drunk in church, issues of profound relevance and importance..."

"Sounds interesting."

"It's a thankless effort, but necessary for me." They drank their beers, listened to Whitney.

Vince poked at some pizza on the table. "That's pretty grimy," he said. It was true.

"You know how they say spaghetti's done if it sticks to a wall," Zenovia perked up. "I wonder if that's the same for pizza? Whaddya say Vince, shall we try it and see?"

"Yeah!" he said, "Let's do it man, let's do it!" His head bobbed up and down but his hands stayed on his lap. He was all talk. Zenovia grabbed the pizza and hurled it against the far wall. It struck and slid to the floor. The room was

quiet.

Someone came running. He was all head. His glasses barely contained his huge bulging eyes. "Who threw that?" he screamed. "WHO THREW THE PIZZA AGAINST THE WALL?"

Zenovia slid his chair back from the table, looked directly at Vince. "Why'd you throw it man?" he asked him. Vince blubbered.

The head moved over, grabbed Vince by the arm and led him into another room.

"No sense wasting his beer," Zenovia took it, stood and made a toast. "To Vince, a helluva reporter but a lousy rebel." He drained the beer.

Dawn walked over. "How are you doing Max?"

"I feel profound Dawn! Like I could take out the despots who run food services, get rid of our stupid health coverage system and straighten out our school president, Mary-Ann Grainstone, and still make it home in time for the Simpsons. How about you? Want some rum?" He poured himself a glass, topped it with Big 8 cola. "No thanks, I'm gonna head out soon."

Back at his place, Zenovia found a bottle of wine, peeled back the label and twisted the top off. He put on some Wagner, tried to relax. No use. He ran outside and there was the moon, ripe and mocking. He reached out and grabbed hold. It crumbled in his hands like a block of Monterey Jack.

He stood there. No one would ever believe it, but he'd write about it. Zenovia wiped his hands on his pants and went inside. Drunk and lost. Nowhere but now.



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wish everyone
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Dig This - The Skydiggers in Halifax

by Andrea Bannister



Last Friday and Saturday night, fans packed the The Birdland to catch The Skydiggers' only Halifax shows.

If you've ever been to The Birdland, you'll know what I mean by packed. The Birdland gets crowded easily. Last weekend was a prime example. Yes, there is a big dance floor, but it was so packed, no one could dance. The crowd just bopped up and down all night.

The lead singer, Andy Maize, kept up a running political commentary during the show, reminiscent of Gord Downie of the Hip's non linear deep thoughts. He opened the show with a startling announcement "... As many of you have heard, I'm suing the government \$50 million for libel, but my lawyer says I can't talk about it." Canadian joke! Gotta love it.

The Skydiggers played a mix of old and new songs, many of them sounded like they were straight off the CD. They sounded the best, however when they veered from the normal songs and started to jam. They're great musicians. Andy (again like Gord Downie) started to improvise and ad lib songs.

After listening to The Diggers new album, I was really looking forward to catching their show. The Skydiggers' new album *road radio* was released this year to a lot of rave reviews. Their characteristic sound is there but with a twist and complexity I didn't hear in the other albums. Although I really enjoyed their first album I found their last two albums, well, depressing. Lots of gloomy songs with a couple of gems. This new album is great. On first listen I didn't get it, but after a couple of spins on the CD player, I found I liked the songs more and more. You may recognize a couple of them from the radio - *What Do You See* and *You've got A Lot of Nerve*.

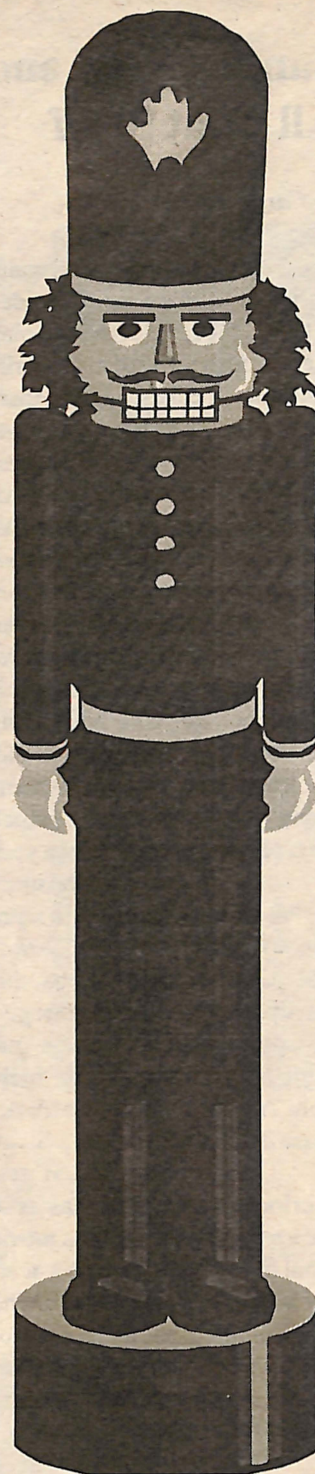
If you like these tunes, you'll like the album even better. Definitely catch the Diggers new album and the live show next time they come into town.

Madonna Something to Remember by S.M.

Is Madonna maturing? With this release, Madonna is showcasing music that touches souls. *Something to Remember* is a compilation of slower songs which Madonna seems to hope will revert the focus to the music. The promise is fulfilled as the CD seemingly compels the listener to retieve from the pangs of oblivion the magic and deep insight contained in her songs. The disc contains standards such as "Rain", "Live to Tell", and "This Used to be My Playground". As well, songs such as "You'll See", "Forbidden Love", and "Take A Bow", which seem to speak directly to hearts showcase the surprising diversity of the artist formerly known as the "Material Girl".

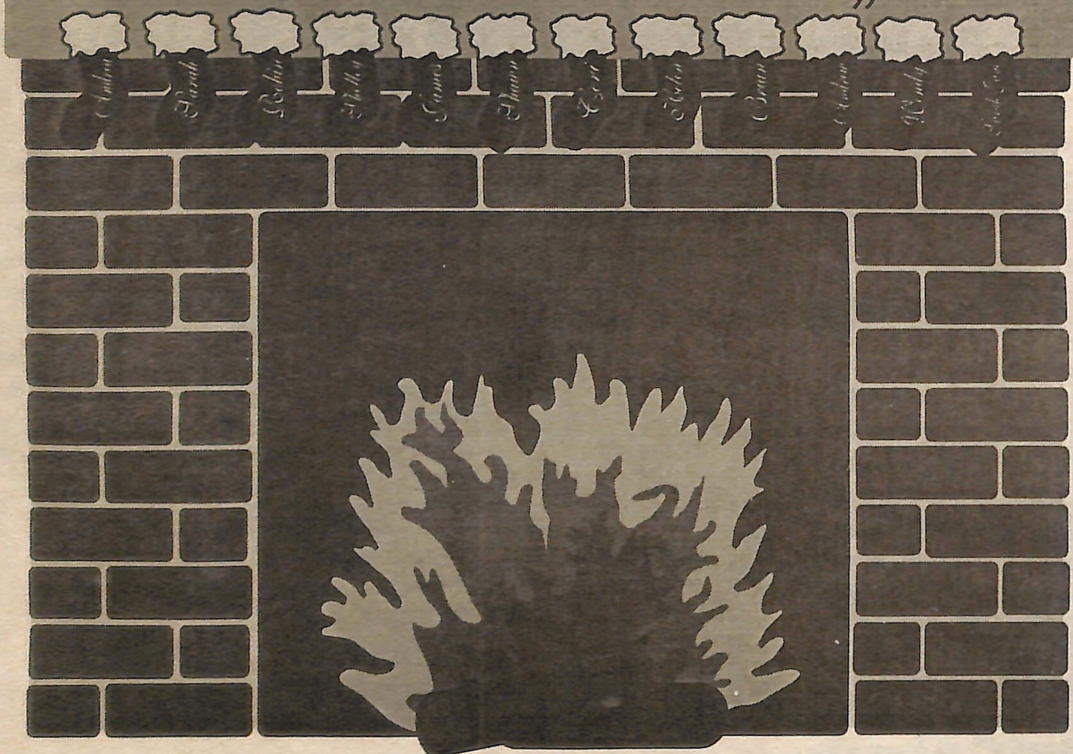
Smashing Pumpkins Mellon Collie and the Infinite Sadness by David Pound

I may be a little biased toward this album, since Smashing Pumpkins have been one of my favourite bands ever since Gish. This double album is everything a Smashing Pumpkins album should be. It starts out with a slow instrumental song, which is totally unpredictable. But the thing I noticed first about this album, is how diverse it is. Check out "Tale of a Scorched Earth" or "An Ode To No One". There are too many highlights to mention, but "Zero" and "Bodies" have been a main stay on my stereo, with "Bodies" having a killer guitar sound. "1979" is probably one of the biggest surprises. It has a drum machine (which gives it a dance feel) over a more pop oriented sound. Well, the album debuted at #1 and it looks like the Smashing Pumpkins are the band of the moment. I just hope they can survive the hype and the inevitable backlash that will follow and continue making great music like this.



"Seasons Greetings"

From The Picaro Editorial Staff



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Santa Claus and All That Stuff

by Carrie Warner

Well, here we are again; Christmas is upon us. I decided to take some time from shopping to go through some of my favorite television specials. Since there are so many out there that I love, I will discuss my favourite ones.

First of all is definitely that whole category of specials like *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*, *Santa Claus is Coming to Town*, etc. There's just something about those woodland creatures that reminds me of my childhood - possibly because I've been watching them since I was five years old. They are now available on home video, but I'd prefer to watch them only on that one night a year.

Of course, what Christmas season would be complete without watching *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. For years, this special has been teaching that giving and togetherness is the true spirit of Christmas, blah, blah, blah. Again, it's fun to watch because it is a tradition.

A movie that often gets overlooked at Christmas is *A Christmas Story*. It's not a movie about the birth of Jesus, it's actually a story about a little boy who wants nothing but a BB gun for Christmas. It follows the boy on his quest to tell Santa what he wants. It's really quite cute.

Well, if you've never seen any of these specials, then you really should watch them when they come on. Also, keep an eye out for the *Garfield* special with that fantastic "oooooooo" scene. Merry Christmas and happy viewing!

INTERVIEW WITH A STRANGE ANIMAL

by karen a. macgillivray and shawn miner

We are talking GOWAN here (or more recently Lawrence Gowan). For years this talented Canadian artist has thrilled his fans (whom he himself refers to as "Gowan Music Lovers"). On Thursday, November 30, "Larry" appeared live at Vinnie's in his only Nova Scotia performance. His illustrious career as a musician has produced such great hits as "Cosmetics", "Criminal Mind", "Moonlight Desires", "Soul's Road", and "When there's time for love". More recently however, Gowan has been a little preoccupied with promoting his latest album *The Good Catches Up*. This rockingly mellow CD includes some pretty introspective songs, most notably "Guns and God", "CyberBabes", and "You'll Be With Me". Gowan has truly traded in his "synth" sound for a more unplugged style; gone are the laser vibes, replaced with an acoustic guitar, a grand piano, and a real drummer. His high energy performance style, however, has not changed in the least. Complete with martial arts, spinning piano, and audience participation this was the wickedest event staged at Vinnie's in a very long time... with a total attendance of over 300 people! Considering

Vinnie's legendary status for having lacklustre attendance for big name bands, this show's success was especially impressive. By far, however, the best aspect of the concert was Gowan himself. Although many artists seem to cringe at the thought of their ear-



lier music, i.e. Alanis (Morissette), Larry not only included the retro hits that every one loves, such as "(You're A) Strange Animal", and "Criminal Mind", but featured them prominently and played them with obvious pleasure (he didn't seem bored at all!). But when asked if he listens to his music he responds in the negative: "No...my part is done...it [his music] hasn't been done for me...". He added (with a laugh) that he does listen to his music while he is playing it.

How do we know these things? Well, we got to interview him. Of course, this meant we got to ask him all the questions that we wanted (since I was eight

years old! Okay I am not obsessed! - Karen). Naturally, our first question was "Can we really call you Larry?". Obviously he said yes. (Okay that's a lie, we didn't really ask him that. But wouldn't it have been cool?).

In actuality we asked Gowan about himself and the inspiration for the music that has touched so many. When asked which comes first, the lyrics or the music, he stated that he usually comes up with the title first. He added however, that "...most of the time the music suggests to [him] what the lyrical content should be". Our curious minds had to know where certain songs came from though, so when asked about the origins of the inspiration for "Criminal Mind", Gowan said in part that he wanted to

write "...a song that gives expression to the demon within". We also enquired after another enigmatic song, written for his new album and titled simply "Laura". It is a song about a woman who has dedicated her life to being a "good wife", but wants a little time to make her own dreams come true. According to Gowan it was written for "...everyone [who] has a dream or a couple of things they wish they could accomplish".

In order to make your own dreams come true, Gowan subscribes to the City Slickers philosophy. That is, you should "find what you like to do and do it." Hey, it worked for him.

The Love Between Sisters

by Carrie Warner

Last Saturday night, if you weren't in Auditorium D in the Seton Academic Centre here at MSVU, then you missed a fantastic theatrical presentation. A *Tidy Package* was performed for an intimate audience of about two hundred people. It was presented by the MSVU Student Union and Moonlight Productions Inc.

This two woman play was researched, written, and performed by Amy House and Berni Stapleton. It is the story of two sisters living in a small Newfoundland fishing village. One of the sisters (Sarah) has been recently widowed, but is unable to accept that her husband is dead. Her sister (Grace) tries everything in her power to raise Sarah's spirits, while dealing with her own family and money problems.

Presented in two acts, the play spans three years. Despite its melancholy premise, there are some very funny moments. It is at these times when problems are forgotten, and the laughter is genuine.

Throughout the play Sarah talks to her husband who has been lost at sea. At first, she refuses to admit he is dead, and won't leave the house. Over time, Grace convinces Sarah to get out and do things. While she never forgets her husband, she tries to get on with her life.

The play ends with Sarah packed and ready to go to Winnipeg, to search for work and a new life. Grace is left behind, and for the first time the two sisters admit they really do love each other. They share a hug, and some tears. I even felt my eyes getting misty as I watched. Grace warns Sarah that she must never forget her roots, and her family back in Newfoundland.

I think the small audience and soft lighting added to the ambience of the play. It was extremely well done, and the acting was absolutely wonderful. Also, the story was very real. The two women are currently touring around the area, presenting the play. If you ever get a chance to see it, then it is definitely worth the ten dollar ticket.



"Season's Greetings" ...

from the Picaro

SPORTS

MYSTICS IN TOP SPOT FOR BASKETBALL

PEPSI ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



Photo by Helen Smith

This week the Pepsi Athletes of the Week honors go to the Badminton Doubles team of Trudy Doucette and Dwayne Costello. Trudy is a third year student in the BBA program and Dwayne is in his second year BBA. This pair recently won the Mixed Doubles event at the ACAA Badminton Tournament at Universite Sainte Anne.

Trudy and Dwayne are the defending ACAA Mixed Doubles Championships and their coach Mike Hingston believes they are once again the team to beat.

Congratulations Trudy and Dwayne on having been selected as the Pepsi Athletes of the Week.

Holiday Fitness Schedule

The Athletics and Recreation department has put together a holiday fitness class schedule so that you can keep fit and healthy throughout the festive season:

December 18: 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 Step,

7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Step & Pump

December 19: 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Strength and Tone,

6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Step & Pump.

December 20: 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Slide and Pump,

7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Step

December 21: 9:30 a.m. Strength and Tone & Kids Xmas Party

December 22: 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Holiday Combo Class

December 30: 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Healthy Holiday Class

A modified Facility schedule is in effect as of December 15th. Call 457-6420 for more details

Enjoy the holidays!

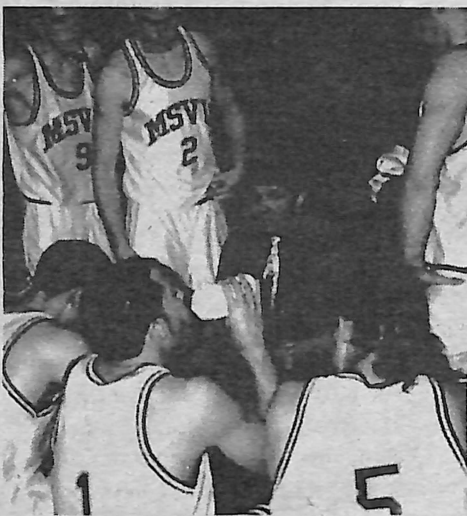
From the staff of the Athletics and Recreation department.

The Mystics men's basketball team to date is undefeated in league action. The Mystics are currently in first place in the Atlantic Colleges Athletic Association with 7 wins and no losses.

Coach Rick Plato has his team working like a well-oiled machine.

In the first Booster Night of the season the Mystics were successful against a determined NSTC team, outscoring the Truro group by 10 points, 78-68. The team then travelled to Fredericton for two games against St. Thomas University and were victorious in two decisive wins over the Tommies, 72-58 and 84-57. The Mystics women's team is trying to get back to their playing form of early in the season. The team is currently 5th in the ACAA with 3 wins and 4 losses. The team played very well against NSTC at

the Booster Night and defeated the former NSCAA Champs 76-56. "There was no question which team was in charge of this game," said head Coach Patsy



Coach Rick Plato talks it up during a time out in Men's action on Nov. 22nd.

Pyke.

The trip to Fredericton wasn't as successful for the Mystics as the team lost two games to

STU. "We got close a couple of times but just couldn't pull through," Pyke said. This could prove to be a very expensive weekend in terms of standings as the team will only see STU once more in regular season play.

The teams play Kings before the Christmas Break and not again until Jan. 7 when they play TUNS at TUNS.

In exhibition play, the men's basketball team will be playing in Dalhousie's annual Rod Shovellor Tournament. This tournament will be held January 5-7, 1996 at the Dalplex and will be the first time the Mount's team will have played in this tournament. Coverage of the

tournament will be in the first edition of the new year, so stayed tuned.

Basketball			
Atlantic Colleges Athletic Association			
WOMEN			
	W	L	P
Saint Thomas	6	1	12
Kings	6	1	12
Mount Allison	4	2	8
NSAC	3	3	6
Mount St. Vincent	3	4	6
NSTC	2	4	4
UNBSJ	2	5	4
TUNS	0	6	0
MEN			
	W	L	P
Mount St. Vincent	7	0	14
Mount Allison	5	2	10
UNBSJ	5	3	10
Saint Thomas	4	3	8
TUNS	2	4	4
NSTC	2	4	4
NSAC	1	5	2
Kings	1	6	2

Volleyball

Atlantic Colleges Athletic Association			
WOMEN			
	W	L	P
Universite Ste. Anne	8	0	16
UNBSJ	7	0	14
Mount St. Vincent	3	1	6
NSTC	3	4	6
NSAC	2	4	4
Saint Thomas	2	5	4
TUNS	1	5	2
Kings	0	7	0
MEN			
	W	L	P
Kings	5	1	10
Universite Ste. Anne	5	1	10
UNBSJ	2	4	4
TUNS	2	6	4
NSAC	1	3	2

Student Leadership Workshop A Success

On Friday, November 17, the Athletics/Recreation Department sponsored a Student Leadership Workshop. The instructor for the workshop was Campus Recreation Officer Joanne Burns-Therriault. In this hour and a half session, she discussed such topics as what leadership is, how to motivate students to get involved, the planning of events, keeping the time management process in mind and planning as a group. She also discussed methods of promotion. When planning an event, you have to find focus groups and find the best ways possible to get your event advertised.

It was a very informative session; the twenty-three students who attended seemed very impressed and more confident towards using their leadership skills. Each participant received a CIRA Student Leadership Certificate and finished off the afternoon with a pizza. There will be a second workshop coming up in the new year so watch for it in the "Coming Events" column in the Sports section.

Halifax Mooseheads "Haul" the Crowds

The Halifax Mooseheads hockey club held an University Night on Friday, November 17 at the Metro Centre. Complementary tickets were given to Mount Saint Vincent, Saint Mary's, Dalhousie, Kings and TUNS students to come out to the game and participate in a little competition, that being a Truck Pull. Ten students from each University (5 males, 5 females) were chosen to race from blue line to blue line pulling a 1/2 tonne truck. Dalhousie ended up coming across the line first followed by

the Mount's team. The winning team won the privilege of running

As for the hockey game, the Mooseheads played host to the Victoriaville Tigers and brought in a crowd of 5,794. Unfortunately, the home team lost by a goal in a disappointing overtime. Overall, it was a fun game with lots of ups and downs and good action.

If you're looking for some cheap fun on the weekends as well as some good action, the Mooseheads will certainly give you what you're looking for.



Sara Hawker, Treena Hanson, Joey Clancey and Wally Nowlan

up a tab at J.J. Rossy's of \$300.00 for their success while the runner's ups received Moosehead sweats and T's. It was an exciting race and the crowd seemed to enjoy cheering on the teams.

Basketball Teams Give Us Something To Cheer About

On Wednesday, November 22, the Athletics/Recreation Society held the first Booster Night of the season. The MSVU Mystics Basketball teams were playing host to the NSTC Seahawks. The women played at 6pm and the men followed at 8pm. The energy in the room was just roaring as both teams rose to victory. The women winning 76-56 and the men 78-68.

The whole idea of a

Booster Night is to get lots of fan



photo: Joanne Burns-Therriault

support to cheer on the home teams and have lots of fun while doing it. And indeed that was surely achieved. There were also

prizes to be won including Pepsi products, a chance to win a free ticket for a chance to fly anywhere AirNova flies and also you could Shoot For The Loot.

Overall Booster Night was a success and there'll be more fun coming up in the new year. The next Booster Night will be January 31 when the teams play host to TUNS. Come on out and support the Mystics!

CLASSIFIEDS

SEASONS GREETINGS

The History Society would like to thank everyone who has supported our events this semester and we hope to see you back in the new year. We have lots of fun and exciting activities planned for 1996. Have a very Merry Christmas and a safe 'n Happy New Year!

DNSA Executive members wish everyone a Merry Christmas. DNSA members also would like to wish Amanda, their president, a good co-op work term.

All Features Contributors:

Thanks for the hard work and wild thought! Have a great Christmas and read you in the New Year!

- Brian O'Features

COMMUNITY EVENTS

On December 6th is Canada's National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. On this day in 1989, 14 young women were killed by one man in Montreal, Quebec. The Rose Button was designed to commemorate this event, and the YMCA of Canada became its national distributor. The Halifax YMCA is proud to sponsor and distribute the December 6th Rose Button as part of its campaign to stop violence against women. For more information please call Wanda or Lyn at 423-6162 or fax them at 423-7761.

"Stars come out to benefit the Metro Food Bank". Tom Jackson's Huron Carole Benefit Concert will take place in Halifax on Wed Dec. 20 at 7:30 p.m. at the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium. Lennie Gallant, Laura Smith, Terry Kelly, Nova Scotia Mass Choir, Cathy Jones, Rose Vaughan Trio, Tresa Doyle, Evans & Doherty and Clary Croft will join hosts Cynthia Dale (Street Legal) and Tom Jackson (North of 60). Tickets are \$14 and they when on sale Sat Nov. 25 at the Rebecca Cohn Box Office. Come out and help support the Metro Food Bank.

Anecdotes and Enigmas: Marion McCain Atlantic Art Exhibition is a collection of works by 49 Atlantic Canadian contemporary artists (including 16 Nova Scotians) running December 16, 1995 - March 3, 1996 at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia. For more information please call Ann Marie McKinnion the Public Relations Officer at 424-8935.

SOCIETY NEWS

The Podiatry Society will be holding its last meeting of the year on the foot path to Rosaria, on Dec 25th, at 6am. Everyone is welcome, it should be an amazing feet!

PERSONALS

Ceri Young

Happy 45th Birthday from all your friends at the Picaro! Funny thing, you don't look a day over 19! (If your reading this Tuesday, you look exactly a day over 19.)

-Picaro.

Certain Young person:

Zooooooooooooooooooooooooooooo!!

- Plato.

Marco:

Please further your education at the Mount, we need ya bud!

- Beek

The Journal:

Please check expiry date on Andy's originality!!

-BK Broiler

Andy:

////////////////////////////////////

-Picaro

All the Gringos at the Mount:

We are Daytona bound !!!

- The Gringo Overlord Wingo

Bowers:

Get a proofreader!!!

- Funky Girl

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Kathy Young is looking for anyone interested in working on an Arts Society yearbook or Grad yearbook. She is willing to co-ordinate such an effort based upon response from society presidents. She has scheduled a yearbook committee meeting during the Christmas break Saturday, Dec. 16 at 1 p.m. at Student Union.

The M.S.V.U. Parent Care Lounge is looking for volunteers for next semester. Various time slots are available from Monday through Friday, ranging from 1 to 2 hour shifts. For more information contact Tracey Cochrane at the Student Union, or fill out an application available at the Corner Store.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

For more info see Career Placement Centre

Full-time:

Vice-President/General Manager
YMCA Canada
Toronto

Management Trainee Information Systems
Murphy Associates
Montreal

Teaching English in China
Asia Access International Business Group

Part-Time:

Casual Admission/Discharge Youth Workers
PEI

National Park Interpreter
Public Service Commission of Canada
Atlantic Region

Student Helpers
Spencer House
Halifax

Summer

Casual Summer Employment/ Visitor Information
NS Economic Renewal Agency
Various locations

Student Travel Counsellor
PEI

AECL Summer Student Program
AECL Research

Environmental Opportunities Youth
NS Department of the Environment

Please check the job board located outside Evaristus 231 for more information on employment opportunities.


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