



The Picaro

Mount Saint Vincent University

February 12, 1996
Volume 31
Number 10

NO PROMISES IN CONSORTIUM BUSINESS PLAN

Major changes to the Mount?

by Robert Batherson

Over the next three years, Mount students should expect more classes at other universities, less faculty and better cooperation between Metro university libraries, registrars and financial offices. That's if the provincial government approves the Metro Halifax Universities Consortium Business Plan, a "blueprint agreement" reached in December between Metro's seven universities.

Joining MSVU in the consortium are Dalhousie, Saint Mary's, Technical University of Nova Scotia, King's College, Nova Scotia College of Art and Design and Atlantic School of Theology.

The plan highlights four areas where better cooperation between consortium universities can reduce overall spending on post-secondary education. By targeting administrative savings, faculty attrition, shared academic programs and other "institutional initiatives," the universities hope to save \$17 million over the next three years. Metro universities currently receive \$141 million. In three years, the federal and provincial governments aim to cut this level to \$124 million.

"This partnership is a first for universities in Canada," said Mount President Elizabeth Parr-Johnston. She was among several management members to speak at a student forum, held last week in the Rosaria cafeteria. "It was not imposed by government. It's a good guideline agreement of where we need to go over the next three years."

Sheila Brown, academic vice-president, presented an overview of faculty and program savings. The consortium will save \$5 million from faculty attrition — not replacing professors who retire. To save an additional \$5 million, universities are also encouraging their program departments to draft a five-year plan and discuss harmonization with other universities.

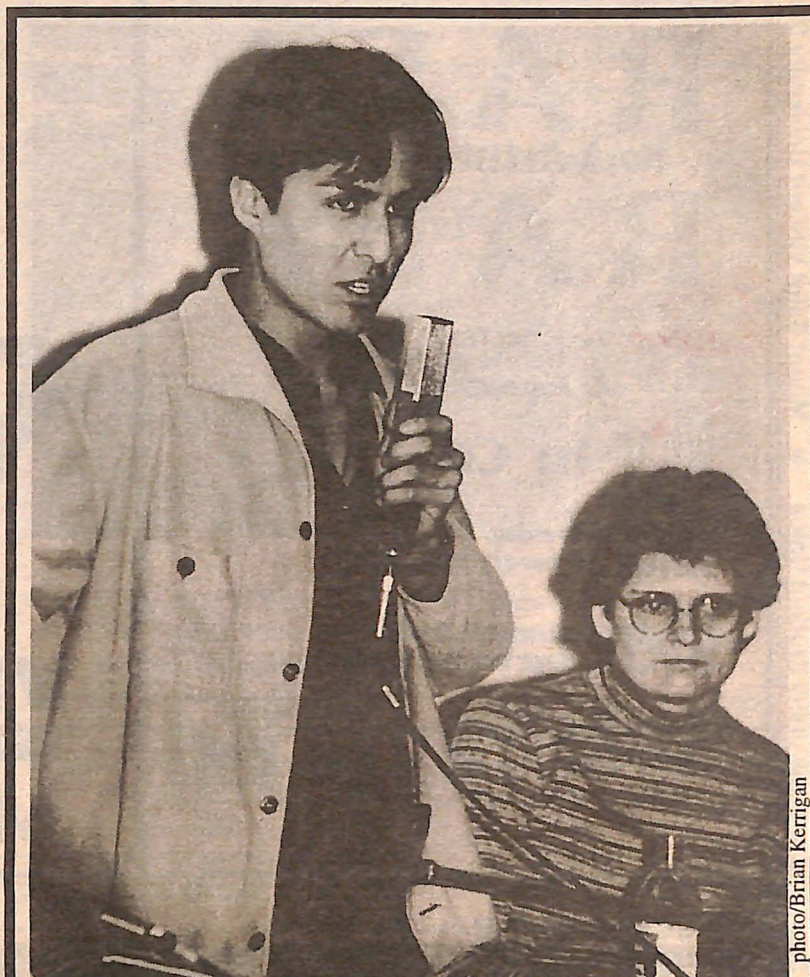
"I cannot promise you that every program will continue," Brown said. She believes the likely result of program negotiations will see students take an increasing number of third- and fourth-year courses at other universities. Brown expects up to 20 per cent of Mount students to be in this position once the plan is implemented.

The business plan also proposes that universities merge their respective administrative services for savings between \$5.4 and \$7 million. Each university's computer services, registrar, financial services, staff and faculty payrolls, physical plant and library would become a single "backroom" operation.

"The front-line service would be preserved to a large extent," said Lois Dyer Mann, the Mount's administration vice-president. "You would, for example, still be able to pay your tuition here."

Student Union President Joe Strolz praised the university for taking the initiative and consulting students. He expressed concern, however, about the plan neglecting to discuss a reduced senior management or improved transportation.

"With more students taking more classes at other schools, transportation is important, yet this issue gets one line in the business plan." Strolz further suggested having a student representative on the consortium's executive council, responsible for co-ordinating the plan.



Regular columnist, Marco Tejada, speaks at forum on "So What's Offensive?: The Picaro Controversy" as protester, Kathy Young looks on.

Although Parr-Johnston agreed with Strolz that the plan needed more detail on many issues, she offered little hope on the student rep. idea.

"There are student representatives on each university's board of governors and senate, where all the decisions will be ratified," Parr-Johnston said. "The executive council is not a board of regents or a 'super-sen-

ate,' it is a co-ordinating body. To expand it would make it much more difficult."

Education minister John MacEachern presented the business plan to the cabinet for consideration. No word yet on the provincial government's decision.

THE PICARO: SUBJECT OF CONTROVERSY

by Kathleen Sitter

Two weeks ago, six Mount Saint Vincent University students, accompanied by Student Union President Joe Strolz, took the *Picaro* newspapers from Seton Academic Centre and returned them to the editorial office to protest certain articles they thought were offensive.

Robin Boudreau, *Picaro* news editor, said the protesting was censorship because it took away the students' right to read

the paper and make up their own minds on the articles in question.

"By their actions, they [protesters] took away the right for others to have access to the paper. People couldn't form their own opinions because they didn't have the chance to read it," Boudreau said.

Joanne Bernard, one of the protesters, disagreed. "It was not censorship. It was a symbolic protest. We knew the papers were going to be redistributed. It isn't censorship when people protest.

She added, "We didn't know that it was going to take the staff two days before putting them back out."

The *Picaro* staff didn't feel it was safe to redistribute the paper without doing it by hand. And, they attached a letter to the paper to let the students know what happened.

Boudreau said, "During this time we had to plan and think of the appropriate way to approach the situation. And, we lost a day because there were no

classes on Caritus Day. It would seem pointless to try and distribute the paper on a day when no one would be around."

However, the protesters felt the articles, "Nowhere but Now," "Drunk and Stupid in a Skirt," and the Editorial were homophobic and sexist. Bernard said the articles were not appropriate for the university paper.

She said, "The quarrel was not what was wrote, it was the form in which it was published." continued on page 4

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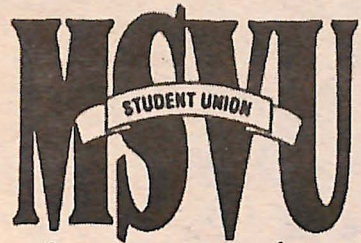
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Mount Saint Vincent University Student Union Website

The **HOMEPAGE**

VINNIE'S PUB

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RAFA

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Mount St. Vincent

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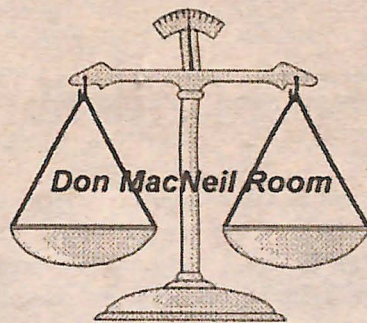
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WED FEB. 21 Pub Night

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The Picaro
Volume 31 Issue 10

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The Picaro is dedicated to in-
forming, challenging, and enter-
taining 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
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Student Centre is Here

by Nadine Nass

If you haven't walked through first floor Rosaria lately, you have missed a lot of changes. The student centre is almost completed.

The new Parent Care Lounge is in use, the Corner Store and Games Room are open for

business and the Picaro staff have moved into their new office.

Michelle Spencer, a volunteer at the Parent Care Lounge, said, "There is lots more room for the kids to run around. The kids seem to enjoy it more."

The Corner Store is three

times larger than the one that was located on second floor Rosaria last year. It carries movies to rent and a wider selection of magazines, grocery items, snack foods and personal care items than ever before.

"I have to commend the maintenance guys because they did a lot of work really quickly," said Susan Dumaresque, Corner Store Manager.

Dumaresque, also a third year tourism student, said that if there are items students would like to see at the Corner Store they may either speak to her or one of her staff members. They will try their best to accommodate the needs of the students.

The Corner Store hours are Monday to Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. (except for Wednesdays when the store is open until 2:00 a.m.). It is open on Saturdays from 12:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and Sundays



from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

The Games Room currently has three pool tables, a couple pin ball machines and a FAS soccer game table. The hours are the same as the Corner Store.

The Picaro staff moved into their new office two weeks ago. It is much larger than the old one and it has windows.

There are also new washrooms located in the student centre.

Everything is located on the first floor of Rosaria. And it has all been built for your use and convenience. Why not check it out?



Vending Machine Robbers Hit The Mount

by Robin Boudreau

Last Monday night a couple vending machines on Mount Saint Vincent University campus were broken into and the perpetrator(s) got away with money and food.

Chief of Security, Glenn Hollett, said Dalhousie Security notified them about a week-and-a-half before to be on the lookout. There had been similar break-ins on the Dal campus.

"We were continuously on the alert," Hollett said. "During our rounds about an hour earlier we checked all the machines and there was no sign. Then at 10:40 p.m. we discovered one in Evaristus had been broken into. So, we immediately checked the rest of the campus."

They found another one vandalized on the second floor of the Seton Academic Centre. There was money stolen from this

one but money and food were taken from the one in Evaristus Hall.

The police were notified, and came to investigate. Red Carpet Services, the company that owns the vending machines, were called. They sent someone to repair the machines.

The thieves took an undisclosed amount of money. However, Larry Connolly, district manager for Red Carpet Services, said the machines are emptied on a daily basis, so there's not much money in them at any given time. It's a crime committed quite often, he said. It's just not common at the Mount.

"We experience theft and vandalism a lot in this business," Connolly said. "It's difficult to keep a tight security because the machines pretty much stand on their own. But for the Mount,

we've experienced very little in the way of theft and vandalism in the past."

Hollett said this incident may be part of a trend going on right now with universities.

"There seems to be a link, in that people are travelling from one university to another [doing this]."

Connolly said they also had a similar problem with the machines at the Saint Mary's rink the same night as the Mount did.

"There has been a group going around Metro," Connolly said, "hitting vending machines outside of buildings and in schools. So it looks like it could be an outside group."

Hollett said the robbers are still unknown, and encourages anyone who has any information, or witnessed anything, to contact them.

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Picaro continued from page 1

Where Did I Lose That?

by Adria May

If you've been searching endlessly for a lost item chances are you'll find it at the Assisi Information Desk in Assisi Hall at Mount Saint Vincent University. Many students seem to be unaware of the location of the Lost and Found.

Here are some of the top ten items that you or someone you know is missing, and you can find at the Lost and Found.

10. Unidentifiable objects-the workers at the Assisi Information Desk have yet to figure out what these items are.
9. Cellular Phone Batteries
8. Jewelry including watches and rings.
7. Notes
6. Wallets
5. Bank Cards and Credit Cards
4. Calculators
3. Clothing
2. Keys
1. Textbooks

Textbooks are among the most common items that are brought to the lost and found.

Glenn Hollett, chief of security at M.S.V.U. said, "Last year we had over 200 textbooks and most of them are valuable."

He also said that they try to make reasonable attempts to find the owners of the lost items; however, in the case of items such as textbooks, there needs to be a name written inside and many students do not write their names inside of their books.

Hollett says, "If you put your name inside your textbook, you will get it back."

There's also a list of items that people have recorded missing. The people at Assisi Information Desk make an effort to match the list with the items that they have in the Lost and Found.

"We try to clean out the items at least once every year," Hollett said.

Items such as clothing go to good will and the textbooks are sold. The money is returned to the University as general revenue. Hollett said that of the 200 books they've received, they can probably only sell 25 of them, as the others have no market value.

If you are interested in reclaiming your lost item(s), come to the Assisi Information Desk at Assisi Hall (open 24 hours) and identify your item. In some cases you will need to present a student ID.

Please make an attempt to clean out the lost and found by informing other students about it and reclaiming your stuff.

Andrea Forget, first year Public Relations student, was not impressed with the article. "If it had style and shown some editorial capabilities, I would have had more admiration for the actual content...but it had no style, and the content is questionable, so I got nothing out of it."

Though Andrea disagrees with the actions of the protesters, she said *The Picaro* should "make sure the stories they are publishing are contributing and spreading ideas."

Melanie Cunningham, third year Public Relations student, does not agree with the actions that were taken by the protesters.

"What I do find offensive is the way its being handled—by a small bunch of students trying to suppress the newspaper."

Before collecting the newspapers in garbage bags and returning them to *The Picaro* office, the protesters photocopied *The Picaro* newspaper. For the two days it took *The Picaro* to put the paper back on the stands, the protesters redistributed them to anyone who asked for one.

Boudreau said that by doing this, "they were controlling students' access to the paper. Who gives them that right? And besides, how would people know to go to these people for a photocopy of the paper?"

Joe Strolz, student union president, escorted the protesters to *The Picaro* office to help file their complaint. *The Picaro* claims Strolz walked in the office holding a garbage bag full of newspapers, but Strolz and the protesters said this was not true.

"Student Union was merely involved in making sure the complaint was being heard," Strolz said. "Student Union was not there to censor or control editorial content."

Strolz explained that the articles being protested are subjective and it is important for everybody to have a chance to read them and make their own judgement.

"We do not condone in any way the actions of taking the papers," Strolz said.

Bernard said the problem is that there is no official form of filing a complaint. Another protestor, Kathy Young, said the protest wasn't thought out, and that it was a gut reaction. Bernard quickly added that "no one regrets what they have done."

Currently, Student Union is drawing up a contract for a Publishing Board. Students will then be able to take their concerns directly to the board. Joe Strolz said *The Picaro* should have the contract by the end of the week.



photo/Brian Kerrigan

Pic staffer Shawn Miner hand distributing last issue

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OPINION

Editorial

Dear readers

I am writing today to express my concern about the last issue of *The Picaro*. Or more specifically, the bruhaha that followed it.

We received many letters this week and printed them all (in alphabetical order).

There's a lot of questions, a lot of rumours out there. I'd like to dispel some.

On Friday, I and two other members of The Pic staff, Marco and Shelley, shared the stage with three of the protesters at a forum, "So what's offensive: The Picaro controversy" There was an impressive turnout of students and a few faculty members. For an hour the panel and the audience talked, shouted and reflected. There were a lot of points to consider, a lot of ideas to think about. Did we talk about the topic? Well, sort of, but the issue of censorship, the mission of the Mount, Student Union and even spelling errors came up. As Marco said, "the politics."

The concept of a Publishing Board was brought up too. I'm glad it did because it gave me a chance to explain what it is. We don't consider *The Picaro* above reproach. We think it should be held accountable to the students. That's why we fully endorse the development of a Publishing Board. But there's some confusion about what a Publishing Board is. It's a place students can go to if they have a complaint or problem with the newspaper. It is NOT a group of people who read submissions before they are published. That's not the job of the Publishing Board. That's the job of *The Picaro* editorial staff.

Another question. So why don't we have a Publishing Board? First, we need a contract with Student Union. And believe me, after the craziness of the last two weeks, writing that contract tops their agenda.

If this has taught me one thing, it's that perception is reality. What a group of people don't find offensive can anger someone else. Maybe you can't see it yourself, but you've got to appreciate that someone else can. That's fine. Stimulating talk and challenging students. That's what a university newspaper is all about.

Andrea Bannister



The letters are in alphabetical order

Student press role

Dear Editor

As I stand by and watch the circus of events that have unfolded following the January 29, 1996 issue of *The Picaro*, I have to reflect on why a newspaper like this one exists.

A quick flip through history reminds me of the purpose of

the university press. Historically student newspapers have been a medium for expression, creative contemporary literature and a safe haven for controversial ideas and opinions.

In the 1950s beatnik poets and writers first found a voice in university student papers. These publications provided a much-needed outlet. Later during the protest years, again student papers

were used to generate resistance for the anti-war movement.

It's scary when these former freedoms appear to be in jeopardy.

Campus newspapers have a unique role that's recognized to be different from city dailies, or local entertainment magazines. Their uniqueness rests in the characteristics of the society where they are published—the university community. Universities, as institutions that foster learning and research, challenge norms, break records, empower people, and yes, sometimes they offend.

What constitutes offensive material anyhow? My 1967 Dictionary of Canadian English describes the word offensive as anything that's irritating, annoying and unpleasant. Don't these adjectives describe many of the hassles and stresses of everyday life?

Nobody sits by campus newspaper distribution boxes waiting to pounce on readers and tie them up, forcing them to read provocative columns or features, just like nobody can force someone to sit through an entire movie they may find distasteful.

I see it as the role of *The Picaro* to be a stimulating and provocative publication that makes people think. Last issue, I'm willing to bet that most readers spent more time discussing and thinking about the stories in question than they have about any other article that's appeared this year.

Congratulations to *The Picaro* for having the guts to publish the articles that caused the stir, and for having the strength to stand up for their decision and defend their role on campus.

Andrea Baldwin

Let me decide

Dear Editor

I really enjoyed the editorial in the last issue of *The Picaro*. I do not enjoy being stereotyped as a "lesbian," "a man hater," nor a "radical feminist" just because I go to the Mount. I am not homophobic, I just don't like being stereotyped as something that I am not. As far as I can see, that was what the editor was trying to get across. It was not meant to be offensive but rather to inform everyone about how the general public perceives women at the Mount. Some of you may not want to believe these statements but everyone is entitled to their own opinions. The last I heard the student body consisted of more than just a dozen or so people. I would

suggest that before anyone decides to take it upon themselves to do "what's in the best interest of the students" to check what the student body as a whole thinks. If you don't like what is written in *The Picaro*, then don't read it, but let everyone else have the chance to form their own opinions.

Melanie Beaton

Misogynistic & offensive

To the Editor:

Unfortunately, because of the events of the past week, I feel compelled to write this letter. The swirl of misinformation and false accusations being levelled against the students who initiated last week's protest against the editorial and (for lack of a better word) articles, is laughable if only it were not so pathetic. The issue of censorship has unfortunately clouded the real issue of the lack of sensitivity and responsibility by the editorial staff in allowing the printing of blatant, offensive, derogatory misogynistic messages that ran rampant throughout last week's two articles. The students who voiced their disapproval towards such trash did so symbolically by placing *The Picaro* into trash bags and returning them to *The Picaro* office. At no time did we destroy, deface or prevent the redistribution of the newspaper because that would be censorship and like the *Picaro* staff, we do not believe in censorship either. However, we do believe in our democratic right to protest and in editorial responsibility to a readership. Coordinating editor, Andrea Bannister, wrote in a previous editorial that she would not print a letter from a female student because its content was paramount to male-bashing. Why then are the female students of this university not privy to the same sensitivity and standards in regards to her editorial decisions? After all, according to Andrea, we are 84% of her readership not to mention 84% of her financial support via our student union fees. The trashing of women and perpetuating homophobia in a student newspaper at a predominantly women's university is UNACCEPTABLE. That was the basis for the protest.

The editorial itself was reminiscent of a personal journal. What the editor does not seem to realize is that this is a pluralistic society with different lifestyles, beliefs, and perspectives. By wanting to desperately differen-

tiate herself from lesbians and radical feminists, she is perpetuating the negative mindset of, "Hey don't call me that, I'm not one of THOSE women". This type of distancing wreaks of homophobia and gives the tyranny of the majority a whole new meaning. Well, Andrea, these women are on campus and they have the right to be heard and they do not deserve or will tolerate being targeted and labelled in your editorial.

This university paper needs a publishing board and a scripted editorial policy, both of which do not exist at the moment. The disclaimer at the front of every *Picaro* issue is just filler and not taken seriously or exercised by the current editor. How could it be after last week? How many people have to be offended by racist, sexist or homophobic material before this staff deems it to be offensive material? Obviously the perimeters are quite wide.

Joanne Bernard

Right on, Pic!

Dear Editor,

I enjoyed the editorial in the last edition of *The Picaro*. The issues you raised are honest and true. I am in agreement with you, I don't like some of the labels attached to me because I to be a woman attending the Mount. I've never been particularly fond of labels anyway, but they do exist, I've heard them before. I don't consider myself homophobic nor do I consider myself a lesbian. I also consider myself more than just a woman, I'm a person, just the same as the man beside me is more than just a man, he is a person too and we should deal with each other accordingly, as people equal to each other. I personally do not see what the fuss is about. I also do not like the idea of a small percentage deciding what the large majority can and cannot read. I enjoyed the editorial, you raised an issue that exists and you presented it exactly as it is. Keep up the good work.

Denise Boudreau

Let Me Decide.

Dear Editor,

It has recently come to my attention that censorship is alive and well in our tiny community of Mount Saint Vincent University. First of all, I would like to say that I am an ardent supporter of free speech, and that I eagerly oppose all forms of censorship. Censorship harms us all in three ways: 1) It takes away our right to read what we wish. 2) It takes artist's right of self expression. 3) It takes away our ability to make up our minds ourselves. The group of students who confiscated *The Picaro*, although with good intentions, have done all three things in censoring the paper.

If I want to read a story about an eight foot tall, 400 pound man named Fucker McFuckson, whose sole enjoyment in life is saying "Fuck You!!" to everyone he meets, then I should be able to do so. It is my right. I'm not saying that this is the type of reading I delight in, or even that it is a story that most people would like to read. What I am saying is that by censoring this story, you make it that much harder for me to gain access to read it. This is unfair because if someone does not wish to read the story, then all they have to do is avert their eyes. And if you have children, and wish to raise them in a certain way, then you avert their eyes too until they are old enough to make their own decisions. But don't take away my right to read it if I do so choose.

Censorship takes away the artist's right of self expression. I believe in free speech, and I think that the only reason that people are afraid of it is because they fear their own views will be affected. There are many people, many, many people of whom I disagree with in this world. But I don't try to shut them up. They can't change my point of view. I am a mature adult and I can make up my own mind.

Which brings me to my third point of making up one's own mind about things. I know that this issue of censoring *The Picaro* is not so cut and dry. *The Picaro* is a public paper, and we all have a say in what is printed in it. If only one person wants to read about Fucker McFuckson, and 20,000 do not, then unfortunately the story will not be printed. This is a democratic decision, not censorship. However I have been led to believe that "...a small group of students decided that some material in this issue of *The Picaro* was offensive and they took away your right to read it." (notice attached to the redistributed issues of *The Picaro*). Now my question is, who gave these people the right to make up my mind

for me? They didn't ask me if I found the article offensive and they sure as hell didn't ask me if I felt the paper should be confiscated. Writing a letter to the editor is one and disapproving of the material is one thing. Confiscating all copies of the said paper and denying me the ability to decide whether I think it is offensive or not is quite another. This is what pisses me off the most. There is one significant thing that I have learned from attending classes at this school, and that is that making up your own mind about things is of paramount importance. When these people confiscated this publicly distributed paper, they denied us all the ability to do this.

So, in conclusion, I would just like to say that I believe that some of the material in *The Picaro* was offensive, and, if enough students agree with me, further issues should be devoid of such material. But for the people who confiscated the paper, and to our esteemed student union president: Thank you for trying to make *The Picaro* a better paper to read...but you didn't ask me what I felt about it

Jim Boudreau

Preserve freedom of the press!

February 17th, 1991, another evening in the Persian Gulf. I was asleep when the action alarm went off. Was it a fire, a flood, a man over board, were we (my ship) under attack. When the executive officer came over the ships P.A. system, we found out a missile was directed towards our ship. While preparing for what was to come, I asked myself, what am I fighting for? That brief moment I was quickly answered with many ideological ideas. Canada, world peace, freedom....

Where am I going with this letter? After returning home from the Gulf, these ideological ideas seemed much more important to me. Specifically, the freedoms we

enjoy in Canada seem more important. Narrowing my focus further, freedom of speech and freedom of opinion.

It is in response to the article "Drunk and Stupid in a Skirt" and the turmoil surrounding it, that I am writing. The controversy surrounding it being published has prompted me to reflect on my own values. It has made me more sensitive to a person's right to be heard without being stifled. More and more I realize that NO persons should be able to limit another person's right to read and or, publish opinion. In Canada, freedom of the press is a sacred right. At MSVU, no person or group of people should have the arbitrary right to name themselves the voice of the student body. Do we not all have a voice?

The great thing about Canada is that I do have a voice, an opinion, a right to be heard. So does CMAN. In the university setting, I think that free expression and thought should be encouraged, NOT censored. Is this kind of institution not the forum to create open, not close minded people?

The bottom line for me is choice. The choice to read, or not read our student newspaper. For me, I choose to read *The Picaro* and take the good articles (in my opinion) along with the others. In response to "Drunk and Stupid in a Skirt" I fully support *The Picaro*'s choice to print it, and in turn, support CMAN's right to be heard.

Keep Our Freedoms Alive.

Todd A. Brayman
Mature Student

Culturally Sensitive A Politically Correct Cartoon

Free To Publish

Dear Editor

It seems to me that a lot of students at Mount Saint Vincent have very thin skin. The reaction to certain articles that ran in last week's *Picaro* was startling to say the least. I have read far worse in other campus papers. Yet some students were offended by the editorial and other articles that contained words like 'fag' and 'skank.' It seems to me that these articles were not homophobic or sexist; on the contrary, they were confronting those very issues. Granted, none of the commentaries in question were either lucid or even that coherent, and it's likely that they left many readers just plain confused. But it seems clear that the authors' intentions were to attack homophobia and sexism, not vice versa. Calling someone an asshole after he uses the term skank amounts to a condemnation of the term. And Andrea Bannister's editorial, while crude and simplistic, dealt with a valid perception of the Mount held by many who have never attended out school.

While these articles may not have offended me, I respect the fact that they may offended others. But it's the actions of the offended students that constitutes the most disturbing aspect of this ridiculous controversy. If you want to protest, write a letter, talk to the author, or return your copy of *The Picaro* to the editor. But the instant you take my copy (and virtually every other copy on campus), that's censorship. It is no different than the seizure of gay and lesbian literature by Canada Customs officials. Sure,

I may get to read it eventually, but I should have been able to read *The Picaro* the day it came out, a privilege a select few decided to deny the majority of the campus.

The actions of Student Union president Joe Stolz are also a cause for concern. If he thinks the protests of a few women and some members of the Student Council Executive give him the right, as the representative of the entire student body, to join an act of censorship, he is surely mistaken, and has obviously forgotten some basic principles of democracy. Which brings me to my final point. University papers represent the pinnacle of free speech. They are not subject to advertisers and publishing boards (who are sensitive to the views of their financial backers) the way the commercial media is. The idea of establishing a publishing board for *The Picaro*, in fact, is downright silly. If you want input into the operations of *The Picaro*, join the staff. The last thing anyone needs is a redundant board to look over submissions to the *Picaro* and give them a thumbs up or thumbs down.

The Picaro should be free to publish the views of any MSVU student (with the exception of hate literature), and this includes views that may no be politically correct, or that may use vulgar, offensive language, especially if that language is being used in a satirical way. And if an overly sensitive student or students are offended, write a rebuttal, but don't take away my opportunity to read *The Picaro*. Yes, all students contribute money to *The Picaro*. And that's precisely why any student can contribute.

OPINION

But that doesn't mean they have paid for the right to be insulted from views they might disagree with. Public debate over controversial opinions is an important basis of any democratic society - that's how we all learn. I find the actions of last week's protesters to be more offensive than anything that was ever appeared in *The Picaro*.

Peter Clarke
History/Pol. Sci.

Demanding Responsibility

To the Editor:

"*The Picaro* reserves the right to edit or reject any material, particularly material of libellous, racist, sexist or homophobic nature..."

OK.

Do you ever actually USE this right? I read the editorial and agreed with you, Andrea, stereotypes can be very limiting, but how unfortunate you reinforced it by your last paragraph and refuted what I believe you were trying to express. Don't worry, there are more than a few men and women who are capable of seeing feminism as a positive and weren't about to accuse you of lesbianism. Reaffirming your heterosexuality by requesting we reference your ex-boyfriends was really unnecessary...a little afraid of labels, are we? I see neither "radical feminist" nor "lesbian" as negative terminology, so I guess I've missed your entire point.

I'm wondering if *The Picaro* is so concerned with freeing itself from the ties of this "dreaded" stereotype, they've forgotten the university's mission: "Mount Saint Vincent University is concerned primarily with the education of women...[and promoting] an environment characterized by a Catholic tradition...." Is this lapse of memory how two articles in last week's *Picaro* got published? (Namely "Nowhere but Now" and "Drunk and Stupid") Or are you so desperate to fill space you've CHOSEN to forget who your audience is? Yes Andrea, 16 to 84, that's the ratio. Your audience is primarily women. Radical women, lesbian women, heterosexual women. I really doubt any single one of them would enjoy hearing themselves referred to as "skin" or "skank". How dare you use MY

paper, published with MY funds as a vehicle for such language. Worse yet, for such sexist concepts. I don't care if they are quotes from some anonymous man in a downtown club. I should feel protected in the Mount community, supported by its mission and attitudes. Like it or not YOU are part of the Mount community. There are four words under your title name: Mount Saint Vincent University. You are representing not only us students in a negative way, but the university as well. How dare you.

Perhaps, it has become a focus of the current editorial staff to broaden the student body's "fairly conservative views." (Your words, Andrea...hmm...hints of stereotyping, doesn't it?) Well, maybe such a mission and such articles as mentioned above are more suitable to an independent newspaper, but not one which represents me. (In the danger of repeating myself, one funded with MY money!) Until that time you are accountable to us, the students and we are primarily women. You are NOT autonomous.

We as students don't have an option of whether or not to buy *The Picaro*, otherwise that could be our protest of choice. That is why myself and half a dozen others returned the papers. Our papers. If you have the right to distribute them, we have the right to return them. I'm not ASKING for responsibility to your audience, I'm DEMANDING it.

Tina M. Cormier
Mount Student

Pseudo-intellectual

Dear Editor

Reading through the Chronicle Herald yesterday morning I was intrigued to read about the "Mount Paper Row" and the subsequent attempt at censorship imposed by some of the students. Although I am not officially "on campus" this semester I do make a weekly trek to the Mount to meet with my thesis adviser. While I was there yesterday I was passed the latest issue of *The Picaro*.

During my first reading of the paper the articles in question were not obvious to me. Upon re-reading the paper I was able to discern which ones might be considered offensive by some. I found them to be more pathetic than "hateful". The piece by "Cman" was so insane and pointless it is no wonder he did not use his name on the by-line. It is obvious to me

that drunkenness can not be used as a defence for his stupidity - no matter how he dresses. The piece by Marco Tejada was, in my opinion, nothing more than the incoherent ramblings of a pseudo-intellectual who spends too much time in the urinals on Argyle Street. The subject matter of both pieces was inappropriate for sure, but what really offends me is that these types of sophomoric drivel are being published in a university paper. Is nobody submitting worthwhile, meaningful and well written pieces that could better fill *The Picaro's* pages?

The editorial comment was also criticized because the campus censors "perceived" it as homophobic. This perception, I feel, is wrong headed indeed. The editor is not saying anything derogatory about homosexuals (in this case lesbians). She is actually defending our predominantly female student population, and then stating some truisms. We are not all lesbians nor are we all radical feminists. She is not denying either of these groups a place in our university nor has she bad-mouthed them or painted them with a homophobic brush. Rather, in my view, she is attempting to debunk some myths and other "sweeping generalizations" about the Mount's student body.

Rather than attempting to censor the material *The Picaro* is now offering why not submit some worthwhile pieces so that the editorial staff has something enlightened to publish in place of the uninspiring garbage so evident in this most recent issue. Respectfully submitted

Andrée Desrosiers
4th year BAA/CYS

Hats off to the Pic

Dear Editor

Hooray for *The Picaro* for re-distributing the papers! Censorship is not creating laws to prohibit or ban content, it is when a group of people take actions to prevent others from reading what they disapproved of and this is exactly what "this group" did. By collecting all the issues of the paper, they took a way my right and other students' rights to read the article and form our own opinions. I am also ashamed to now know that we have a Student Union here at the Mount who condones and actually contributes to these tactics of censorship and intimidation.

To complain about the content of *The Picaro* is one thing and is certainly your right to do so and it is also *The Picaro's* obligation to respond but to physically prevent others from reading what you are complaining about is censorship regardless of its content. Just imagine how empty our libraries would be if everyone took it upon themselves to remove literature they disapproved of and therefore preventing others from reading it and forming their own opinions on the topic. This practice should be condemned here at the Mount just as it is elsewhere in Canada!

Again my hat is off to *The Picaro* for standing up in the face of censorship and intimidation.

Gina Dunn

Scents

Dear Editor,

Whoa! Whoa! Whoa! When I walk around campus I continually read and hear that our campus is "scent free." In the past few years it has been come to our attention more and more that some people have a reaction to perfumes and colognes that people wear around campus. With this in mind I am wondering why on earth *The Picaro* would include a pull-out glossy Calvin Klein advertisement (it is also an interesting poster on the other side) in their latest issue. Although the advertisement does not have any scent on it, I would like to know why *The Picaro* has accepted to be involved with this type of advertising when the Mount is in favor of being "scent free"?

Keith Freeman

Not offensive

To the Pic Editors,

As a point of clarification, since everyone seems to want my opinion on this censorship issue, I will gladly give it, yet I believe for some it will not be what they expected. To ensure that my opinions were sound and well formed I have re-read the articles in question and considering the language used only, do not find them personally offensive. Some passages exemplify an insecurity on the part of the writer, perhaps a fear of difference, specifically in regards to sexuality and decisive lifestyle choice. Yet we cannot fault these individuals for their

opinions how ever short-sighted or restrictive, as they are the opinions of an individual who lives in a country where freedom of speech and opinion are highly valued and considered fundamental rights.

The concern that I have is not that the articles were sexist, racist or specifically homophobic, it is that they were just badly written and it is a poor reflection not only on the Pic staff for supplying these ill written articles but also on the Mount community at large for not supplying the better, more intelligent articles. I am not suggesting that the articles have to be written exclusively, though I can not deny that is always one of my ideal goals, but brunt of the matter is quality writing, from either gender. The Pic, involuntarily funded by student fees, I agree should be responsive and representative of its readership. But this will not happen if the proverbial buck is passed to a small number who actually submit material to the Pic, however terrible and have it published for lack of better material. If the Pic was overwhelmed with submissions from all areas of the student populace and still choose to publish these articles then I would be concerned about the issue of possible gendered elitism and preferential access to a legitimate forum of communication. But I do not feel that this is the case. If you do not like the articles write a letter to the editors or better yet write your own article, for as you know freedom of speech is a sacred right and hand in hand with that right is the freedom to react to the perception of self-insult, whether the inference was intentional or not. In this please do not misunderstand that I still feel strongly that hate literature should be opposed but in open debate for they say, it's helpful to know who your enemies are.

In closing in that last comment is the suggestion that if you there had been an appropriate grievance mechanism in place, perhaps this situation would not have escalated to its current point. Remember the personal is political and your opinions do count, but they weld more clout in written form, in this case, than as an abstracted anger that exhausts everyone who gets swept up in the maelstrom of denied justice and political correctness.

Lori Anne Jones
Status of Women Officer
MSVU Student Union

OPINION

My money funds this? Don't pick on the Pic

I am aware of the mission of MSVU, but what is the mission of *The Picaro*? Is it to inform and to meet the needs of the student body (predominantly women) or is it to provide a forum for drunks. I am referring to the two articles appearing in the last issue: "Nowhere But Now" and "Drunk and Stupid in a Skirt."

If there are so few newsworthy articles available to print, then maybe we have no need for a newspaper and my money can be better spent elsewhere. Until such a time, as a paying member of the student body (who funds you), I am asking you to exert some professionalism. There will always be people who refer to women as "skank" and "skin", but I want to be part of a university who refuses to fuel their ignorance by allowing them space in our paper.

Let's say for instance, that we skip the question of poor taste, how about relevance? Do Mount students really want to know about a "drunk and stupid" person need to get "f—ed?" (And just out of curiosity, what did this article have to do with fashion?)

Please publish feature articles relevant to me as a student attending an institute for HIGHER EDUCATION. You've got our attention now...Use it wisely!!

Jocelyn Melanson

To the Picaro and others, Joe Strolz, MANUS, Dean of Student Affairs

I, as an adult of 19, or who is at least considered to be an adult, believe that it should be up to me what I can or cannot read. Who gives the right to select members of MANUS and the Student Union to decide what the rest of the campus wishes to read? Personally, I did not find the articles in question; Nowhere But Now, and Drunk and Stupid in a Skirt, or the rest of the articles in *The Picaro* offensive. I can understand what those people were offended by, but the author was satirically reflecting the real world. In the same sense, almost anything that is published can be found offensive if you are looking for it. To those of you who did find it offensive, you are all adults

(I hope), so act like it. Pulling a childish prank like you did does nothing to advance your cause. If you don't like what you are reading, don't read it. That doesn't mean you have the right to decide if the rest of the campus should read it (yes, you did return the papers, crumpled and out of order). Can we really set a community standard by what a few people find offensive? Should it be censored for those few people? If that were to happen, nothing would ever be published!

lished! The majority of students that I know did not find the articles offensive, poorly written maybe, but not offensive. It has also been brought to my attention that a petition is being circulated for a Publishing Board to be instituted. Please tell me that our Student Union President could not be so hypocritical as to endorse this as we all know he opposed this action a couple of years ago, when he was Picaro Editor. Another point is that this petition demands *The Picaro* be responsible to the students. Yet those same people starting the petition are the same people who removed the Picaro from the shelves. How are they being responsible to the students by not allowing them to read the articles in question?

Sincerely and disappointed

Christine Pfinder
2nd year Arts

What's the message?

Dear Editor,

I am writing in regards to the two articles written by an individual of whom I shan't mention. These articles are "Drunk and Stupid in a Skirt" and "Nowhere but Now".

I would like to ask why one man was an "asshole" for being offended because he was called a "fag" but the other was not, but he had misogynist comments that were far from "nice". Did the author understand the difference or was he just too "Drunk and Stupid?" It is completely asinine and moronic to condemn one man for being offended but say nothing of, ie: condone the one who is offensive; after all the "fag" comment came from the same man who called women "skank" but he is apparently a nice guy.

I have had many people, men and women, make sexist remarks to me. I don't complain about them, I actually tell the offensive person to fuck-off with their shit as I don't need it nor want to hear it.

This author seems to be content to complain in a faceless article rather than to the culprit, so I am wondering if the author is simply just a coward as "...cowards have excuses..." but never voice an opinion.

I am wondering how you can consider a soap box for this individual to be "news" worthy, but then again I should not really be surprised.

Joel Simound
4th year B.Sc.

Not censored

Dear Editor,

It bothers me that the *PICARO* has turned a student's complaint into a censorship issue. You have the editorial privilege to reject material which is libellous, sexist, racist or homophobic and it is obvious to me that you have not been exercising it. Offensive or controversial articles are not censored when students voice their disapproval. Censorship exist when laws are created to prohibit or ban content. Students who are were offended by the articles were not trying to ban them. They were trying to make a point. You have a readership which is diverse and consists mainly of women. Your readership pays for paper in advance. In other words if we don't like it we can't stop buying it. Students expect to be represented in the paper, expect the editors to follow its disclaimer and expect to be given a fair hearing. Does it matter that it is a small group, a large group or a divided student population. What will it take to get some standards which respects and truly respects the whole student population.

Kathy Young

The Picaro is looking for a 1996-97 Editorial staff.
All positions are available and they include...

Copy Editor

Coordinating Editor

Managing Editor

Arts & Entertainment

Features Editor

News Editor

SPORTS EDITOR
LAYOUT EDITOR
CUP editor
Classifieds Editor
Distribution Manager

To apply, bring a letter of intent, a resume and writing samples if you have them, to The Pic office, 2nd floor Rosaria

FEATURES

AFRICIAN HERITAGE MONTH

African Heritage Month
Select Scheduling of
Events

FEBRUARY

13th
7 p.m. African Canadian Women: Their contributions to Family, School, Community and Church with Guest Speaker Tracy Jones. North Branch Library.

14th
10 a.m. - 12 noon Celebrating Black Mothers and Daughters. North Branch Library.

7 p.m. Black History Month Celebrity Quiz. North Branch Library.

15th
7 p.m. Coming Up for Air with Voices Black Theatre Ensemble. Halifax Regional Library, Main Branch.

16th
12 noon Luncheon and Presentation N. S. Black Female Educators: Lessons from the Past With Adrienne Dorrington, Ed.D Dalhousie University Faculty Club. Cost: \$13

7 p.m. 5th Annual Black Women that Made a Difference. Black Cultural Centre for Nova Scotia.

20th
7 p.m. From the Past Comes Our Future: Recognition of Contributions made to the Passage of the Halifax District School Board Anti-Racism Policy. North Branch Library.

21th
10 a.m. - 12 noon Celebrating Black Spirituals (part 1). North Branch Library.

7 p.m. Journey to the Motherland: A West African Experience. North Branch Library.

22th
7 p.m. Black Writing. North Branch Library.

8 p.m. Public Lecture: Racism and the Criminal Justice System with Dr. Martin Ruch. Black Cultural Centre.

24th
6 p.m. - 2 p.m. African Heritage Month Gala Dinner, Show, and Dance. World Trade and Convention Centre. Cost: \$30 per person.

26th
7 p.m. - 9 p.m. Black Family Meeting. Community Y.M.C.A.

28th
10 a.m. - 12 noon Celebrating Black Spirituals (part II) North Branch Library.

For further info or a complete list of events please call: 454-4636

NOVA SCOTIA'S OWN:

Rev. Richard Preston.
(1790 - 1861)



One of the greatest leaders of the Black Churches in Nova Scotia, Preston was instrumental in setting up 11 Baptist churches in Nova Scotia. Trained as a Baptist minister in England and known as "Father Preston" to his congregation, he was active in the movement to abolish slavery. Richard Preston also formed the African United Baptist Association, one of the most important Black associations in Nova Scotia.

Portia White
(1911 - 1968)



A school teacher as well as a singer, White began her singing career at the age of six in her father's church. Her singing career soared, with a debut in Toronto in 1941 and in New York in 1944. White subsequently toured North America and Europe. Following her death in 1968, White's estate donated \$1000 dollars to the Halifax Regional Library for the purchase of music books and materials. Portia White played a key role in the cultural development of the metro area.

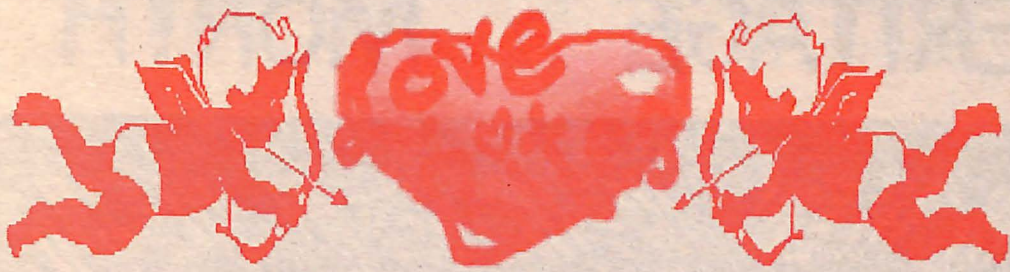
William Hall, V.C.
(1829 - 1904)



The son of escaped slaves from Virginia, Hall went to sea as a young boy and served with the Royal Navy. He served with distinction during the Crimean War. During the Siege of Lucknow, India, Hall volunteered on a naval gun brigade, and through his efforts successful defense was achieved. William Hall was the first Black person, the first Nova Scotian, and the first Canadian sailor to receive the Empire's highest award for bravery, the Victoria Cross.

SPECIAL THANKS TO
ROBERT FFRENCH
AND THE BLACK
CULTURAL CENTRE
FOR HELPING
MAKE THIS
PAGE POSSIBLE!





Thoughts on Valentine's Day.....

by Shelley Manderville

I went to the mall today. Nothing unusual for this university student. I try not to go, but it seems there is always something that lures me there. Needless to say, I'm addicted to shopping. But I'm getting off track all ready. My point you see, is that of what I saw, and what I saw is the same thing I've been seeing since just shortly after Christmas.

On January 2nd I walked into Sears to pick up my VCR that was getting fixed for the fourth time (no exaggeration, point to remember, never buy a VCR from Sears), I had barely entered the department store when I ran directly into it. It was hanging from the ceiling, or so I thought, actually it was attached to a cardboard display. It struck me in the chest, although it didn't hurt of course. I don't know what I was looking at that I didn't see it. Probably saw a sale sign or something. It was fairly big and was accompanied by, and I dread to say, a cupid.

Yes, you guessed it, it was a Valentine's display! Valentine's! I couldn't believe it! The new year had barely passed and yet another holiday for lovers was staring me in the face! I had done well you know! Over Christmas that is. You see, I've been single since September, and have no qualms about it! Actually, I kind of like it. But it seems that I'm the only single 23 year old woman alive. Or so would some of my relatives have me believe!

Ever since my sister got married I've been bombarded with that ever demanding question at every family function, which forces me to make unnecessary excuses, followed by a nervous laugh and an attempt to somehow get out of the conversation.

Anyway, back to the mall. O.K. I made it past the cupids with just being a little bit ticked off. I decided to go for a stroll through the rest of the mall before I had to pick up my new and improved merchandise. As I proceeded to walk down the hallway, I got glimpses of red and pink hearts in every other window. So, I picked up my VCR, left the mall and went back to my lonely little apartment confused as to why I suddenly had hatred towards this holiday. However, the feeling quickly passed as I soon realized that my VCR did indeed work and for awhile I forgot about the cupids.

Unfortunately, I did not forget for long. You see, as I said before, I went back to the mall. I've been back several times since then and each time it's worse. But today was unbelievable! In absolutely every store all I could see were hearts, cupids, lips, x's and o's and so on. The jewelry stores were saying "Buy your loved one a gift she'll never forget" talking about diamonds of course, as if I need that kind of pressure! The lingerie stores were draped in red silk and satin teddys that I'm sure not

even cupid himself would wear! I couldn't handle it! I left. This actually made me leave the mall! An unbelievable feat!

So, I'm sitting at home now trying to figure out why I have such harsh feelings towards this cute little guy arrow. I think I can sum it all up in one word. STRESS! Unwanted, and not brought on by my own actions! This holiday brings on stress! All I find myself thinking about is what will take place on this day. What can I do to escape all the love that will be floating around? I do admit it's because I'm single. If I had a boyfriend I'd probably be excited because, I hate to admit it, but I'm a sap. A hopeless romantic! And to make it worse I had a date last week! You'd think that I'd be happy but I'm not! I mean he's a nice guy, I like him, but now I have more stress. Do I get him a card, a gift or nothing, damn it, he's not my boyfriend. Oh, what to do. I'm sure you can relate. It's just so unnecessary!

On February 14th, I can predict what will happen. My roommates will receive cards, flowers and phone calls from their boyfriends and they'll be all skippy. Of course, they don't mean to flaunt it, but they will. And I will no doubt be in the crappiest mood ever putting on that fake smile. What will you be doing?

Nowhere but now

by Marco Tejada

Best time that old Seiko ever gave me

I pawned my watch and bought two bottles of good wine, a block of Havarti and a bag of BBQ chips with the money. Ate, drank and typed while it snowed outside my window and the view blurred enough to think clearly. Slept haunted by ghosts of drowned sheep. Dreamt of shrill dogs with no bite. Awoke to a mothball afternoon, crimson hangover and 605 words past this period.

Two weeks after a pack of toothless dogs incited minor stampedes at MSVU, the flocks seem to have settled. It was touch and go for a while. Joe Stoltz, graceless from too many BOG dinners, couldn't straddle the fence on this one, and fell in with the nattering herds. Unexpectedly large waves swamped those who ventured too close to the controversy. They were quickly pulled from the shallow turbulence and revived. No one was seriously injured in the rush. Word of the strangeness leaked out.

Consequently, The Herald checked into the silliness and gave it some press. Even Nick Zinck, weekend columnist for The Daily News threw his dunce cap into the fray. And Mount students finally put their rusty voices and dusty word processors to use. Whether in protest or praise, The Picaro humbly accepts all letters, like a murderous saint on death row. The situation's simmered down now; the dogs have stopped barking.

Still, something must be done. From most expensive to least, proposed solutions include 1. protective containers to ensure tamper-free distribution of the paper 2. setting up an independent censorship, ah publishing board to determine acceptable content 3. replacing the current Picaro staff with trained circus animals 4. sticking parental advisory labels on subsequent issues 5. renaming the campus paper The Nexus and 6. shutting it down and saving students roughly \$3 a year on tuition charges.

If MSVU was really smart, they'd make the paper part of the PR curriculum, and have profs grade students on the product and how well they ran the show. But don't hold your breath waiting for that one...

Meanwhile the snow piles like sheepskins on my window ledge. The controversy was amusing, but I'm a little sickened by the flock's misguided protests, the way the wool was pulled over their eyes. How many reactions were based on accusations and not the articles themselves? Huddled together safe and warm as make-believe allows, sheep are guilty of buying the line and probing no further.

The privileged elect are guilty of much but never a straight answer. Look at Bouchard, ambiguous but indignant. John Holms caught with his hand in the cookie jar. Stoltz, publicly tamed, privately apologetic for going along with an angry few. Tight muzzles and short leashes make for timid dogs and poor leaders.

Just finished the last of the wine, and I'm reminded of yesterday's dinner at the Khyber Building. A group of concerned people put on a free vegan meal, to highlight government neglect and community support for the hungry. Everyone was welcome. I sat with Myra, one of the organizers.

"The problem with feeding the hungry," she said, "is the more help we offer them the less support the government provides. Hopefully this protest will draw attention to food issues."

The "protest" was a jumbled gathering of volunteers, youth who liked to look and act poor, the poor, and me. In the middle of everything some kids sit in a circle and played drums and congos. It felt like a hippie gathering.

"Excellent platform," I told her, "but not the most effective means to combat the problem."

"Oh? People are getting a free meal in a comfortable atmosphere," she said. "It's pleasure without profit."

"I see that, Myra, but how will this increase awareness of hunger issues? Look around you, who's going to spread the word?"

The volunteers busily cooked and washed dishes, trendy youth picked at their plates and socialized, the poor ate heartily and I wondered about this week's column.

"I hear you're a writer..." Myra smiled. I didn't reply. "So write something," she said.

For once everybody got what they wanted.

Kempt Rd. Location Only

Free Large Hamburger

Buy a Harvey's Hamburger, Double Burger or Superburger (bacon & cheese extra) and regular or large order of French Fries and receive the second same Hamburger free. (Not available on Junior Burger.)

Present coupon before ordering. Offer valid at participating restaurants. Not valid on delivery or with any other offer. Coupon has no cash value.

Taxes extra.
Expires
March 4th, 1996



Free Large Hamburger

Buy a Harvey's Hamburger, Double Burger or Superburger (bacon & cheese extra) and regular or large order of French Fries and receive the second same Hamburger free. (Not available on Junior Burger.)

Present coupon before ordering. Offer valid at participating restaurants. Not valid on delivery or with any other offer. Coupon has no cash value.

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FEATURES

Pink Triangle Day

February 14th



Why The Triangles?

No concept is more horrifying or brings more pain of heart than the Holocaust. Hitler used yellow Stars of David to distinguish people of the Jewish religion; he used pink triangles to distinguish homosexual men and black triangles to distinguish homosexual women.

The pink and black triangles have been taken as a symbol of PRIDE by homosexual women and men today. The collective Triangle Day is celebrated on February 14. This is to show that there are more loves than that between a woman and man.

On Being Me

by J.S.

I have been asked what it is like being bi (or gay). Well, I'm not really sure that it is any different from being straight except for the obvious. I have all the normal emotions, I do all the normal things, and best of all, I have never been abducted by aliens. Mulder??????? Mulder???????

Have you ever looked at someone of the same gender and thought "Wow, they are attractive"? Well my thoughts just run deeper. Who can say why; hell, who really cares? I lived with both parents and none more protective than anyone else's. I spent years denying it, making up reasons for my wants and thoughts until eventually I had to admit it or go completely insane (hmmmm....that would explain a few things for some people I know). Hell, I chastised and assaulted myself so much for it that I don't think that anyone else could do worse.

Well, for those who do try to be vindictive and hateful, I am usually sarcastic and openly admit who I am to them which usually sets them for a loop. Picture some guy looking at you and saying "Yeah, so I am a big fag, but that's big nasty fag to you" or I tell them that they never complained before. I never met anyone with the chutzpa (hootspa) to say anything else to me. Ya, ya, your "baby's got a secret" and it's me. Shy, I'm not. I have kissed

men on Spring Garden Rd. and in the Liquor Dome.

My friend David has crowned me the "Queen of the Straight Bars" as I get hit on by men in them but the times I've been in gay bars I have never been. Oh, I have been grabbed by anonymous hands, which you get used to (well I did).

I have heard many lines from men in straight bars. While playing pool, on two different occasions, two guys asked about playing with me but used phrases like "stick" to refer to the cue and mentioned a few things about the pool balls (let your imagination go, I can't spell it out for you). One guy told "if I was bi I would be really interested in you" and later he grabbed me and said "come with me". No one has ever harassed me in the Dome except for this woman who happens to go to the Mount; she follows me around and tells her friends that I slept with her ex-boyfriend.

The only stereotypical thing I do is watch fashion. I am not impressed that men's clothes are so restricted while women have amazing wardrobes to choose from. By the way, men: don't wear sweat socks with dress pants, and don't wear sweat pants at all; women: don't wear those stirrup pants. NO I have never wanted to dress in women's clothes. It is a shame that the norm is boring and only the radi-

cal get press but alas such is life in a Talk Show Society.

I don't watch talk shows, soap operas, or the crappy movies. I like shows with strong, well defined characters like "Grace Under Fire" and "Absolutely Fabulous". The people I am attracted to are the same; sexy with strong personalities. My roommate hates me as I know so many wonderful women, like my friend Sherry. I also know very sexy men like Paul.

Oh, to dispel some myths. I do NOT want every man I see or every woman. Do you??? As I said before, I don't do drag. Not everyone I know is gay...hell I may know you. Gay bars do not have seedy back rooms for fun and adventure. Not everyone likes all sexual positions; again, do you?

Well I can't explain why I am attracted to both genders, nor could I explain why you may be only attracted to one, but I have learned to live with it. I revel in it now. I just hate meeting the people who just want a one night thing but don't tell you or the ones who you fall in love with but they are too scared of who they are to date you. Well I guess that is all I can say about that but if you want to know more just ask - I'm not shy.

I KNEW AGAIN

by J.S.

Your image repeated.

My love reflected.

My beauty noted.

*Your thoughts stated that
I could have anyone so why
you?*

Your vision is exquisite.

Your kindness is unrecognized.

Sweet lover,

For you, I crave.

A brutal salted kiss.

*Words whispered in the
dark.*

A tormented stare.

An unpronounced desire.

A love left anonymous.

Unknown stability.

Your name whistles by.

A slaughtered heart.

Lover was my title

Again.

FEATURES

Thanks for Coming Out... Roadside

by M.W.

I suppose everyone questions at some point. Nine out of ten reader question columns in teen magazines state boldly "Help! I kissed another girl and enjoyed it! Does that make me a lesbian?" Well, even though I had a few questions of my own, I much preferred to take the six years it took to answer them myself.

Well, I've told just about everyone important in my life. But it's only recently that I've been open and honest about my bisexuality. Well, I think I was open and honest with myself way before this. I never thought of killing Ken off so Barbie's daughter could have two mommies as odd when I was seven, but I think it should have been my first clue.

My real questioning began about six years ago. I think it made my teen years a bit more angst-ridden than most, but I managed to get through them okay. At least, I think so anyway.

I've had a few bad experiences. The biggest one is that fact that I could never tell my family. My partner has been wonderful and supporting, standing by me always. Even my friends have been fantastic, so relaxed they

even tease me when they see me checking out a particularly attractive woman. It's nice, but it just doesn't seem enough, considering the people who created me and raised me don't even know their own daughter.

The other experience that really hurt happened just a few months ago. I don't know who you are, Mr. Man-Full-of-Hatred-for-Bisexuals, but if my sexuality makes me a "F**kin' dyke, cocksucking bitch" who "spreads my G.D. politics around on campus," then so be it. At least I am happy with who I am when I look in the mirror. I pity you for carrying so much hate with you, it'll only weigh you down and make you bitter.

Being bisexual does not make me promiscuous (just ask my partner - I'm completely monogamous!), I don't want everyone I see, and nope, sorry, even when I'm single I don't always have a date on a Saturday night. My sexuality is just part of who I am. It's important, but it doesn't shape my life. I don't flaunt it, nor do I hide it. Yet I am happy and proud of it. I couldn't imagine being anything else.

Untitled

by M.W.

She looked to me like a child,
merry-go-round smiles
grace preceeding beauty.
Easily wounded,
ever fragile,
ever wondering.
Show to me your sparkling soul,
tell me what I've missed.
Recite your stories,
and weave your spell,
I'm begging to find out.
I've lived through him,
all these years,
so wasted.
Never took the time for me.
Unspoiled innocence,
it appeals to my inner child,
the one who sees the love.
The one who finds his body,
never her soul,
next to her,
in the cold, dark morning of reality.

Prophets

by M.W.

Happened by chance,
with one glance,
I knew there was a spark.
Kept a silent, unspeakable
secret,
for so long.
Wanting to tell you,
What was on my mind.
Tired so hard,
To push feelings away.
Thought you'd never recip-
rocate,
What I knew I felt for you.
Sure people would talk,
Tried to let gossip,
Stand in my way.
But you took my hand,
let me down the path to
Eden.
We hold fast,
and laugh in the faces,
of roadside prophets,
who call us sinners.

Tormented

by J.S.

A solitude.
An encounter.
A dove.
An idle curiosity.
A subtle gaze.
An enigmatic statement.

A knowing heat.
An unconditional tenderness.
A shiver.
An ache.
A gasp.
An inferno.

A delicate moment.
A vulnerable look.
A betraying stare.
A wounded desire.
A disgraced belief.
A caricature.

A vision never seen.
A word never spoken.
A touch never felt.
A tear never shed.
A kiss never given.
A charade with no players.

A passion never lost.
A position never held.
A wanting never had.
A love never known.
A secret never shared.
A game with no rules.

Memories that aren't mine.
I'm scared.

I Knew

by J.S.

Remember the party when we first met?
The one where I first saw you looking.
I looked up and caught you staring
and when you turned and blushed a little,
I knew.

When you got a little bolder and
Stared a little harder,
I knew
When
"...I've seen you around..",
I knew

When you wanted to ask that personal ques-
tion,
I knew
When I replied yes
And you said "...that must be so cool.."
I knew.

When we went for that walk, to talk
I knew.
When you wanted me to phone you
I knew.
When we parted at my home
I knew.

When I was in
I knew
A few minutes later
When the bell rang
I knew.
When you said "...can we talk a little.."
I knew

When I awoke and find you were gone
I knew.
When I phoned
After being put off
Only to be told you
I knew.
Why don't you?

FEATURES

the Flip Side

ON WOMEN AND VIOLENCE

Malignant something or other

by Marco "CMAN" Tejada

Last summer I tried to join a "Take Back the Night" march, but a middle-aged woman asked me not to because it would have defeated the purpose of the event.

"What're you saying?" I demanded naively, "I want to show my support for the women's movement."

"Oh, I know that dear," she said without breaking stride, "but we have to do this alone. It's time women felt safe walking the streets and if you joined us it would mean we cannot do it alone and that in turn would only lead to increased dependence, rampant fear etc etc."

The rhetoric came so fast and furious I actually froze. It stopped her momentarily - should she continue the walk or further enlighten me on the politics of empowerment? Someone called her name. She cast a charitable smile my way and rejoined the march.

I wasn't upset by her refusal, just a little confused. It must suck to be afraid to walk alone at night, but plenty of men feel the same way. No one's really safe anymore. Violence is one of those unpredictable events traumatic to the human situation,

kinda like cancer. You never know when it'll ruin your day.

I respect anyone who works to prevent violence against women because it's unacceptable; there's no denying that. No one should feel like a victim because of their gender.

However, violence isn't confined to any one group anymore than cancer only affects certain people. Too many self-interested voices confuse the issue when unity is so desperately needed. Acts of violence affect us all in one way or another, and sometimes we become so preoccupied with one type we ignore the big picture. No one should feel like a victim because of their gender, beliefs, race, or sexual preference either. Vigilance is key.

Violence is violence, whether from cop to criminal, man to man, spouse to spouse, hetero to homo or parent to child, it is an intolerable act. The only way to beat violence is to work together against it. Remember that next time you wear a purple ribbon.

Here's to provincial Week Against Violence, February 11 to 17.

Please Don't Hit Me...

by Angela Jarvis

No matter where you look in today's world, some form of violence can be seen. Violence is no longer limited to movies like Rambo, it is used on talk shows and soap operas. But what does all this violence teach the children of today?

A couple years ago, a friend and I decided to attend a womyn's "Take Back the Night" march. At first I thought the march was boring and a waste of time; someone stood up and rattled off statistics about womyn and violence. Having taken a stats class and never being effected by violence before, I began to wonder if the numbers being given were in fact true. Then, by police escort, we began our march around downtown Halifax: what was the point of a womyn's march to take back the night if we had to be escorted by the police, I thought. As we marched and chanted "what do we want...safe streets...when do we want them...now!"

I got a chance to talk with some of the womyn I was walking with; I was surprised to hear, that one of them had been beaten

up while walking down Sackville Drive. I mean Sackville is a town not a city...and violence only happens in the city, right? Wrong! I came to learn night violence happens anywhere and everywhere. Just walking in a group doesn't protect you from all the violent people of the world.

As we walked, my eyes began to open to all the violence that was occurring in the world. The safe little world that I'd created for myself to live in began to shatter. As we walked, I began to realize that nobody was safe from violence - not even us as we marched under police observation some of the men walking along the streets yelled obscenities at us; a couple of guys who had been hanging around outside of a bar began to follow us, yelling and telling us to go home where we belonged. However, the most surprising and discouraging event of the night was still to come. Someone intentionally tried to run over a group of marchers while they crossed the street. I couldn't believe it. The driver, a male, had stopped his car

at a red light, muttered something about womyn in general then proceeded to drive his car through the march. Thank God nobody was hurt - well no marchers were hurt - I can't say much for the car's paint job. Don't get me wrong, only a few men reacted this way. Most of the men we encountered that evening strongly supported what we were trying to do.

I still wonder about some of the events that happened that night. Why did the march stir up so much anger in some of the people we past? We want safe streets for all (womyn, children, and men) but we still do not have them. In my opinion, the violence has only gotten worse. Something must be done, but until our justice system changes and starts to realize that women and violence issues are a major problem, I don't believe anything will get better.



Vincent's Restaurant

by Leanne Mosher

Vincent's Restaurant (if you don't already know is located on campus at Mount Saint Vincent University. It used to be in Evaristis, but has moved to the second floor of Rosaria (next to the cafeteria). Students taking the THM216 course; as I am; run the restaurant as their lab. There are five groups, each group has a turn

serving, cooking, and most important, managing. The menu is different every time Vincent's opens. The students decide on their own menu; the prices they charge and the food they serve. There are three courses (appetizer, entree, and dessert), each offering two choices. In the day Vincent's Restaurant looks like a classroom, but in the night, it is transformed into a delightful little restaurant where students can get a good meal at a good price. The lights are dimmed, the music is playing and the tables are set.

I went to Vincent's on opening night, to see what my group was in for, and so I could write my review. The night turned out good despite a little incident of late chicken. Three

out of the four of us ordered chicken rather than the fish, we waited and we waited but the chicken never came. I felt like leaving, but after waiting that long I was too hungry to leave without eating, so, we waited some more. All was not lost though, our waitress was very considerate and offered us lots of complimentary garlic bread while we waited, it was delicious bread. The chicken finally arrived (fashionably late) and tasted pretty darn good (maybe because I was so hungry).

Don't let this keep you away from Vincent's, it was the first night something was bound to go wrong, it's a great place. You have to give the first group credit for being first, they didn't have much time to prepare and I

don't think they really knew what to expect. I found out the next day that the chicken was still frozen a half an hour after we had ordered it, that's why it was so late. Once they got through that the rest of the night went smoothly. One thing I didn't mention was that we were walk-ins; we didn't have a reservation. Since we didn't make reservations, management didn't have to look at us, but they were kind enough to squeeze us in. So, I guess it wasn't entirely their fault, we sort of messed them up by not making reservations.

Vincent's Restaurant is open every second Tuesday and Thursday, it usually opens around 5 o'clock, but depends on the group managing. The following is a list of dates and themes:

Feb. 13: not sure
Feb. 15: Homestyle Cooking
Mar. 5: not sure
Mar. 7: Spanish
Mar. 19: Pass-da-pasta
Mar. 21: British Cuisine
Mar. 26: not sure

To make reservations for any night, call Paulette at 457-6517. Don't everyone rush at once! Remember Vincent's is a small restaurant, everyone can't eat on the same night. If one night is full try another. Reservations are encouraged, if you are a walk-in (like me) you cannot be guaranteed a table, however, if you do get one be prepared for the consequences. My night is on March 19, I hope to see some of you there. Everyone is welcome at Vincent's!



Lynx
by Ceri Young

Web sites. What are they exactly?

Well, the World Wide Web (WWW) is basically a group of documents on the internet that you can read (or view with graphics if you have the right program — the Mount doesn't) about just about any subject you can imagine: authors, actors, organizations, movies, music...I think you get the picture. The program that we use on the VAX is called Lynx. So, if you want to try surfing the web (doesn't sound quite as good as "Surfing the 'net' does it?) just type Lynx at the \$ prompt. \$ lynx

Now, once you get into Lynx, you'll want to change a few things to make using it easier. First of all, you want to create a file to save all of the web pages that you've been to and might want to go back to. Also, you want to change the options so that the links (the highlighted words on your screen that lead to more information) are numbered. This way, instead of having to move the cursor up and down, you can just type a number, and follow that link.

Just type O (for Options). Then type B (for Bookmark File). Enter a file name here. It doesn't matter what it is. (Mine is Ceri.htm). Then hit enter.

Now, type in K (for Keyboard) and hit the down arrow so that the option says "Links are numbered". Then hit enter again.

Now that you've done this, you have to save it. So hit the > key. (Shift + the key with the two arrows on it). You will get a message that the changes have been saved.

Now, type R (to return to Lynx), Q (to quit) and then Y (Yes, you really want to quit). Then go back into Lynx. Now all of the links that appear on your screen should have little numbers next to them. To follow any links you just type in the number you see next to them and hit enter.

Now for the fun part. You can now go to other web pages. Hit G (for Go) The computer will ask you what URL you want to open. Now, just enter the name of the web page. A good place to start off is Yahoo. So when the computer asks you: URL to open: (type this) <http://www.yahoo.com>

Yahoo is basically a web page that helps you find other web pages. You can put key words in, and Yahoo will tell you all of the Web pages that use that word in their description. So, entering Stephen King will get you all of the Stephen King web pages.

Something to watch for while you're wandering around on the web pages: Don't use the left and right arrows. The right arrow will make you follow the link you're on, and the left one will take you back a link. So only use up and down to go from link to link, or just use the numbers next to them. Also, don't use the enter key to scroll down the page. Enter makes you follow the link you're on. If you want to see the rest of a page, hit the space bar instead.

Now, if you want to add yahoo, or any other web page to your bookmark file so you can go back to it later, type a (for add) while you're on that page. Then type D (for document, you don't want to add the link you're on). If you want to see your bookmark file, just hit v (for view) and it will appear. You can do this any time you're in Lynx, it won't disappear once you exit.

I hope I've helped. If you have any questions, comments, or things you think I should cover in future columns, e-mail me at PICAROPS with the subject of Internet. Or you could just send me fan mail. I like getting fan mail. B-)

Seeing

by Keith Freeman

Every Wednesday night we'd visit the vets of Camp Hill. Their memories trapped in the glint of brass. We'd whisk these gladiators off in their permanent chariots - off to the "action center," as it was called. they, as grey as winter mists, we, as green as our uniforms.

The smallest things would make them smile - and yell for their lucky numbers - they yelled a lot.

Releasing their joy seemed impossible - flips, somersaults inappropriate. Their main desire was cigarettes - what else? - and their lighters, naturally, and breathmints.

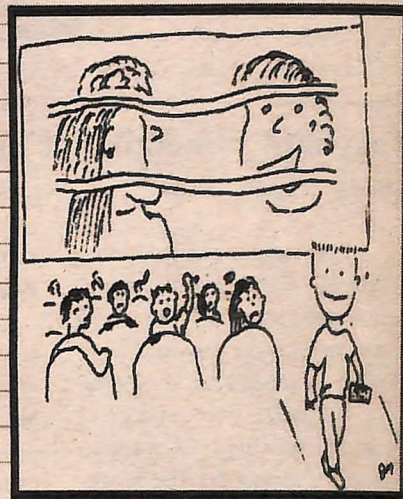
The lady I assisted was nice - no yelling, and certainly no gymnastics for this "babe". She was old - her hair pulled back like a periwinkle.

Her hands were as smooth as a new fallen leaf. The two of us could send the largest stack of files flying as we trucked past the reception desk. Nothing could stop us. Nothing.

But you know, she never looked directly at me.

She never saw me - and I, unfortunately, never saw her again.

NOTEBOOK DOODLINGS



DESPITE THE PROTESTS OF OTHER HOME-OWNERS, DARYL USES HIS HANDY UNIVERSAL REMOTE TO PAUSE THE FILM DURING A TRIP TO THE RESTROOM.

International Women's
Week
March 4 to 8, 1996

Celebrate the diversity, experience and strength of women.
International Women's Week: Strength through Diversity features discussions, workshops, films and performances from female artists.
For more information, pick up a copy of HER VOICES, coming out soon or contact Lori-Anne Jones at MSVU Student Union (457-6123)

ATTENTION: MSVU STUDENTS

South Pacific on a Budget

WHERE: Student Conference Centre, 3rd floor Student Union Building
Saint Mary's University

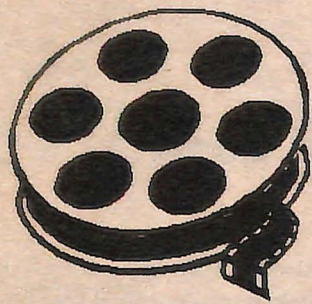
WHEN: February 20 at 4 PM

Join us for this informative presentation. Receive a complimentary handbook filled with tips and suggestions for a trip of a lifetime... on a budget!

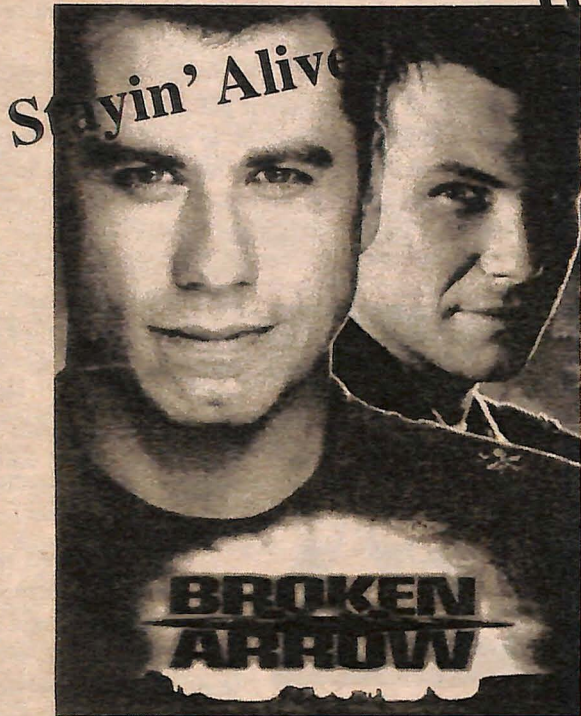
TRAVEL CUTS

fifth floor Student Centre, SMU, 494-7027

**NEXT PICARO STAFF MEETING:
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH.
NEXT DEADLINE FOR
SUBMISSIONS:
FEBRUARY 28TH.**



REEL REVIEWS



Desert

by Carrie Warner

It seems like John Travolta is here to stay, be that good or bad. His latest in a deluge of films is *Broken Arrow*, which co-stars Christian Slater and Samantha Mathis. This time Travolta is the bad guy, whom Slater is forced to bring down in order to save the world. Well, not the whole world, but a big chunk of the United States.

The premise of the movie is good - sort of an extension of the old cop movie premise where two cops are partners, one is crooked and the other one has to foil his plan. This time, the stakes are higher. Vic Deakins (Travolta) and Riley Hale (Slater) are military pilots doing a test flight of a B-3 Stealth bomber containing two nuclear warheads. Deakins' evil plan to steal the weapons is soon brought to light, when he points a gun at his "partner", Hale. Hale is shocked, but

quickly figures out what is happening. In the struggle that ensues, Hale is ejected out of his seat, and finds himself alone in the desert.

The rest of the movie is Hale and Park Ranger Terry Carmichael (Mathis) trying desperately to stop nuclear destruction. The military in Washington, as well as in Utah, attempt to keep a tight lid on the whole mess.

The best line in the whole movie is said by Frank Whaley, who plays advocator-of-honesty Giles Prentice. On his way to the site of the crisis he talks to a military officer who informs him that what they have on their hands is a "broken arrow". That is the military term used to describe a lost nuclear weapons situation. Upon hearing this, Prentice says, "I don't know what's scarier, the fact that there are missing nuclear weapons, or that it happens so often that there is actually a name for it."

My biggest problems with this movie were some technical things. The editing was a little choppy in spots, and there was a little bit too much slow motion for me. I don't think it was quite dramatic enough to warrant a slow motion entrance of Deakins at the rendez-vous spot for transporting the weapons, especially since I felt that Travolta was trying a little too hard to be a "bad" guy anyway. Also, as the person I went with pointed out, there were times when the props weren't consistent. A jeep that had its front end smashed up halfway through the movie was perfectly fine near the end of it.

Aside from those problems, the movie was good. It is, however, one to rent, or at best one to save for a cheap night at the theatres. So when it comes out in video stores, surrounded by all the hooplah that follows it, pop it in the VCR on a Friday night when you're with your buds. It is worth the rental fee!

Here Rusty, Heeere Rusty... An Interview

by David Pound

Toronto band Rusty was in town recently for an all ages show at Cafe Ole and a bar show at The Birdland and I had a chance to talk to bassist Jim Moore between sound checks:

Picaro: So, how has the East Coast leg of the tour been?

Jim: Well, this is our first show of the East Coast tour tonight, so we don't really know yet.

Picaro: I've seen you guys at the El Macombo when you were in the band One Free Fall.

Jim: That's right. We played there numerous times when we were in One Free Fall, [it's a] great bar.

Picaro: So what happened to One Free Fall?

Jim: It just kind of imploded, more than anything else. We were not really happy with the way it was going, so we did one last tour of Canada and decided we didn't like the direction it was going. Ken and I kept practicing and writing different kinds of stuff and Rusty came about.

Picaro: Well it seems to be go-

ing well for you now with Rusty.

Jim: Ya! Very Well.

Picaro: How has the popularity of the video on *MuchMusic* changed things?

Jim: We've been away for so long, in the States, that we noticed a marked change when we came back and started playing the clubs around Ontario again. We've been seeling out a lot of clubs lately and have been getting really good turn outs. Before the video, we were doing shows with bands like The Killjoys and 13 Engines and doing a third of the numbers we are doing now.

Picaro: So what is the music scene like in Toronto right now?



Jim: It's really good. I've been there since '85 and I'd say it is the healthiest right now. I keep saying this in interviews, but "Elvis Mondays" at the El Macombo is a great place to see bands. We played there last week actually. Every night in Toronto you can go see great bands.

Picaro: I'm sure Toronto is a lot more active than say, Halifax.

Jim: Well, there seems to be a lot of great bands in Halifax and a lot of great clubs.

Picaro: Well, we have a few places for bands to play. The Birdland is a good local musical venue.

Jim: Ya! Well, I've know the owner,

Greg Clark, since the early 80's when he owned Back Street Amusements. I think there's a snowboard place there now. He's really supportive of the scene, a really great guy.

Picaro: So you're from Nova Scotia.

Jim: Originally, both me and Ken

our lead singer, are, but I haven't been here in over two years. We've had a lot of visiting to do today.

Picaro: Have you toured the States much?

Jim: We toured the States steady for eight months.

Picaro: How did the Collective Soul tour go?

Jim: They are the nicest guys you would ever want to meet. They have sold millions and millions of albums and they are still nice guys...

Picaro: So, what are you listening to lately?

Jim: Lately, I've been listening to Oasis and The Stone Roses - a lot of English bands. We all listened to the last Urge Overkill album. That was played a lot on the tour, but mostly British pop.

Picaro: Well, I should let you get to your next sound check. Thanks for the interview.

Jim: Ya! It's been a pleasure.

Vinnie's Hosts Live Bands

by Jennifer Amend

It's Tuesday night, you want to do something different, and there is a \$2 bill on your bureau SCREAMING to be spent. You like live music, you want to hear something new and original, and maybe you feel like having a beverage of sorts too. "Yeah," you say, "that's it." Now, if you could only think of the place to go. Vinnie's, perhaps? Oh yes.

Q-104 and Vinnie's Pub present Jonathan M, Invisible Men and Jack Secret - three of Halifax's up-and-coming bands - in an all-original showcase on Feb. 13. Members of the pop/rock collective Rock Artists for Artists (RAFA), these bands are ready to entertain you with a full evening of their own original songs. If you're lucky, you might also win one of several door prizes courtesy of MusicWorld and the bands themselves.

This is the second of three RAFA showcases to be hosted by Vinnie's. The first, on Jan. 23, featured Waver, Love Dogs, and Almost Twins, and didn't disappoint. About 50 people came out to listen to a range of sounds from the hard-driving to the humorous, and judging by the reaction, they liked what they heard.

Scott MacKay, general manager of our Student Union, was pleasantly surprised by the response. "It went very well," he says. "The first time out we just wanted to introduce the concept

to people, but we're really satisfied with the response. I expect it to grow from here on."

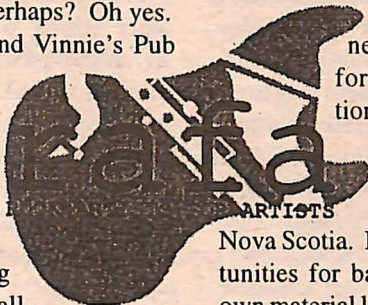
MacKay also adds that he "sincerely hopes it works," because it's nice to see bands promoting themselves in this way.

The third event, on March 12, will feature Full Circle, Crying Chain and Hooligan Stew.

RAFA is a newly-formed not-for-profit organization whose goal is to promote and support original pop/rock music in Nova Scotia. By creating opportunities for bands to play their own material live, RAFA expects to breathe new life into the pop/rock scene in Metro.

According to Guy Turner, of the band Body & Soul, RAFA hopes to "help original bands and artists achieve some level of success, and to educate and inform via networks of information to our members." The organization also hopes to provide services to members, such as seminars with industry professionals about production, recording and other music related issues.

To date, more than 30 bands have been associated with RAFA, participating in events such as weekly showcases, and a December benefit for the Children's Trust Fund that raised over \$3000 for Metro-area kids and families. Two current projects are a membership drive which is just underway, and a compilation CD to be produced in association with Q-104. The tentative release date is mid-April.



Forever Plaid is Just Plaid Good

by Ceri Young

When I went to see Forever Plaid, I wasn't sure quite what to expect. I knew it was a musical and that P. Robert Hughes (who I remember fondly as Marius in Les Miserables) was playing one of the major parts but that's about it. And when I first started to watch the show, I wasn't really sure. The music wasn't anything really spectacular, and the actors' movements seemed really planned and very out-of-sync. Then I realized that this device was intentional.

Forever Plaid is written, directed, and choreographed by Stuart Ross and is about a four-part harmony group (called Forever Plaid) from the 1960's the members of which were killed on their way to their first big concert. Now, they've returned (due to certain cosmic influences like — according to the program — "The Expanding Holes in the Ozone Layer, in conjunction with the positions of the planets and all that astro-technical stuff.") to do the show that they never had the chance to perform.

The musical started off intentionally slow. The harmony didn't sound all that great, the performers looked nervous, and their supposed-to-be perfectly timed movements weren't. After all, if you were a 4-part-harmony singer, and were stuck in a big white void for 32 years, then given a chance to redeem your-

self, you'd be a little nervous too.

The acting in the show is very good. The band gets better as the show goes on - not all at once, but gradually, as they become more comfortable with their audience. I was close to tears at several points - once when Frankie (played by Jim Soper) talked about the really cool plaid

Also, Sparky, (played by Vince Staltari) made several very funny errors in his general enthusiasm about the show.

The music was incredible. Once it got going, the harmony sounded so good that at times I couldn't believe it was actually human voices. Christopher Mounteer deserves at least an honourable mention for his work on the piano, as does someone picked from the crowd, known only as Sarah, who played the high half of "Heart and Soul" while "Chris" was on his Union Break.

I really liked the gradual appearance of plaid in the costumes of the group as the play went on. First bow ties, then cummerbunds, then pocket handkerchiefs... The hats used when "The Plaids go Calypso" are very... Mexican. What else can I say? The glowing banana tree props are arguably the best pieces in the play. Not to mention the plaid lighting that appears later on in the show.

I don't think that there was anything about the show that I didn't like. Aside from the intentional, and a slight lateness in blowing out one of the candles in the opening scene, I don't think any mistakes were made. It's just all-around good.

Oh yeah, except for those really awful plaid puns...but I wouldn't even repeat those...



tuxedos that the group saved up to buy and was on their way to pick up when they died and again when Jinx (played by P. Robert Hughes) said that he always wanted to have someone to love to be able to say I lo_, but never got the chance because the group took up so much of his time. The stories that are told are beautifully touching.

Also, the mistakes that the Plaids make during the performance looked completely unintentional. In particular, Smudge (played by John Devorski) putting his plaid sash over the wrong shoulder and then trying to fix it without anyone noticing.

Voi Vod - Heaviness in Halifax Live at the Birdland Cabaret

by David Pound

I hate using the label "Heavy Metal" to describe a band because it so often associated with so many cheesy cliches. Most people think of mindless head-banging and devil signs, but there is much more to this genre than these out-of-date cliches. Voi Vod are a Quebec band who originated in the '80's and were labelled heavy metal. But with intelligent lyrics and top notch musicianship, they show metal as a musical style deserving much more respect than it gets.

Voi Vod brought their heavy onslaught to the Birdland Cabaret and the turn-out was very

impressive. I was pleased to see that interest in heavy music was still strong. Local band Subspecies opened the show and played a fairly good set with a Black Sabbath medley, which seemed to get the attention of the crowd. Adrenaline were on next, and although I never heard of this band before I'm sure they are going to be a band to watch. Their set was very energetic and got the energy level of the crowd up considerably. Then Voi Vod took the stage. A mosh pit immediately started, but this was the coolest pit I have ever seen. Anytime someone fell, there was three

people helping them back up. The bond between the audience and the band was one of the best I've seen in awhile. They played a lot of stuff of their new album Negatron, but it was their older songs like "The Unknown Knows", that got the crowd really going.

The band was so tight and intense that you couldn't help but get caught up in the music. This was the heaviest band to ever grace Birdland's stage. They were encored twice, with the excellent Pink Floyd cover, "Astronomie Domine", being the first song encored. This is prob-

ably their most popular video and it caused the floor to get a lot more crowded.

After the show I talked to the drummer and bassist of Voi Vod and they said they loved Halifax and will probably be coming back. I hope so because seeing this show reminded me that there is so much more to heavy metal, hard rock, heavy music or whatever you want to call it and it's going to take more than a few cheesy cliches to keep this genre down.

.....
Pocahontas Movie:
The Athletic/Recreation Society will be showing the movie Pocahontas in Seton Auditorium "A" on Friday, March 1 and again on Sunday March 3, at 7:00pm. Come and enjoy the movie on the big screen while relaxing in comfy seats. The cost is only \$1.00/person.

Kim Stockwood

Juno Nominee Enchants The Mount

by Shawn Miner

Telling the crowd that she was "friggin' glad to be back home", Kim Stockwood kicked off her first ever concert of her first ever tour at Vinnie's Pub on Tuesday, February 6.

Although she said that she was prepared to remove all of her clothes if the show didn't work out, Stockwood managed to end the night with all textile coverings intact. However, this was not before she managed to transform, with her enthusiasm and personality, a somewhat nervous beginning into a heart-felt stomp.

With roots in Mount Pearl and St. John's, Newfoundland, Kim's debut album, Bonavista, reaches the likes of Jann Arden and k.d. lang in scope, talent, and intensity. Kim, who co-wrote nearly all of the tunes on the album begins composing each song with "...a melody in my head and then go[es] to someone and say[s] 'this is what I got'"

Inspired by Elvis Presley and Patsy Cline, Stockwood had a blast at Vinnie's. Her music showcased her personality and her messages. Although

Stockwood appeared to be very nervous and tense at the opening of the show, after she fixed her broken guitar strap, she allowed the words and the melodies to transform the soul. As well, Kim's stomping booted foot seemed to keep her grounded as it kept the groove. By the third song of the night, she achieved comfort on the stage.

The band had only three weeks to rehearse and although some of the harmonies weren't as tight as they will probably be by the end of the tour, the enthusiasm and sense of fun just melted the negatives away. The show seemed warm, passionate, and just plain fun.

Ranging from rock to pop to country to soul and folk, Kim's command of diversity was graceful and eloquent. Although Stockwood seemed to worry that she was talking too much between songs, her banter with the audience was infectious and way cool. It was nice to hear a bit about her background and the inspiration for the songs. She really wanted to let people know

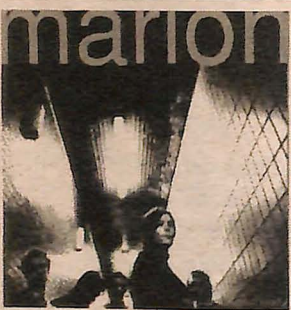
that they were okay as themselves and said, "So be who you are and don't let anyone else tell you who you are..." Although not cutting edge, it was nice to hear.

During her tribute to Patsy Cline, Stockwood gave a campy, vampy performance of "Cry Crazy". In this song, as with the whole of the concert, she gave the crowd all that she's got.

Although by the end of night, Stockwood and her band had played all of the songs they had rehearsed, the appreciative audience was not ready to let her go. For an encore, Stockwood returned to the stage unaccompanied and blew the audience away with an a capella, except for her stomp, version of Patsy Cline's "Crazy". With her passion and vocals, she blew the crowd away. They showed their appreciation with a standing ovation. If you weren't there, you should have been. But take heart, she'll be performing at Birdland on February 24 & 25 - I know I'll be there.



Marion This World and Body



by Carrie Warner

Lately I've been into the Brit pop/alternative music scene, so I was really happy to be given this CD to review. I ran home, popped it into my disc player, and was impressed with what I heard. As the CD wore on, however, it got a tad monotonous. All the songs started to run together, and I found myself zoning out.

It would appear that this five-member band believes in the saying "If it ain't broke, don't fix it". Well that may work for a toaster, but the music on a CD has to be diverse to keep it interesting - change is a good thing!

I've often found myself wondering where the band got its

name. Apparently the name derives from front-man Jaime Harding's grandmother, but that is an unconfirmed report.

All in all, this CD was a disappointment to me. If the guys had broken away from their we're-so-dark-and-mysterious image for a minute, we may have gotten a better selection of tunes. I think this one is better left on the shelf at your local music store.

Bette Midler Bette of Roses



by Shawn Miner

Once referred to as "The woman who turns bad taste into art", Bette Midler completes another transformation with her latest release. Blonde and air-brushed on the cover of the CD and at times poignant and some-

what tranquil on the CD itself, the conscious outrageousness of earlier albums is gone. There is no reference to the '30's and '40's novelty ditties that helped make her a superstar diva, adored by millions the world over.

However, there is also not a great deal to celebrate or emulate on this release - with a couple of notable exceptions. "To Deserve



You", written by Maria McKee, is a very strong ballad sung with great emotion by the Divine Miss M. Its also a neat dance tune that could wrench your heart out. What a combo.

Sung with humour and intelligence, Midler also has a great song in her cover of "I Believe in You". Although the song itself is about fifteen years old, the insightful and somewhat biting social commentary is not out of

date.

As a whole, Bette of Roses, is kind of disappointing. This said though, the highlights are worth stopping to smell.

Sparkle and Fade Everclear



by Carrie Warner

When I saw the mile-high stack of propaganda accompanying Everclear's Sparkle and Fade, I wasn't expecting much. I mean, if a band needs a million pages describing how great they are before the CD arrives, there must be a reason! But I pushed my cynicism aside and put the CD into my player.

I was pleasantly surprised by what I heard! This band has

some good stuff to offer the world of music. The simple instrumentation is great and, although sometimes a little flat, Art Alexakis' vocals are passionate. There are only three members in the Portland Export: Craig Montoya on bass, Greg Eklund on drums, and Alexakis on lead vocals and guitar, but they somehow turn these few instruments into a bevy of sound.

A lot of songs on this CD have social commentary in their lyrics. Some of these (like "Heroin Girl") are reflections of Alexakis' own life - a life of which drugs were once a big part.

My favourite song on the CD is the previously released "Santa Monica". It's upbeat and extremely catchy. It was released into the alternative scene down in the States, and the video form was in rotation on MTV for a while.

This is Everclear's second major release. Their first, World of Noise, was recorded on a small label, and then re-released by Capital in 1994. As for me, I'm now a believer of the propaganda of which I was once wary. In my opinion, you'll be hearing more about Everclear in the near future.

ACAA Basketball Championships

by Jennifer Punch

What are your plans for Spring Break? Well, if you like many students, you can't afford to sun bath in Fort Lauderdale or ski the mountains of Vermont. So for exciting entertainment that coordinates with your Spring Break budget, join the Mount Mystics at the ACAA Basketball Championships on February 24 & 25, 1996 at Mount Saint Vincent University.

The top four teams in both the men's and women's divisions will compete for the title of college champs. This exciting two-day event will unite the best college basketball talent in the Atlantic Region. And you can be there to help cheer on our teams.

The women's team coached by Patsy Pyke has advanced to first place in their division, as a result of a big win against Mount Allison University on February 3. Pyke says that her team is looking forward to the home court advantage. "It means a great deal to us to play at home

with our own support and our own fans," says Pyke. "It is wonderful encouragement for the girls to hear the crowd behind them, cheering them on."

The men's team coached by Rick Plato has successfully held on to first place in their division for the majority of the season. They hope to maintain their record for the championships.

June Lumsden, co-ordinator - Athletics/Recreation, says that playing at home provides added pressure for the teams, but they are looking forward to the challenge. "It is a wonderful opportunity to highlight our teams and it means a lot to them to play in front of their friends and family for such an important event."

The Athletics and Recreation Department will also host a reception for Athletics Alumni on February 24 at 7:30pm, in conjunction with the championships. So for any former MSVU players out there, round up your teammates to recall some old memories from your days as college athletes. And at the same time, enjoy the latest basketball highlights from the best in the Atlantic Region.

Don't waste your Spring Break watching television or catching up on homework. Grab a bunch of your friends and lots of school spirit and come cheer on the Mount Mystics.



FINAL HOME GAMES

The Mystics Basketball Teams will host STU, MTA and NSTC before the end of the season and the ACAA Championships. These are three big games before playoffs and if you haven't been out yet to cheer these teams on...you'd better get at it.

STU is at the Mount Sat Feb 10 at 6 & 8pm. MT A arrives Sun Feb 11 for games at 2 & 4pm, results not available. NSTC comes to town Wed Feb 14 at 6 & 8pm which will be Booster Night, so come on out and cheer on the teams.

The Volleyball team hosts STE A Sat Feb 10 1:30 and 3:30pm and STU Sun Feb 11 at 11am. On Thurs Feb 15 Kings comes across town for the Mystics last home game before their playoffs in Truro Sat Feb 24.

Good Luck to all our teams...go for it!

MYSTICS WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CLAIM FIRST PLACE

The Mystics women's basketball team has taken over first place in the Atlantic Colleges Athletic Association basketball conference. The team now holds a record of 12 wins and 4 losses. Coach Patsy Pyke attributes the eight game winning streak the team is enjoying to hard work, composure and focusing on the job at hand.

"We lost four games early in the season and since then I see the team has responded to challenges the coaches have given them and matured as a team."

The remaining five games are very important to the Mystics to retain their first place stand-

ing.

"If we win all our remaining games we go to playoffs in first place. If we happen to lose a game, the whole thing gets very mathematical. In terms of making the final four and where each team finishes will depend upon who defeated who and could go down to scores for and against. We may have to go to the math department to figure it out."

"We expect to be in the final four but finishing first would give us somewhat of an advantage of playing the fourth place team first." But in this conference, there is very little separating the four teams.

"We are especially excited about hosting the championships in our own gym. It means a great deal to play in front of your own fans in your own facility."

The last time the Mount hosted the basketball championships the Mystics were successful in winning the ACAA Title. Let's hope they can do it again.

Don't forget to come out and support your teams February 24 and 25. Women's games start February 24 at 2 & 4pm. The men follow at 6 & 8pm. Championship Finals continue Sunday February 25 at 1pm with the women's final and the men's final at 3pm.

MSVU Hosts National Badminton Trials

On Saturday Feb. 17, Mount St. Vincent will be hosting the Atlantic Colleges Athletic Association individual badminton championships. Competition will take place in men's and women's singles, men's and women's doubles, and mixed doubles, with winners advancing to the Canadian Colleges Athletic Association hosted by Malaspina University-College in Nanaimo, B.C. The ACAA team championships will be held March 2, at Mount Allison University.

Here at the Mount, we have been quite successful in the Nova Scotia conference in recent years. MSVU are the defending

team champions, and last year placed 3 players on the conference team to the Nationals. Trudy Doucet and Dwayne Costello who represented the conference in mixed doubles last year are both back with the team again. Dwayne will play mixed doubles with Lynn Amirault, while Trudy will team up with Mindee Walker in the women's doubles. Shawn Leamon who represented the conference in men's singles last year has since graduated, but still comes back and helps out with a little coaching. Other team members include Susie Rocca, Patty Wile, Brian Doucet, Greg Euloth, Richard

Michaud, and Chuck Williams. The team is coached by Aine Humble a former CCAA badminton medallist while representing Alberta, who is now teaching in the Human Ecology department here at the Mount, and Mike Hingston.

The league is very close this year, and the competition is wide open in many of the events. This year the Mount team is well placed to continue the tradition of sending players to the nationals, with realistic opportunities to win a number of events.

Atlantic Colleges Athletic Association as of February 6th, 1996

Basketball Standings

Women

	W	L	Pts
MSVU	12	4	24
King's	11	5	22
Mount A.	11	5	22
NSAC	11	5	22
St. Thomas	11	5	22
NSTC	5	10	10
UNBSJ	3	14	6
TUNS	0	16	0

Men

	W	L	Pts
MSVU	15	1	30
UNBSJ	10	7	20
NSAC	9	7	18
St. Thomas	9	7	18
Mount A.	8	8	16
NSTC	7	9	14
TUNS	5	12	10
King's	2	14	4

Volleyball

Women

	MW	ML
Ste. Anne	17	0
UNBSJ	15	1
MSVU	11	4
St. Thomas	8	10
NSTC	8	10
NSAC	5	12
TUNS	3	13
King's	0	17

PEPSI ATHLETES OF THE MONTH

This month's Athletes of the Month are two members from the Women's Volleyball team, Tanya Diamond and Angie Garner.

Tanya is in her first year at the Mount in a Bachelor of Arts degree. She plays middle on the team and is a very consistent player. Over the last month she has been playing excellent defence and is definitely a key component of the offence. She is a "team player".

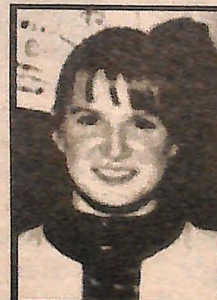
Angie is in her fourth year

in a Bachelor of Arts degree and is also fourth year on the team and earned the title of "captain" this year. She has taken a leadership role on the team and leads by example. She's a hard worker and loves to compete and you can tell if you watch her play how much she enjoys the game. In her spare time Angie coaches a Junior High Boy's Volleyball team.

Congratulations to this month's Pepsi Athletes of the Month, Tanya and Angie.



Tanya Diamond



Angie Garner

CLASSIFIEDS

SOCIETY NEWS

MSVU Intramurals presents volleyball Tuesdays from 4:00pm-5:30pm, Thursdays 7:00pm-8:45pm, and Netball on Thursdays from 3-4pm. All Students and member are welcome and best of all its Free!!!

As part of International Women's Week the Residence Society is planning a Charity Ball for Saturday, March 9, 1996. All proceeds will go to the Canadian Cancer Society for breast cancer research. The Ball will be a black-tie/formal event for all university students (not just residence students) and faculty, so please try to attend. For further information about the Charity Ball committee call Heather Grant at 457-9939.

To all the writers of the Mount. The Women's Committee in association with the English Society is asking for submissions for the 2nd annual collection of poetry, prose or short stories to commemorate International Women's Week, (March 4-8, 1996).

All pieces selected will be bound and on sale, for a nominal price, during the International Women's Week. Any profit above the printing costs will be donated to Adsum House, a shelter for battered women.

All submission must be received by February 20, 1996 as we have to leave time to type in submissions as well as send it to the printer. Please send your piece to the Student Union, care of Lori Anne Jones 457-6123 for more information.

Kick off Spring Break Right!! Ski 4 cheap at Wentworth. Feb 16, 11am-10pm for \$13 a lift ticket and \$10 bus. Can you beat that price anywhere! Call Kim@ 422-6341 or Sara @ 445-4798 for more info or see us in the link on Tuesday the 13th and Thursday 15th at 2:00 sharp.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Girl Guides of Nova Scotia needs you! Volunteers needed for a variety of projects. Not just working with girls - we have a lot of variety of opportunities. Call Tracy Tuttle 443-1733.

Volunteers Wanted to help "Back the Attack on Asthma and Allergies." Canvassers are needed in your area for our March 1996 residential campaign. Call Lisa at 1-800-465-1733.

Anyone interested in becoming involved in "Frontier College: Students for Literacy at Mount Saint Vincent University" part of national network of student-run literacy initiatives, as either a volunteer literacy tutor or an organizational team member... Please contact Shanon Kelly at 494-7003. Phone and leave a message and he will return your call.

The Schizophrenia Society of Nova Scotia (Metro Chapter) will hold its monthly support meeting on Wednesday, February 21, 1996, 8:00pm, at Bloomfield School, Room 217, 2786 Agricola Street, Halifax. Dr. P. Malavi, Psychiatrist, will be the guest speaker.

The support meeting is open to anyone interested in learning more about schizophrenia. For more information call 1-800-465-2601.

Summer Camp Jobs in the U.S.A.

Visas Arranged

Child care/teaching at lakeside residential girls camp in Maine. Senior staff, counselors, administration. Fine arts & crafts, music, dance, theater, swim, sail, water ski, canoe, gymnastics, tennis, archery, team sports, wilderness trips, horses, newspaper, many other activities; office, maintenance, kitchen, nurse. Sense of fun, love of children, desire to give of yourself essential. June 16 to August 22. Non-smokers. Kippewa, Box 307, Westwood, MA 02090-0307 U.S.A.; call Eastern Standard Time (617) 762-8291 or fax any time (617) 255-7167.

MISCELLANEOUS

L'Arche Cape Breton has openings for live-in volunteer assistants with mentally challenged adults. Volunteers receive free room and board and a monthly allowance. There is also an International program where you may live and work in any of the more than 100 L'Arche communities worldwide.

Looking for a challenge? Call 902-756-3162 or write L'Arche Cape Breton Whycocomagh N.S. BOE 3MO, fax 902-756-3381.

Member of the public are invited to attend the 1996 Nova Scotia Senior High School Debating Championships being held at Gorsebrook Junior High School, 5966 South Street in Halifax, on Friday evening, February 16th and Saturday morning and afternoon, February 17th. There is no charge for admission.

SUMMER JOBS IN WESTERN CANADA

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Assistant Coordinator Administration, Nova Scotia Lifeguard Service, Halifax.

Lifeguard, Nova Scotia Lifeguard Service, Halifax.

FULL TIME

Account Executives, Household Financial Corporation Halifax.

Aboriginal Master's Program, Public Service Commission of Canada.

Tenure-Track Position in Earth Science, Geology Search Committee, Science Division Minot, USA.

PART TIME

Bookkeeper, Atlantic Film Festival, Halifax.

Telephone Representative, Canadian Diabetes Association, Halifax.

Cargo Handlers, Data Entry Agents and Couriers, Federal Express. Various locations.

***Students wishing to obtain information on the University of New Brunswick's Law School can contact the Law Admissions Office at (506) 453-4693, E-Mail lawadmit@unb.ca or Fax (506) 453-4604. Application deadline is March 1, 1996.

***Students are reminded to check the job board outside Evaristus 231 for more information on deadlines and application procedures.

HAVE SOMETHING TO SELL? SERVICES TO OFFER? CLASSIFIEDS ARE FREE TO STUDENTS! REMEMBER TO DROP OFF YOUR CLASSIFIEDS AT THE PIC'S NEW OFFICE 2ND FLOOR ROSARIA

OTHER UNIVERSITY NEWS

The Department of German cordially invite you to Woyzeck a colour 82 minute film in German with English subtitles, directed by Werner Herzog on March 6 at 8:00 p.m in the MacMechan Auditorium, Killam Library Building.

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