



PR Versus Journalism

by Kevin MacDonald & Rob Hawgood

Journalism professors at the University of King's College are teaching their students not to use public relations people as credible sources, after they leave university, says a third-year King's student.

Trevor Curwin says he has been told by his professors to avoid PR people, if he wants to get the REAL truth.

"Reporting the truth," says Curwin, is the main goal of a journalist. Journalists are not confident that PR people are always sincere with their message.

Nicole MacLennan, another third-year journalism student, also feels that professors are not encouraging their students to co-operate with PR people. They feel PR takes a "what they don't know, won't hurt us attitude," she says. "It isn't so much that public relations people lie to us all the time, it's just that they will hold back the truth," MacLennan added.

The truth can only be found from credible sources and "we are taught that PR people usu-

ally do not fit this criteria," Curwin says.

Kent Brown, co-president of the Mount's Public Relations Society, disagrees. "Certainly there are those PR professionals who do not have a high standard of ethics." But, he says "successful companies have PR people that act ethically and distribute nothing but factual information." Says Brown: "A good way to hurt your organization is to lie."

PR messages are sincere, says Brown, in that they attempt to inform journalists about what an organization has to say.

According to Ian Wiseman, a television-journalism professor at King's, "a public relations person is not hired to tell the truth, but rather to GLOSS a company's image."

Brown says, though, that just because PR professionals are paid to represent an image, this does not call on anybody to lie.

Wiseman says that when it comes to issues of controversy, public relations people are considered "obstacles" to the facts -- not credible sources in finding out the truth.

Brent King, a Mount PR

professor who has worked as a journalist, says honesty, accuracy, balance and objectivity are stressed in PR writing and reporting courses.

Second-year PR student Greg Burns says establishing credibility is one of the greatest challenges facing the PR profession. "We're viewed as not being ethical," says Burns. "We are seen as propaganda tools trying to get our own message across." People who think all PR professionals aren't credible, says Burns, are the same people who claim to be objective in their writing. He says neither profession can claim complete objectivity. Both bring biases to their work.

Brown says journalists have a bias that PR people will mislead them and provide them with information that is not factual.

PR people should provide a full disclosure of the facts, says Brown.

That journalists are viewed as objective, is a problem, says Brown. "The potential for them to harm the public through their own bias is very great ... We both have to move towards objectivity."

Brown agrees that credi-

bility is a problem that must be addressed. "But I would not cite it as the major stumbling block for the profession."

Brown says the big problem is "the traditional adversarial relationship between journalists and PR people -- and that lingers! Neither is accomplishing a goal by being adversarial." King says the idea of the PR practitioner-journalist relationship as one of healthy adversaries "offers some checks and balances ... I'm more concerned about the degree or intensity of the adversarial relationship."

King says he's seen everything from mutual cooperation and dependency on one hand, to distrust and hostility on the other.

This hostility is based on a lack of understanding of each other's roles, says King. PR prac-

tioners and journalists are both in the communication business "and like it or not, they need each other."

King refers to a King's journalism student who recently sat in on a Mount PR class. He spoke about a RIFT between the two professions, says King. "In some ways journalists are more rigid and inflexible than PR practitioners."

Brown encourages ongoing dialogue between the two professions, especially at the academic level. PR and journalism students should get together and talk about their difficulties, he says.

"King's journalism and Mount Saint Vincent PR students should talk about this, because they're going to be out there facing each other some day."

Prison on Hill?

By John MacLeod

The controversy concerning the possible future of the MSVU Motherhouse, based on a report aired last Wednesday, was a result of miscommunication of information, said Halifax Mayor, Moira Ducharme.

"It was never the Federal Government's intention to turn the Motherhouse into a prison," said Ducharme.

"The city was asked by the Federal Government to compile a list of known areas of around 10 acres, approximately 100 miles from the Halifax-Metro area," said Ducharme. The city knows that

the Sister's of Charity have land of this size range near the Motherhouse, which has been available for development in the past.

The confusion may be the result of the wording of the report: "The Mount Saint Vincent University Motherhouse is surrounded by residential and university uses. This site is large and offers excellent transit access along with direct access to the major women-centred university in the city." These were the exact words of the report given to the media, said Shelly Dickey, Halifax City Planner who prepared the report for the government.

"The Federal Government wants to build six cottages, hous-

ing four women each, close to groups which can help them rehabilitate. Halifax is an area with such groups.

"The women housed there would be those with light sentences and ready for release in the near future," said Ducharme.

The Sisters of Charity were quite upset with the way the news was interpreted, but they are not ignorant of the need for such a facility.

"The Sisters of Charity will of course take university concerns into consideration before making any decisions regarding the use of Motherhouse land," said Sister Mary Louise Brink, assistant for the Sister's of Charity

Inside:



Grapes of Wrath ... 8

Residence Changes ... 3

Condom Ladies ... 6

Vox Populi ... 11

Classifieds

Scarborough Board of Education need teachers (all grade levels and subject areas) in Scarborough, Ontario. Must be an alumni or Spring 1992 Graduate of Bachelor of Education or Bachelor of Child Studies (Early Education). Application Deadline is January 6, 1992.

Bouchereau International Language, Halifax, has an opening for a teacher of French as a second language for four hours per week, Monday and Wednesday, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Must have experience in teaching French as a second language. Preferably a recent graduate or student presently in B.Ed program or student taking French as a major. Closing date is Friday, Nov. 29/91.

Dear Vinnie,
I'm from about around I would show alone. Writing Vinnie!

To: Hey friend!
Missed you need excellent do at this Signed you

To my favorite with the new they make you Don't worry than your friend D

To the Conco We think you would love to in the Pub. J & S

Royal Trust of Canada located in various cities and Eastern Southern Ontario Trust & Sales and Investment Services, Finance, Product Sales, Administration. Mu

or Spring 1992 Graduates of Bachelor of Business Administration, Bachelor of Arts (Major: Economics), Bachelor of Public Relations (Interest in Marketing). Deadline: Thurs., Nov. 14th, 1991. Interviews: Thurs., Nov. 28th, 1991.

Chilliwack School District need teachers (all grade levels and subject areas) in Chilliwack, B.C. Alumni or Spring 1992 Graduate in Bachelor of Education or Bachelor of Child Studies (Early Education). The Application deadline is January 20, 1992.

Metropolitan Separate School Board, need teachers (all grade levels and subject areas) in Wilfrid Laurier, Ontario. Must be Alumni or Spring 1992 Graduate of Bachelor of Education or Bachelor of Child Studies (Early Education). Application deadline is Thursday, December 19, 1991.

Anyone interested in buying 1991 MSVU yearbooks for \$15.00 and 1990 yearbooks for \$10.00, please contact the Student Union.

Vinnie's is looking for responsible and sober people to drive friends home from the pub. If you are a designated driver for your group of friends let the staff know. Thanks for not drinking and driving!

Fall 1990 and Spring 1991 graduates who live in the metro area and haven't already received their yearbooks, please pick them up in the Student Union.

The best way to help a child - and to wish a friend a "Merry Christmas" or "Happy Holiday" - is through your purchase of UNICEF greeting cards. Available now in malls, UNICEF stores, retail outlets and volunteer kiosks, UNICEF's selection of unique greeting cards and gifts will make your shopping easier. Call 422-6000 for a conveniently located UNICEF store and outlet near you.

Personals

Sampson, You can put a few shots in my hoop anytime!
Snowcat

To M_N_C
I hear your theme song is "I Get Around" by the Beach Boys. Hope you get around to my side of the Pub soon.
From willing and waiting.

Dear Vinnie,
Your pub is totally amazing! Oh what a night! Thanks for the wild time. Maybe we can go out sometime, and get a little wild ourselves! (Maybe at Vinnie's pub or ???) Look for me!
A wild woman!

To the Rookie on the Men's Basketball team. I like your 'short' haircut and was wondering if it really is true... about the drunk tank last week? Looking forward to learning more about you.
A better haircut

Logan
I miss you, but I'm still waiting for a 'sorry'. As for me - Sorry for being a bitch!
Lima

To S.H.
If you want to come over and sleep in our tub, George says its o.k. Call Casino.

To the guy in red,
I love the way you "Wiggle it just a little bit". Maybe you could give me PRIVATE lessons sometime...soon I hope.
Love, Two-left-feet

To my little Angel,
Spin that wheel,
And make me feel,
Groove is in the soul,
Thanks for the Rock & Roll.
Bar Babe

Oooooh Umberto,
We love your mousse. How come you're not married? Hope to see you at the pub.
Chicks with Attitudes

L & J girls
I hear you gals are good to go. Maybe once you get rid of Jeff and Mike we could saddle up for a little show down.
Powder Pig

To Mike Isenor:
You can Blah! Blah! Blah! me anytime.
Bob



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NEWS

ONT. EYES PLAN TO BOOST PRIVATE DONATIONS

by Clive Thompson

TORONTO (CUP) -- Ontario is eyeing a plan to make donations to universities a 100 per cent tax writeoff, a scheme critics say will increase corporate control of the institutions.

The government is considering allowing universities to establish Crown foundations for fundraising, says Shelagh Nerney, communications officer for the Ministry of Colleges and Universities.

Donations to crown foundations are a complete tax writeoff, whereas donations to universities can reach a maximum of only 20 per cent. "It's certainly an option under consideration" to attract more cash for post-secondary schools, she says. The University of British Columbia was granted a crown foundation in 1987. Since then, UBC has raised \$200 million of a \$270 million five-year campaign, the largest sum raised by a university in Canada to date.

"I've only been here a year, but I can already see a great benefit

(from the foundation)," says Clark Warren, UBC fundraising manager. "It's an extremely valuable tool."

Others oppose crown foundations, claiming they will increase corporate control of universities, and direct research and development in solely technological and profit-making directions. Says Robert Frankford, an Ontario NDP MPP: "I think there has been an experience that business has been able to set the agenda."

Frankford says the private sector should contribute more money to post-secondary institutions, but only through taxation, to avoid tying donations to specific projects.

Valerie Burkimscher, The Mount's development manager (in charge of fundraising) says the province of Nova Scotia is in the discussion stages of setting up a province-wide foundation for universities.

"The Mount would be very much in favour of such a foundation," says Burkimscher.

LIBERALS WANT "NATIONAL STANDARDS"

OTTAWA (CUP) -- A Liberal MP is pushing a bill that could lead to the development of "national standards" for all levels of education.

"Stuart Smith (head of the Commission of Inquiry on Canadian University Education) says the system is fine," says Liberal, Mac Harb. "I say it's not fine! If it's fine, why do 50 per cent of university students not finish their degrees?"

Smith released a report in early October, which said our universities are fundamentally healthy.

If Harb's bill passes, the bill will investigate setting a national standard for all levels of education.

Canada suffers from high illiteracy and drop-out rates in both secondary and post-secondary institutions, Harb says.

In Canada, 38 per cent of adults have difficulty reading and writing and one out of three students drop out of high school before completing grade 12.

Harb says these conditions create a labour force unable to meet increasingly sophisticated employment requirements, and hurts Canada's international competitiveness.

Harb says the federal government must devise standards for issues such as curricula content, training and retention of teachers, and methods of assessing students.

The Canadian Federation of Students has been lobbying for their own version of national standards for the past 10 years.

"The CFS is happy that Mac Harb and the Liberal party are finally showing some interest in education," says Allison Lewis, CFS deputy chair. "The problem is when he talks about national standards, it's different from what we call national standards." CFS version calls for a formal role for the federal government, in post-secondary education, and accountability on federal transfer payments.

Parking Problems

By Theresa Hawkesworth

Inadequate facilities are not the problem with parking on campus. The problem is that the spaces are not where people want them to be, said Diana MacKinnon, Chief of Security at Mount Saint Vincent University.

"There has been only one day in the 14 months that I have been here that every parking space was taken," said Diana MacKinnon. "People just don't want to walk down from the Motherhouse."

Parking facilities and policies are reoccurring issues on campuses across Canada. Mount Saint Vincent is no exception. There are approximately two permits issued for each allotted permit space on campus. This allows for fluctuations in the

number of people on campus, said MacKinnon. Some students say this policy should be changed because it does not always guarantee permit holders a space.

"It angers me that people with permits are getting tickets when there are people without permits parking in our spots," said Leanne Strathdee, a first-year student.

Some permit holders believe they are entitled to a parking space even if it means breaking university parking regulations.

"People with permits should be allowed to park in metered spots without having to pay," said Marion Mulroony, a mature student at the Mount. Mulroony has received two parking violations since September.

MacKinnon is concerned

that improvements in facilities would require cutting down trees. "I would like to see parking facilities expanded to the extent that they can be, without taking away too much greenery," she said.

"As the university grows parking will have to be improved or there will have to be a new perspective on who can park here," said MacKinnon.

Encouraging people to park at the tip of the hill is one short-term solution to the parking problem, said MacKinnon.

Permits, normally sold for \$30 for one term, are offered at half-price to people who are willing to park only near the Motherhouse. Nineteen of these permits had been purchased by the end of September. Thirty-nine spaces are still available.

Proposed Residence Changes

by Stacey Lewis

"Attention girls. Male entering residence," may soon be heard a lot more often in Vincent Hall. Negotiations are under way that could eventually bring about drastic changes in rules in all the residences at Mount Saint Vincent University.

"We are looking at the whole question of male visitation in Vincent with the Motherhouse," said Housing Officer, Barbara Crocker. Changes are being considered that would give residents of Vincent Hall the same male visitation privileges as the other residences. Currently in the Birches, Assisi and Evaristus, male visitors are allowed in student's rooms from 3 p.m. until 1 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, and from 2 p.m. until 7 p.m. on Sundays.

"As for the other rules and regulations, once we have the answer concerning Vincent Hall, we will be looking at the bigger picture," said Crocker. If negotiations for male visitation at Vincent Hall are successful, more changes are being considered for the other residences. Overnight male visitation, and allowing alcohol in the lounges will be discussed for the Birches, Assisi and Evaristus. However, it seems Vincent Hall would still be denied such privileges.

Students seem to have differing opinions on the issue of rules in residence. The rules in the Mount residences have been a controversial issue for quite some time.

"We should be given the chance to show we can be responsible," said Cheryl Hooper, a resident of Assisi Hall. Hooper said that male visitation should be extended to overnight since current rules do not even allow for male friends or brothers to spend the night. Hooper also said that drinking should be allowed in residence.

Other students in residence are pretty much satisfied with the current rules. Natasha Bowlby, a third-year student who has lived

in residence since she began attending the Mount, feels that the rules are fair. Bowlby said the rules create a good atmosphere for studying.

Although the residence population has decreased this year, liberalization of the rules is not a ploy to attract more people to residences. Crocker said the present rules have not contributed to the decline. Finances appear to be the deciding factor for many students this year, she said.

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OP/ED



To the Editors:

I am writing in reference to two articles within the November 6, 1991 edition of the Picaro - the "Student Union's 1991-1992 Budget" and the "Editorial."

I was both shocked and alarmed after reading the "Student Union's 1991-1992 Budget," page ten. The third largest item listed was miscellaneous at \$25,000!!! Only Health Plan (\$200,000) and Salaries (\$90,000) are higher, though Honorariums are a close fourth at \$24,600. From doing my own personal budget, I know small and unexpected expenses can add up, but to the amount of \$25,000?? With small figures like Elections (\$200) and Pub Renovations (\$300) listed, I am concerned as to what is classified under miscellaneous or is it just used to balance the budget at zero?

Also, I found the "Editorial," page four, to be very disturbing. Its mockery and ridicule of people's opinions is shameful. Right from the first paragraph we are belittled, being called insincere if we do not sign our letters in full! ("Letters to the

editors should be signed to be sincere.") In the end they close off with taunts of their "superiority" by telling us we let cowardice overrule our lives ("If you have something worth saying, say it. Say it, write it, sign it, and bring it to the Picaro office. Life is too short to hover in anonymity and let this 'cowardice' overrule your life. I put my name to this paper every week with pride."). We are insulted, said to lack character ("To write a letter to the Picaro office, sign it 'A concerned student,' slip it under the office door shows, in my opinion, a lack of character. If someone doesn't believe in themselves, why should I?"). The writer admits these concerns are valid, at least until she notices the letter is not signed in full ("The ideas of all these letters were valid in my mind until I noticed that they were not properly signed. Therefore, these individuals had wasted their time by writing the letter, and wasted my time with unprintable text."). At this point everything becomes worthless ("As in all aspects of life, exceptions do exist, but in

general to state one's opinion and then deny such idea weakens one's conviction, leaving that opinion worthless."). The author accepts there are exceptions, but yet criticizes these people without knowing whether not these people have good reasons for not signing?? How does a perfectly valid concern become void and a waste of time over a person's full name tagged on the bottom?? The author claims to take things in stride ("I receive both positive and negative criticism every week. I learn from it. I am proud of it."), yet she writes a extremely degrading (sic) article over people's desire for privacy. What if the topic was a highly controversial, like abortion? How will the author react to someone with a different opinion than hers?

With the exception of the second sentence in the first paragraph, the first four paragraphs would have been sufficient to explain to the reads (sic) the editors situation of publishing letters to the editors.

A deeply concerned student,
Cynthia Ann Way

Blah! Blah! Blah!

by Mike Isenor

Well, well, well . . . looks like we've reached my favourite season of the year - The Month Before Christmas. Yes, that's right, I refer to this as a separate season.

Ah, yes! November 25 to December 25. Surely this must be the most stressful 31 days of the entire year . . . with just over 4 weeks left before Christmas, most people are running around like a chicken with its head cut off, searching for that elusive perfect gift for Auntie Maude. If you are a student, however, you are doing your searching during brief but hectic intermissions from studying for exams, finishing final papers, keeping up to date on your regular workload and groaning over the fact that you only have \$21.07 in your bank account.

Now that we're all on the same stress wavelength, let me tell you how to deal with this problem - get yourself a Seven Year Old!! For those of you with younger children, be patient, your turn is coming. And for those unfortunate, lonely folk who are childless . . . I suggest you stop by your local Seven - Eleven store, where you'll find a complete stock ranging in colour, size and I.Q.

You see, this is the fun part! Seven Year Olds (especially girls) are a separate entity from your usual human child. I consider ours

a rather typical example and it is at this time of the year that I grow to appreciate her even more. I'll explain. My desk resides in a corner of our front room (that's living room to you city folk!) and is usually considered a hard hat area, our family and friends are aware of this danger and take the appropriate precautions. This 2x4 foot surface acts as a barricade between me and the outside world. We have been quite successful at training The Seven Year Old and her protegee sister (who we affectionately call Puck) from wandering too near this pile of precariously packed publications that sometimes teeter as high as 4 or 5 feet; not out of fear that one of them may knock this death trap over, but my Wife and I are afraid they'll wander into this mess and be lost for years (just like my Shakespeare paper that I lost in 1988!!).

But I digress . . .

As I was saying, The Seven Year Old sometimes forgets herself and ventures into my nightmare of books and assignments. Tonight, as I sat amongst my happy mess blissfully cramming for a Canadian Studies exam, glancing at my History paper on the Puritans while noticing the contented snores coming from Puck's bedroom . . . I felt a presence by my side.

"Daddy, can I borrow a pen?"

Oy, yay! It would be easier to look for chickens teeth and I almost mention this fact . . . but there are these two big, blue eyes (about the colour of the North Atlantic in mid-January) staring up at me in total innocence. I hate it when she does that to me!! I found a pen and returned to my work. But I could feel those blue orbs staring at the side of my head.

"Daddy, can I have a piece of paper?"

As I handed her a scrap of paper torn from beneath a tottering pile of books, this little cherub rewarded me with a quick peck on the cheek. How am I supposed to maintain my mean ogre image with all this sweetness around!! Settling back to my usual state of panic, I noticed, once again, that little presence at my elbow. I slowly pushed my glasses back onto my nose and looked out from under what I hoped were fierce shaggy eyebrows.

"Daddy, how do you spell 'Dear Santa'?"

Hmm, she did it to me again . . . oh, well! Dr. Stanley, Dr. Usmani, Auntie Maude, the Royal Bank and N.S.P.C. can all wait. The Month Before Christmas and Santa only come once a year.

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Correction

The Picaro would like to acknowledge that photo credit for a story on page 11 of last week's edition titled "Beauty and the Beast" was accidently omitted. The photo was submitted courtesy of the Walt Disney Company and Warner Brothers.

The views expressed through The Picaro are not necessarily shared by Mount Saint Vincent University, the Student Union, or its Publishers.

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NEWS

Generation 2000: Our Future

By Kara Mullaly

Concern over Canada's future has Generation 2000 embarking on an ambitious project to prepare Canada's youth to face the new century.

"Today, misunderstanding between our regions is hindering our appreciation for the uniqueness of Canada," said Generation 2000 Recruitment officer Kate Jamieson. "If we want to make better judgements about our country's future, we must get to know each other now," Jamieson said in a telephone interview from the national office in Toronto.

Generation 2000 is a non-partisan, non-governmental youth organization operated by young people to bring Canada's youth together to exchange experiences and ideas. The program's mission is to promote understanding and appreciation for Canada's diversity. This understanding will contribute to a generation capable of making decisions and meeting future challenges.

"Canada's economic, political and social problems will be inherited by Canada's young people. We, the youth of Canada, should play a role in addressing these issues," said Jamieson.

Generation 2000 grew out of Robert Barnard's concerns for the level of youth involvement in shaping Canada's future. Barnard was involved in the Spicer Commission and at age 25, he was the youngest participant in the Commission. Since April, he has coordinated activities to create a national group from all regions, economic levels, occupations and interests involved in a common project.

Generation 2000 hopes to inspire young Canadians to explore their country through innovative and adventurous programs, including a National School tour, a cross Canada Bi-

cycle Tour and a Summer Job Exchange.

"Statistics Canada defines youth as persons aged 15-27," said Newfoundland Regional Director, Catherine Shortall. "We are seeking to create teams of youth in their late teens and early 20's who can inspire the younger people through personal contact. University students are in an ideal position to finally do something for themselves and for Canada in a positive way," said Shortall.

"It is time to reduce misunderstanding amongst Canadians. Not all Newfoundlanders are fisherman," said Shortall, "Just as all Albertans don't work in the

oil business, or in the wheat fields." "If we communicate with each other through the different social, political, regional, cultural and linguistic boundaries that divide us-- maybe we can save Canada."

"I urge all young people to get involved. Now is your chance to participate in an exciting project which touches every young Canadian, and can really make a difference," said Shortall.

To get involved, or for more information, contact Generation 2000 at (416) 483-7333.

The International Perspective

by Julian Liew

They may be small in number, but international students at the Mount provide a unique education for both Canadian students and instructors, say university officials.

There were 64 international students at the Mount in the '90-'91 academic year. That is just under two per cent of the 3,467 students enrolled during that session. Figures from the registrar's office for the two previous academic years show that the percentage of international students have remained constant. International students are those who require visas to study in Canada.

Dozens of countries, from Anguilla to Zimbabwe, are represented in the Mount community. Students come from as near as Bermuda and the Bahamas, and as far as Lesotho and Australia.

Whatever their countries of origin, these students widen the horizon for Canadians, students and teachers alike.

"The presence of international students helps our students have a broader understanding of the world beyond their own experiences," said Dr. Marilyn McDowell, chair of the Department of Human Ecology.

"[It also] causes us to review how we're teaching and what we're teaching."

Diane Morris, who has been registrar at the Mount for over 10 years, would agree. She said, the presence of international students ensures that institutions

of higher education retain a clear perspective of their mandates and of the world in general.

"I don't think any post-secondary institution can survive being insular," she said. "I don't think [simply] having international students on campus cures insularity. It is one of the ways of making sure we don't have tunnel vision."

McDowell said that for interactions to take place, the individual instructors have to plan for it. Most instructors, she said, do really try to maximize the benefit of the presence of international students.

The learning experience extends beyond the classroom as well. Interacting with people from different cultures helps "prepare students for the world," said Dr. Wayne Ingalls, the Mount's new vice-president academic. Through social activities, students learn that people may act or dress differently but they are still people; and that, he said, is a "good thing for a student to learn." This lesson will serve students well when they embark on their careers.

"If you want to be successful, you have to respect them," he explained, referring to these differences. "The world is become a smaller place. Events that happen halfway around the world affect us daily."

The process of discovering different cultures is not by any means limited to Canadian students. International students, too, are learning from their Canadian classmates.

For instance, said Maggie

Leung, 27, some learn "to express ourselves and ask questions."

"They [Canadians] are freer to express themselves," said the third-year student, who is studying human ecology.

However, not all learning experiences are entirely positive. A 29-year-old student from Bermuda said she has found a certain degree of racism here, stemming primarily from ignorance.

"I heard my first black joke here," said the Bermudian, who asked to remain anonymous. She said the racism she has encountered in Canada is "not outright," in contrast to her experience in the United States. She attended preparatory school in a small American community of 200, of whom only 11 were blacks.

"I have never been called any racial names or assaulted [here]," she said. "In the States, the KKK burnt a cross on my school yard. That's outright."

"Canadians are not really racist. [Some] are just ignorant. They come from small towns. They

have never met a black person. But once they meet one, they're okay."

In general though, the Bermudian student said, she finds Canadians to be receptive to the fact that she's not Canadian. "It just doesn't matter that I'm not Canadian. They're interested in where I'm from. They're quite a friendly and outgoing people -- friendliest people I've ever met."

Of all international students, Bermudians form the largest group. There is, in fact, a special relationship between the Mount and Bermuda.

Morris explained, "It goes back to when the Sisters of Charity ran the only free-access school [in Bermuda]." The school, founded in 1890, was open to all, regardless of race. Many students would then come to do their degrees at the Mount.

Although Bermuda has since built other schools, many Bermudians still come to finish their undergraduate degrees or to do their graduate work here.

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THE CONDOM LADIES

Small Craft Safety

By Richard Peter

At first glance this table looks like any number of others at the flea market selling home-made crafts. There are arrangements of artificial flowers, corsages, pet rocks, book marks, earrings and all sorts of other novelty items. When you first look there's nothing remarkable. But when you look twice, and little bit closer, which everybody does, you realize everything on the table is made out of condoms.

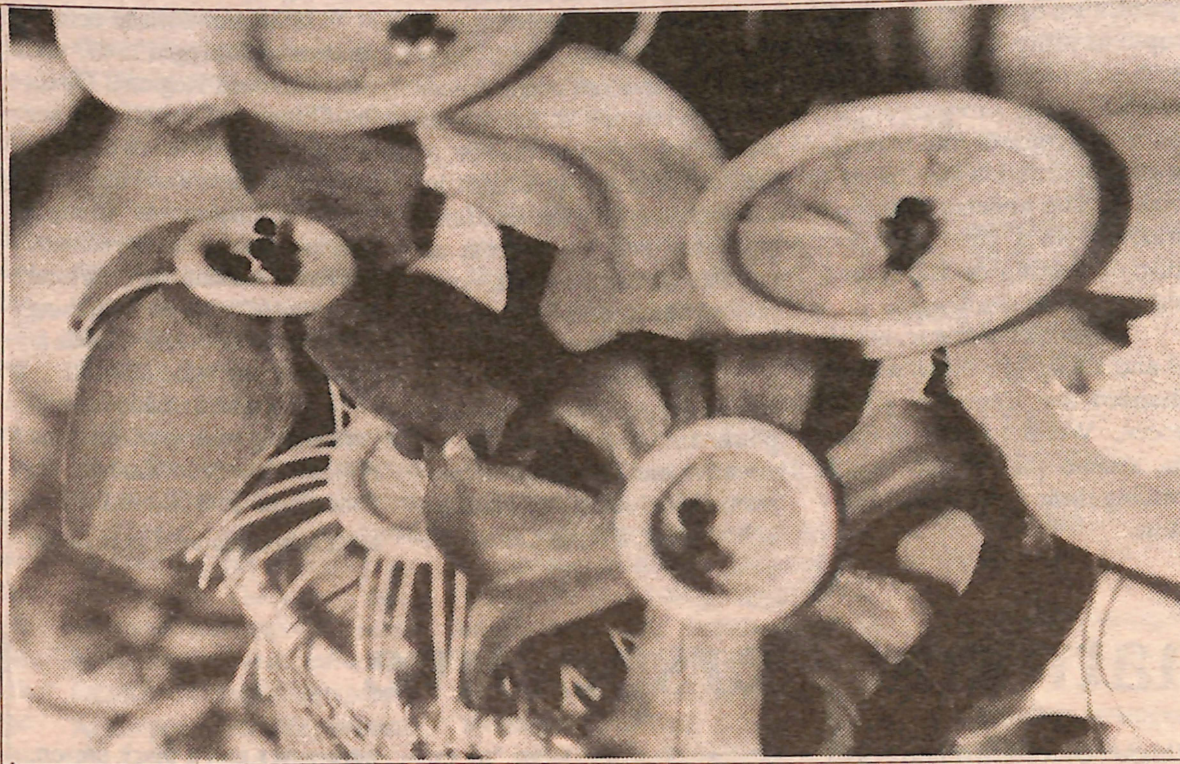
A woman comes up to the table with an older lady in tow. They've obviously found what they were looking for. "This is what I wanted you to see. Do you know what they are?" There's a short pause and then the older woman, peering over the top of her glasses and half smiling, answers, "I do now but I had to look through my bifocals to be sure." A lot of people need a double take to make sure that what they think they saw is actually what's on the table.

The crafts are made by Pat Harding and Shirley Sweet of Sackville. Their business doesn't have a name but they say they're known as the "Condom Ladies." Today they're both wearing Christmas sweatshirts and they're smiling. You can practically see the sense of humour they need to be in this line of work.

A couple walks by and spots the selection of garters for sale. The man reaches out for one that's made of coral ribbon and black lace. On the side, like everything else, there's a condom made up to look like a flower. "What do you think?" he asks his wife, "I think they're sexy." She turns around, scowls seriously and then bursts out laughing and playfully smacks him on the chest.

The garters are popular items, Pat says. "People actually wear them at weddings and some men buy them to hang in their trucks on the rear-view mirror."

The condom crafts are a way of making extra money for Christmas. The women got the idea from Florida last year when Pat bought a "rubber plant" for her son. It was an instant hit and she thought it would be worth trying here, so she approached Shirley with her plan. Shirley was experienced in making other crafts



Hybrid Rubber Plant:

1. Blooms mostly at night or early morning, on rare occasions during the day.
2. Blooms in different sizes and lengths, depending on the owner.
3. Never needs food, water, or sunlight.

and seemed like a logical partner. In February they started looking for supplies to go into production.

It took two months to figure out the best suppliers for everything they would need: buttons, mugs, card holders, and of course, condoms. "You've got to hunt around," Pat said. There is no question that as much fun as it is, this is serious business. And like any business there are some unpredictable problems that have to be solved along the way. Pat advises, "Don't get lubricated condoms. You can't use them. They slip all over."

Most of the condoms used are tied off around artificial stamens and surrounded by silk petals and fashioned into condom blossoms. Then the blossoms are arranged with silk leaves in mugs or wine glasses. Rubber plants cost \$5 and \$10 and each comes with a card holder displaying instructions for care and a notice: "Will not reproduce if bloom is used."

There are two blossom sizes. The big ones are made from regular condoms that they get from the supplier for 36 cents each. The small blossoms are made from

finger cots used in hospitals. Pat jokes, "we always call them small condoms for small guys."

Shirley tells a story about a woman in her 30s, who was with her boyfriend when they discovered the little blossoms. This woman couldn't imagine what the small condoms were used for, "Who would ever need such a small one?" Instantly her boyfriend answered, "Your ex-husband." Every time Shirley tells the story she laughs. Behind her you can see Pat making change for someone but she still looks over to smile. It's obviously one of their favourites.

Another lady walking past the table only stops long enough to say, "They're nice and everything but no good - they've all got holes in them." Then she throws her head back, laughs at what she said and moves on.

The Condom Ladies are at the Penhorn Mall flea market in Dartmouth every Sunday between now and Christmas. They have had to drop plans to go to the major Christmas craft fairs in metro because they're too busy keeping up with demand at the flea market. "This is taking up all our time just keeping up with

this," Shirley says. On average they make between \$125 and \$150 on a Sunday morning.

But Christmas isn't passing unnoticed. In fact, two new items have been introduced for the holiday season. There are Christmas trees created out of oversized pine cones from Florida and trimmed with small condom blossoms. There's even a new condom all ready to use tied up in a bow and snuck under the tree in the cotton-batting snow.

G-strings are the other new item for Christmas. Each one has a satin pouch held on by black lace straps and outfitted with a new condom in a front pocket. The condom is secured inside by a button. On one G-string the button says, "Willing and able," on another, "Here comes trouble." For the most part everyone enjoys the crafts but maybe once a day they do get a negative reaction. "You get the odd one who says, oh gross," Shirley says. Then Pat is quick to add when that happens someone else usually says, "if you don't like them you don't have to look at them."

The condom crafts are especially popular with older people. Shirley says, "My mother

is 78 and she gets a great kick out of it." She had a rubber plant in her apartment in a senior's complex in the valley until someone came in, saw it and bought it from her. It has since been sold again. Shirley says, "I think it's still going" and she's been told to bring plenty of her goods with her the next time she visits.

The most popular item on the table are the pet rocks. In the last three weeks they've sold over 300. It used to take a long time to produce that many but not anymore, "Because I'm getting good at it. Now it's an assembly-line affair," Shirley says, and then she explains the process of laying out dozens of rocks and making them all up at once, one step at a time.

Condom crafts are already well travelled. Some have been taken home to Bermuda, England and Germany. Shirley says that yesterday she sold gifts that are on their way to Wales tomorrow for Christmas. People are even travelling distances in search of the Condom Ladies. Some people from P.E.I. have come to the flea market to find more of the rubber plants that their friends had brought back.

There is even a slightly more serious side to the condom crafts. "You also get a lot of serious conversations about AIDS," says Pat. People seem to support a higher profile for condoms, even if it is only in fun. If the crafts make people more comfortable with condoms, maybe they'll be less timid about using them.

At another craft fair, Shirley says the "pregnancy people" set up nearby at a planned parenthood booth were delighted because, in a way, they figured we were all on the same side. The possible good that they're doing is just a bonus.

"My friends call it the chuckle table," Pat says. It's true. People walk by their table a little bit more slowly than other tables. They take a little longer to be sure that what they see are actually condoms. There's a lot of whispering, a noticeable amount of giggling and some people laugh out loud. That's great, because that's exactly what's meant to happen. The latest in small craft safety is supposed to be enjoyed.

The electric answers of . . .
BRETT RYAN

By Kent Brown

Brett Ryan is one of the premier rock talents in Eastern Canada. After about 10 years in the music business as a front man in the Little Ministers, the manager of a band, and everything in between, he has stepped firmly out on his own with his solo debut album, "The Answer's Electric."

How's your record doing?

Well, I'm not really plugged into it, but apparently it's doing quite well. It has been released over the larger portion of the world.

For you personally, what determines whether or not this record was a success?

I think if one person enjoys it it was a success. I don't really judge the record's success by how many copies it sells, but if it sells a lot, fine.

Have you signed an American distribution deal for "The Answer's Electric"?

Yeah, we've signed a deal with a label called Caliber, which is distributed by Capital Records.

When will the record be released in the U.S.?

We're going to probably release it around January, because there are so many things happening right now - the new U2, the new Michael Jackson. It's difficult to compete with those kind of promotional bucks.

The song "What Are We Fighting For?" from the album reminds me a lot of some of the stuff Steve Earle has put out lately. Are you influenced by what's on the radio these days? Do you listen to the radio?

I don't listen to the radio at all, except when I'm driving sometimes I'll turn it on. Usually I end up turning it off pretty quick. I listen to a lot of stuff from the sixties.

Maybe it's just the people I hang out with, but it seems everybody is listening to stuff from the sixties and seventies.

That's probably because there's not a lot of redeeming quality to any of the stuff that's coming out right now. That's pretty arrogant of me to say, after all, maybe I'm one of the people putting out stuff without redeeming qualities. There's just not a lot out there that I enjoy.

You have your own studio. Is that mostly for recording demo tracks?

I have an eight track in the basement of my parents house which is primarily for demos. I wouldn't mind getting into a 24 track at sometime, I'm looking at that now. If it's feasible, I'd love to set one up. You go into a big studio, and it's not necessarily intimidating, but you're not comfortable. I can go into my little studio at 8 o'clock in the morning and come out at 4 o'clock the next morning, and I'm not paying a hundred bucks an hour.

There is a lot of work behind making a record and a career successful. Work that people don't

up against when you get into it, so you say to yourself, "Well, am I willing to be subjected to this?" Art for art's sake is wonderful, but if you're trying to do it as a career, you're going to end up living in a sewer.

Allan Mair, president of your label, Attic Records has hinted that it wouldn't be a bad idea if you were to move to Toronto. It wouldn't hurt you. Would you do that?

It's not necessary at this point, and you can look at that in a number of different ways. If you are moving for the sake of being in the epicentre of the music

people resent an artist who stars here, and is supported locally, and then gets a deal and moves away? Do you think about that?

I like the Maritimes because the pace of life is good. I'd like to say that I'm living here because I'm patriotic to the Maritimes, and maybe there is a bit of that, but let's be honest, if living here is going to be an impediment to me being really successful,

- what if rent's due, and I need groceries, are people going to chip in and buy them for me?
You are not in this to fail.

No, I don't think anybody is. I've put a fair amount of time into it, and I'm not going to jeopardize my career by saying I'm staying here. I am staying here because I like it here. Simple as that.

You're opening for the Tragically Hip on December 4 at the McInnes Room at Dalhousie.

Yeah, I played with them before - this summer at the Forum.

Have you been playing live lately? You haven't played in the city for awhile.

I'm taking about two months off. We're playing sporadic gigs here and there, but I don't want to be out slogging it on the road in the winter, especially when it's a losing cause. It's tough to be out on tour these days and actually breaking even. Since the next album is going to be recorded in the near future, I'm going to take this time to polish up the preproduction.

Have you already started work on the next release?

Yeah, I'm doing preproduction now, which means I'm busy cataloguing about thirty songs for the next album.

So your winter will be basically spent working on the album.

Yeah, I've actually been doing a bit of acting too.

Really, what's that all about?
This film called *Buried on Sunday*. It was great, I played a fisherman. I had one line.

What was the line?
(gravelly voice) "String 'em up!" We're just about to lynch this guy from Ottawa for trying to take away our fishing rights.

We'll have to watch for that.
Yeah, a budding acting career.

Is Brett Ryan your real name?
Yes.



see. A lot of it breaks down to politics in the record business. Do you get tired of it?

You get tired of it, but it's a necessary evil. There are so many people involved with putting out a record, you have to be able to bend, and listen to a lot of people, and deal with a lot of bureaucracy in the industry.

But you don't have any choice.

Well, I suppose you do, I mean I could have my own choice, I could be putting out an independent album out of my basement or something. So those are the choices. You know what you're

industry, then why not go to L.A.? Why go to Toronto? If the reason is to hit the big music industry centre, well Toronto isn't the centre of the industry, you either go to New York or L.A.

If it was crucial then, you'd move.

If it was critical to my career, then yeah, I would seriously look at going somewhere central.

*You are now the only Mar-
itimer with an American record
deal. Rita McNeil doesn't have
one, Anne Murray got one a long
time ago, but then she moved away
and never came back. Do you think*

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The Grapes of Wrath

By Leah Purdy

If you're a Grapes of Wrath fan you probably already know, or will be pleased to hear the band is back in the Maritimes and will be performing at the Misty Moon Cabaret this Friday and Saturday the 29th and 30th of November.

"We missed a couple of places when we were here last; we didn't even make it to Newfoundland," says Chris Hooper, the band's percussionist. Hooper says they decided to play extra shows in the region to make the trip worthwhile.

**Rocks
a
lot**

The Grapes of Wrath are just wrapping up a very successful cross-Canada tour to promote their latest album *These Days*. This is the Grapes's 5th album and has already surpassed gold status in Canada since its release in July.

"The songs on this album are less structured than stuff we've done previously," says Hooper. This album definitely has a different sound for The Grapes of Wrath ... more confident and electric. It ROCKS a lot like in the song "The Fisher King". Trademark harmony and acoustics are still present though, like in the songs "Days" and the first release from the album "I'll Be There".

**Trademark
harmonies
and
acoustics**

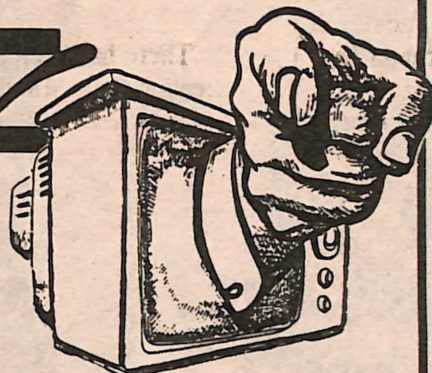
Guitarist Kevin Kane and bassist Tom Hooper (yes the Hooper's are brothers) perform lead vocals on the 12 track *These Days*. Vincent Jones plays piano, organ and a wide array of instruments, even an ancient accordion! Percussionist Chris Hooper completes the foursome who have recently been awarded the status of "Most Popular Group in Canada", an award given by Much Music.

At the 11th Annual West Coast Music Awards the Grapes also walked away with "Artist of the Year", "Best Video" (I am Here) and "Best Album" (*These Days*).

After their Canadian tour, the band plans to tour the U.S. and Japan.

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sports

PROFILE

NAME: Darcie Moore
PROGRAM: 3rd year B.A.
TEAM: Women's Soccer
 3rd year
HIGH SCHOOL: Sir John
 A. MacDonald
BEGAN PLAYING: 10 years old
ACTIVITIES AND AWARDS:
High School: 1988, 1989
 Provincial Champions
 Greatest Contribution to girls soccer (gr.12)
MSVU: All Conference (3rd year)



NAME: Ray Adekayode
PROGRAM: 3rd year BA, Major: Sociology
TEAM: Men's Basketball
 2nd year
HIGH SCHOOL: Queen Elizabeth High
BEGAN PLAYING: Grade 7
ACTIVITIES AND AWARDS:
High School: 1989 Provincial Champions
 Most improved (Grade 12)
Other: Member of Basketball Nova Scotia
 Juvenile and Midget Grade 7-9



Women's Volleyball

By Nadine Hines

Women's Volleyball team won their first league game last Wednesday against TUNS, winning both matches 3-0 (15-6, 15-7, 15-4) 3-1 (15-5, 6-15, 15-11, 15-3).

This year's addition is a younger team compared to last year's NSCAA Conference

Champs. With two returning players Julie Roberge and Krista Naugler along with Brenda Tanner from UNB, everyone else is in their first year. They have been working hard, and coaches have seen process in the last two months.

The women's next league game is Wednesday against Kings at 7:00 p.m. here at MSVU.

Did You Know?

There has been a form of Recreation Council at the Mount for over 10 years? When it first began, it was composed of student leaders and interested students. It officially became the MSVU Recreation Council last year, and was composed of sports representatives from residence councils, and students who ex-

pressed interest. The main objective of the Recreation Council, is to organize special events and relay the information to the campus population.

Meetings are for anyone interested. The next meeting is Sunday, December 1st in the Old Royal Bank. If anyone is interested to participate, contact Joanne Burns Theriault at Athletics.



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sports

Women's Volleyball Travel To Fredericton

By Nadine Hines

The Women's Volleyball team participated in the Valley Graphics and Mactavish for Sports Senior Volleyball Jamboree in Fredericton, over the weekend.

There are 40 teams participating in the tournament, 20 men and women. Other universities which participated, were STU and UNB Saint John.

The women won two of the five games in the round-robin tournament. It was a positive trip and coach June Lumsden, "saw improvement" in the quality of their playing. Julie Roberge and Brenda Tanner had good weekends along with strong defence from Stephanie Bird. Krista Knogler had excellent blocking and attack.



Pepsi Athlete of the Week



This week's Pepsi Athlete of the Week is Mount Volleyball player Julie Roberge. Julie is a second year BPR student from Jonquiere, Quebec.

Julie is a setter for the Mount team and instrumental in her team's successes. Last year the team won the NSCAA Championship and travelled to the CCAA National Championships. This year she is helping build a new team core and to date has helped her team to a record of two wins and no losses in league play. Congratulations Julie on being selected this week's Pepsi Athlete of the Week.



Women's B-Ball Take 3rd Straight

On Wednesday, Nov 20 the Mount Saint Vincent University Women's Basketball team travelled to the University of Kings College gym to play their third league game of the season and their first against the Kings team.

Being the only two city teams competing in Women's Basketball in the Nova Scotia Colleges Athletic Association makes for an interesting match up each time these two teams hit the court.

"Most of the players on both teams started playing in the conference at the same time so they know each other fairly well," said Assistant Coach Patsy Pyke. "We never know what to expect from them though."

This evening the first half of the game was a close battle as

the two teams headed to the locker room with the Mount leading by 2 points 28-26. The Mount came out of the locker room strong defeating the Kings squad by a final score of 63-48. Scoring for the Mount were Alex Taylor with 17, Carolann Coon 13, Jocelyn MacLean 11, Judy Blackwood 8, Audrey Norman 5, Wanda Skinner 4, Tracy Weir 2, Tammy Godfrey 1.

This puts the Mount in first place of the NSCAA standings with three wins and no losses. Their next matchup is against NSTC in Truro. It was the NSTC team that gave the Mount all the trouble during the season last year nearly defeating them in the final playoff game for the right to go to the CCAA National Championships in Kamloops B.C.

First Loss of the Season

By Nadine Hines

The men's basketball team suffered their first loss of the season last Wednesday, 72-64, when they travelled to Kings College to play their fourth league game.

When coach Rick Plate was asked his opinion of the game, he replied, "We played hard, but not hard enough." Turnovers were one of the Mounts major downfalls as well as the absence of Mark Forward and Jonathan Phillips due to injury. One thing they did do well, is their foul shooting, making 19 of the 22.

Top scorers were Andrew McNeil 18, Derick McDermott 10, Tony Ross 9, Derek Johnston 8, Anthony McNeil 8, Ray Adekayode 7, Wayne Keddy 6.

The team has two more games before Christmas Break. They travel to NSTC on Tuesday, and they play TUNS here on Saturday at 7:00 p.m.



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Badminton Update

By Gail Nash

The Mount Varsity Badminton team finished second overall at the season's second tournament held on Nov. 23 at Univeristie Sainte Anne.

The ladies' doubles duo of Lynn Amirault and Gail Nash retained their first place victory and the men's team of Troy Locke and Marco Tejada also placed first on the doubles event. The

Universitie Sainte Anne's men's singles player fought hard to edge out Cory Beals of MSVU for the title. As well, ladies singles player Pa Lemon placed second.

After Christmas, the Mount Badminton team will be joined by a familiar face on the varsity team, Co-op student Karrie MacDonald.

The next tournament will be held on Jan. 18, 1992 at TUNS.

Vox Populi

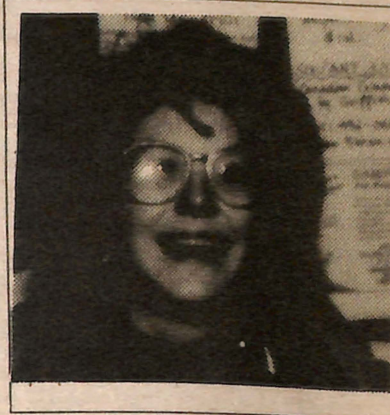
*What is
your fantasy
occupation?*



Lana McMullen
3rd Year BA
"Prime Minister
I'd whip this country back into
shape"



Kim Marr
2nd Year BCS
"Private Investigator
I could snoop into other people's
business AND get paid for it"



Jennifer Pye
1st Year BA
"A high paid call girl"

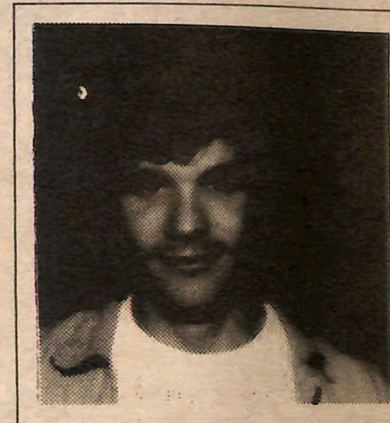
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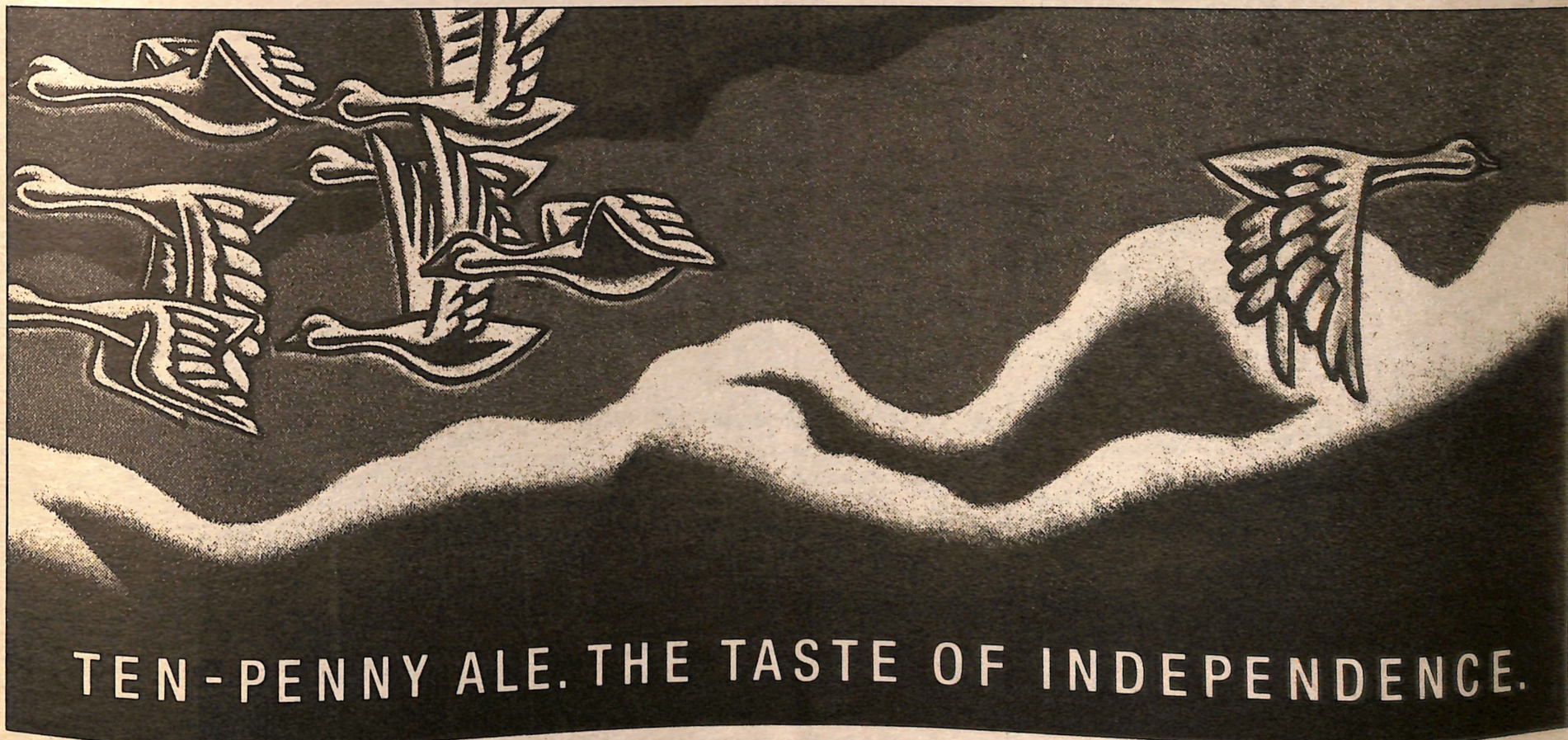
Melinda Burke
1st Year BCS
"Manager of Versa"



Laura Berggren
2nd Year BCS
"Something with lots of money...
a heiress to a diamond mine"



Dennis Macumber
1st Year BA
"Making money at the mint...
with nobody watching"

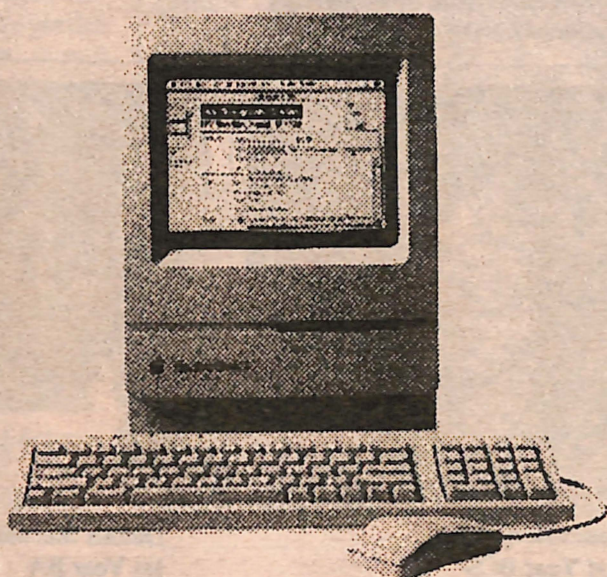


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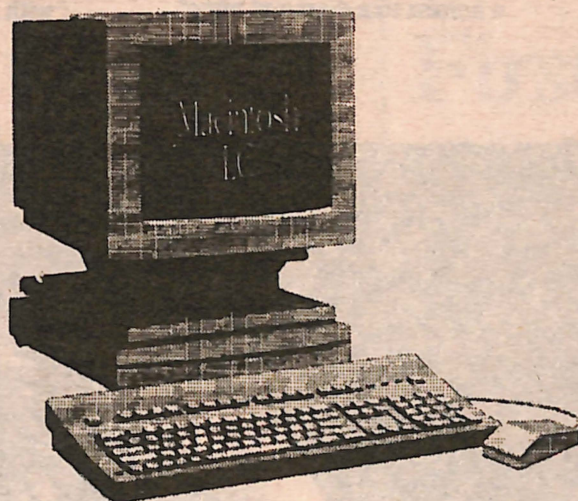
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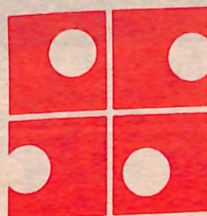
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