



Words That Kill

By Julian Liew

Two years ago almost to the very day, on Dec. 6, Marc Lepine shouted, "You're all feminists." Then he went on a rampage, slaughtering 14 women and injuring scores of others at the Ecole Polytechnique in Montreal.

When Lepine used the word "feminist," he encapsulated everything negative about women.

"In this case, the word 'feminist' was interpreted as 'man-hater,' 'man-basher' [by] Lepine," says Shayla Steeves, a graduate in sociology from MSVU.

This interpretation of feminism was probably deeply rooted in Lepine's childhood, when he was learning to interact with others, says Steeves. He probably felt he could arbitrarily set the boundaries between the sexes.

"Since engineering, in the past, has comprised a male population, Lepine would interpret [the presence of] these women in this program as [women] moving in on a male territory of activity."

Lepine's actions left serious physical and emotional scars on those who survived the rampage. His words left psychological scars that are just as great.

This case demonstrates the power of words. More than that, it shows how words can be abused to segregate people simply on the basis of sex. Many people do so without realizing it, sometimes even in the process of trying to avoid sexist language. For example, in most instances, is it truly necessary to say "men and women" instead of "people?"

As Rev. Ruth Jefferson, an Anglican minister, emphasizes, "It's not just women who could be excluded [by words]."

Words form one of the most important means of human communication. Through words, humans classify the objects -- animate and inanimate -- they encounter. This process of naming -- of acquiring speech -- begins in infancy.

Although the process of acquiring words continues

throughout the rest of our lives, the early stages of language acquisition are the most important. Most linguists agree that children learn the meaning of words through a process of association and reinforcement of images.

This concept has far-reaching implications, especially where our notions of the roles of men and women are concerned.

What images do the following words project: "minister," "nurse," "police officer" and "secretary?"

In themselves, these words simply designate individuals in certain occupations without denoting gender. Yet many people will visualize a man first when thinking of "minister," or "police officer," and a woman in the case of "nurse," or "secretary."

Steeves, whose work in sociology dealt with the language of symbols, explains why this happens.

"People associate different words with each gender. During the socialization process of a child, society [in the past] has generally moulded people into gender-specific roles. But now this role-taking is changing. The society of the '90s is open to new ways of thinking apart from the [traditional] norm."

Andre Mazerolle, who holds an honors degree in English literature, stresses the powerful influence words have on the way we see the world. Today's society, he agrees, is trying to change traditional stereotypes of the roles of men and women expressed in words.

"People have to watch what they say because language does shape our perceptions," says Mazerolle. "If we imply certain stereotypes, other people can infer [from that] misconceptions and myths, in other words, the wrong idea."

"Historically, ... our perceptions have been shaped to form misconceptions and myths. [But] society today is trying to overcome these."

Steeves names two factors in today's society which may help

"overcome" these stereotypes in the society of tomorrow.

"I think, in time, with created awareness and the movement of women into the workforce, things will change but not to the point where people will wipe out traditional [gender-based] titles."

Still, even the Church, which has long-cherished tradition and which has equally long been dominated by men, is slowly but increasingly accepting women in non-traditional roles.

"It is not easy yet to be [a woman] in a male-dominated calling. Generally speaking [though], there is an acceptance of women in the clergy," says Jefferson, who is the only ordained woman at the Anglican cathedral in Halifax.

Many have criticized the Church, especially the Roman Catholic Church, for its slow pace in re-defining or expanding the roles women are allowed to play. In all fairness, however, one must realize that, often, these roles are linked not only with tradition but

also with dogmas or matters of faith. The question of women in the clergy is a case in point.

With particular reference to liturgical books, Sister Lorraine d'Entremont points out during a workshop on gender-free language, "It is hard to change them [the texts] overnight; it's not that they [the clergy and the hierarchy] don't want to."

In whatever denomination, this difficulty may lead to awkward but humorous situations, as Jefferson recalls.

"In our liturgy, using the Book of Common Prayers, [if] you are taking a service with a group of women -- an all women's congregation -- and you say, 'Dearly beloved brethren, ...' it's funny. But [in other ways] it's not funny, it's silly."

Yet, in a similar way, changes to traditional texts may lead to situations equally awkward. One morning, during a retreat for men at a monastery, the abbot, presiding at a mass attended by men only, opened mass with the words, "My dear

brothers and sisters...."

These humorous anecdotes underline the serious difficulty in finding the right choice of words for a given occasion. It takes conscious effort, of course, to choose our words. But we have to make the effort if we are ever to change attitudes about the roles of the sexes. One can consider men and women as rivals based on their differences or one can consider them partners because of these same differences. "I believe in the equality of men and women, and [that they] are co-workers in God's creation," says Jefferson. "We can complement one another."

If no conscious effort is made to neutralize biases, then preconceptions or even prejudice about the roles of the sexes will persist and spread. The consequences may be tragic, as the case of Marc Lepine demonstrates so clearly.

"You have to be very conscious of what you are saying," says Mazerolle. "[Otherwise] sexist language slips out."

A Time to Remember A Time to Change

By Claudelle Seguin

Members of the Mount community can demonstrate their commitment to preventing violence against women at a memorial service to commemorate the 14 women slain at Montreal's Ecole Polytechnique Friday, Dec. 6.

"The memorial is a way of remembering the women killed. But more importantly, it reminds us that there's still a lot of work to be done regarding violence in society, specifically against women," said Sr. Lorraine d'Entremont, campus chaplain.

The Mount's efforts to organize the service reflect last year's theme, 'A Time to Remember;

A Time to Change', she said. "It's really what we're about in doing this. The memorial will allow people to come together to share the horror."

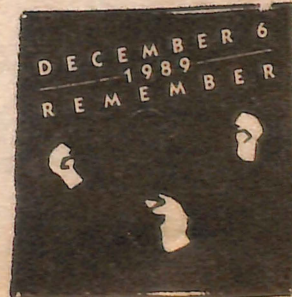
Sister Lorraine believes the service will provide an opportunity for students to show their disapproval of this brutal crime against women. "The event can act as an outlet to demonstrate their beliefs that more has to be done, more has to change."

The memorial service will help to provide a sense of community solidarity, she said. Aware that few events bring the campus together, she noted that more than 400 people attended last year's service. "It seems to be a common empathy, the signifi-

cance of this event and the need to remember it."

The service is jointly organized by the campus ministry office, student union, women's studies department and Mary Kelly, director of the student choir.

It will take place at 11 a.m. in Auditorium C of Seton Academic Centre. Everyone is welcome to attend.



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NEWS

The Polar Bear Swim: An Icy Splash

By Darrin White

The scene was bathed in an eerie orange glow except for a small patch of black rock lit by the harsh lights of a television camera crew. Onlookers gathered, curious about the commotion. Two ducks paddle closer, then closer still, investigating the nervous and noisy crowd gathered on the shore.

The thirty or so people, dressed in T-shirts and swim suits broke into choppy, off-key strains of "We're here for a good time" and "She wore an itty bitty teeny weeny ..." you know the rest.

The time approached to separate mice from men, the chaff from the grain, the Polar Bear swimmers from the people who just stood there and watched. The Fourth Annual M.S.V.U. Polar Bear Swim for Christmas Daddies would soon be underway.

Promptly at 5:30 the group of brave participants ran down the treacherous Black Rock Beach into the icy, frigid, body and mind numbing, and indecently polluted, waters of the Halifax Harbour. Shortly thereafter they all ran right back out. All except for Super Dave (real identity unknown) who took the opportunity to practice his backstroke.

Remarked one bystander, "I think it's tremendous, but I hope they don't get sick."

The event, organised by Ancel Langille, raised \$1850.00 donated to Christmas Daddies, an organization dedicated to providing Christmas presents to underprivileged children in the community. Picaro readers should note that after retreating from the beach the swimmers were rushed to receive emergency treatment ... at Vinnie's.



Summer Employment with Greenpeace

By Krista Grant

This year students in Halifax will have a new option for summer employment with the environmental group Greenpeace.

The canvassing office at 2150 Gottingen St., which opened Sept. 13, is always looking for people who want to get involved said Annette Fox, assistant director of the Halifax office.

"We hire students for the summertime in canvassing outfits all over the country," said Fox. They have already received several calls from university students looking for jobs.

Student involvement is quite important said Trudie Richards, a member of the board for Greenpeace and a former media director. Greenpeace tends to be a young person's movement, where 90 per cent of the members are 25 and under, she said. "Young people who come into the organization remind us of our original goals and never let us forget our commitment to being on the radical edge of the environmental movement."

Greenpeace, Canada's largest lobby base, is attempting to broaden that base with the opening of the Halifax office, the first

in Atlantic Canada, said Fox.

Canvassers work full time, which includes four hours of going door-to-door every night, talking about the issues and promoting a clean, safe environment for all species.

"We will be canvassing the university campuses once a year," said Fox, "and will be setting up information booths at all the schools and libraries." For the moment, they are busy getting the office up and running, said Fox, but students are free to drop in or call any time to get more information.

Both Fox and Richards stress that the environment is everyone's concern and that students can play their part in other ways as well. "Everyone can do something," said Fox, "whether it be writing a letter, joining an organization, or starting your own group."

Said Richards, "I would urge young people to join an environmental movement. There is no better way to contribute to a healthier planet than by getting involved. On a personal level, it's everyone's responsibility to lead a lifestyle that is environmentally conscious."

Weekend of Reflection and Discussion

By Jennifer MacIsaac

The Mount Catholic Community will be hosting a weekend of reflection and discussion for local university students of all denominations on January 17-18. The weekend theme, "Christianity in the Real World," will give students the chance to examine society's pressures on Christian values. "Right now, it's hard to imagine that exams are over and Christmas has come and gone," says Tracey White, one of the event organizers. "But this is a great chance to relax after December's rush and before a new term starts."

The Motherhouse on the Mount Saint Vincent campus is the location for the overnight gathering. The event starts with registration on Friday at 6:30 p.m. and ends Saturday evening.

The program will start with a film, relating to the weekend's theme. Some possible topics for discussion include drug and alcohol use, relationships and friendships, sexuality, and competition in the university environment.

"It's really a time for private reflection and sharing with your peers," says Sister Lorraine D'Entremont, chaplain at the Mount and key organizer of the

event.

A similar event was held at the Mount last winter, and judging from its evaluation, the weekend was a success. Many of the 21 students who attended commented that it was a perfect opportunity to examine their faith

and values, make new friends, and relax and reflect. Interested students from the Mount, Saint Mary's, and Dalhousie should call Sister Lorraine at 443-4450 or contact their campus chaplain to find out more details about the weekend.

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OP/ED



To the Editors:

The article "PR Versus Journalism" in last week's Picaro addresses an important issue in the communications field. Last year my Public Relations-TV class met with one of King's journalism-TV classes. The distrust between the two professions was quite obvious. The journalism students believe that public relations people hinder, if not block, the journalist's goals of reporting the truth. The public relations students replied that journalists did not understand their role. For example, in a crisis, journalists may go to the PR person to find how many people are injured. The journalist needs the information as soon as possible because he/she is working on a close deadline. The public relations person needs time to

get the correct figure from the scene.

Understanding each other's role is key and there's no better time than the present. Maybe if we worked at understanding each other at the university level, we could create a higher level of cooperation. We need to communicate.

How about PR students taking a course at King's or vice-versa? Or a King's journalism professor and a Mount PR professor talking to each other's classes or more discussions between students. We should work to bridge this rift because it's going to have a great effect on both professions in the long run.

Sincerely,
Catherine Doucette
4th Year BPR

To the Editors:

I am writing because I am amazed, bewildered and very disappointed about what happened at the student union staff Christmas party Saturday evening.

The meal was delicious, the music was great and everyone was having a well deserved good time. At the end of the evening, I was helping clean up - voluntarily (Christmas spirit you know), when my wallet, homework, and camera was stolen from the middle of the empty dance floor where I had placed it in plain view while helping to clean up.

These things happen - we know that not everybody is honest and do not always care how they hurt other people. But, it was a staff party - where we thought we were amongst friends, and it was a Christmas party - where we

thought the holiday spirit would cause people to pause and think. I was wrong.

I hope the person knows that they stole more than a wallet - they stole a student's rent money that was due the next day. They also threw someone's homework in the toilet that was due Monday. And they left many people with not good memories of a special occasion.

If you would rethink your actions, it might restore some of my holiday spirit. Please drop off the wallet (empty of the rent money if you must) at Student Union, the information desk, or at any location where I could be contacted to pick it up.

Thank you very much,
Season's Greetings!
J.J. Poidevin

To the Editors:

I would like to address Cynthia Ann Way's concerns. Miscellaneous may not have been a descriptive title for the \$25,000 item, but all it means is that this money has not been allocated yet because throughout the year, many worthwhile events and issues come up that we want to support.

If you would like specific examples, the Athletics needed \$2,500 so they could participate in national competitions. We also give donations when special needs arise like a recent \$200 donation to Wee Care Daycare.

Anyone who has concerns about the budget is welcome to

come see us. These expenses are brought to Student Council and voted on. They are recorded in the minutes and anyone is welcome to read them.

This is not a "small, personal budget", but one for approximately 3500 people, including 70 employees. Your concern is duly noted, but in the future, I suggest that you might use more accurate analogies.

Kathy Shay
Treasurer

Scott Amyoony
V.P. Academic

To the Editors:

I am writing in response to an article by C. Michael Dunn (sic) entitled North End Nazis, which appeared in the November 20 issue of your paper.

In the article, Mr. Dunn says, "Some Halifax residents consider a front page article in the November 8, 1991 issue of the North End News as tantamount to free advertising for American-based Neo-Nazi group, the Aryan Resistance Movement." Mr. Dunn goes on to quote one Jennifer Boehmer as saying that the inclusion of the sticker featuring a swastika, the slogan "Stop Immigration!" and a Nebraska address for the Neo-Nazi group, "was a poor editorial decision that showed a lack of good judgement."

I want to know who these "some Halifax residents" are. Mr. Dunn says some residents think that the inclusion of the sticker is free advertising. If there is more than one person who believes this, then why didn't he include their comments in the story? I think Mr. Dunn (sic) has blown the situation out of proportion.

Mr. Dunn includes a quotation from North End resident Ray Keating that says, "Although the editors used sensationalism [the sticker and swastika] to attract attention to the story, I

believe they showed good judgement in that the story will influence more people against the Neo-Nazi cause than for." What does this have to do with free advertising for the Neo-Nazi cause?

Mr. Dunn also changes from free advertising to sensationalism in the course of his story. Advertising is defined in The Random House Dictionary as to describe (a product, etc.) in some medium in order to induce the public to buy it, or to call public attention to. Sensationalism is defined as the use of or interest in sensational subject matter or style, sensational meaning in producing a strong reaction, intense interest, etc. Yes, the story and the swastika were included in The North End News to call public attention to the fact that there is this kind of stuff out there. but, (sic) it was not included to produce a strong reaction or intense interest in it. There is a difference between free advertising and sensationalism that I feel Mr. Dunn did not make clear.

Comments made by me, Carol Mallett, were accurately reported by Mr. Dunn, but I did not "deny charges of sensationalism." No such charges were ever made as far as I am concerned. Just because one person believes

that there was a lack of good judgement, this does not constitute charges. I do not feel that I was fairly represented by Mr. Dunn in the article. He only reported some of the things that I told him, neglecting to state why I ran the article and the sticker in The North End News. I have already stated in this letter that they were included to let people know that this stuff exists. This is the only reason why these things were in our paper. As a journalist, it is not my job to influence people for or against anything, only to inform them about it.

What difference is there between our article and graphic and other media reporting the appearance of the sticker and describing it, without actually printing the sticker? What is so wrong with our way of informing the public? I feel that Mr. Dunn showed a lack of good judgement in his reporting, and that he used sensationalism, something that he accuses The North End News of doing. Is he not trying to produce a strong reaction against our newspaper?

Sincerely,
Carol Mallett
Editor
The North End News

To the Editors:

How ironic it is that C. Michael Dunn chose to write an article calling my journalistic judgement into question.

In his article, "North End Nazis" (Picaro, Nov. 20), Dunn employed many poor journalistic practices himself.

His lead in the article stated: "Some Halifax residents consider a front page article in the Nov. 8 issue of The North End News as tantamount to free advertising for American-based Neo-Nazi group, the Aryan Resistance Movement."

First, I would like to point out his basic factual mistakes.

The Aryan Resistance Movement is not American-based.

His second mistake of fact was reporting the neo-Nazi sticker (found in Scotia Square and subsequently printed in The North End News) was advertising the Aryan Resistance Movement.

If he had read my article thoroughly, he would have realized the two are not connected. I reported the sticker as the second incident of racist propaganda being posted in Halifax. The Aryan Resistance Movement posted "White and proud" notices around Halifax earlier this year.

Secondly, I take issue with the point that Dunn is trying to make in his article.

He stated that some Halifax residents were upset that I chose to include a copy of the sticker along with my article. He does not, however, offer one shred (sic) of evidence to support this claim.

He quoted a PR student as saying "I feel it was a poor editorial decision that showed a lack of good judgement." I am

left to wonder is she a North End resident who actually read the article as a result of receiving the paper. Or was Dunn simply asking questions to fellow students until he got some sort of response that supported his argument? Is she really upset? Why? He does not make it clear.

I am also left to wonder just where are these "upset people"? We at the North End News have received no calls of complaint about the article.

Except if you include the call from Michael Dunn, who identified himself to editor Carol Mallett as a North End resident.

Do I have my source of the so-called upset? Was Dunn's article the result of his personal agenda? Is this an example of good journalistic objectivity and judgement?

I am also disappointed that Dunn did not contact me before he proceeded with his article. I was the one who chose to write the article, including the neo-Nazi sticker for publication.

I firmly stand behind my decision. Not only did Dunn miss the facts of the article, but he missed the focus as well.

I have done much research on this issue and what I have found is the people who are members of white superiority groups are shrouded in mystery. They refuse to be identified. They refuse to stand up for their so-called beliefs.

Publishing a copy of the sticker reiterates this point. It only lists a post office box number, not a fixed address, thus they are unobtainable. They have no telephone number, which I stated in my article.

I realize this issue is a controversial one. Our conclusion at The North End News was that these stickers were a cowardly deed. In publishing the sticker and the comments of an admitted racist, people like this make themselves look bad. We do not succeed in giving them free advertising.

The bigger question I grappled with when writing the article was: Is there any value in telling people about this?

My answer was: I felt people should know. I felt that keeping blatant bigotry hidden does nothing in our battle to eliminate it. Frankly, I don't believe anyone would write to that post office box number after reading what was contained in the article.

My article was based on a lot of hard, often disturbing, research. I reported the facts, and that included the sticker. I resent Michael Dunn wrongly accusing it as sensationalist.

Shauna Jones
University of King's College

Ms. Jones' story as well as her swastika are available for reference in the Picaro office.

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

NEWS

We Want the '90's!

By Jannine Shave

On Monday evening, September 25, in the Assisi Hall second floor lounge, approximately 100 residents expressed their views on what they think residence should be.

In attendance was Barbara Crocker, housing and financial aid officer, Paul Reyno, director of physical plant, Dr. Carol Hill, dean of student services, Umberto Catalano, food service manager, and Diane MacKinnon, head of security.

"The purpose of the evening is to find out from you, first hand what are the issues that you would like us working on," said Crocker. The first issue is an old one, but always dominant in residences at the Mount--male visitation. For the last two years, male guests can be signed into a resident's room between the hours of 3:00p.m. to 1:00a.m. on Friday and Saturdays, and from 2:00p.m. to 7:00p.m. on Sundays. Now the residents want to extend those hours even more.

"We would like the hours to start at 12:00 p.m. on weekends," said one Assisian. "But our main concern," said another, "is over-night visitation."

Many people in residence go home on the weekends to visit their boyfriends or their families because there is no place for them to stay if they come to visit.

Since most of the residents go home on the weekends, the residence councils are having a hard time planning events to suit the residents needs.

"It's always empty here on the weekends," said an Assisian who is from out of province. "Every Friday, you'll see everyone packing up their laundry and going home," she said.

The next issue brought up was alcohol. "The general consensus is to allow alcohol in the residence," said Shelly Hines, a resident assistant. "There will be rules that will have to be followed if this comes into effect," said Crocker, "however, it will be looked into."

Residents are willing to abide by rules which will entail fining people if they are not followed. "We'll abide by almost anything if we can at least initiate alcohol in residence," one resident said.

The next complaint was the washers and dryers.

Presently, for 150 students living in one building there are four washers and four dryers. Dryers that rarely work. "The washers work fine," said Monica MacLeod, Assisi Hall residence council's vice-president, "but it takes the dryers at least two times to dry your clothes." On a Sunday when the majority of students do their wash, theredents get a little frustrated.

"We can look into all possible solutions," said Reyno, "the problem with the dryers right now is where they are placed, the ducts are on the other side of the building, so there isn't much power getting to the dryers."

Overall, the students wanted more and better washers and dryers.

Then, there was the security question. The residents ap-

plauded when a student suggested more lighting on the paths going down to Seton Academic Centre.

Almost everyone agreed that they felt unsafe walking down to the library in the dark. However, both Reyno and MacKinnon explained the problems of putting more lights in because of cost and the environment factor.

Telephones! On every floor in Assisi, there are 14 to 16 girls to one pay telephone. There are many complaints from not only residents, but their friends who try for hours to get through to Assisi. The first complaint was the fact that the only phone is a pay phone. The second was that there was only one telephone. Residents want their own phones or at least a no charge floor phone for local calls.

Everyone felt optimistic

when they were told that it could be a distinct possibility that they would have phones in January, possibly.

By talking to any resident, anywhere in the world, you can tell that there favorite complaint is the food.

Most students want to use their cards at the Sacreteria since most people think they are wasting a lot of money if they cannot make it to the cafeteria in between classes. Catalano explained that there are many problems associated with that, but everything that was discussed will be brought to the administration of Versa foods.

Overall, the night was very worthwhile, the residents aired their complaints to the people who can possibly do something about them. "Things are already being looked into," said Crocker.

Health Services

By Laura Cutler

A commitment to professional care for students and more personalized medical care is unique to the Student Health Services at the Mount said Diane Tinkham, one of the Mount's health services nurses.

"We are so concerned that they [students] feel comfortable coming to us. The issues are very sensitive, very private and they have to feel we care. The health service is their place," said Tinkham, the Mount's nurse health educator for 22 years.

Tinkham stressed how open the health centre is to any problems from headaches, to personal relationships, academic troubles or flu-bugs. "There's never a problem I haven't heard," she said. "Don't be embarrassed."

"Our first responsibility is to students," said Tinkham. "We hold confidentiality in high regard and want no inkling that things are not 100 per cent confidential."

Health services employs two nurses on a job-share arrangement. Anne Bulley, Tinkham's partner, organizes health information booths around the campus. She especially wants the "down-campus" (non-residence) students to be aware of health services.

Both try to keep their day open for walk-ins, though the two (female) doctors schedule appointments to better organize their day. Tinkham stressed that if students need to see a doctor, arrangements will be made to fit them in that day.

Student Judicial System

By Frances Roesch

Two MSVU students have recently been disciplined by the Student Judicial System for Non-Academic Infractions for forgery on an add drop slip.

However, most Mount students are unaware this judicial system is in place.

"I want to know what's going on around me and I've never heard of it before," says Lisa Pinhorn, Don of Vincent Hall.

The Student Judicial System for Non-Academic Infractions is a disciplinary body which rules on Mount student's violations of university regulations concerning issues of a non-academic nature.

The system helps protect members of the University from reckless, harmful or illegal actions of students.

"I would not have used the system personally," said Pinhorn.

She explained that it may have been utilized by last year's Evaristus residence council to take action against fellow students harassing them.

"Now that I know about it I think it's good. I know what measures I could take if a student did something against me," said Vicki McFadyen, a first year student.

Complaints against Mount students must be written and signed. They are to be filed with the Director of Student Services within three working days of the incident.

McFadyen said the system is worthwhile if students are made known about it.

The system is composed of the Student Judicial Committee and the Disciplinary Appeals Committee. Each unit consists of two faculty members and two students. All board members are appointed by the Senate for specific terms.

cific terms.

Faculty members serve three year terms, while students serve one.

The system can institute penalties ranging from payment of damages, fines, to community service, suspension from or loss of any university post, suspension from university activities, referral to a detox centre, counselling, or recommendation to the President of the University for suspension or expulsion.

The system is not referred to in the Mount student calendar. Crossman said everyone would have more opportunity to be aware of it if it were printed and readily available to students.

"It seems really ridiculous that the system is set up if no one knows about it," said Crossman. "You have to wonder how effective it is."

On behalf of the Student Union and Christmas Daddies,

I would like to thank the following:

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and if you can, trick a friend

By G. Rinch

Wow! The first real snow of the season. Most people grumble and complain about the wet and the cold and the misery of it all, but the first snow of the season always reminds me of a

friend of mine and the first time he ever experienced a snow fall.

It was my first year of university and I had befriended a young man from South America. He had never seen snow before, and was anxiously awaiting the first wintery white stuff of the

season.

I admit I took advantage of his ignorance of the subject, so when he asked me what a snowfall was like I teased him a bit.

I told him snow fell all at once and very quickly, (sort of like the B.C. cartoons for those of you who can relate.) "Really," he said, "I thought snow fell softly and in flakes?" "No," I said, "they just do that on television and stuff to be funny. Usually just one flake will fall and then you'd better make a run for it or you'll be covered in the stuff...and it itches too."

When the first snow of the season came, I happened to be with this friend. He was a bit apprehensive when he saw the first few flakes, but he was smart enough to realize I was only teasing him with my story. (My giggling gave me away.)

OK!! So I'm cruel! Sue me! I had a good laugh... and its not like anybody died or anything. Season's Greetings and trick a foreign friend.



Personals

To the Egyptian King,
It took you long enough to respond to my invitation—I thought you had forgotten. I was hoping for a more specific time and place so we could TANGO before time runs out. I don't have all year so please respond quickly if you want me.

A Caucasian Female

Bootytimers,
Next time we want to see the booty - we're out of control.
Your drives home.

Wanted one semi-normal smart female (20-26) for partially-crazed male business student. Must enjoy all fulfilling things in life, including pseudo-intellectual conversations, sailing, travelling, and fine cooking. Please respond to: Buckwheat c/o Picaro office.

To the skinny, blond guy who works in STUdent Union: I have been eyeing you for weeks now, But the look is not exchanged. I try to approach you but I don't know how, Are you out of my range?

I would like to see you, But see you alone.
And if things work out, I would take you home.
Please don't hesitate and respond right away
Tell me we could meet somewhere, someday.
Your lovestruck Babe.

G is for Gringo

By J. Wingo

Have you ever thought to yourself, 'God, I wish I could be a Gringo!' Its amazing just how many people have expressed both admiration and complete fascination with the concept of a above mentioned group at this University, I feel obligated to come forward. I shall act as both narrator and historian, and use this fine publication as a medium to express my interpretations.

My articles will encompass the ideals, lifestyles, and experiences that represent the Gringo mystique.

The history of the Gringos is as long as it is magnificent. Some 200 years ago, we were brought together by unknown universal energies which modified several key areas: physical dexterity, the awesome power of laughter, and the ability to consume extremely large quantities of alcohol which would kill the average human. Now in 1991, we live in Halifax, but we are not confined to a mere city. We here the call, and our travels take us to a plethora of locals. From hidden low-rim basketball hoops, where reverse 360' monster jams are the norm, to dope house parties with killer tunes. Yes, the life of a gringo knows no bounds, nor will it ever.

We are comprised of four core members, with other clans scattered throughout the universe. I will begin with Tevin, who represents raw power and force. He is a mystical being who can eat a

freshman quarterback for breakfast, but still show a sensitive side whenever the smooth sounds of Luther Vandros is played. I can only awe at his depth and wisdom. I now come to OKO.

He is an MC Hammer clone who defies the cliché that white guys can't dance. His abilities are renowned in every dance hall and club. His inner strength comes from his hair, which can be found in abundance. Mere mortals can only dream of having sideburns as spectacular as my fellow gringo's. Led Zeppelin and Bad Brains combine energies and guide OKO in his journeys. The third member of our alliance is Ande.G, who combines intelligence with pure, unadulterated craziness. His legendary status as a party maniac can be backed up with literally thousands of hours of practice. His soul was transferred from Jamaica, and he has been taught ultimate wisdom by another such legend, Bob Marley. These two will always be intertwined as one, "mega-force" which will live forever. I now come to myself. I am simply called, "Wingo", and I represent the creativity and style, combined with instincts too long to list now. My strength comes from the man, the force, the legend: Harry Connick Jr. In my opinion, he is the greatest of all Gringos everywhere.

To fully understand what the Gringo's are, I will continue to write on the subject until I feel that I have done justice to our name and heritage. Until the words are written.....

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Maximum time permitted for writing is 2 hours. Results of test will be given at the time of writing. There is no preregistration or fee required for the placement test. Sample questions are available from the Mathematics Department, Admissions, Continuing Education, or the Registrar's Office.



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SPORTS

Men Defeat TUNS and NSCT

By Nadine Hines

The MSVU men's basketball team won two games this week, beating NSTC and TUNS.

On Tuesday, the men travelled to Truro to play the Nova Scotia Teachers College for the first time this year. The last time these two teams met, it was at the NSCAA Championship game. The Mount won that game and things did not change. The team

won 70-58.

Top scorers were Tony Ross 27, Anthony McNeil 14 and Andrew McNeil 8.

The men then played TUNS on Saturday night for the second time this year. And just as the first game the Mount won 89-56. Top scorers were Tony Ross 19, Mark Forward 13, Derick McDermott and Jonathan Phillips 11.

This concludes the season for 1991. The men will resume play after Christmas.

Stress Burner Fitness Class

The week of Monday December 9 to Friday December 13 all MSVU Fitness Classes are being offered free to all MSVU Students and Staff.

The Athletics/Recreation Office is well aware that this time of year can be a very stressful time for students and staff as they

prepare for exams and for the Holiday Season. We also know that exercise has proven to be a great stress reliever.

We invite you to participate in our exercise classes at no charge for this week and burn off some of that stress in a healthy way.

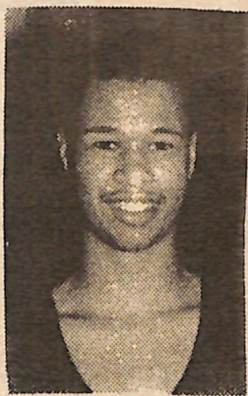
Pepsi Athlete of the Week

This week the Pepsi Athlete of the Week is awarded to second year men's basketball team member Tony Ross.

Tony is in his second year at the Mount enrolled in the BBA program. Originally from the Bridgewater area Tony was a member of the Park View Educational Centre Panthers Basketball team.

Tony has been a consistent double figure shooter for the Mount so far this year and has been instrumental in running the offense for the Mystics.

Congratulations Tony for being named Pepsi Athlete of the Week.



Step By Step The Intrigue of Ballroom Dancing

By Shayla Steeves

Michael and Holly Mitchell started taking ballroom dancing in the Fall to prepare for their wedding day. Four weeks later, they stepped into a lifetime together by gracefully waltzing to "All I Ask Of You" from the Phantom of the Opera. Step by step practising paid-off, the new couple were a hit.

"We didn't want to make fools of ourselves on our first big dance," said Michael. "I always loved dancing. It is an art form, enjoyable, relaxing, exercising ..."

The wedding day is nerve-wrecking enough without having to worry about the "first" dance. The Mitchells had a reason. Everyone has a different reason for venturing into the world of ballroom dancing. To the romantic types it is intriguing. For others, it is a form of exercise and social recreation. To still others, it is the current thing to do.

"People are eager to dance together again, getting married again," said Sharon Quigley, who instructs 100 students in the metro area. "There is a trend towards appreciating the more traditional values."

Jean Menzies-Newton, also instructs 100 students ranging in age from 17 to 80. The love for ballroom dancing has really mushroomed in the metro area. Menzies-Newton is excited at the record number of participants. "There has been at least a 50 per cent increase in enrolment over the last five years."

Quigley said, the age group involved in ballroom dancing generally ranges from "20 to 45 but there are also a lot of schools for children going on in the metro area."

The Mayflower Ball, featuring world-acclaimed dancers as well as many children ranging in age from five to 12, is the biggest competition this side of Montreal. This extraordinary event will be held in Halifax for

the third consecutive year this June.

Quigley instruct private, semi-private, and group lessons in various places throughout the metro area. For example, she offers classes at the Mount, the Maritime Conservatory of Music and the Recreation Centre. As well, Menzies-Newton instructs continuing education courses and classes at the YMCA and the Recreation Centre.

Philomena and Steven McLean, in their late 30's, started beginner social dance lessons this past September at the Mount. "It is like a classic movie," said Philomena. "Once you see it, you don't forget it. The grace and the poise and everything else which goes along with it."

Adds Steven: "It is relaxing, in comparison to the heavy metal stressed music that they are playing today. I find the more relaxing life style and dancing moods are much more conducive to relaxing than becoming that much more psyched up and tense."

Menzies-Newton refers to ballroom dance as "a good psychology course which develops interpersonal and social skills." It is a definite social outlet. Single participants have met their future marriage partners in classes. There are several opportunities such as team-match competitions, parties, and demonstration performance for meeting people.

Like anything - dancing takes practise. Some take advantage of the Tuesday evening practice sessions at the Cunard Street Legion and the Friday night lessons at the King's Palace. Others join John Sands at the Royal Trade and Convention Centre. Many attempt to practise whenever they get the chance - usually at the next wedding they attend.

The fever of ballroom dancing is catching. Michael and Holly plan to enrol in the intermediate class this January. Philomena and Steven have enjoyed it so much that next term they are going to take the beginners over again and the advanced as well. "It will never go out of style," said Philomena.



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Season's Greetings from THE PICARO

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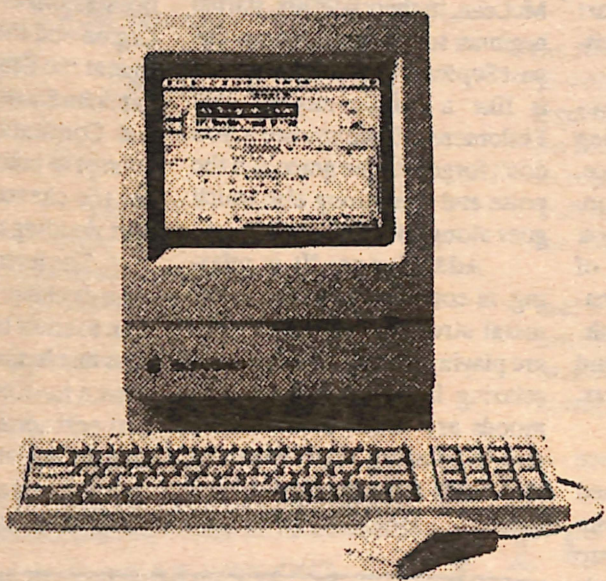
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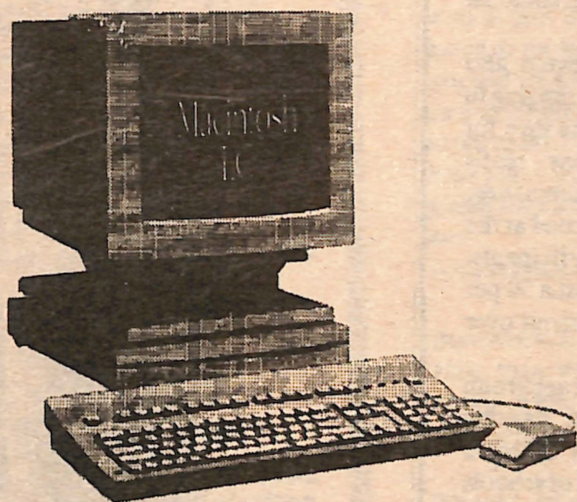
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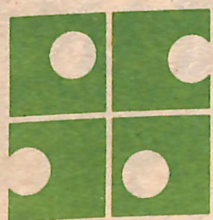
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