



the PICARO



VOL 27. NO. 20

MOUNT SAINT VINCENT UNIVERSITY

Wednesday, March 19, 1992

Green Light on Mount Campus

By Janet Allen

It was 12-feet high and eight-feet wide. It's traveled all across Canada, stopping at Canadian universities from British Columbia to Newfoundland. It visited the Mount last Friday, March 13.

It was a huge environmental postcard, carrying the written concerns of students to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil this June.

Environmentalism and carpenter Mario Houle's stop at the Mount is one of the last on his cross-Canada tour called Green Light to Rio '92. The tour, taken on by Houle and artist Patrice Boyer, intends to raise awareness about environmental concerns as well as the United Nations conference in Rio. Boyer and Houle thought their environmental postcard of a fetus attached by the umbilical cord to the earth, was a great way to generate environmental awareness.

"All the different problems that exist with the environment--if you combine everything--it demands a big shake-up to save what is left," said Houle, who feels the only answer is for everyone to work together to help the environment.

"Let's say we're 100 individualists in a room shaken by an earthquake and a rock blocks the exit. If everyone stays an individualist, no one will ever get out," said Houle. "We all have to get together to move the rock."

Houle sees the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, widely known as the Earth Summit, as a great opportunity to bring at least 150 countries together to discuss international environmental concerns. The Earth Summit will be the first global assembly of heads of state and government on the environment and development. "It's also the first time non-government agencies have been invited to participate in a summit," said Houle. "There will be people from every sector of our society."

Houle said one matter that will be discussed at the Summit is the creation of an Earth Charter. "When they produce it we'll have a common document of environmental concerns. It will become the most important document on the planet." The reference package for the Earth Summit defines the charter as 'a declaration of basic principles for the conduct of nations and people in respect of environment and development to ensure the future viability and integrity of the Earth as a hospitable home for human and other life forms'.

"The [environmental] situation won't improve before we get more organized with a document like this," said Houle. "We need every country to have the same environmental laws and a body to make sure nations are following the laws--so nations can't escape like thieves."

Cindi Coffill, a third-

year chemistry major and member of the Mount's Green Team, was the initial contact person for Houle's visit to the Mount. Coffill was pleased Houle was able to stop at the Mount. Although his visit was delayed a week because of weather conditions in Newfoundland, she said Houle's persistence shows his commitment to the conference and the environment.

"Mario thought [the visit to the Mount] was a tremendous success," said Coffill. "There was a lot of interest and I hope it spills over into the next student environment meeting." Coffill has started a student environmental group at the Mount. She said everyone is welcome to attend the next meeting in the old Royal Bank space in Rosaria on April 1 at 3:30 p.m.

Houle, who has been planning to personally deliver the environmental postcard to Rio to present it to the mayor during the conference, is now having difficulty finding funding. "I'm going to call the universities I've visited and the environmental groups at each to see if I can raise some funds."

If he cannot find the money to travel to Rio himself, Houle knows some people who are going to the conference who may be able to take the mural with them.

For now, Houle is on his way to Charlottetown to visit University of Prince Edward Island with the giant environmental postcard. "I have lots of great expectations."

DAVE WYNNNS!



Mount Elects New SU President

By Picaro Staff

At about 10:30 p.m. Wednesday night, Dave Wynn was announced the newly-elected president of the Mount student union.

After three hours of counting ballots, the election committee reported Wynn's victory with 39 per cent of the votes. Presidential candidates Lynne Isenor and Ancel Langille received 34 per cent and 22 per cent respectively.

"I've got a lot of plans for next year," said Wynn. "Like I said in the president's forum, I plan to move into residence for the summer to learn more about how things work." During his campaign, Wynn said he felt he could provide "open-minded perspectives on new ideas."

Wynn, a third-year biology major, wanted to thank everyone who voted for him: "There are people too numerous to mention."

The winners announced for the two other contested positions were Cathy Thorpe, executive vice-president and Karen Dean, internal vice-president. The remaining student union positions will be held by: Shauna MacNeil, external vice-president; Jodie Boone, residence representative; Doris Agingu, international students rep; Rebecca Nelson, business rep; Sonia Baillon, public relations rep; Melanie Morgan, full-time senate rep; Bill Thomas, academic vice-president, and Kathy Greenfield, human ecology representative.

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OP/ED



To the Editor:

It is inappropriate that your newspaper should publish a front page article by a presidential candidate in the days immediately preceding student council elections.

It is possible that your newspaper is oblivious of the ethic of responsible journalism (ie. "unbiased", "neutrality") to the extent that you are unaware that the appearance of this article may be interpreted by many as an endorsement of the presidential candidate?

The presentation of this article (at this time) reflects poor judgement on the part of your newspaper and that of the candidate personally. At worst, it may be considered an opportunistic move by the offending candidate.

Readers should question whether rules and guidelines exist which regulate such practices

at election time. It is important that an individual candidate should not be perceived as having an unfair advantage -- whether intentionally or otherwise.

The appearance of this article may have occurred as the result of an honest oversight. However, it is important that you realize that your intended fairness may not be seen as fair in the impression of many readers.

Yours truly,
Mary Jardine

Editor's note: I am not oblivious to the ethics of responsible journalism, but rather desperate for submissions. Perhaps if other students would submit articles as often as this "offending candidate" does, I wouldn't need to make such "inappropriate" decisions.

To the Editor:

Tuesday, March 10, student union election candidates visited Mount residences to campaign for council positions.

All candidates were given time to introduce themselves to residence students and discuss their respective issues. But when it came time for resident students to ask questions, there was no time available.

"We're running late tonight, so we'll keep this short," we were told. We were informed at the beginning of the speeches that we could only ask questions of the people running for non-contested positions. Any questions for other candidates would have to wait until the president's forum the next day.

Aren't these resident speech nights held due to the fact that not all students can attend the president's forum? Vincent Hall residents were the only ones allowed to ask questions. By the time candidates got to Evaristus and Assisi, time had run out.

Hope you enjoyed the Dire Straits concert, they won't be voting for you either.

Although one could contest that there were few residents at the speeches, the views of those few still deserved to be recognized. Resident students opened their homes to candidates, and gave of their time to listen to what these candidates had to say.

Would it have been asking too much to have the candidates allow some extra time to listen to residence concerns? Or was this an indication of how much time the elected candidates will have for resident concerns after voting day?

Forgive us for cutting this letter short, but "we're running late" and have to go. God, we're so rushed, we may not even have time to vote!

Still questioning:
Shelley Hynes
Rebecca Moore

To the Editor:

I am writing this letter to express thanks to those students at the Mount and especially residence students, who took the time to participate in the "If You Love Education" campaign last month. The idea came about from residence students who wanted to do something to protest rising tuition fees. With the help of several students from residence, the "broken hearts for education" were distributed throughout the university, signed, collected, and presented to the university administration.

The end result of this campaign, along with other efforts, has been favorable. The university budget

committee has changed the working assumption of ten per cent increase to a nine per cent increase, and the statistics produced from this campaign played an important role in this change.

Students at the Mount should be grateful to residence students, but especially those in Assisi Hall for helping with the distribution, collection and presentation of the petitions. Without the help and support of these students, this campaign would not have been as successful as it has been.

Respectfully,
Ancel Langille
External V.P.
MSVU SU

The Real Issues

Death for Repeat Murderers

by Lesley Butt

YES

Murdering another human being is one of the worst crimes a person can commit. This hideous crime is intensified when someone kills more than once. For these people, capital punishment should be legalized so that they cannot kill again.

If someone is convicted of murder more than twice, or if a person is on trial for serial murders and is found guilty, the single punishment should be death. It is obvious that these people will never stop killing, or "see the error of their ways". Why should they be incarcerated for a certain period of time (excluding parole, which lets these multiple murderers go free even sooner) and then be released into an unsuspecting society? Why should the public be victim to yet another unnecessary slaying by this convicted killer -- an abominable crime that could have been prevented?

Some may argue that everyone deserves to live, and that killing someone for the same act makes us no better than them. If some-

one had killed Adolf Hitler or Josef Stalin, would he or she have been considered to be as ruthless and as brutal as they were? Where is the logic in that? There are certain people who are simply inhuman and should be treated as such. What is more inhumane than the killing of more than one person? Shouldn't we, as a judicial system, offer a reasonable, humane way of dealing with these vicious criminals?

It is a reasonable punishment to sentence these people to death. It is, however, inhumane to free multiple killers into society where it is more than probable that they will kill again. It is also cruel to imprison these murderers for the remainder of their lives. I think it would be more merciful to sentence them to death than to confine them in a cell for the duration of their lives.

If a person killed a succession of innocent victims, why should he or she be allowed to live while these people are dead and their families are still suffering? I

realize we are living in a democracy where everyone's rights are protected, but democracy can be taken too far. When we free these repeat offenders into society, isn't that abusing the rights of the public? Whose rights do we want to protect more, the murderer or the law-abiding citizen? I believe that answer is clear. We have coddled and pampered these truculent criminals long enough. We have to deal with them in such a way that others will be deterred from committing the same crime.

Multiple killers need to be expunged from our society and a method of doing so is to legalize capital punishment for these crimes. These detestable crimes must not go unchecked in our country, and in order to reduce the number of unnecessary slayings, the death sentence must be implemented. Until then, repeated murderers will be allowed to pluck another innocent victim out of our society, and that unknown victim may be you.

Carolyn McLaughlan

NO

In Canada today the maximum sentence one can receive if convicted of murder is life imprisonment. Although I do not believe that this sentence proves lengthy enough in the case of repeat murderers and serial killers, capital punishment should under no circumstances be instated.

It surprises me that although we claim to live in a civil society this barbaric "eye for an eye" philosophy still exists. As children I am quite sure that we all heard the old cliché "two wrongs do not make a right". This cliché still holds true. It seems rather hypocritical that our law should state "thou shalt not kill" and yet we would punish one who breaks that law by death, therefore breaking the very same law, as the person we are punishing.

What would we prove by executing repeat murderers? By stooping to their level of justice, all we are proving is that we are no better than they are. Can not an executioner be looked at as a murderer? A murderer is a person who kills another person, the definition of an executioner is the same.

Capital punishment is not going to put an end to murder. No matter how many murderers we execute, there will still be more. If we are ever to rid our society of murder we need to understand what it is that makes a killer kill. If we could understand the cause we might be better able to prevent serial killing from happening at all. To take the lives of all those who kill repeatedly would be preventing use from ever discovering the causes of their actions.

Our society holds human life to be extremely precious and that is why we have laws against the taking of human lives. We assume, however, that some lives are worth more than others and this is wrong. A life is a life, it does not matter who a person is or what a person has done. Our laws state that to take the life of another human being is wrong and I agree. I also agree that those who have taken the lives of others should be punished for their crime. I do not believe, however, that we have the right to punish them by breaking the very same law ourselves. No human being has the right to kill another human being.

I hope it is understood that I do believe repeat murderers and serial killers should be punished for their awful crime and it is my opinion that the maximum sentences in Canada at present are not lengthy enough. Every life, however, is precious and for the exact same reasons that murder is a crime it would be wrong for us to take the life of another human being who has committed this crime. I fail to see the difference between the act of murder and the act of execution. Both are the killing of a human being. In a "civil" society although these murderers should not be set free to kill again, we should be more concerned with helping these people than we are. As a society, we should be looking for a long-term solution to serial killings not quick satisfaction. The best alternative would be to sentence repeat murderers and serial killers to imprisonment for the remainder of their natural lives. By doing this we would be ensuring that these serial killers would not be released to kill again and we would also be treating them in a more humane and civil manner.

CUP

UVIC Tuition Rise Despite Promises

VICTORIA (CUP) -- University of Victoria students are angry the administration is sticking to a three-year plan which calls for a 10.2 per cent fee increase next year.

The university's board of governors voted last year to increase fees by \$525 over three years. Fees will jump by \$180 for full-time students for 1992/93. Students paid \$1,888 in fees for 1991/92, not including incidental fees.

In a letter to Tom Perry, British Columbia's advanced education minister, UVIC student councillor Jacquie Best said she is "very concerned at the way in which this decision regarding tuition fees is being hidden from public view."

UVIC's student council has been lobbying the NDP provincial government to keep their election promise to freeze tuition fees.

Best said the university is raiding fees without soliciting

input from students.

William Pfaffenberger, a member of the board of governors, said the three-year plan "was done as a message to the provincial government. The university needs more commitment from them". But Oona Padgham, chair of the UVIC student council, said the administration has jumped the gun.

"It seems inappropriate for the board of governors to have passed the increases in speculation," said Padgham.

UVIC provost Sam Scully said the university couldn't wait for the government's announcement on funding for universities.

Pfaffenberger said if the province freezes fees, UVIC wants it to increase funding to make up for the loss.

"If the government doesn't do that, somebody is going to suffer," he said. "The money has to come out of somebody's hide."

Sexual Violence: RCMP Slow to Report Findings in UCCB Case

by Dawn Mitchell

HALIFAX (CUP) -- The RCMP in Cape Breton, N.S. have yet to make a decision regarding an alleged Sept. 1991 sexual assault.

"It's a complicated case," said RCMP superintendent George Timko. "Certain matters need to be carefully examined from a legal point of view and that's the main reason things are taking so long."

Last fall, it was reported to the local RCMP detachment that a female, University College of Cape Breton student had been sexually assaulted in the university residence by three men during a party.

The woman was questioned several times by the RCMP, and was charged with mischief after changing her statement. The charge was later dropped due to lack of evidence.

The woman issued a written statement through her lawyer, criticizing the investigating officer, and demanding an inquiry into his conduct.

The RCMP re-opened the case and have been investigating the officer's actions.

The police have not charged the male students, and the university has not taken any disciplinary action against the men.

The woman's lawyer, Elizabeth Cusack Walsh, said she has met with the Mounties several times, and expects a decision by the end of April.

In the meantime, the slow progress of the investigation and the media attention may have a negative impact on other women who have been abused, says a crisis worker.

"There is no doubt (the case) has deterred people from reporting cases of sexual assault," said Bea LeBlanc, executive director of the women's shelter in Sydney.

"I have spoken to several women who have mentioned the case," she said.

The women had been sexually assaulted, but did not want to file a report, saying they did not want to endure a similar fate, LeBlanc said.

A group of Sydney citizens have been meeting to assess the needs of the area for services for sexual assault victims, and to raise money to fund them.

NEWS

Blueprint '98

By Stephen Doyle

Blueprint '98, a proposed strategic plan which will allow Mount Saint Vincent University to operate more effectively and efficiently and create the best possible programs for its students, has been put into the planning stages over the past few weeks.

Seen as a priority by President Elizabeth Parr-Johnston upon taking office last summer, the process of identifying areas of concern and of charting a course for Mount Saint Vincent has been undertaken by five different committees under the guidance of a 10-member steering committee.

Asked if the Blueprint had any connection to pressure recently applied by the provincial government's Council on Higher Education, Academic Vice-President Wayne Ingalls could see a relationship to issues being raised by the provincial government. Namely the call to streamline existing programs offered by the provinces 13 degree-granting universities to avoid overlap and duplication. While seeing the Blueprint as basically a management tool to run the university effectively and efficiently, still, the Mount must know what it's doing to address recommendations by the Council on Higher Education.

For example, the government has proposed the establishment of a central admissions office to serve all of the universities. A consulting firm is presently conducting a feasibility study of the plan. Such a system has already been implemented in Ontario. Ingalls said this could affect the Mount's present policy of admitting mature students. The criteria each university now has for admittance of mature students may be quite different from Mount Saint Vincent's. A common policy could challenge the Mount's existing criteria.

Asked if the government pressure could eliminate or alter existing programs, Ingalls said existing programs at the Mount are very strong and viable and not threatened by proposed cuts. Ingalls also said the university has rationalized already, having reached at least 20 agreements with other universities so far in an attempt

to avoid duplication of programs. "We're unique in what we do, and the bottom line is that we'll work towards what makes the best programs possible for our students," said Ingalls.

Similarly, Administrative Vice-President Lois Dyer Mann sees Blueprint '98 as mainly a strategic planning measure, but feels the process of identifying issues of concern, while keeping present-day facilities in mind, has little to do with government threats to cut funding or to have more say in how funding is spent by universities. Dyer Mann sees the Blueprint as filling a void in the overall vision of the university as to what it aspires to become over time.

"We need a plan first against which decisions may be made. The university has operated this far with little emphasis on planning. However, the Blueprint has more to do with the kind of institution we are in light of our mission statement, and the evaluation of that mission

statement," said Dyer Mann.

Asked about the charging of admission fees, Dyer Mann said there could possibly be a change in the way that fees are charged. For example, a system of differential fees could be adopted, whereby students would pay fees according to a cost-of-program scale. Both Vice-Presidents Dyer Mann and Ingalls believe an increase in tuition fees is inevitable for the 1992-93 academic year.

It is expected by June of this year the Steering Committee will have received reports identifying areas of concern, and will then be able to begin charting a course for Mount Saint Vincent, based on these reports.

With the help of the Senate, the Board of Governors, and the university community, the Committee will arrive at a definite plan for the university. The plan will be drafted into document form by 1998--a significant date for the university. It marks the 125th anniversary of its founding by the Sisters of Charity.

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Feature

Travel-stained, well-worn and bearing the dirt of faraway lands, it's probably the only three-year-old to have journeyed through 14 countries, from Panama to Argentina. But no one pays any attention to the dirty little red cloth sportsbag. It sits alone and ignored on a chair in the Travel CUTS office at Dalhousie University where four agents are frantically dealing with clients. Meanwhile, another 10 clients, all in their late teens or early 20s, patiently wait in a queue to be served. The bag, seemingly unimportant, belongs to Ian Robertson, one of the clients at the counter booking a flight.

But in 1989, the little bag was probably the most important thing in the world to Robertson, originally from Vancouver. It carried all that Robertson, 25 at the time, deemed essential for a seven-month trip through South America: one pair of shorts, a couple of shirts, one pair of jeans, one long-sleeve top, a pair of "flip-flops," a bar of soap, one toothbrush, a tube of toothpaste and, for practical reasons, a large soft facecloth rather than a towel. There was, of course, also a camera.

Now, Robertson is finishing his MBA at Dalhousie. On this particular afternoon, a week before February break, he is at the Travel CUTS office booking yet another ticket. This time, he is headed not for South America but for Ottawa, just because he's "never been there." But his South American experience will always remain for him the first of many lengthy ventures abroad.

Flip flops, a bar of soap and a tube of toothpaste

Robertson is one of a growing number of young people between 18 and 23 who take off on their own every year for various destinations. If the number of flights booked is any indication, the Travel CUTS office at Dalhousie alone handled over 23,000 client files in the last three years.

Some of the files contain bookings for two or more people. Since November '91, there have been close to 1,600 new files. That translates into over 500 young travellers a month going through one single travel agency in Halifax alone. Business has been so brisk that, in two months, Travel CUTS will be opening to stu-

dents its second office on the Dalhousie campus -- currently handling only staff and faculty.

"If there's a recession out there, you wouldn't know it at this office," says Michelle Murray, 25, who has been at the Dalhousie office for about a year-and-a-half.

But, the travel consultant adds, the numbers tell only part of the story. "A lot of students are buying tickets to go home." The recession has reduced the volume of travellers in 1991, as did the Gulf War and the introduction of the goods and services tax. Nonetheless, she says, "There's been an increase this year."

Murray says that she does not have any exact figures on hand but she would estimate that 70 per cent of young people are travelling on their own.

"There are very simple reasons," she explains. "It's difficult to get a companion to do the same things you want to do."

Murray, who has travelled extensively through Europe and Africa, says that many of those who start out in pairs or in groups tend to separate after two months. The one exception she has found are couples or "boyfriend-girlfriend teams."

The growth in the ranks of travellers in their late teens and

food or water. His first concern was to get medication. Fortunately for Robertson, he had met a fellow traveller, who went to the pharmacist to buy the necessary medication. He was incapacitated for two days, he adds, and it was another day-and-a-half before he could take solid food again. "There's nothing you can do except wait." For young women, there is the added danger of sexual harassment or even assault. Murray says young women intending to travel on their own very often ask her, "Is it safe for a single female to travel by herself?"

As a blonde who enjoys

On the contrary, she says, women, especially if they are travelling on their own, could find themselves such situations just about anywhere.

Her advice to women in a similar incident is for them to stay calm and not to betray any emotions. "One way to fuel the fire is to get angry," she says. "Ignoring the whole thing is the best thing you can do."

The objective of such harassment is to attract the woman's attention, explains Murray. If the woman does not react, the man has failed and will go away.

Murray offers two other pieces of advice to women travelling independently. First, they should not sit in empty train compartments. Second, it is best to respect local customs by dressing appropriately. For example, she says that she switched from shorts to slacks towards the end of her travels in Egypt, despite the oppressive heat.

Robertson, too, advises young travellers to respect local laws and customs. With particular reference to Asia and South America, he says seriously, "Don't do drugs while you're over there."

People in these areas, he explains, tend to be less tolerant about drug use than in Canada. In Malaysia, for example, the penalty for using or carrying drugs is death.

He also encourages young people to seek advice from other travellers.

Travelling is both a challenging test and an invaluable lesson in life for young people

Despite the problems and the occasional unpleasant experience, seasoned travellers like Murray and Robertson say they could never imagine giving up travelling. In fact, both of them strongly encourage young people to travel. They say travelling is both a challenging test and an invaluable lesson in life for young people. "It makes you a more rounded individual ... more tolerant," says Murray. "You become more open-minded."

Robertson says, "On the whole, it's a pleasant experience. The benefits outweigh the risks and the costs. It's an education you can't get at home."

One For The Road

by Julian Liew

One particular area of growth has been the Student Work Abroad Programme (SWAP). Despite economic and political instability, Murray says, there were about 1,500 participants in the program in 1991. This year, the agency is expecting 2,000, but Murray is predicting an even higher number.

"SWAP, she says, is an accessible and affordable option. It offers young people a chance to travel and work overseas without having to deal with the bureaucratic hassles. "I don't think students would do that [work abroad] on their own without the [security] blanket of SWAP," she says. "Any student [under 26] can apply to work in any country on their own."

Even without SWAP, more and more young people are travelling today than in the past. One reason, says Murray, is that young people today are more aware of events taking place elsewhere in the world. "People are more knowledgeable about the world and they want to see it."

Robertson, who has been through Asia, Europe, North America and South America, would agree. He says travelling through different countries and "seeing different cultures" is an important learning process for young people. "It's the experience," he says. "Just being there, it gives a different perspective [of the world] when you get home."

early 20s is not limited to Canada. Stefanie Sprich, 26, from Freiburg in southwestern Germany, has noticed the same trend at home. Sprich, currently on her second trip in Canada, says she first started going on extended trips when she was 25. Referring to young Germans today, she says, "They travel at 18 or 19. They go for half a year in Australia [or] a year in the States."

Robertson gives two possible reasons for the large number of travellers in this age bracket. First, they are the ones with the long holidays. Second, those in their late teens and early 20s have not yet made commitments to either a career or a family. He points to himself as an example.

"My days of wanderlust are winding down," Robertson, now 28, says somewhat wistfully. "It gets harder when you get older. When you have a family and a permanent job, you don't have the freedom to travel."

For young travellers, there is undeniably the added appeal of fun and adventure. However, travelling is not without its problems, especially for the lone traveller.

Robertson recalls the time he fell seriously ill in Nepal. He had been trekking around the mountains alone for about a week when he caught an intestinal infection common in the area by unknowingly taking contaminated

travelling, Murray says she herself has had her share of unpleasant experiences. The first incident happened when she was travelling on her own for the first time.

"I was touched," she said, pausing for emphasis, "in Athens." Declining to be more specific about the sexual assault, Murray continues, "I find that very disturbing that one could actually walk up to a woman and just do that without thinking twice about it."

After the initial shock, she shouted at the man, who just kept walking. Although she found the incident "annoying and humiliating," Murray says she was not upset enough to complain to the authorities. She adds that the authorities would probably not have been able to do anything anyway.

Another time, she was travelling with a friend in Egypt. At one point, they noticed about six men separately following them. While the men were neither physically nor verbally abusive, Murray says it was definitely unpleasant to be followed. She and her friend shouted at them and, when nothing happened, they threw stones at the men until they went off.

Murray stresses that her intent in telling these stories is not to give a bad impression of these places by targeting them.

Animal Testing: The Forgotten Issue

by Carolyn McLaughlan

Causes come and causes go but when an issue ceases to be trendy it doesn't go away. World hunger was the trendy issue in 1985 with "Live Aid" but once it became old news the problem of starving people didn't disappear. There are still millions of children dying of starvation each year, in Africa and all over the world. The use of animals in testing cosmetics is another of those forgotten issues that were once trendy. Countless numbers of innocent animals are still being tortured and killed each year in laboratories for the sole reason of catering to our vanity. We should feel it our obligation to be more aware of this issue and put a stop to the cruelty.

A first step would be to be aware of how laboratories actually test cosmetics before we buy them. There are three main types of laboratory tests which are done on animals; those which test for Toxicity, Skin Irritation and Eye Irritation.

Tests for Toxicity determine how potentially poisonous a

cosmetic might be. An LD-50 test is used for this purpose. For this experiment a large group of mice or rats are forced to eat concentrated amounts of the product (lipstick or eyeshadow for example). They are fed the cosmetic until, after they have suffered excruciating pain, spasms of vomiting and convulsions, half of them die.

To test for skin irritation guinea pigs or rabbits are shaved and the product is taped to their bare skin. It is left there for a period of time so that any sort of rash or other reaction can be observed.

The last sort of tests are those which test for eye irritation. Rabbits are always used for this experiment as their eyes are far more sensitive than ours and their lack of tear ducts prevent them from washing the cosmetic out of their stinging eyes. The rabbits are chained to a stock and concentrated amounts of the cosmetic are put into their unprotected eyes. The rabbits are then left and the level of eye irri-

tation is later measured by the amount and degree of swelling, pussiness, bleeding and blindness that results.

These tests are not done to save lives but only so that we, as consumers, can continue to have a wide selection of eyeshadows and lipsticks to choose from. It angers me even more to know that these tests are not only cruel but unreliable and unnecessary.

Cosmetic testing that is done on animals often proves to be unreliable because the tissues, skin and organs of the animals that are used are so different from our own. In many cases the results from animal testing proves difficult, if not impossible, to relate to human use. Alternatives to these cruel tests are available, they just aren't being used!

One alternative is to use "old" ingredients. "Old" ingredients are those which have proven themselves safe over centuries of use. Many of the most effective ingredients in producing make-up are plants and vegetables which people have been eating since

anyone can remember. Honey, beeswax, and almond oil are only a few examples. These ingredients require no experimentation and therefore inflict no pain.

Another simple suggestion would be for cosmetic companies to share their information and test results with each other. This would reduce much unnecessary and duplicated testing.

Scientific alternatives have also arisen but they are rarely used simply because of their inconvenience.

The most frustrating part of this fight against using animals in cosmetic testing is that we, as consumers, have the power to end the cruelty...yet we haven't. We possess a very powerful weapon to fight against companies; the power of choice. As consumers, we can choose to not buy cosmetics which have been tested on animals. Companies

exist to make a profit and if we refuse to contribute to their cruelty this profit will drop. As a result cosmetic companies will, eventually, change.

Wake up and think when you purchase. Make it your job to find out which companies test on animals and which don't. It really is time we stopped being so selfish. Next time you pick up your eyelining pencil think about how many innocent animals may have suffered and died so that it could be made. All that pain simply so that we can look good at the Pub on Wednesday nights. Is our vanity really worth all the suffering? Let's not make the cruelty of cosmetics testing on animals another forgotten issue, let's make a change.

Reference: "Animal Testing and Cosmetics", The Body Shop International PLC (1988)

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Sports

Season End

The Mount Saint Vincent University Mystics athletics year is slowly winding down. As our men's basketball team and members of the badminton team prepare for their national tournaments the rest of the Mystics are washing uniforms for the last time this year and some for the last time of their playing careers here at the Mount.

Over the past few years we have seen some very talented athletes pass through our doors who have contributed greatly to our athletics program here at the Mount. These athletes have worked hard together and have been responsible for many trips to national tournaments and have been responsible for raising the profile of Mount Saint Vincent University. Many of our athletes have been recognized nationally by being selected to All Canadian teams.

In 1981 the women's volleyball team traveled to their first national tournament and have represented the NSCAA 10 times since then. An unprecedented feat at the NSCAA level and a very impressive record in any conference.

The women's basketball team traveled to their first national tournament in 1990 and repeated the feat in 1991.

The men's basketball team won the first ever men's NSCAA championship title in the history of the university in 1991 repeated their win this year to advance them to their second national tournament in two years.

The badminton team has consistently sent members of their team to national tournaments and this year has been no exception.

This year the Mystics women's soccer team recaptured the NSCAA crown to win it for the fourth time in five years and attended the first ever CCAA Women's National Soccer Tournament.

All this talk about competition, national tournaments and travel...why is it so important?

Apart from the obvious, recognition for the Mount on a national level, the experience of representing your conference, province or school at a national competition is something you never forget. Meeting other athletes from across the country who have all worked as hard as you have to be there, is important. Some of these connections last for years. There are some of us

who still keep in touch with people we met at tournaments years ago. In an age when the term "bonding" seems to be yet another "buzz" word, there is a bonding between athletes. Each knows the dedication and desire it takes to be the best and that makes them the same kind of people...the best in the country.

Competition itself is very healthy. For those athletes who are finishing this year, they have been practicing a skill which carries over into almost every walk of life. On its highest level, competition is one way of learning how to strive toward ones potential for excellence. It provides circumstances where an athlete must be prepared to give their very best. "It teaches us, at its most positive, to deal creatively

with fear, to proceed with dignity and to be equal to greater challenge in the future."

While some of our athletes will be sad at having to leave the Mount and active competition, they have gained experiences they will draw upon for the rest of their lives.

They have given us things to remember and be grateful for. We have all learned something from each other over these past few years. I would personally like to say thank you to all those athletes who have taught me things I needed to know.

From the Athletics/Recreation Office, thank you for being part of the Mount Mystics Athletic experience and good luck in all that you pursue, you have a good start.

Mount Saint Vincent University Student Union, Alumnae, and Athletics Awards Banquet

April 1, 1992

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the individual...*



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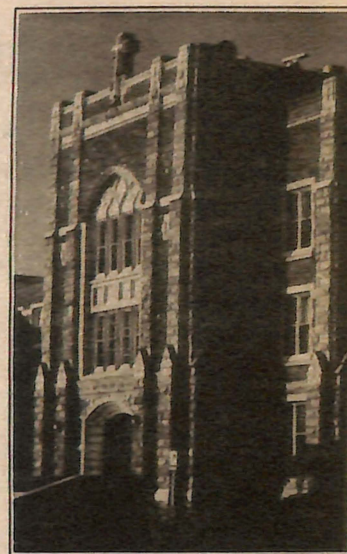
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For more information, phone G.R. Chesley, Chairman, Dept. of Accounting at 420-5624, or Dr. T.S. Chan, Director, MBA Program at 420-5752. Alternatively, write: Admissions, Saint Mary's University, Halifax, B3H 3C3

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All sizes of Russian Prince Vodka are available in unbreakable, recyclable, lightweight plastic bottles. We're having a contest to see who can come up with the most innovative way of reusing our bottles. If your idea is deemed

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Classifieds

Personals

To the Campus Police--Clifford:
I see you every Wednesday and your stare turns me on. I wish it were me alone instead of the whole group while I am with you. I know very little about you but I would like to know so much more. You are so different from the other CP's-- you are down to earth and that excites me. I hope I get the chance to excite you. Write back, please, you big hunk you!

*The Love Watching
Wednesday Night
Hot Rocker!*

Dear
I'm c
from
about
aroun
I wou
shows
alone.
Writin
Vinnie's

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

To my favo
with the ne
they make y
Don't worry
than your fri
D

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

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inces and Eastern
Southern Ontario
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ice, Product Sales,
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or Spring 1992 Graduates of
Bachelor of Business Administra-
tion, Bachelor of Arts (Major:
Economics), Bachelor of Public
Relations (Interest in Market-
ing). Deadline: Thurs., Nov. 14th,
1991. Interviews: Thurs., Nov.
28th, 1991.

To A. Bowers:
You're a freak. Why don't
you graduate?
-J. Dahmer

*To the Lebanese Guy who is seen in
the games room:*
I've seen you from a dis-
tance and you caught my eye.
I don't know if I can have
you but believe me, I'll try!
If you have a girlfriend
Please do let me know
I will be waiting for your
response
In next week's Picaro.
Your love struck Babe

Joanna (you know who you are):
I hear you're still into the
mustard thing. Maybe you can
give me a few pointers on its vari-
ous uses.

Me.
P.S.: Buy me some treats.

R.C.:
I'm the one who wants to be
with you. K.A.

To our fav PR prof:
Okay, okay, okay...we think
you're cute!!! Those bow ties
and that cute bum...
Admiringly,
two students xox

Boog:
You have not responded
to my entry and I am waiting very
patiently -- do you want me or
not?!

The Caucasian Female

*To the badminton player
who's in love with himself:*
Stop writing those annoy-
ing articles about yourself.
Signed,
Throwing some chunks.

*To the obnoxious boy on the
bottom floor of the library:*
I hate you!

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help to Mount students. Drop in
with your paper between 12:30
and 4:30 p.m. on Wednesdays and
Thursdays, or call 443-4450 ext
567 for an appointment. The
Centre is open until April 2.

Are you interested in accessibil-
ity services at the Mount? Would
you like to be part of discussion
and change for the physically and
learning challenged on this cam-
pus? We would like your input!
Contact: Anne Bulley, Health
Office, Rosaria Room 108, 443-
4450 ext. 353.

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