

# the Picaro

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mount saint vincent university halifax, n.s.

## Forum debate on "women only events"

by Cheryl O'Connell

On March 8th, the International Women's Week Committee (IWWC) held a forum in the auditorium of Seton Academic Centre. The forum was organized as a result of Student Union's refusal to allow the IWWC to hold an all-women's pub at Vinnies. The decision was made on Feb. 17th, and things have been in a state of unrest since.

The enraged committee decided to cancel the women's rally and the pub night as a protest against the council's decision. They felt it would be a farce to celebrate, under the circumstances. Instead, they held a forum for the discussion of the rights of women to hold all-women's events. Speaking on the panel for the forum were two lawyers, Wayne McKay and Mary Clancy.

McKay is a constitutional lawyer and a professor at Dalhousie University. He began

with a discussion of the Charter of Rights and the Human Rights Code as they applied to the Union's decision. Two possible angles were introduced. The IWWC's desire to hold a women's pub could be seen as discrimination since Vinnies is usually a public facility, open to all.

Mr. McKay, however, was more inclined to believe that council's decision would be considered unconstitutional under the Charter of Rights. He quoted several sections of the Charter, pointing out that much was dependent on how "equality" was defined. He justified the committee's request under the equality of opportunity section, as well as under "affirmative action" which allows for activities aimed at improving the status for disadvantaged groups.

In general, McKay believed that the union's decision was a violation of the Charter of Rights. He did not see council's action as a reasonable limita-

tion, but as a discrimination against the committee. He suggested, jokingly, that if integration is the goal, we should consider having communal bathrooms, too.

Mary Clancy began with a discussion of the never-ending battle women have to gain equality. She spoke of the "mistaken belief that the battle is won." In relation to the pub night, she did not feel it would be harmful to men. Said Clancy, "Men are not an endangered species."

She spoke of the obvious pay inequity and under-representation of women in the legislature and in the work force. She also voiced the opinion that Mount Saint Vincent should be supportive of the feminist movement, in view of the fact that it is an institution devoted to the higher education of women.

As the floor opened to questions and comments from the audience, dissent was evident.

The first male speaker, Professor Peter Schwenger, spoke in support of the IWWC's right to gather together as a group of women. He felt they had every right to want to celebrate the spirit of the women's movement without the presence of men.

He was followed by a couple of speakers who disagreed with the committee's views and attempted to justify Student Union's decision. The first person pointed out that perhaps a good way to spread education about women's rights would be to allow men to attend the events and see for themselves the abilities of women. Both speakers pointed out that council's decision was based on a long-standing policy that events sponsored by Student Union must be open to all members of the union. Cheryl Mackenzie, Student Union senate representative, raised the point that the union is elected to represent the entire student body, including the 15 per cent male student

population.

The next speaker, a male, was in full support of the IWWC and did not feel men would be shafted by a women's only pub night.

Jan Thomas, union president, then got up and stated the policy which was the basis for the decision. She mentioned the issue which McKay had skirted about the pub being a public place, normally open to everyone.

Finally, another speaker allowed that the morale boost for women should be more important than any possible harm to men.

In all, the session was informative, but didn't truly clear up the issue. Both sides voiced their opinions, but neither side relented.

Student Union will be holding a special pub night as part of Women's Week, but the pub will be open to all wishing to attend. It is to be held in Vinnies on March 10th.

## Dyer tells Canada to drop NATO

by Jean Sloan

The city of Halifax and Mount Saint Vincent hosted Gwynne Dyer on February 17th at a forum held in Seton Academic Centre's auditorium. A respectable crowd turned out to listen to Dyer speak on Canada's defense policy option. Gwynne Dyer has earned his reputation as writer and narrator for the National Film Board's War and Defense of Canada films. He is also known for his numerous syndicated columns on international affairs.

Dyer began his lecture with the history of the Cold War and its misconceptions. NATO was an alliance formed to protect its members from Soviet invasion. NATO troops in Europe were thought to be particularly important for protective reasons and to allow time for rebuilding after World War II. This original fear of Soviets is what led to the Cold War and to its escalation. Dyer told the audience that this war arose from a non-existent threat. Soviets were outnumbered and in poor financial straits. Said Dyer, "If they got it into their heads to attack, they would have to have their heads examined." The prevalent idea that the cold war is justified has come about simply because it

has been in existence for some forty years. NATO and the cold war are seen as the government's role in prevention of conflict.

Dyer proceeded to recount the history of the League of Nations who realized the losing cause of government-formed alliances. They wanted to break the cycle and propose the idea for collective security where any country attacking another country would be accountable to the world. Although the League of Nations collapsed and was followed by the second world war, the idea of collective security was not forgotten and a new group, the United Nations was formed.

Dyer has his reasons for his personal support of collective security and dismantling of organizations such as NATO. He said it would save the world, get rid of arms, solve political problems and stop the destruction collaboration.

Dyer believes that Canada has an important role to play in achieving world peace. He strongly encourages Canada to implement a Canadian Neutral Defence Policy and withdraw from NATO. Dyer believes Canada to be the perfect choice as a leader and as an example for others to follow. One audience member asked if this would not

make us easy prey for a Soviet attack. Dyer pointed out that our geographical location would protect us from assault. He maintained that only a Nuclear war could hurt Canada, thus the policy must be aimed at averting a third world war.

Another member raised the issue of American reaction. If the Americans were opposed they could impose economic sanctions on Canada. Dyer gave three reasons why this would not happen. First, American investment in Canada is too high to allow for monitoring a boycott.

Secondly, the U.S. would be busy trying to convince other nations not to follow suit. Thirdly, if the U.S. were to impose economic pains on Canada, other countries would develop a negative attitude towards the State and would be further inclined to follow our example.

Dyer does, however, believe that a neutral Canada could not afford to be disarmed. Defense would still be necessary to deter attack and enforce boundaries.

Gwynne Dyer effectively introduced to us the option of de-

fense neutrality. He has proven that it would not be an endangerment to Canada, financially or otherwise. He believes we could set a very good example for the rest of the world towards achieving collective security.

Dyer is, however, realistic. He realizes that a neutral defense policy cannot be achieved in a short time. It has yet to become an important issue on the platforms of our politicians. There is still much lobbying to be done before Dyer's proposal is given serious consideration in our parliament's national policy.

## CFS president on CFS

by Marina Geronazzo

Full-time students pay four dollars each year to be members of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS). The CFS fee is incorporated into full-time student fee (\$100 for the 1987/88 academic year).

As full members of CFS, Mount students are entitled to all services and programs provided by the national student organization. CFS manages and operates a number of services such as the Student Saver Program, the Student Work Abroad Program (SWAP), Travel Cuts, the International Student Identity

Card and the Canadian Programming Service.

Tony Macerollo, CFS chairperson, was in Halifax recently to meet with students' unions of various Halifax area universities.

"The main reasoning behind services such as the Student Saver Program and Travel Cuts is to combine the purchasing power of students. This way students benefit much more than if they were to individually purchase the products or travel packages," says Macerollo.

"Travel Cuts is by far the most recognized and most used service program that CFS offers.

There are a number of different spring break packages that more and more students are taking advantage of. Many students also use Travel Cuts as a sort of travel agency for any of their travel needs. The main appeal is its affordability and accessibility to students," said Macerollo.

"SWAP is one of our fastest growing and most popular student service programs," said Macerollo. "Since its start in 1981 over 5,000 students have participated in the program."

Britain proves to be the most

continued on page 3



## Sermon on the Mount

*Well, what can I say, the Mount community should pat themselves on their collective backs for the success of last week's women's supplement. However, use the other hand in defense.*

*If any of you remember, this week was supposed to be another celebration of Ideas in the Picaro. The Arts Supplement, remember.*

*Well, in the centre spread of this issue, you will find some excellent poetry from a handful of students who are creative and have something to say. Where is the rest?*

*The idea for an Arts Supplement was forged from a complaint I have heard on numerous occasions. "Why doesn't the Mount offer students a forum in which they can have creative writing published and shared?" We, the Picaro, in response to this demand offered students unlimited space in their newspaper. The art gallery just finished a successful exhibition of local talent, so what happened to the writers?*

*Come to think of it, the Women's Supplement was centred around a small group of people as well. One contributor said to me, "you know, women are busy." Well if this was to mean that women are busy fighting for equality, what better way to do it?*

*I guess if it was Christmas and I was Santa, I'd be stocking up on coal. Come on Mount Saint Vincent—get the lead out!*

Jeffrey G. Mann  
Editor

## Letters to the Editor: Tuition Pro-choice

Dear Editor:

There are a lot of things in this world that people simply cannot depend on, but one thing you can always depend on is for the powers that be within this university to increase tuition fees.

This year we can count on another increase. This means we will be paying over \$1,630 ...and while it may appear on the surface that \$1,630 is the final amount, it isn't. Let us not forget about the forever present "incidental fees."

The name incidental is a most appropriate one because it is the word you hear just before you are asked to fork over some money. You'll be standing in some line, sitting in class or maybe you're in the library and you'll hear those famous words... "INCIDENTALLY ... you owe an additional \$15 for a Social/Athletic fee" or "INCIDENTALLY...if you want to use the typewriters in the library you will be charged 25¢ per half hour." Or "INCIDENTALLY...if you are not registering for both terms now, then you will be charged a carrying charge of \$25." Or "INCIDENTALLY ...it is not our problem that your bursary is late, you will still be charged \$5 per week for late fees." Or "INCIDENTALLY...if you are going to take this science lab then you owe us \$5 for the use of these lab safety glasses." Or "INCIDENTALLY ...you are going to need a cassette tape for your next French assignment and it's only going to cost you \$2."

GET THE PICTURE?

So the next time someone tells you that your tuition fee to attend the Mount is only \$1,630 try saying..."INCIDENTALLY...I don't think your stick is on the ice."

A rose is a rose is a rose...and...a fee is a fee is a fee.

Yours in Confusion,  
Paul Card

Dear Editor:

I write on behalf of all people who support a woman's right to choose abortion.

The Supreme Court of Canada struck down section 251 of the Criminal Code as being unconstitutional: the majority of the Justices believe that the law impinged on women's right to life, liberty and security of person. Women have been given a constitutional guarantee of access to abortion.

As a nation, we are now in a position to move beyond the tired debate of pro-choice versus anti-choice and progress to an intelligent discussion of prevention. The solution to this whole question, after all, is to make the need for abortions obsolete.

We must pull together and work towards the establishment of sex education programs in the schools and birth control clinics in the communities. Responsible decisions can only be made with complete and full knowledge of the options available.

We urge our provincial and federal legislators to put their energies and resources into meeting the health needs of Canadian women: the Canadian Abortion Rights Action League supports the establishment of community health clinics that would provide a full range of services to women including birth control counselling and abortion services.

We believe that women are caring and moral beings, fully capable of making difficult decisions for themselves. Until such time as there is not one single unplanned and unwanted pregnancy in any community, abortion must be an option that is available to those women who choose it.

Sincerely,

Amanda Le Rougetel  
Chapter Representative  
CARAL/Halifax

## the Picaro

Once upon a time, a little man named Picaro proclaimed the news throughout the countryside. Today, he settles for the campus of Mount Saint Vincent University.

The Picaro is the students' newspaper, and contributions from the student body are always welcome. The deadline for copy and letters-to-the-editor is Friday at noon. All submissions must be signed, double-spaced, and typed. We will not consider publication otherwise. Anonymity, however, can be granted upon request. The Picaro reserves the right to edit for length and/or legality. Lengthy letters to the editor may be submitted as Hyde Park Corner features.

Views expressed herein are solely those of the author or artist.

The Picaro is a member of the Canadian University Press, and of Campus-Plus. We subscribe to the CUP Statement of Principles, and to its Code of Ethics.

The Picaro is located in Room 403 of Rosaria Centre. Feel free to drop by. Excuse the mess...

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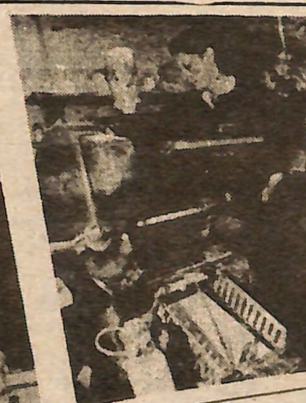
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25th Anniversary

the  
Picaro



# Conference lacked Mount participation

by Marla Cranston

The MSVU Student Union held its seventh annual leadership conference on March 5. "Students Directing: A Show of Leadership" was very well organized but not very well advertised. Attendance by Mount students was poor.

From across the province, high school students and guidance councillors came to take advantage of the learning opportunity. Mount Student Assistants made up the bulk of our student representation; their contract requires them to attend the conference. Jan Thomas and a few others represented student union, though all of our student leaders could have gained something from the experience.

The recurring theme of "students directing" made the day cohesive and supported the idea

of student leadership. A choice of seminars were available at any given time so everyone could focus on their own interests or weaknesses.

In Act One, students chose between time management, stress management and group dynamics. Money was the topic of Act Two. Smart budgeting and the religious implications of having too much money were two choices. The third was fund raising, handled by Carol Goddard, the executive director of Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

Judy Savoy, a CBC broadcaster, was a big hit at the luncheon. She warned students about the power of the media. As always, Chef Rene put on a great feast.

The afternoon seminars covered topics such as Robert's Rules of Order, resume writing, career choices, job interviews,

and constructive use of meeting time. Toastmaster George Burton shared his secrets about dynamic public speaking.

The conference ended on a sour note when most of the Mount students bolted for the

door, just before the grand finale. This left the high school students, who demonstrated what they had learned through skits involving stressful situations.

Organizers Tina Murphy, Heather Coffin and Naomi Mar-

tin confirmed their leadership abilities by rounding up informative guest speakers and by pulling off a polished, effective conference. Their only regret is that is effect did not reach more Mount students.

## "Stock our Stacks" fundraiser

by Karen Chilton

SOS, a familiar cry to many students. But for Mount Saint Vincent University students, SOS now has a new meaning—Stock our Stacks, a campaign initiated by the university's president to address the shortage of books in the Mount's library.

Dr. Naomi Hersom kicked off the campaign by making a large donation and asking the Board of Governors to match it. From there the challenge went on to ask everyone else to match that amount.

Fundraising coordinators hope

the drive will raise \$20,000. Valerie Burkimsher, development manager, sees no problem in reaching that goal. "We've just started our campaign and we're already half-way there," she said.

The development office is asking the support of alumnae, faculty, administration, staff and students to help reach the \$20,000 goal.

The first group of students to answer the SOS call were the Mount Student Assistants (MSA's) by donating \$350 to the campaign.

To take part in Stock our Stacks a donation of \$49.50 is

required. With each donation the library will buy a book, on a priority basis, and put a bookplate with the donor's name inside. The bookplate can also be in memory of someone else.

As a token of gratitude, the library will display an honour book listing the names of those who have donated money to the campaign and the names of books purchased with each donation.

To date, approximately \$8,500 has been raised through the Stock our Stacks campaign. This has translated into the purchase of about 172 books.

## Women's rally enjoyed

by Cheryl O'Connell

Shortly following the International Women's Week Committee forum on women's rights, there was a women's rally held in Seton Academic Centre's Auditorium B, at noon on March 8th.

There was originally to be a rally sponsored by the IWWC, however, the committee was enraged at the Student Union's decision not to allow the committee to hold an all-women's pub night. As a result, they cancelled the rally and the pub night. The Student Union organized their

own women's rally and pub night in lieu of those cancelled by the IWWC.

The union's rally was boycotted by the IWWC, thus there were few people in attendance. Those who did attend, however, enjoyed themselves immensely. The rally included remarks by Mount President Dr. Naomi Hersom, entertainment by Rose Vaughn on guitar and a very informative film entitled "Enterprising Women."

The rally was not an angry condemnation session, but a true celebration of the spirit of women.

## New co-op director

by Cheryl Jenkins

Margaret Muise, former executive director of the Victoria General Hospital, has replaced Val Cowan as co-op coordinator for public relations and business students at the Mount.

Cowan, who has held the position for the past two and a half years, has been appointed director of human resources and training with the IMP Group Limited, aerospace and marine manufacturers.

Muise, a native Haligonian, holds a BSc degree and an MBA from Dalhousie University. She

taught at both Mount Allison University and Université de Moncton and held a marketing position with General Motors before acquiring the position at Victoria General three and a half years ago.

She is looking forward to her new role, and hopes to aid students in their transition from school to the workplace.

Muise is presently screening potential employers, acting as a liaison between the employers and students, arranging interviews, counseling the co-op students and finalizing job positions.

## Fiesta for students

by Katherine Scrimshaw

Mount Saint Vincent's modern language department is holding their annual Fiesta on March 11.

Students of French, German and Spanish are participating in the Fiesta. Skits, songs and dances will be performed by each language level, and all students and faculty are welcome to come and enjoy the show.

In addition to the entertainment there will be a costume competition open to everyone and a potluck buffet. Denise Nevo, French professor and Fi-

esta organizer, expects a large turnout. "It's a great opportunity for students to practice their language, meet other students and have fun," says Nevo.

The Fiesta will be held in the Seton Academic Centre in rooms 404 and 405. It will begin at 3 pm and last approximately three hours. Admittance is free as the cost of this event is being covered by the sale of raffle tickets for language dictionaries, restaurant vouchers and theatre tickets. Tickets are available from language students and faculty. The draw will be made at the Fiesta.

continued from page 1

popular choice for most students who participate in SWAP. In 1987 some 1,200 students worked in this country. There are also work programs offered in Ireland, France, Australia, New Zealand and (the most recent addition) Japan. In 1987, 1,710 students worked abroad through SWAP.

"CFS is looking into obtaining bilateral agreements between the Canadian government and several other countries in order to expand SWAP," said Macerollo. "Right now we are looking into Finland and West Germany."

As for the other service programs offered, Macerollo said, "There is a fairly high user rate of the Student Saver Program in most major cities but more work needs to be done in promoting this program because many students don't realize the number of discounts that are available to them. There are over 6,000 discounts nationwide that students can take advantage of."

Discounts vary according to the size of the cities and the number of students expected to use the discounts. Here in Halifax there are approximately 160 discounts available for Mount students across Nova Scotia. A booklet listing these discounts is available from the Student Union Office in Rosaria.

Two new services that are currently being developed are the CFS Health Insurance Plan and the CFS Net (a computer communications network for all CFS members).

"The Health Insurance Program was initiated because of demands made by CFS members for more control over their health insurance policies," said Macerollo. "Each university chooses from a wide-range of options. Although the plan is national, each individual student union designs

their plan according to the specific needs of their students. To date we have four universities on the plan: Windsor, Memorial, Western Grads and Regina.

"CFS Net was initiated last year but is really only just getting started this year. What we would like to have in place is a computer communications network that will allow all CFS members to communicate with one another, as well as the central office of CFS. This communication network would include electronic mail, updates, bulletin boards and however many other forms of computer communications that can be designed and used. The linkage would be made through telephone wires and will use IBM compatible computers.

"The cost for using CFS Net will be dependent upon use," said Macerollo. "As a rough estimate, we are looking at about \$400 per students' union."

Besides the many services CFS provides, the national student organization is also a lobby group for its members. "Funding is always the main issue for CFS," said Macerollo. "We are always looking at ways of improving funding policies for students and the post-secondary education system in general."

Right now, main concerns for CFS are on student-aid programs and transfer payments.

"We are looking into the changes that are being made to the Student Loans Act for 1988. We are looking towards a more realistic assessment of the student bursaries and loans across the country. We are very conscious of the imbalance that exists between provinces when it comes to student funding and we are encouraging the government to develop a national bursary program in order to correct this imbalance," said Macerollo.

"Transfer payments are a per-

fect example of the pathetic breakdown in federal-provincial relations that exist. The two governing bodies have never been able to develop common standards as to how much money will be allocated to each province and how this money will be used for the university system in that province. A national standard needs to be set. To date there has never been a national committee established to examine this issue. CFS is attempting to put one into place. The provincial and federal governments must recognize the need for a national regulation body that can monitor transfer payments and ensure that they are being used in the best interest of the students and the university system. Of course, the provinces aren't fond of the idea because they view it as a threat to their authority and their control over these funds. But, in the interest of students and the national university system, we feel this would be the best way of ensuring the transfer payments are used correctly.

"Besides what we do in Ottawa and across the country, it is important that students themselves take a stand on these issues," said Macerollo. "Take some time out to phone your local MP or write a letter to them. Chances are they don't know about the problems of funding and student aid. Most MP's don't think much about these issues."

As a national body, CFS is the only national student organization offering these wide range of student services. CFS is the national voice for students and represents approximately 500,000 post-secondary education students from 55 student associations across Canada. Paul Card is the local representative of CFS at the Mount. Card is the external vice-president of the MSVU Students' Union.



# ARTS SPREAD

## Ingonish

I wasn't born here, no. But I stayed here every summer.  
Ingonish, Cape Breton fishing village, was my mother's home.  
She grew up in that house (we sit here on the grass in front)  
You see that window? Well,  
I slept there as a child.  
It was my aunt's room then, Sadie's room.  
I had a little bed tucked in the alcove  
of that window. It was wonderful —  
a big, wide sill where Sadie kept two gentle china cows,  
some tiny bells and a  
perfect white glass rocking chair  
(that really rocked),  
I would lie there, wrapped in flannelette,  
and play with them, with care.  
And, even better, when the house was still,  
I would look across the bay,  
those black nights not diffused by street lights,  
I could see the stars, but not make out the water,  
though I knew that it was there  
(In Ingonish you always know that it is there).

And I suppose it was the way that it reflected light  
that made the night  
so magical,  
the electric glow from houses, still up,  
over in South Bay  
beneath the sloping silhouette of Smoky Mountain.

It is daytime now.  
Sadie died when I was nine, of cancer,  
Thirteen children born in that old house, now only  
three of them are left.  
I have come here with my daughter, who is almost two,  
and we walked along the beach today,  
walked past the row of sagging, old fishhouses,  
past my cousin's sparkling green and white Cape Islander,  
the "Linda Lee," tied up along the wharf  
with all the rest.  
And I've never seen a child look so small  
as she  
when she raced across the point  
and saw the ocean on three sides of her  
and listened to it slap against the rocks.  
And then she ran as I had run,  
and as my mother must have run before me,  
through the tall sea grass that leads down to the sand.

I sat down on the bank  
and watched us running fast,  
head-high and laughing  
through that grass,  
and onward to the sea  
I watched us touch the waves  
with small bare toes, then, squealing,  
padding back to safety.  
We were so young  
we didn't even know of death.

by Sue MacLeod

## Remembering a friend

*When I remember my friend  
I get sad and lonely.  
But then I think of all the good times we shared,  
the advice he gave,  
the lessons he taught.  
I learned a lot from my friend.  
I miss my friend, we shared a lot.  
But when I look at his son  
I remember my friend  
and I say to myself,  
I didn't lose my friend  
he's still here in his son  
and in my heart.*

*Always remembered,  
Richard Collins*

## Night

Why is it at night  
That I feel so  
Just me and  
Through the  
The streets are  
The city's as  
All around us  
But none do  
Only shadows  
In the dark  
Only they do  
And we all  
I long to cry  
Under the blue  
Where only  
Grey ghosts  
Haunt me by  
They hide in  
They're afraid  
Feelings flow  
And the prying  
Thoughts which  
Are on display  
Under the

Tracey Ernst



ring a friend

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riend.  
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## Writer's Block

Pen firmly clenched in my hand,  
I determinedly stare at the lonely bleak paper.  
Where are the words? the thoughts? the emotions?  
Why do they desert me now, in my hour of need?  
I must write a poem, I must!  
My mind strains against the icy barrier  
Of writer's block.  
Only yesterday I thought of spring.  
With a poetic heart and glowing phrases  
I described the first delicate scent of spring—  
The green refreshing smell of new life;  
The earthy smell of sunwarmed soil.  
But today,  
Today winter has conquered the frailty of yesterday's spring.  
A cold white blanket of snow has buried the green shoots of thought,  
And I must wait for the thaw.

Tracey Ernst

## Nightsky

Why is it at night  
That I feel alone? —  
Just me and my thoughts,  
Through the darkness we roam.  
The streets are deserted,  
The city's asleep.  
All around are people  
But none do we meet.  
Only shadows here  
In the dark of day —  
Only they dare meet;  
And we all alone,  
I long to cry  
Under the blue velvet sky  
Where only shadows keep me company.  
Grey ghosts memories  
Haunt me bright.  
They hide in shadows;  
They're afraid of the light.  
Feelings fade when the sky is dark  
And the sunlight is banished.  
Thoughts which hide by day  
Are on display  
Under the gentle moonlight.

Tracey Ernst

## Masquerade

People dance through the masquerade  
With painted masks  
And hidden eyes.  
What tragedies are festering  
Behind those closely guarded eyes?  
What wants and needs are trapped inside  
Cold, unchanging, painted masks?  
Do those stiffly molded lips  
Have any secrets to depart?  
No one lifts his mask away,  
Each is afraid of what the others will say:  
The tears may flow;  
He may laugh too loud—  
He'd be chastised  
For disturbing the crowd.  
And so they all dance the masquerade  
With painted masks  
And hidden eyes,  
Living through unending lies  
Where no one laughs and no one cries—  
Everyone just politely smiles  
As the masquerade goes on.

Tracey Ernst

## Long Distance Friends

"Dear Helen,  
Hello!  
How are you?"

Basic banalities  
Of letter etiquette.

"Sorry I haven't written for so long,  
But I've been so BUSY!"

Profuse apologies  
And so many excuses...  
Leading our different lives,  
It's so hard to find the time!  
Even if we had the time—  
There are so many miles to cross;  
So many obstacles on course.

"I wish you could have been here!"  
So little time to write,  
There is none to get together.  
We haven't seen one another for years.

"I'm sending you a recent photograph.  
Could you send one of yourself?"  
Precious photographs  
Freshen our remembrance—  
And make us realize  
How long ago it really was  
Since we were face to face.

"I miss you.  
You're so far away!"

It's hard to have a friendly chat  
By mail.  
We gossip  
To make it interesting,  
But I have my friends.  
And you have yours.  
Someday, my friend,  
I promise you,  
We'll get together once again,  
Either here or there—  
Somewhere...

"Please write soon,  
I look forward to your letters!"  
Love,  
Tracey."

Tracey Ernst



# Curtis comes home to jail

NEW YORK (CUP)—Alice Curtis' son is coming home.

A five-year battle to transfer Bruce Curtis to a Canadian jail finally paid off February 26, when New Jersey Governor Thomas Kean announced the 24-year-old Nova Scotian will be moved to a Ontario penitentiary.

In Canada, Curtis will be eligible for parole in December, 1989. He could get day parole even sooner. Under American law, he would not qualify for release until 1992.

But while Alice Curtis is happy Bruce will be in the country by May, she still

doesn't believe justice has been served.

"While we're celebrating that he's going to get away from that vindictive environment in New Jersey, we did not get justice. He's still coming home with a 20-year sentence," she said.

A then-18-year-old Bruce was hit with the maximum, two-decade jail term for aggravated manslaughter in the 1982 death of Rosemary Podgis, the mother of his schoolmate Scott Franz. The two boys had gone to Loch Arbour, New Jersey to visit Franz' parents that summer.

Franz pleaded guilty to shoot-

ing his stepfather Al, and was promised the minimum sentence—20 years—for first-degree murder in return for testifying against Bruce.

Bruce testified that after hearing gunshots, he picked up one of the many rifles Al Podgis left lying around the house and ran. But he collided with Rosemary Podgis: The rifle misfired, he said, and killed her.

The same gun went off accidentally in a courtroom demonstration.

Said Bruce's New York lawyer, "I've never doubted his innocence. The trial was a complete

travesty."

Joanne Legano took on the case two years ago, refusing any payment.

The transfer approval was made against the advice of the state prosecutor's office and the New Jersey commissioner of corrections.

Legislative Assistant Dan Donovan says Curtis' parole hearing will be complicated. Donovan said New Jersey officials demanded a guarantee Bruce would spend at least 10 years behind bars before a transfer was granted.

"(Canadians) told them in a

very diplomatic way to shove it," Donovan said. But he suspects prison authorities will keep that in mind when Bruce comes up for parole.

Officials at Kingston Penitentiary will assess Bruce, and Alice Curtis hopes her son will be moved to Springhill, Nova Scotia, just a few miles away from the family home.

Bruce had been slated to attend Dalhousie University in Halifax when he was jailed. Since then, he has maintained an A average in correspondence courses from Queen's, according to Lorraine Peever, his aunt.

## Quebec part-timers to get bursaries and loans?

QUEBEC CITY (CUP)—Part-time students in Quebec will be able to apply for loans and bursaries if a resolution adopted at the recent Liberal party convention here is accepted by the provincial government.

But Luc Rheaume, press attache for Education Minister Claude Ryan, said it is too soon to tell whether the ruling Liberal government will implement the proposals. "We will check for sure if we can do something about these resolutions, but for

now, we don't know what we'll do," he said.

The motion is not binding on the government but on the eve of the convention Ryan said he would follow any resolution adopted by the delegates.

At the party's convention, held February 26 to 28, the Liberal's youth wing presented a resolution asking that students enrolled in two or more courses be eligible for financial aid. Currently, students must be enrolled in at least four courses

every term to apply.

It is the third consecutive year that the resolution has passed.

The 3000-Grit delegates also adopted a resolution asking the government to calculate student loans without considering the financial situation of parents.

L'Association nationale des etudiants et etudiantes du quebec (ANEEQ), the province's largest student coalition, picketed outside the convention hall, accusing the government of breaking election promises on financial

aid and tuition fees.

ANEEQ Secretary-General Jean-Pierre Paquet said the adopted resolutions are nothing new.

The Quebec government spends \$275 million on student financial aid annually. Of that amount, \$200 million funds bursaries, and the rest pays the interest charges on student loans.

Resolutions to let students evaluate their teachers' performance and increase funding to underfinanced universities were

rejected.

The convention ended before delegates could discuss a resolution from Kyan's riding to raise tuition fees to the average level of other Canadian provinces. Quebec tuition fees remain the lowest in Canada, tagged at just under \$600 a term for 19 years.

The party's general council will debate the matter this June. Youth wing President Joel Gauthier said the young Liberals are strongly opposed to the proposed hike.

## Big bucks in technology ministry

OTTAWA (CUP)—Opposition critics fear the federal government is playing handball with university research funds and is creating a new "superministry" to cover it up.

New Democrat Science Critic Howard McCurdy said recently an

alarming portion of the \$1.3 billion Prime Minister Brian Mulroney promised for research will go towards the administration of the new ministry of industry, science and technology.

McCurdy said sources in the current ministry of state for sci-

ence and technology told him that as much as \$450 million will go into the new ministry's operating budget.

"I'm definitely convinced that there was such a proposal," said the MP's Legislative Assistant Don Lenihan. "I have sources in the ministry that they have seen the figures."

"They (the Conservatives) have completely lost credibility in the science community," Lenihan said. "I'm not being partisan at all, it's just ridiculous."

But Science Minister Frank Oberle has said that none of the \$1.3 billion that Brian Mulroney promised at a science conference in January would go to administration costs.

Liberal Science Critic William Rompkey called the funding announcement a "Tory scam" and said the \$1 billion simply came from previous cuts the government made to its science coun-

cils like the National Research Council and Atomic Energy of Canada Limited.

"They slashed the budgets at the science councils," Lenihan said.

The three federal research councils are struggling for money, he said, under the government's matching grants policy where private contracts to universities are matched dollar for dollar by the government.

"The matching grants policy is a complete failure and it is a way the government can avoid spending money on the grant-councils," Lenihan said.

The National Advisory Board on Science and Technology, chaired by the Prime Minister, just released its report calling for a doubling of the money given to the grant councils.

Rompkey said the report's recommendations to curb research spending at 2.5 per cent of the gross national product "is

not realistic." The document "was a lot of smoke and mirrors," he said.

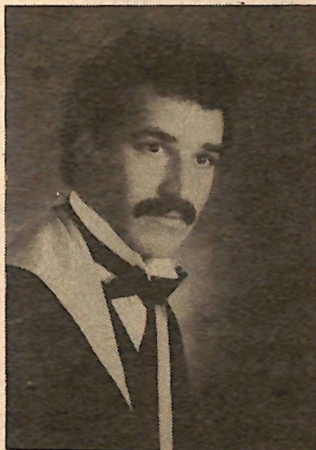
The MP said the advisory board was a sideshow for the Conservatives to detract from their lack of commitment to research and post-secondary education.

"I think the advisory council is on the right track," Rompkey said. "I'm not sure they have gone far enough in the recommendation of money."

"If you don't concentrate on research and development, you are not going to have growth in businesses and create new jobs," he said.

The Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada are criticizing the government for directing money towards applied rather than basic research, which the AUCC said is "absolutely essential to our ability to sustain economic and social development over the long term."

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## UVic council pays students to attend meeting

VICTORIA (CUP)—Quorum is so foreign to the University of Victoria's annual general meeting that the council paid students to come out.

"In order to encourage students to attend, we're issuing Student Saver bucks," said Pam Frache, student council president.

Each buck is good for a \$1 discount at either of the two

union building cafeterias.

Despite the bribe, only 40 people showed up at the recent meeting. Quorum at the 10,000-student university is 100.

But the minimum attendance requirement is reduced by half after one hour has elapsed. Councillors refused to validate the bucks until sixty minutes had gone by, when the meeting could begin.

Frache sees a real need for the promotional offer.

"Currently there's no real purpose in coming to general meetings," she said. "According to our current bylaws the (meeting) has no tangible legislative authority."

Frache said she didn't see anything wrong with paying people to vote at an annual general meeting.



# Challenge fund doubled in Newfoundland

ST. JOHN'S (CUP)—Theoretically even a student in Newfoundland could find a job this summer. The federal government has nearly doubled the province's Challenge '88 summer job creation program grant.

A 92 per cent hike in Newfoundland's Challenge money was announced at a February 26 press conference by John Crosbie, Member of Parliament for St. John's West. The funding will jump from \$5.9 million to \$11.4 million.

"There is obviously a greater need for such funding in Newfoundland than elsewhere," said Crosbie, who is also the federal minister of transport. "We're applying the principles of regional

disparity."

The returning student unemployment rate in Newfoundland last summer was 25.7 per cent, compared to the national average of 12.5 per cent.

The program funding in provinces with low rates of unemployment will be decreased to compensate for the higher Newfoundland aid, Crosbie explained.

Federal Minister of Youth Jean Charest unveiled this summer's funding levels January 12. The government's \$180 million contribution has remained the same since 1986.

Ann Marie Vaughan, president of Memorial University's student council, credited the increase to

the lobbying efforts of the Canadian Federation of Students and the council itself.

She said the increase in funding "is the best way to go", but that it alone would not be sufficient.

"This is a good move but the government can't just throw money at the problem," Vaughan said. "Last summer, only \$1000 was spent on promotion efforts—the program would work a lot better if more employers knew about it."

Jack Harris, federal New Democratic Party MP for the riding of St. John's East, which includes Memorial, pointed out that the deadline for project applications for Challenge '88 was

March 4. Employers had five working days after hearing about the increase to apply.

Minister of State for Youth Jean Charest said in a press release that "this increase shows the government's commitment to address regional disparity and to assist in the development of Newfoundland's future workforce."

According to Statistics Canada, Newfoundland's unemployment rate is 18.0 per cent. The national average is 8.9 per cent.

Pundits are expecting the federal Tories will call an election within the next few months. Said Crosbie, "This is nothing to do with an election. We're

just addressing a problem."

A major component of the beefed up program is the Summer Employment/Experience Development, or SEED, which will receive \$11.1 million. Employers apply for money to help pay the wages of students they hire in the summer for a maximum of 18 weeks. Money not distributed to the private sector is used to pay minimum wage to students hired in the public and non-profit sectors.

The remaining \$300,000 will be directed to loans. Students are given an interest free loan of up to \$3000 to set up their own businesses. Last year, over 30 enterprises were started in Newfoundland through the program.

## Feds force universities to adopt affirmative action

VANCOUVER—In order to remain eligible for federal contracts, two British Columbia universities have been forced to adopt policies ensuring that women, aboriginal people, the disabled, and visible minorities are fairly represented in the campus work force.

The Federal Contractors Program for employment equity requires all organizations bidding on federal contracts worth over \$200,000 to sign a "certificate of commitment" to adopt affirmative action hiring policies.

The University of British Columbia signed the document January 11, and has set up a presidential ad-hoc committee to define the program.

The university will also hire an employment equity officer to regulate the program, said Albert McClean, UBC vice-principal academic and committee member.

"I don't think we've been acting unfairly in employment, but it gives the federal government a chance to double check," said McClean.

Both UBC and Simon Fraser University, which signed its certificate of commitment last year, will begin compiling data on the percentages of people within each designated group already working on campus.

Current census figures provide information on the number of women, but identifying people who are disabled, of aboriginal origin, or who are of a visible minority, violates B.C.'s Human Rights Code.

Both universities have been granted exemptions by the provincial Human Rights Commission to carry out their surveys. Once the results are in, the two universities will compare those statistics to the provincial averages and set reasonable goals for changes, if necessary.

Verna Kirkness, of UBC's First Nations House of Learning, said there was one native person on faculty when she began her work trying to improve student and faculty representation in 1981.

"Now there are 13, not all full-time or permanent, and mostly in education and law," where there are native programs, she said. "There should be an all-out effort from other pro-

grams, faculties, and schools to hire native people as well, not just native programs."

There are 130,000 first nations people in B.C., or 4.5 per cent of the population.

Jean Elder, chair of an ad-hoc alliance of UBC women's groups, said about 220 of the university's 1500 faculty are women. Women account for roughly 15 per cent of full-time SFU faculty.

Robin Loxton, of the B.C. Coalition for the Disabled, said universities "are one of the areas where people with disabilities have the most success."

Loxton said the recognized figure of 55 per cent unemployment for disabled people is probably closer to 80 per cent, as statistics don't count people who have given up looking for work, or are considered unemployable.

The universities are also required to examine all hiring-related policies and practices, formal and informal, that may inhibit fair employment of people in the four groups.

Bill Rapanos, regional chief employment equity officer for the federal government, said federal representatives can make random checks to see if an institution is implementing its program efficiently.

## SFU students protest tuition hike

VANCOUVER (CUP)—Over 100 angry students armed with a 100-metre list of complaints against higher fees jammed a February 23 Board of Governors meeting, but Simon Fraser University's top decision-making body voted in favour of a tuition hike.

The 4.6 per cent increase means undergraduate students will pay \$30 more per semester next year, adding \$500,000 to university coffers. The board also voted to increase differential fees for undergraduate visa students.

"For you guys, \$60 is dinner and a night out on the town. For most students, it's two weeks worth of food," shouted SFU student Pat Bordon at board members.

"Fees have gone up 150 per cent in the last (eight) years and it's disgusting," said Kavon Rouhytilla, another unimpressed student at the meeting. "And if people don't do anything about it now, (fees) will go up 'til they're blue in the face."

But the board conceded two points. Graduate fees will remain untouched next year, but will rise in the future. The board also voted to lower fees for the university's work-study program—one of the most expensive in

Canada—by \$52 to \$300 per semester.

The board's decision caps an extensive two week "freeze the fees" campaign sponsored by the student council, which sought to pressure the board to reject the proposed fee hikes. Instead, the council wants students, faculty and administrators to lobby the provincial government for more funding for post-secondary education.

Board members contend that the university needs the extra money to offset tuition costs, avoid cutting courses and overcrowding.

Campaign organizer and council external relations officer Paul Mendes presented the board with 1,300 postcards calling for a tuition freeze, alongside a 1,700-signature petition protesting differential fees for foreign students.

Mendes was encouraged by the concessions won at the meeting, but heavily criticized the board's decision to pass the hikes in the face of numerous briefs on the impact of tuition increases.

"These people have completely missed the point we're trying to get across," Mendes said. "They have completely missed the point as to what the

cumulative effects of increased tuition fees have meant to this university... (and) the importance of a public lobby, and to me that's very sad."

Much of the protest was lead by visa student Haje Protais, who entered the meeting room wearing a mock military uniform, and pulling behind him a chained "student" in a skeleton mask and graduation cap and gown.

The skeleton pleaded with Protais for a degree, while Pro-

tais' demands for "more money" were met with chants of "freeze the fees" from the students.

"Think about it," said Protais, "in a country like Canada, students have to use food banks."

Protais spoke on behalf of international students, calling SFU's differential fees "discriminatory." SFU visa students pay up to twice the \$1,470 tuition of domestic students, depending on when they enter the university.

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## Caribanza '88: journey through paradise

by Marla Cranston

Caribanza '88, held on March 5, was a figurative "journey through the isles of paradise." This successful celebration of culture was presented by the Caribbean societies of St. Mary's, Dalhousie and Mount Saint Vincent Universities.

Most people came in classy attire to the well-attended event. Blue, yellow and green balloons floated everywhere and Caribbean flags brightened the

tables. Portholes and tropical murals on the walls transformed Dalhousie's McGinnis Room into a simulated cruiseship interior.

Typical of the islanders' laid-back style, things began an hour and a half late. It was well worth the wait. Lillian Bertrand from the Mount sang national anthems for all countries represented including Bermuda, Barbados, the Bahamas, Trinidad, Grenada and the Windward and Leeward Islands.

In his opening remarks, Deputy Minister of Tourism and

Culture Robert Garaghty encouraged ethnicity in Nova Scotia. He said the Caribbean students "enhance the cosmopolitan nature of the province."

Lisa Bethel, president of the Dal-Mount Caribbean society, helped the guests visualize sandy beaches, cool blue water and piña coladas. She said the Caribanza's hot and tasty dishes, entertainment and island chit chat let the homesick students share and celebrate their unique cultures. "It makes us feel like we're at home," she said.

After the meal, there was a

festive cultural show, "Islands in the Sun." The highlight was the host, Sean Tucker, whose spontaneous humour kept everyone in a good mood, even though the show ran past midnight.

Music, dancing, and narrative backgrounders expressed the variety in island cultures. The audience sampled the pulsating beat of a Goombay (Bantu word for rhythm) festival and the fun of a Junkanoo festival. Even though she was losing her voice at the time, Mount student Juliette Lashley-Thorne kept everyone in stitches with her

interpretation of many island accents. The door prizes were even entertaining. The first one, from the Golden Clipper/Head Shoppe Ltd., was awarded to a man with no hair!

In her closing statement, SMU Caribbean Society President Marie Joell said she's glad to be able to take back the Halifax culture to the islands. By the same token, Haligonians are richer in cultural awareness thanks to events like the Caribanza and to the presence of these beautiful island people in our daily lives.

## The best commercials from 1987

by Chris Gallant

"Do not adjust your set, it's only the commercial that is wacky." As the opening film in their new location on Gottingen at Cogswell, Wormwood's is presenting THE 1987 WORLD'S BEST COMMERCIALS, until March 10th. For those who watch little TV, this is a sure way to catch up on the latest in the world of advertising. An obvious contrast in the selling techniques of different nations is apparent, 122 commercials are included in this two-hour presentation revealing innovative ideas and the seriousness of selling products. The British are exceptional and outlandish with ads that have sheep being led to slaughter

(The Independent Newspaper) and another selling rubber boots, where a dog mistakes the red boots for a fire hydrant.

Entries from France endorsed the "sex sells" approach. Sensual and classic models sell perfume, alcohol and clothes. Nudity is used in the sexual context, where the British tend to use it with a humorous tone.

Japan seems to be keeping up with their ads in the electronics field, stereos and batteries. Their ads for alcohol surprisingly catered to the older and younger generations. American commercials tended to overdo the "all American" spirit with lots of Stars and Stripes.

Others worth mentioning included Brazil's sacrilegious advice on the Pope's choice of

carpets and Argentina's effective antidrug statement. Best of all was the public service announcement advocating the continued boycott of South African products in which two babies, one black and one white, kiss and hug in front of the camera. The message hits home.

## Good Morning Vietnam

Malcolm Stanley

The Vietnam War: It is difficult to write a single line about it without provoking disagreement. Likewise, to review films about that war is to find out exactly what everyone else thinks on the subject. Lately, there has been a lot to think about.

It has been an incredible year or two for movies about a topic once barred from the large screen. Platoon, Full Metal Jacket, Hamburger Hill, and Good Morning Vietnam have all been released to large audiences. In the previous decade, serious films about Vietnam on a comparable scale numbered two: The Deer Hunter and Apocalypse Now. Lesser films like A Rumour of War helped along the development of a serious genre, but made no real splash with audiences until the advent of the VCR.

Helping keep the water muddy

This show is sure to please everyone.

Wormwoods' new home in the Carpenters' Hall on Gottingen St. is a slightly larger theatre with convenient parking, a lounge and a concession counter. Playing next, from March 11-13, is The Funeral, the most

talked about Japanese film (with subtitles) concerned with the ancient way of doing things versus the traditional ways. For more information on upcoming movies, and more, pick up an Agenda Magazine distributed throughout Halifax and Dartmouth, they're free.

contains the only scene I can remember of a Vietnamese person, as a person and not a slogan-spouting automation, explaining war from a Vietnamese perspective. Thirteen years after the "fall" of Saigon, the possibility is now being examined that the Vietnamese may have been the correct winners after all.

Someday it may be possible to see an entire film about that war as seen from a Vietnamese perspective. The television series Tour of Duty has already done episodes that way. As clumsy as they were, such episodes represent a leap away from prejudice, an attempt at understanding, and a repudiation of the reactionary violence of films like Rambo. America may be in decline, but judging from Good Morning Vietnam and Tour of Duty, its education has only just begun.

Good Morning Vietnam

## Dumptruck, "a breath of fresh air"

by Marcel d'Eon

The members of the campus/alternative rock group Dumptruck make no apologies for the name of their band. But with the release of their third album, For The Country, critics have questioned the direction being taken by the Boston-based group this time around.

Guitarist/vocalist/songwriter Seth Tiven, in a recent live review in Sounds magazine, explained the significance of the new album's title.

Says Tiven, "We really

weren't trying to imply anything with the title. It was taken from a line in the song from the record, but it was taken completely out of context, kind of intentionally. I guess we were asking for it, calling it that, and having a pedal steel player on two tracks." He adds, "It's okay, it gives us something to rebel against in the future. We want to maintain that element of being misunderstood."

Part of what Dumptruck has rebelled against since its beginnings in mid-1983 has been a

steady flow of comparisons between themselves and REM. These comparisons are not totally unfounded as both groups have four members and both have a guitar-oriented approach. It does not help matters any that Dumptruck chose to record their previous album at Mitch Easter's Drive-In Studios in North Carolina with Don Dixon as producer. This is the same studio used by REM; Don Dixon has produced projects by REM as well as the Smithereens.

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