

# THE PICARO

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*Don't forget the Picaro... Just flip the paper over and read from the back.*



CHRIS MOONEY

## Student Union Election Results

The Student Union elections are over and Sheldon Miller was the winner. Miller will be heading up the 1998-99 executive team as president. Alison Druhan, Steve Quinn, Margaret Ann MacIntosh and Ron Pottie round off the executive so far. The

VP Finance and Status of Women officer positions are still available and they are appointed through an application process. The results were announced on Wednesday night in Vinnie's Pub. See the results on page 4.



Now that you've graduated, you're probably going to need a lift to all those interviews.

For more information on Chrysler's Grad Program and vehicle line-up, look inside.



# Last pub night of the year and we are having an inventory

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# Vinnie's PUB



## News

## New Administration Plan Will Cancel Small Classes Next Year

## Faculty and Students Upset

BY MARK SITTER

Both faculty and students are upset with the administration's proposal to save money by cancelling all classes with fewer than 15 students next year.

A recent memo from Dr. David Furrows, dean of arts and sciences, to department chairs reads: "Full-time faculty who are scheduled to teach courses [with] an enrollment of less than 15 should have a backup course planned, because low-enrollment courses WILL be cancelled. . . . I recognize fuller timetables are academically more desirable and sound; but we have to live within budgets."

(Dr. Rosemarie Sampson, dean of professional studies, supported the memo, but dealt with her chairs differently. "I explained to them the situation in a more personal way, through meetings and discussions," she says.)

In response to Furrow's memo, the Mount Saint Vincent University Faculty Association (MSVUFA) sent a memo of its own to all faculty members, explaining MSVUFA's stance on the administration's plan.

The latter memo reads: "Dr. Barnett Richling, MSVUFA grievance officer, has informed Furrow the cancellation policy is in violation of the workload provisions in the collective agreement and will be grieved. . . .

Neither chairs nor individual faculty members [should] comply with Furrow's instructions in order to preserve their rights under the collective agreement.

"[MSVUFA] isn't trying to deny the reality of the Mount's financial position. What we are opposing is a 'plan' that will unjustly increase the faculty's workload; alienate students; and undermine the ability of departments to offer coherent programs. [Departments should be able to work with administration to deal with financial pressures without having to enact this plan.]"

In addition, MSVUFA feels cancellations would discourage students and potential students from enrolling at the Mount next year. When informed of the plan, Mount students agree.

"In this time of financial constraints, I can understand where the university is coming from [with the cancellation plan]," says Timothea Gibb, external vice-president, Mount Saint Vincent Student Union. "But, at the same time, cancelling classes may have a negative impact on course scheduling, and may force students to take courses at other universities—which wouldn't be in the Mount's best interest."

First-year student, Jocelyn McAdam finds the plan more upsetting. "I'm very disappointed," she says. "Since I pay about \$4,000 in tuition each year, I feel I should be able to take any course printed in the calendar without having to worry whether or not it'll be cancelled in the Fall. If I could take my courses elsewhere, I would."

When asked about the faculty's memo, vice-president, academic, Dr. Judith Woodsworth, says: "I think the Faculty Association is jumping to conclusions with its response. The policy wouldn't violate the collective agreement."

However, Richling explains otherwise. "According to the collective agreement," he says, "faculty members are only required to teach [and prepare] three courses per semester. Therefore, preparing an extra 'backup' course would be in violation of the agreement. . . . Another major problem with the plan is it contradicts the Mount's commitment to offering personalized education to students."

In response to Richling's last comment, Woodsworth says: "Traditionally, the Mount has focused on small classes and personalized education. We, the administration, believe in that. That's why the Mount doesn't offer any large, money-making classes with hundreds of students. However, since the Mount's finances are tightening each year, classes with only three, six or eight students are no longer viable.

"Our operating budget has been cut, costs are up from last year and we've increased the salaries of part-time and full-time faculty. We must find new ways of

saving and making money. That's why we're looking into a variety of solutions, beyond cancelling classes. For example, we're trying to bring more money into the university by aggressively recruiting new students and by changing our residence policies to attract more students to live on campus."

Woodsworth also explains the cancellation policy is flexible. "We are not necessarily going to 'drop' all courses with low enrollment. We may offer such courses every other year. We may also look into cutting back sections in larger courses; for instance, there are currently nine sections of statistics. We may rollback that number to eight."

"We don't want to cut classes which would preclude students from graduating. We don't want to cut core classes, either. We are only interested in cutting electives with low enrollment. We would like to work with faculty through committees and consultations to determine how and where cuts should be made. Obviously, faculty members understand cuts have to be made."

Nevertheless, english chair, Dr. Susan Drain, feels the cancellation policy is inappropriate. "I don't think it's a proper solution," she says. "Departments should have more say regarding what courses should and shouldn't be cancelled. I don't think it should be a numbers game. Last year, the Mount found ways to deal with its financial situation without cutting any classes—why can't the same be done this year?"

Money aside, Richling hints the plan may quickly become a matter of internal politics. "Recently, I was assured my 'special topics' course in anthropology will be offered next year. However, it usually draws only a handful of students. So, according to the new policy, it should be cancelled. If the plan is going to be implemented, it must be fair to all departments; it must have clear and objective guidelines."

## Administration and Part-Time Agreement Reached

BY MATT BURNS

While fellow students at Dalhousie brace themselves for the consequences of a strike, Mount students can breathe a sigh of relief. The administration and part-time faculty have agreed to terms on a three year contract.

The agreement, if ratified by the Board of Governors on April 2, will see part-time salaries rise to as high as \$6,600 per full credit course by September 2000. Although about \$400 short of their target, part-time officials are proud of the settlement.

"We went in asking for parity with other Atlantic Canadian universities," said Mike Earle, treasurer of CUPE local 3912. "We got them up much higher than they were originally going to pay."

Vice-President Academic Judith Woodsworth was also pleased with the outcome of the agreement reached. "We had some difficult moments but there were no fistfights," she said. "This is a pretty fair settlement and it was close to their [part-timers] objectives."

The agreement satisfies the part-time staff's desire for precedence. Part-time staff who have taught four or more full credit classes will be paid \$250 more per course than those who have not.

Although students attending an information session announcing the agreement were concerned about ratification by the Board of Governors, both sides to the dispute believe these fears are unnecessary.

"I'm sure it [BOG] would be wise and would respect the credibility of staff and students," said Dr. Dean Furrow, Dean of Arts and Sciences and a negotiator for the administration.

The administration says that tuition

increases will not exceed previously planned increases of between two and five percent. To handle future revenue needs, expanding class sizes and marketing DUET internationally are ideas now being discussed.

In terms of preparation for future strikes, Woodsworth says that the fate of students lies in the hands of the university Senate. "Depending on the situation, the Senate will decide on whether or not to grant credits to students," she said.

## The Picaro

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## News

# The people that make the Mount

## Editor's Notes

BY CERI YOUNG

This year, I had the great pleasure of attending the Student Union's annual awards banquet. As I was sitting there, watching people receive awards, listening to the praise for those that were given awards, and seeing the pleasure in the eyes of most students as they received them, I realized something: people really love this school.

I'm not talking about the people who think that the Mount is a great university, or those that really prefer going to school here over anywhere else. Both opinions are wonderful, of course. But the people that I am talking about love this school, to the point of organizing a ton of events and most times letting their schoolwork slide in favour of really holding together the fabric of Mount Saint Vincent University. There aren't many, and they're the people that you will probably never see bragging about their accomplishments. They just go out and do it, and it's an amazing thing to watch.

Alanna Mason has done an incredible amount of work over the years, organizing fundraisers, frosh week events, cheering on the Mystics, and

generally trying to raise school spirit at MSVU. Every time I've talked to her she has had numerous events on the go. This year in particular, she helped to organize the Run for the Cure, and is one of the major reasons that the Mount raised more money than any university in Halifax.

As far as women's issues go, Janne Cleveland has done an amazing job this year of organizing events during Women's Week of Reflection, and International Women's week. She's written for the Picaro numerous times, and always been in the office trying to make sure that her events, and any other events of importance at the Mount get coverage in the paper. She is always on the go, and always involved.

On the Picaro's side of things, and with the Student Union and Student Alumnae Association, I also want to mention James Tilley. James has done the layout for the paper for this year, and generally picked up the slack anywhere else that he possibly can. When the Student Union needed an Elections CRO, he became the CRO. When the Picaro didn't have a Sports Editor, James

took over. And perhaps most importantly, James does all of this with a smile.

It is individuals like these three that are keeping the Mount a great university to attend. All three received recognition at the Awards Banquet, all three deserve so much more. And this only scratches the surface, there are many more people out there who deserve recognition.

It is here that I want to thank anyone who has read the Picaro this year, particularly those of you that have passed along compliments on the paper. You've really made my job worth doing. I also want to thank a hardworking team of writers and editors, that have gone through many a stressful evening in the interests of putting this paper together. It's been an amazing thing to watch.

I know that what I'm about to say is somewhat cliché, but nevertheless true. The people that get involved in extracurricular activities are the people that make this university worth attending. So, thanks to everyone who got involved this year. You've made the Mount a great place to be.

## "We are the only women's university in the country"

BY JANNE CLEVELAND STATUS OF WOMEN OFFICER

I have always been very proud to say that MSVU is my school. The faculty with whom I have become associated have gained my sincere respect. I have watched these individuals take the time and effort to encourage my progress and engage with me when I found the material particularly difficult. It has been my great pleasure to forge friendships with other students which I suspect will last long after we have graduated. When I arrived at this institution, as a non-traditional (read older) student, I was nervous about how I would manage in this environment. I was unsure what to expect, and whether I would be able to keep up the necessary pace. I needn't have worried. From the moment I stepped through the door I met students, faculty, and administrators who assured me that I could handle the transition and the workload. Over the past four years I have enjoyed the opportunity to gain the knowledge and confidence necessary to pursue my educational goals.

It has been my privilege this year to be a member of Student Union. My capacity as Status of Women Officer has given me the opportunity to work with a very dedicated group of individuals on campus. I have witnessed many instances in which the administration has rallied to work with the student body for the mutual benefit of both, in no small part due to the efforts of Dr. Sheila Brown, our current MSVU President.

All of this background information is by way of creating context - no I am not going for the group hug. Those who know me should know how I rabidly fear the prospect of sinking into maudlin displays. Having as much respect as I do for this institution, and recognizing the honest encouragement I have received, it is unfathomable to me that our university administration could even consider disbanding programs as a means of economic restructuring. We all understand the necessity for fiscal restraint. The past few years have been difficult ones for all of us. Those of us carrying ever-mounting student loans understand this all too well. Every department is facing restructuring of course offerings in order to combat the effects of dwindling education dollars.

I was therefore astonished, angry, and bewildered to hear that it has been suggested that the Women's Studies department be disbanded. While I realize the need for restraint, I fail to see how the total loss of a department can serve the needs of the students or the university. Rather than disbanding a department that is rumoured to be under-represented in terms of student support (read

not profit producing), why doesn't the administration launch a program of promotion? Other than at public functions during which the banner slogan "We are the only women's university in the country" is heard, when do any of us hear about the course offerings, the necessity of women's education, or the reasons why it is so important to promote what we do here? It is time the decision makers realized their responsibility to the students and this institution. The programs we offer here do not run themselves, they need our support and our promotion.

The faculty teaching the courses are often overworked, dedicated individuals who could use some encouragement. The students who come to this institution arrive here knowing that part of the mission statement reflects a dedication to the ideal of women's education. How can we even begin to think that we can support women's education on the one hand, while slashing and burning the entire Women's Studies department on the other? What possible sense does it make to dismantle the one department from which the university claims to take its mandate toward women's education? Rather than citing the definitive solution to low enrolments as cut and run, perhaps it would better serve our interests to consider how we could make these programs more viable.

Students across the country know the Mount's reputation. What message do we send when we pay lip service to the importance of women's education while laying waste to the very programs that support this ideal? Students at this institution should be very concerned. If there is serious thought being given to annihilating this program who is next? Where is this institution headed? How can we staunch the massive bleeding that will occur if we refuse to understand the implications? Lower enrolments will not be reversed by offering fewer programs. Students must send a strong message to administration that cutting programs is not the answer to the very difficult financial problems that are faced by educational institutions in this country. Its time we realized that defensive manoeuvres are failing to achieve the results we need, they only serve to divide us further. Students, faculty, and administration need to work together to forge solutions that support our mandate for education. We need to stand together solidly and demand support from the bases of power in this country. Our governments need to be reminded that education is a right.

## MSVU Student Union Election Results

### PRESIDENT:

total ballots = 607  
**Sheldon Miller - 361 - 59 %**  
 Timothea Gibb - 131 - 22 %  
 Gin Hing Yee - 106 - 18 %  
 Abstain - 9 - 1 %

### EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT:

total ballots = 602  
**Alison Druhan**  
**Yes - 530 - 88 %**  
 No - 36 - 6 %  
 Abstain - 36 - 6 %

### EXTERNAL VICE PRESIDENT:

total ballots = 606  
**Margaret Ann McIntosh - 341 - 56 %**  
 Carlee Portolesi - 199 - 33 %  
 Abstain - 66 - 11 %

### INTERNAL VICE PRESIDENT:

total ballots = 609  
**Steven Quinn**  
**Yes - 486 - 80 %**  
 No - 46 - 8 %  
 Abstain - 77 - 12 %

### ACADEMIC VICE PRESIDENT:

total ballots = 607  
**Ron Pottie**  
**Yes - 503 - 83 %**  
 No - 44 - 7 %  
 Abstain - 60 - 10 %

### FULL-TIME SENATE REPRESENTATIVE:

total ballots = 576  
**Greg Nepean**  
**Yes - 396 - 69 %**  
 No - 50 - 9 %  
 Abstain - 130 - 22 %

### ARTS & SCIENCE REPRESENTATIVE:

total ballots = 262  
**Vanessa Turner**  
**Yes - 213 - 81 %**  
 No - 13 - 5 %  
 Abstain - 36 - 14 %

Total Number of Voters = 609

Total Number of Register Students able to vote = 3835

Voter Turnout = 15.9 % of the student population

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## Features

## Global Campus-The Warm Heart of Africa, Malawi

BY MWAYI MCLLOYD POLEPOLE.

Today the Global Campus travels all the way down South of the Sahara, the Southern part of Africa. Here we are, in the small and beautiful country called the Warm Heart of Africa, Malawi. Malawi is located in East Central Africa. Malawi shares borders with Mozambique on the South East, Zambia on the West, and Tanzania on the North. The land locked Republic of Malawi extends 840 kilometers. It has a total area of 118,484 square kilometers, including 24,208 square kilometers of inland water. However, it is blessed with the blue, fresh, and clear water sources. Malawi has the second largest Lift Valley lake called Lake Malawi. There are also many rivers such as the Shire that empties water from Lake Malawi into Zambezi River.

Malawi had no mining industry until recently. Malawi has untapped mineral resources such as tin, uranium, oil, and coal, just to mention a few. In the colonial days before the partition of Africa, Malawi was a big country because it covered the Southern part of Mozambique and Zambia. However, the other parts of the region, now Malawi were reserved for recreation. Malawi was a resort district for the colonialists after working in the mines. Then, Malawi had her own Governor. So during the partition of Africa, the territory became a country. Even after independence in 1964 under the leadership of Nqwazi Dr. H. Kamuzu Banda, Malawi maintained the colonial policies of refraining from mining. Under the new democratic leadership of Dr. Bakil Muluzi, Malawi is exploring ways of exploiting its mineral resources.

Our economy is agro-based. We grow tobacco, tea, coffee, and different types of nuts. We also have lots of tourist

attractions such as game reserves, national parks both on land and in the lake. In these areas you will find elephants, crocodiles, hippos, zebras, lions, and different types of antelopes not forgetting the famous tilapia fish, CHAMBO. I tell you, 'chambo' is probably the only tasty tilapia fish found in the world. Our main staple food crop is corn. We also have lots of tropical fruits such as bananas, paw paws, peaches, pine apples, oranges and of course juicy mangoes of different varieties. We also have exciting historical sites. Some show footprints of people and animals on some of the rocks. I am sure geographers may have a good story to tell about these scenarios. There are numerous plateaus and some mountains. In fact Mulanje Mountain, in the southern part of Malawi is the highest mountain in Central Africa. The slopes of this mountain are carpeted with evergreen tea trees. The scenery is spectacular...you will love it.

Some may be wondering, what the hell does the word Malawi mean? Easy, some of you may very well know that most African names have meanings. For example, my African name is Mwayiwawo. Mwayi means "Luck" and Mwayiwawo means "their luck". And my second name "Polepole" has a Swahili origin which means "slow down". So Malawi has a meaning. Any guesses? Good try. Malawi was called Nyasaland in the days of our colonial masters. The word Nyasaland came in because when the Europeans came to the lake, they asked the indigenous people what the lake was called. "What is this?" the European asked. "This is Nyasa meaning 'Lake'," the cool Malawian answered. So the European said ah! If this is Nyasa, then this is Nyasaland meaning 'lake land'



(literal). The name Malawi has an interesting origin. Malawi means flames of fire. The early settlers in Malawi are believed to have come from the Congo. In fact we have similar words in our vernacular languages. They settled in Malawi as they were running away from the wars of Chaka Zulu. When they came to the Southern part of Lake Malawi they saw the blazing reflection of the sun from the lake. They thought there was a fire. Later, they discovered it was not a fire because these blazing scenes were seen every day. And so, the name Malawi.

Malawi is one of the poorest countries in the world. However, the country is blessed with hospitality. And, despite being poor, Malawians are happy people. Their happiness is witnessed by their gigantic smiles that they wear anytime and anywhere they go. Hence, the Warm Heart of Africa. The average room temperature is 25 degrees Celsius. Temperatures in the plateau areas are 15.5 to 18 degrees Celsius. Basically Malawi has two seasons, Wet and dry. The cold months (Malawian Standard) are May to July and August is windy, but do not be cheated, get a warm jacket because sometimes it can really be very cold (in some areas tap water freezes). Even a Canadian would freeze. The rainy season starts in October and ends in April/May. However, now with El Nino visiting, seasons vary.

Due to the British influence, Malawi is an English speaking country. We have a British-based education system. English is the official language besides the other sixteen languages. In school, if you fail English you fail the examinations even if you have As in other subjects, which are all taught in English. French is also taught in school. The national language is Chichewa. There are also other languages which are becoming more and more popular. Such languages as Tumbuka, Lomwe and Yao are now being broadcasted on the national radio.

On the cultural scene, Malawi has a conservative culture. Maybe because we have lots of oral stories that teach culture. As such, we respect older people. Old people are considered to be sources of wisdom. Any older person is supposed to be respected. They have a right to advise or even command any young person to assist them. I still remember those good old days when I was young. I was told to carry out whatever I had been asked to do even if it was against my will. After serving them, then you can question or give your opinion. Even if you have this chance to air your views, you are supposed to be careful in the selection of your words. The assumption is old guys are never wrong. They have seen the world, so they are due respect. In fact, you are not supposed to argue with an elder or you will be the rude boy of the village. So the best thing is to be quiet in the company of old guys.

Women too are also respected to a larger extent. They receive the same salary as men so long as they have the same qualifications. In the past, there were some organizations which did not deduct tax from women's salaries. As such, they received more money than men did. A mother is supreme in Malawi. The majority of the different cultures in Malawi are matriarchal. There are sayings such as 'Ladies First'. What this means is that a woman should be given a chance before men. So on a bus, men are expected to reserve seats for women unless the guy is older than the woman is. However, if the woman has a child, that will surpass the age of the guy. It seems I am becoming storyteller. Let me stop here.

But, before I pen off, I want you to learn one word in Chichewa. It is very simple. Ready? Say zikomo. Guess what it means? The word zikomo means 'thank you'. So all the best until we meet in Malawi, otherwise from me I say Zikomo Kwambiri. (Thank you very much).

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Features



# Tourist Guide to Ireland

BY KEITH FREEMAN

All I knew about Northern Ireland before I arrived was that there was some trouble going on, and that it was related to religion; the IRA meant Irish Republican Army; and like most travellers, my parents did not want me to go there (most of them call home only after they arrive).

My initial plans were to arrive in Belfast for the night and then quickly exit and enjoy the North coast and the Northwest of the Republic of Ireland. That changed quickly. I ended up staying about four days out of my fourteen days in this amazing city. There are a lot of great places to see around Belfast (City Hall, Crown Liquor Saloon, the Holiday Inn Opera House and the botanical gardens). There are also a lot of other places to look

around too. The notorious West Belfast which includes the Shankill and Falls Roads where the "peace line" divides the Catholics and the Protestants is interesting, as well as the many pubs that dot the road (I am not much one for tours, but there is a company that will stop by the hostel and take you in small groups, the walk about is good too). It is a good idea to make it known that you are tourists. Another area is called Sandy Row which is where I spent a lot of my time.



It was just outside the International Hostel by Shatsbury Square. There were many local pubs and I felt that I got to see a little of the real Belfast and I know that I had some of the best meat pies around. We (myself and some fellow travellers) went into a pub at the end of the street. Our couple of pints turned into many and we were invited back to try the pub quiz the next night (basically Irish Trivial Pursuit that we couldn't get). We lost, but the owner bought us a round of drinks anyway. Most of the locals just wanted to talk or play some pool.

After Belfast I started hitching North up the Antrim Coast Road. It wasn't easy because there was some trouble over the last while in the area and it can be difficult getting a ride. Actually it is difficult getting a ride out of any large city. The cops picked me up and took me 20 minutes outside of town and I was on my way. I stayed in a great hostel and got to see Carrick-a-Reed rope bridge, the Giants Causeway, and Bushmills Whiskey Distillery. I hitched from the East coast of the North to the West coast of the South (sound confusing?) to go to a music festival. I travelled up and down the coast between the islands, beaches and the hills. The hitching was easy the whole time and very safe.

I am writing this article mainly to tell fellow students and anyone who will listen to the fact that Northern Ireland and Belfast are quite safe areas to visit. There is tension

between different groups that are from there, but they do not want to bother a foreigner with their trouble. They would rather talk to you about it. The stability does change, but if you do some research into the situation before you go, there should be little problem. What I liked about Northern Ireland was how much I learned. I can now look at a newspaper and figure out with a little more certainty as to what is going on. The chances of seeing a military presence while in Northern Ireland is quite good, but that is mainly in large cities or when a march is going on. If you do not want to see this side of life just go North.

Some final tips for visiting Northern Ireland:

1. Any travel is what you make it,
2. Do not bring up religion,
3. Do not give an opinion on religion,
4. Nod your head a lot if someone is expressing an opinion on the troubles of religion,
5. Watch the parades, but do not pick up a sign,
6. Drink lots of Guinness,
7. Or drinks lots of Caffrey's Ale.

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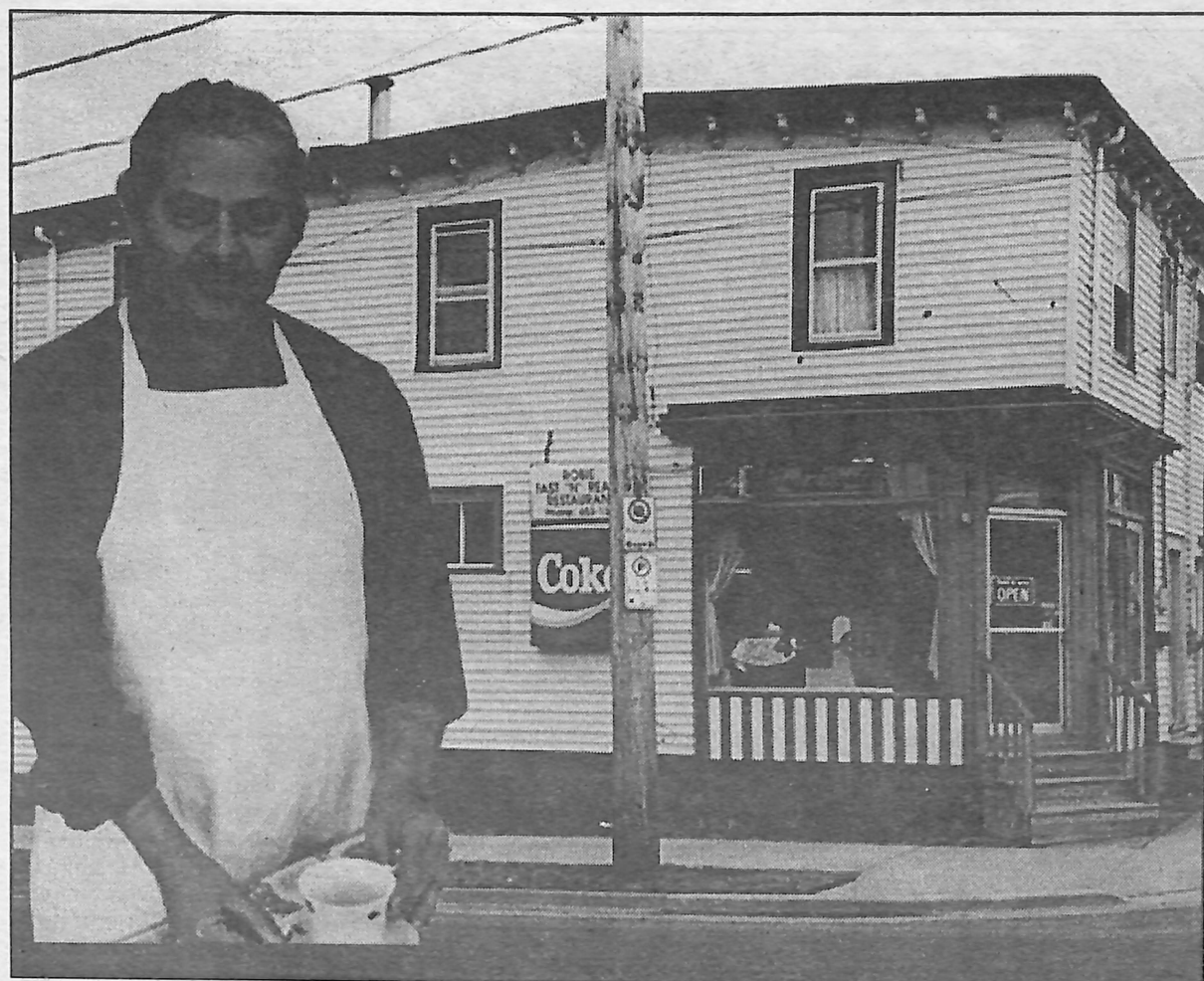
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## Features



## Open your mouth and mind, but not your wallet!!

BY KEITH FREEMAN

Ever since I was seven or eight, I have passed by Robie Fast and Ready Restaurant (RFRR) on my way to swimming lessons at Centennial Pool (I was always sooo hungry after my 100 lengths). A few months ago, I was in the mood for something different. The storefront says "Egyptian Food" and is easy to find and equally easy to miss. I entered this friendly little spot.

The first thing I noticed is the music, Egyptian and he loves to play it for his customers. I met the owner, Amer, and was intrigued by the menu - burgers, tatters, fruit salad (no problem, but...), madams, shawerma, kebabs, veg eggo, tabouli, hummus (were a little

confusing). Ask this man anything about his menu and he will explain all the spices, preparation, and the health benefits of the ingredients. He knows his food. For my first visit I had a medium madams (\$4.25). It is a concoction of beans and spices with extremely fresh lettuce and tomato placed on top, much like a burrito mixture. It is served with massive fresh - hot pita bread. Oh ya!! He takes temperatures on the food and hot sauce is provided upon request. His hummus is prepared when ordered and you can hear him grinding away in the back. The tabouli, which is a combination of parsley, lemon juice, green peppers, tomatoes, and olive oil is very good, but I'm not that crazy on parsley. You can get a combination of the hummus and tabouli too. The hummus, tabouli, or combination plate are all \$4.25 for a medium or \$5.25 for a large. Again massive pita bread is served.

One of the tastiest sandwiches I have ever had anywhere is definitely the shawerma (chicken, beef, or fish; medium \$4.25 or large \$5.69). It is your choice of one of the meats sauteed with green peppers, onions, tomatoes and really great sauce. It is all wrapped up in a pita. The spicier the better.

I have introduced a lot of people to this great spot over the last while and everyone really enjoyed it. Some comments of friends follow. Give this hidden spot a chance. If you like fresh food, excellent service, and an owner, Amer, who is welcoming when you arrive and sad to see you leave - you should stop by on your next journey downtown. Also, if you go and the door is locked, just knock. Sometimes he locks it when nobody is inside - which is not very often.

"It's a great change from Mc D's and the opportunity to have food from a different part of the world is fabulous!"

Adam Freeman - Up and coming producer and all round nice guy.

"Good food. Amer rocked my world."

Collette Nickerson - Faithful Corner Store employee and single.

"Better than chewing on my blue Suede shoes. C'mon start deep frying something."

Elvis Presley - International entertainer who lives in Fairview.

Location Information: 2705 Robie Street (close to Midas and across from Color Your World, Ph# 454-6889, Hours 11:30- 8:30)

# BANG

BY GRANT MCDANIEL

I knew the response was coming. Word around the campfire was my last commentary (the one on Paganism ) had ruffled a few feathers. Truth be known, when I read Bang in the Picaro and not from my word processor's screen, I felt like I was a little too bitchy. This was a bit surprising because I had tried so hard to wear a white hat, make my points without being overly sarcastic or mean. I'll swear to that under the penalty of any god's wrath from any belief system. Lamenting a bit of nastiness, I still stand behind The Book of McDaniel. And, by responding to the "Will You Respect Me In The Morning" letter, I hope you'll see why.

One of the criticisms leveled against me in that piece was that I seemed to think the Pagan group felt that all Christians were out to get them. This isn't exactly right. What concerns me is that in the not-so-distinct past, the Catholic Church was authorizing witch-burnings, inquisitions, and the like. It makes me sick, thinking that some mental chew-toy took it upon himself to condemn people to torture and flames in God's Name. It makes me even sicker to know that that's a part of my Catholic heritage. The only solace I find is believing that my God is even sicker to Its stomach about that scene than I am.

In her letter, my old bub also states that safety issues for the Pagan students are no joke, that some people alleging to be true Christians are quick to toss stones. To be perfectly honest, I didn't think safety was still an issue for Pagans. I thought that stepping from the broom closet (my friend's wording) would be met with general indifference, a what's-it-to-me attitude. But if Terri—might as well drop the pretense of "my friend" —says she and her friends have been verbally abused and physically threatened, I believe her. I'm sorry I didn't realize sooner that the safety component was of more magnitude than I thought. I'd like her to know, while our theological beliefs might differ, if any giblet-brain ever threatens her safety, I will strike down upon him with great vengeance and furious ang..aw, well, at least I'll stick up for her, even if the response I get is a broken nose.

And, in my opinion, what could be seen as most derogatory was my comment, "It's not my business to regulate what people's beliefs are, but I can't respect something which goes against mine." R E S P E C T, find out what it means to me. I believe love and acceptance should be handed out freely, but respect is of a slightly different nature. Respect, as with disrespect, has to be earned. Paganism has done nothing to earn either. Actually, along these same lines, I really ought to revise something I put down in the first article. I said Paganism snubbed its nose at Christ, working from the idea that Pagan beliefs necessarily excluded Christian teachings. I think that's fair, but I suppose there's a whole lot more in Paganism than a disbelief in Christ. Also, disbelief doesn't for sure mean snubbing. I might have overstated my case a bit. A very quick end note. As the piece appeared in the Picaro, the word Pagan appeared nine times, three times without capitalization. I checked my original draft. I capitalized it every time. It was a small editorial mishap.

Editor's note: My apologies for missing the capitalization on those instances of the word Pagan. Grant is indeed right. The word Pagan was capitalized every time in his original manuscript.

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A & E



# Heavy on entertainment, light on morality: Just the way I like it.

BY TIM BOUDREAU

The legendary Newton Boys, the most famous bank robbers in American history, have been reborn via 20th Century Fox. I know what you were probably thinking when you first saw the previews for this new film directed and written by Richard Linklater. It was probably along the same lines as my initial thoughts concerning The Newton Boys. We have four hunky young actors playing the parts of law breaking desperadoes, desperate men on the outside of the law who are quick on the draw, and quicker with the witty remarks. For all intents and purposes, The Newton Boys, on first glance, appeared to be similar to some other desperado movies which contain four sexy male actors. Young Guns comes to mind, with Amelio Estevez, or Mobsters, with Christian Slater. All three of these movies are based on the lives of real desperadoes, but The Newton Boys is the only one which seems to choose the route of telling the story as truthfully as possible in favour of embellishing the tale to make it more appealing to the violence junkies that today's movie

goers tend to be.

The first thing I can think of to mention about this movie is the fact that the cast is not as star studded as I initially feared (yes I said feared, movies with star studded casts quite often suck). Apart from the three main stud muffins (Ethan Hawke, Matthew McConaughey, and Skeet Ulrich) there are no other big name actors on the cast. The fourth Newton boy, Doc, played by Lynn Mathis, I have never even heard of before. There were a couple other familiar faces on the cast, but they are far from big name actors. Dwight Yokam plays a major part, as the explosives expert Brentwood Glasscock, and does quite a good job in the part I might add. I was surprised to see that Julianna Margulies, of ER fame, is on the cast as well, playing the part of Willis' Newton's love interest, Louise Brown.

Staying on the topic of the actors in The Newton Boys, I must say that, overall, the acting was quite good. Anyone who read my review of Great Expectations is aware that I am not a big fan of Ethan Hawke, but his performance in The Newton Boys may persuade me to change my attitude. Hawke breaks away from the typical angst ridden, Gen X type of character that he normally plays and manages to portray a broader range in his acting talent than I have seen him display in the past. Matthew MacConaughey puts forward a fairly solid performance, which is no surprise to me considering he has proven to be a consistently competent actor. Skeet Ulrich (of Scream fame), on the other hand, is fairly new to the acting scene, and is somewhat untried as of yet. Despite his lack of experience, Ulrich also performs quite well in The Newton Boys. All in all The Newton Boys delivers a pleasing collection of dramatic performances.

As for the plot, I must say that the pace of The Newton Boys comes off as being quite slow. This was surprising considering the trailers for this movie made it seem like a non-stop action film with lots of gunfights and killin'. The slow pace of The Newton Boys bothered me at first, especially since the trailers made me expect otherwise, but when I



thought about it I respect the makers of this film for not making The Newton Boys seem larger than life. The Newton Boys in no way glamorized these famous bank robbers, and attempted to portray their misadventures accurately. Actually this film went as far as to show that even though the Newton Boys are famous for being the most successful bank robbers in American history, they were just a bunch of simple poor boys from Texas who wanted to get rich quick by stealing from the biggest crooks of all, the Banks. Also the movie portrays how the Newton Boys' heists did not always go exactly as planned. The famous bank robbers often messed up in the movie, resulting in some rather darkly humorous scenes.

Glorification was not a problem for The Newton Boys, but what about the other extreme on the continuum? Sometimes movie makers take it upon themselves to be purveyors of morality (Stephen Spielberg comes to mind). Director Richard Linklater could have used his movie as a tool for preaching to the masses about the moral wrongness of stealing, and how bank robbers are just bad. However Linklater refrains from stuffing morality down our throats and instead opts for the more nobler option of relaying to the audience the details of the story and allowing us to draw our own conclusions.

The final word is that the story of The Newton Boys is quite an interesting one. The plot is not incredibly complex but the presence of solid acting performances, as well as quite a lot of comic material should more than make up for this drawback. The slow pace of the plot may bore some hard core action fans but I believe that these individuals should take it upon themselves to go see a movie every now and again in which nobody gets killed or has their ear chopped off. Conclusion: The Newton Boys is a solid film with a lot of entertainment value, and no forced morality. Just the way I like it.





## A &amp; E

## A new sound is coming to town: Claymen begin their East Coast Tour

BY TIM BOUDREAU

Claymen, a three man band consisting of Waleed Abdulhamid (percussion/vocals), Peter Maniatis (drums), and Keel (bass/lead vocals), have been developing a sizable following in their city of origin, Toronto, and now they are heading East. I was able to talk with Claymen's lead singer, who goes simply by 'Keel', and he was able to tell me a thing or two about Claymen, and why they are such an interesting new Canadian band, with an exciting new sound.

"We are mortals...fragile. We come from clay and go back to the earth." Keel said in explanation of the bands name, "but also it refers to the earthy, African undercurrents of our music."

The African undertones contained within Claymen's music is thanks to the skills of Waleed, an award-winning percussionist from Sudan.

"We are pop rock with a world beat sound," continued Keel. When asked exactly what he means by 'world beat sound' Keel went on to say that "the percussion, the influence from Paul Simon and Peter Gabriel, and the way they borrowed African elements and incorporated them into a pop rock structure" is the essence of Claymen's world beat sound.

Claymen is not just your typical pop rock band, however. Even though their music is contained within a simple and pleasing pop rock format, the lyrics of their songs are anything but mainstream. Amadeo, for example, is a song about a young German/Nigerian boy whose father was killed by racist skinheads in Germany. Keel had this to say, "Amadeo, even though it deals with a harsh reality, is a song of hope and I have set it to music that is upbeat. The whole message of the song is try to learn to forgive, try to love and get past the ordeals that one must face." When asked if a more 'in your face' type of sound would have been better suited to dealing with

such a harsh incident as found in 'Amadeo', Keel replied, "If I was taking a different approach with the lyrics, like if I was saying how horrible it is that this has happened, or that I'm angry about it, then a harsher sound would have been appropriate. But its a song of hope for the young boy whose father was murdered."

Claymen has been described as being "a unique Canadian band" (RPM Weekly, 1997).

But what is it about Claymen that makes them distinctly Canadian? "Its hard to say what is distinctly Canadian!" Keel answered with a slight chuckle, "But I suppose I would have to say that it is our mixture of culture, and faiths, and backgrounds. We all get along pretty well in harmony, despite our different upbringings, and I think thats also one of the things we all value about Canada. I guess thats sort of Canadian: Diversity and acceptance."

Claymen began their East Coast tour on March 26, and should be making their way to Halifax very soon.



Claymen (from left to right) are Waleed Abdulhamid (percussion/vocals), Keel (bass/lead vocals), and Peter Maniatis (drums).

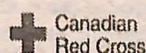
They are scheduled to play at The Blues Corner on Saturday, April 5th. It should be an interesting show, one might want to check it out to see what Claymen are all about. If you want to learn more about Claymen, or if you would like up to date information about when they are coming to Halifax, check out their website at [www.interlog.com/~claymen](http://www.interlog.com/~claymen). I'll see you at the show.

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## Sports

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## MEN'S BASKETBALL

The men's basketball team had many doubters during the pre-season. The three-time defending ACAA Champions had a big reputation to live up to, and a lot of rookies to try to do it. But, the hard work of Coach Rick Plato and his players paid off. The men finished third in the regular season, and proceeded to upset second-ranked NSAC in the play-off semi-final. However, the young squad could not defeat the sharp shooting St. Thomas team, and lost 78-67 in the final. Craig Sampson and Jason Brunt were named to the All Conference Team.



## CO-ED BADMINTON

The 'Dynamic Duo' of Chris White and Grace Kinney had an amazing season to the Badminton Team. They started by successfully defending their ACAA Mixed Doubles title and went on to win a silver medal at the National Championships. The pair along with Coach Mike Hingston were instrumental in helping a young team improved so much over the course of the year. Congratulations to the badminton team for your hard work and tremendous efforts this year.



## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

The 1997-98 season was not one the women's basketball team will soon forget. The team finished first in the league, and defeated St. Thomas by one in the playoff semi-final. This set up a dramatic final with Mount Allison. The Mystics trailed by two at half-time, but an inspired defensive effort led by unheralded Tara Kinch, helped the team pull away in the final few minutes for their first ACAA title since 1990-91. Erin Meisner was named to the All-Conference team, while Sheila Murphy was ACAA MVP and CCAA All Canadian. Angie McLeod was named ACAA Coach of the Year.



## WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

A young women's volleyball team struggled for consistency, as fledgling teams usually do, but still finished a respectable fifth in the league. The Mystics even took a game off of eventual ACAA Champions University de Sainte Anne, which was a rarity this season. The team will miss the leadership of graduating players Tanya Diamond and Lisa Patterson. However, with only two players graduating, look for this team to be a dominant force in the next couple of years.



## WOMEN'S SOCCER

The Mystics soccer team came a long way in their journey to the playoffs. The rookie-laden team didn't take long to show the league they were contenders and finished second during the regular season. However, in the playoffs the Mount lost to NSAC 3-2 in the semi-final. It was a bitter-sweet finish that saw the Mystics split games with the Rams during the season. Congratulations To Erin Atkinson and Jazmine Hayden on their selection to the ACAA All-Conference Team. Erin also received the Jerry LeBlanc Award, given to the ACAA soccer player who best combines qualities of leadership, sportsmanship, enthusiasm and ability, both on and off the field.





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