

# Mount paper retracts sexist, racist article

BY PHIL E. LEWIS AND  
SHELLEY ROBINSON

Following complaints of sexism and racism, the student newspaper of Mount Saint Vincent University is printing an apology and retraction about one of its articles.

*The Picaro* printed the piece, called "Take back the bullshit" in the paper's opinions section of their Sept. 29 issue.

It was written by Stephen Brown, a Mount student in response to the recent Take Back the Night march held in Halifax to raise awareness of women's safety and violence against women.

Patricia Thomson, director of the Dalhousie Women's Centre, was one of the first to complain to both the paper and the Mount's student union.

"A lot of people are trying to turn this into a freedom of press issue," she said.

"What the frig is that? This is

## Date-rape drugs

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several vials of GHB were found at JJ Rossey's, a downtown bar, but an investigation proved the drug was used recreationally by a group of consenting adults.

Thomson says during the past year she's met with several women who believe they were drugged.

"Over the last 12 months I have talked to five women who have suspected they have been drugged. Fortunately no harm came to them.

"They're the lucky ones."

Excerpts from *It's all fun, games and a good time until someone gets drugged:*

### Street names of Rohypnol:

Roaches  
Trip and Fall  
Mind Erasers  
Stupefi  
La Roche  
Rib  
Rophy  
Rope  
Mexican Valium

### Street names of GHB:

Easy Lay  
G  
Vita-G  
Grievous Bodily Harm  
G Juice  
Soap  
Liquid X  
Gook  
Liquid Ecstasy

### You may have been drugged if...

You feel a lot more intoxicated than your usual response to the amount of alcohol you have consumed;

You woke up feeling confused, experiencing memory lapse and cannot account for a period of time;

You took a drink but can't remember what happened after drinking it;

You feel that someone had sex with you but you can't remember any or all of the incident.

sexist. This is racist. This went over the top by bragging about getting laid on the anniversary of the Montreal Massacre. This is an issue of self respect and is tasteless."

Alison Druhan, the executive vice-president of the university's student union, says she received complaints from Thomson as well as at least fifteen students.

In response, the council

executive voted unanimously in favour of asking *the Picaro* to apologize for the article.

Tim Boudreau, editor-in-chief of *the Picaro*, says it was the article's language that was the problem.

"The biggest reason I feel I should apologize... is the number of people who've been offended.

"I'm not apologizing for

giving an individual a forum for expressing their opinion because fundamentally that's what a student newspaper is for."

Brian Kellow, executive vice-president of the Dalhousie Student Union, said he called Boudreau for an explanation after the women's centre complained about the paper being distributed in the Student Union Building (SUB).

"[Boudreau] promised me that this kind of racist, misogynist terminology would never be used again," Kellow said. "I don't want to censor anyone for their point of view, but by having it on campus we are giving tacit approval."

Within the week it was distributed, all issues of *the Picaro* had been anonymously removed from the SUB lobby.

## No rooms — students have tough time finding shelter

BY JANET FRENCH

More people may be crashing on your floor than usual this fall.

An off-campus housing shortage around Dalhousie and downtown Halifax is causing an accommodation crisis for students, but a pleasant surprise for local landlords.

The notice board outside Dalhousie's off-campus housing office, usually cluttered with "Room for Sublet" signs — is littered with "Room Wanted" or "Apartment Needed" posters.

Derrek Jennings, who works at the office, says they are still being approached by two to three people a day looking for places to live.

"Things have slowed down considerably in the past week-and-a-half," he says, "but we have seen some students' faces a few times. They can't get too picky anymore."

Although there are a fair number of postings at the office, Jennings says many of them are in areas far from school and downtown, such as Clayton Park.

And living in the suburbs is not an option for most students because transportation to and from class is too expensive and time

consuming.

Fenwick Towers has also seen a dramatic increase in the demand for their apartments.

Linda Wright, one of Fenwick's facilities co-ordinators, says the apartment-style residence complex was completely full earlier than usual this year.

"Normally we fill up by the end of August, but this year it was the end of July," she said.

Local landlord Faye Askri has felt the push for more accommodations as well.

"Usually by this time of year I have ten to eleven vacancies, due to cancellations," she said. "But right now, I'm all full, and still receiving calls."

But Landlord Duncan McAdam, another Halifax landlord, says he doesn't think the housing demand is greater, but just that it came sooner.

"People were most keen to rent in the last week of July [this year]," he said. "Usually the last two weeks in August are the busiest."

Of apartment buildings surveyed in the areas of Halifax where most students live, only Quinpool Courts said they hadn't

seen an increase in demand for their apartments.

There are a variety of opinions on the apparent cause of the shortages.

Increased student enrollment may contribute to the lack of living spaces available around Dalhousie.

Official statistics regarding the number of students registered aren't currently available, but the registrar's office says Dalhousie is growing, citing an increase in enrollment the past two years.

Derrek Jennings says some housing, normally inhabited by students, is being renovated or repaired.

Askri agrees.

She also says more city by-laws have been implemented restricting housing development on the Halifax peninsula, so housing contractors are building in the city's outskirts.

And both landlords Askri and McAdam attribute some shortage to Halifax's booming economy.

McAdam says people involved in new industries like film production and the Sable Island gas project arrived in the city earlier than the students did — taking a lot of the available housing.

## Smoke & mirrors

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be able to afford otherwise and allows lower ticket prices for students.

"It costs \$15,000 to \$30,000 to run a show in the McInnes room. If the ticket price for a show is \$16, it would have been \$20 or \$21 without [Belvedere's sponsorship]."

Gagliardi is also quick to point out that no exchange of money takes place between the student union and Belvedere.

"The way it works is there's a band on tour, looking for a venue, and they're sponsored by Belvedere. No money comes directly from Belvedere. They cover the cost of advertising, we cover everything else."

Brian Kellow recognizes there are many different opinions on the subject. He believes students should be involved in decision-making as well.

"If students don't want to, then we won't do it. I don't think this decision should be made by me alone," he said.

"We shouldn't be developing the ideology for the students, they should tell us what to do."

## York students required to remove anti-Pepsi banner

BY ANGELA PACIENZA

TORONTO (CUP) — "Pepsi owns York."

That's the message a couple of York University students wanted to get across to football fans at the school's homecoming game last week.

But the banner proclaiming that statement, which the students had hung on a fence at York's stadium, was taken down by school officials just 40 minutes after kickoff.

"We aren't doing anything that Pepsi isn't already doing," said Yves Zhender, a fourth-year Environmental Studies student who helped put up the sign to protest York's recent 10-year exclusivity contract with Pepsi.

Zhender and Diane Simon, the other student behind the sign, say they had the right to express their opinion at the stadium because it belongs to all students, not just paid sponsors.

"This (stadium) is mine as much as anyone else's," said Simon.

Zhender added the incident represented an information war between Pepsi and students about who gets to inform the public.

But an official from the university's athletics department,

who asked the students to remove the banner, says he was simply enforcing York's regulations about signs at sporting events.

"The only mounted signage that we permit, which includes banners, are those which are approved and [from] paid sponsorship," said Stephen Dranitsaris, executive officer for York's School of Physical Education.

The incident has caused some York students to wonder about their ability to publicly protest York's contract with Pepsi.

But the university maintains students can protest the deal provided they comply with the rules of the institution.

"If students want to protest the Pepsi deal... they can book (York University space)," said Sine MacKinnon, York's media relations officer. "There are lots of different ways to legitimately protest and nobody has any problems with that."

She added any sign that hadn't been approved would have been removed from the stadium.

"It's not about the fact that it was Pepsi," MacKinnon said.

The agreement between York University and Pepsi provides \$7.5 million to student organizations, including \$250,000 each year toward stadium upgrades.

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