

Halifax's new art 'space'

by Don Soucy

"Halifax is a fantastic place for an artist to live. In larger centers such as Montreal, or New York, artists may have many of their structures already defined for them. Here, however, we still have to define most of these structures for ourselves. Artists, therefore, have to be more specific with their needs and more generous with their talents. There's a lot of stimulation being an artist in such a situation". These feelings were expressed by Eric Fischl, a painter who teaches art at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design.

"I really feel that Halifax is a city in between; neither provincial nor metropolitan. Artists here can contribute to defining and establishing levels of quality and taste".

His efforts to define these structures and to better communicate with the community have led Fischl to open to the public, the bottom floor of his house at 1819 Hollis Street. Besides serving as his kitchen, he would like the good-sized storefront area to serve as a link between Halifax artists and their community.

"We are trying to break down the communication barriers between NSCAD and the rest of Halifax", said Oliver Girling, whose work was part of a recent exhibition in the space. "We are trying to find forms for our work which would generate



Dal Photo

public feedback, be it favourable or unfavourable. Community indifference would mean that we are merely engaging in a monologue and our work would not be achieving its intended goals".

The Art College is not the only circle in the Halifax art world which seems to be semi-isolated. Many artists from various disciplines have expressed the need for more contact with people other than their fellow

artists. A recent meeting attended by representatives from local galleries, the Film Co-op, NSCAD and other art institutions revealed that there were also closed circles within the art community itself. Lack of a common informal space and inadequate communication minimizes the possible community benefits which could be derived from the various art programs in the city.

"This is not a situation we are very satisfied with, but it is one we seem habituated to", Fischl told *The Gazette*. "Attempting to rectify this situation is a reason for opening up this space. It is in a good location and I am hoping that artists from different fields, such as writers, musicians, poets and so on, will think of ways to utilize it. Maybe artists outside of the NSCAD circles will read this and have some ideas. It would be great if I could hear from them.

"I may be idealistic, but I feel that if Halifax artists can get together and analyze their needs, we can then use these needs as guidelines to define the forms which would satisfy them".

The future plans for the space and the times when it will be open will depend on who would like to use it. Fischl is hoping that people with ideas for the space will contact him at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design (422-7381).

The last exhibition ran for 5 days

and the public response was fairly good. Every afternoon saw 20 to 30 people walk in.

"Most people have at least been looking through the window. I guess some might feel uneasy about coming in because they see that it is also my kitchen, but I have been trying to keep the dishes washed and the garbage hidden".

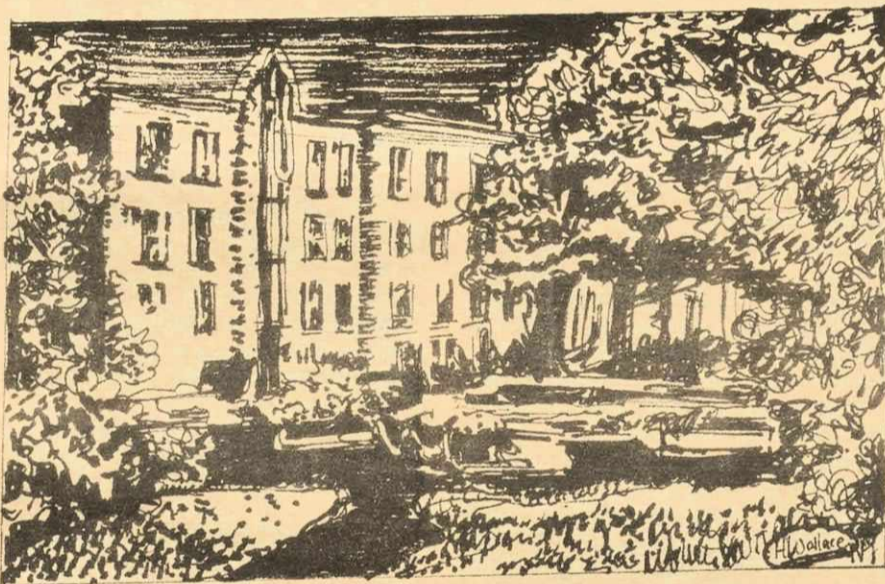
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Mount St. V. news

Jacque Banyard was recently elected president of the Mount Saint Vincent Student Council. The fourth year home economics major, along with her Executive Vice-President, Margie Gillis, defeated Larry Schaeffer and Dave Reader in the double-ballot election.

Other positions filled at that time were Nancy Hoegg - Academic Vice; Diane Wright - External Vice; Mary Healy - Internal Vice; Adair Stewart - non-resident representative; Janet Albon - resident rep; Joanne Davis - new student rep; Laura Corbeil - Arts; Natalie Black - Business; Pat Murphy - Education; Eva Greenlaw - Home Economics; and Debbie Roode - Science.

The council has met three times already, and all future meetings will be held Tuesdays at noon. Applications for committee heads are open, and all positions will be decided on Friday.

The Mount Saint Vincent Student Union was paralyzed over the summer when only three people held office from the spring election. The *Picaro* was dealt a death blow when that three person council refused to appoint the Editor selected by the staff.

There is no editor, as yet, for the *Picaro*, the student newspaper, although two people are presently interested in the position. However,

a newspaper will be published on Sunday under the direction of two Mount students.

A dance has been scheduled for the Mount for Friday evening, and other than that few decisions have yet been made by the new council.

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