

# Defense of Ousted Mount President—Elect

## To the Gazette:

On 17 March 1976, Mr. Rand Tilden, President-Elect, 1976-1977 Students' Council, while in conversation with a Halifax businessman, was overheard by Miss Diane Wright, New Students' Representative on the 1975-1976 Students' Council.

At a Council meeting on 18 March 1976 Mr. Tilden was reprimanded by Miss Anne Derrick, President, 1975-1976 Students' Council for breaking an in-camera confidence.

On 23 March 1976 at the regular Council meeting Mr. Tilden submitted a letter of resignation which would be effective at 3 p.m. on 30 March 1976 if a public apology from Miss Derrick was not forthcoming. At this time, discussion of the situation took place and it was disclosed that Miss Wright had told Miss Derrick that Mr. Tilden was, on 17 March 1976, discussing an in-camera matter with someone not authorized to know of the subject.

On further questioning, Miss Wright stated that she had not heard Mr. Tilden's entire conversation but that what she had heard violated an in-camera confidence. Mr. Tilden defended himself by presenting his version of the conversation as well as the businessman's recollection of the conversation, in which Mr. Tilden feels no violation was made.

On Friday, 26 March 1976 Mr. Tilden submitted a letter withdrawing his previous letter of resignation.

On Tuesday, 30 March 1976 at the regular Council meeting Miss Derrick read both Mr. Tilden's letter of resignation and letter of withdrawal. Miss Derrick then stated that she had consulted with Mr. John Graham, Dalhousie Students' Council Manager, who advised her that the letters in question should be dealt with in the order of receipt. Therefore, a motion was made and seconded that Mr. Tilden's resignation

be rejected. The motion was defeated by a secret ballot vote. A motion was then made and seconded to accept Mr. Tilden's resignation. This motion was passed by a secret ballot vote.

On 1 April 1976, Debbie Graham, Council Treasurer, Rand Tilden, Nancy Hoegg, Academic Vice-President and Adair Stewart, old past council member and present Student Store Manager consulted with a lawyer regarding the entire matter. His legal opinion is that the 1975-1976 Council acted "ultra vires", i.e., beyond their authority, and that their acceptance of Mr. Tilden's resignation is void. By-Law XIV of the Students' Union Constitution states: "All resignation of officers of the Union, members of the Council, or any Council appointees shall be made in writing, addressed to the President, to be submitted at the regular meeting of the Council of Students for action thereon." Mr. Tilden did submit a letter of resignation at a Council meeting but it was not, at that time, acted upon.

Prior to the next Council meeting, Mr. Tilden did submit a letter withdrawing his resignation. According to a legal opinion the letter of withdrawal supercedes the letter of resignation.

On the 2 April 1976 the Interim President, the Student Union Manager and members of last year's council, consulted legal counsel who advised them that in the usual procedures of a corporation, a letter of withdrawal of resignation may be overlooked.

This is a privilege of the Board of Directors of the corporation. The Student Union is an Incorporated body.

We hope this fully clarifies and terminates the situation.

R.R Tilden  
Diane Wright

## To the Gazette

The situation at the Mount right now has been caused by a series of stupid mistakes on the part of all parties. I shall attempt to outline the mistakes as they happened.

Mistake Number One was on the part of Miss Diane Wright, a first-year student on the 75-76 Council, who does not know where to place her loyalties. She heard the tail end of a conversation, misinterpreted what was being said, and then scurried back to the 75-76 President, Ms. Derrick, and proceeded to tell tales. Her mistake was that firstly she failed to verify with me or anyone else what she had overheard, secondly she failed to inform me that she was going to tell Ms. Derrick what she thought she overheard, and thirdly she failed to consider, as she was External VP-elect of the 76-77 Council, that she would have to work with me for the following year. And it is hard to work with someone who you know has tried to stab you in the back.

Ms. Derrick, who has been cloistered in the Mount for 5-7 years, the last two of those years as President of Council, and who as yet to let go the reins of power a full week and a half after her office is over, made a few mistakes herself. She accepted as fact Miss Wright's tale and failed to verify it in any way. She failed to question me about the incident to find out my side of the story and acted in her usual autocratic manner. She assumed the position of judge and jury and, finding me guilty, proceeded to publicly reprimand me at a Council meeting. This showed no sense of protocol on her part.

Myself, Rand Tilden, vocal, cocky, confident at times to a fault and at times for no reason, a first-year student at the Mount, made my own share of mistakes. I have a cynical and business outlook on life and made this known both

before and after I was elected as President of 76-77 Council. This unfortunately does not mesh with the Arts and Science outlook on life and that was the way the 75-76 Council looked at the world. I also made the mistake of submitting a resignation in an attempt to pressure Ms. Derrick for an apology. My third mistake was not realizing Ms. Derrick does not apologize. After people heard about the letter of resignation, they came to me asking me to reconsider as they had been looking forward to having a Council with me as President. After this it was determined that the only way to get everyone off the hook was for me to withdraw my resignation. This left me as President-elect, Ms. Derrick no longer had any pressure on her to apologize, and the whole messy incident would be allowed to die.

This was not to be the case, the letter of withdrawal of resignation was overlooked and I was kicked out of my elected position. Council then appointed Miss Wright as interim President. They were totally beyond their power constitutionally to do so. There should have automatically been an election. This was not probable as I could have run again right away. They could have held a general Union meeting at which all members have a right to vote. The above two are not too likely as the Union members voted me in to start with and it was felt I would have been voted back in. Finally there could have been binding arbitration between both sides. I honestly believe I could have won this also. So what happens? Nothing on their part.

Presently Council is split, Academic VP and the Treasurer supporting me, the elected President, and the internal VP supporting her best friend, the appointed President.

There is presently a petition circulating around campus to have this appointed President removed from office but the constitution requires 70 percent of the Union members to sign it and organizing something of this sort four days away from exams is next to impossible, and the number of needed signatures is excessive. What is happening and what will happen is not known. But one thing is for sure. There's one hell of a mess on the old hill now!

Yours truly,  
Rand Tilden  
Elected President of the 76-77  
Students' Union  
Mount Saint Vincent University

## A few little hands



members of Council on behalf of two separate student delegations. May we point out at this time Council now consists of two voting members.

The issue is in the air.

"Who is the President of M.S.V. Students' Council"?

Two separate identities within the university student body had presented opposite legal opinions.

"What's next"? The chairman then moved on to the next item on the agenda....

Council did not take a stand on who the president was and it was very clear to us that the new Council was definitely split on the issue!

Elected one and were appointed another,

Union members M. MacDonald  
R. Ayre

## Confusion at Mount

### To the Gazette:

Hot news, in the form of two separate newsletters issued by outgoing 75-76 Council, was circulating around the MSVU campus. One newsletter was right to the point. Rand Tilden has resigned on a matter of principle. His resignation was accepted by Council. Marie Timmons had been removed from her old office and from her upcoming office of Executive Vice-President. Dianne Wright has been appointed Interim President.

The next news release was to clarify the resignation of the President-Elect, but in our minds it

didn't clarify a thing. It then became known that Rand Tilden had withdrawn his resignation.

Council met at 3:30 p.m. on Friday, April 2, 1976. Speculation on part of the students was great. This was definitely not the regular apathetic Council meeting. The meeting was chaired by Dianne Wright, the president that was appointed by the Council that had just left office.

A number of issues were brought up and dealt with accordingly. Then came the moment we were all waiting for. Two separate legal opinions were presented by two

## Mount's PICARO attracts good crowd

### To the Gazette:

Despite expectations to the contrary, the April 6 meeting you instigated to arouse interest in the future of the Mount's paper, the Picaro, was a high success. Sixteen newspaper enthusiasts did turn up, and the ground was laid for the first production meeting to be held September 20th.

The Picaro will be represented at the Labour day weekend CUP Conference and from there it will hopefully provide vigorous competition for high standards in Atlantic University press coverage.

Brenda Harrop  
M.S.V.U. Student

IMAGES OF LUNENBURG COUNTY, an exhibit with photographs and text by PETER BARSS, and ATLANTIC EPHEMERA, an assemblage of transient documents and oddments from the collection of Haligonian LOU COLLINS, open in the Art Gallery, Mount Saint Vincent University, on April 14. The exhibits will continue until May 14.

### Q.E. High Produces Oklahoma

The annual Queen Elizabeth High School Musical attended last year by an enthusiastic audience of over three thousand, will this year feature the very popular OKLAHOMA! by Rodgers and Hammerstein. The production will take place on April 27, 28, 29, at the Queen Elizabeth High School Auditorium, commencing at 8:00 p.m.

## POSITION AVAILABLE FOR ACCOUNTANT

Duties: To keep the books for the Dalhousie Graduate Society and do year end audit.

Salary: \$125 per month

See Bob Bagg, House Manager, or leave resume at bar in Grad House. Closing date for applications April 19th, 1976.