

National Campus News

From University Newsrooms Across Canada

Women's V-Ball team charged

Nicole MacIntyre

The Argosy

(CUP) - Sucking beer from condoms, nose-writing in a cat food casserole.

These are examples of the activities which took place at the Mt. Allison women's volleyball initiation party this fall. The activities may seem minor compared to some initiation rituals on other university campuses, but Mt. Allison recently charged the senior members of the team with violating the off-campus parties and initiations policy.

Charlie Hunter, dean of students, and Jack Drover, athletics director, began an investigation after they received an anonymous letter.

At a hearing held January 17th, the six women pleaded not guilty to the overall charge. The hearing was quickly stalled when it was discovered the committee had not read nor heard of the policy which had allegedly been violated.

The committee heard the case - the first of its kind at Mt. Allison. Since there was no precedent, no recommended punishment for such violations was outlined.

"I was disappointed that the committee had not read the policy

before the hearing," said Drover. "I've read that thing for two years, I've studied it, thought about it and I still don't have a perfect awareness of it. So we get into this type of environment and give them two or three minutes to read it."

The hearing quickly led to a discussion of the specific violations within the policy. The volleyball players' representative, Robin Fairchild Clennell, carefully detailed the events of the initiation on October 14th, which included the rookies arriving as sexual objects, consuming liquor, and walking to several different locations over the course of the evening.

Specifically, the women admitted to placing sexual signs around each rookie's neck; not having a sober individual responsible for the rookies; and stealing a bucket (into which one rookie peed during a scavenger hunt). They also admitted having the rookies write their names in plates of cat food with their noses.

During the hearing, the women testified that several members of the team continuously insisted that drinking and participation in the event was voluntary.

Though this testimony was not consistent with details received during

the interviews with Hunter and Drover, (which led to the original charges) this evidence was not considered during the hearing because Hunter promised the rookies confidentiality in the interviews.

In relaying their verdict, the committee stated they felt it would be unfair to punish the women twice for their behaviour, therefore, they were found not guilty despite their acknowledged guilt on several specific points.

"It was a really big relief," said co-captain Becky Mather about the verdict. "We went through so much stuff in the fall with everything - between being punished by missing our Christmas trip, plus having to go through 'judicial', it put a big dent in the team's spirit."

Several people have questioned whether the charges were even valid considering all individuals involved appear to have voluntarily participated.

"As a rookie, I'm the reason we had the whole judicial thing because of what supposedly happened to me, but personally I had a great night," said Julia Campbell, a first-year player initiated at the party. "We weren't complaining about it."

Nova Scotia commits cash to attract Med School grads

Christopher Harbor

The Gazette

(CUP) - The Nova Scotia government has announced a debt assistance plan for doctors who work in rural parts of the province after they graduate.

Last week, Health Minister Jamie Muir announced a bonus of \$15,000 per year for new doctors who decide to practice in certain areas of rural Nova Scotia. The plan, however, will only be available to five physicians per year.

The announcement comes amidst fierce competition from provinces throughout Canada for medical school graduates.

According to a report by the Society for Rural Physicians of Canada, as many as 700 more doctors are needed each year.

In Alberta alone, doctors are voting on a large pay increase, which could see their pay cheques 22 per cent higher than doctors in Nova Scotia.

"It's an ongoing, daily, eight-to-10 hour battle to keep doctors here," says Frank Peters, the physician recruiter for Nova Scotia. Peters, who has been recruiting physicians for over five years, believes that despite the struggle, Nova Scotia has been "very successful in keeping a good number of doctors," compared to other provinces.

"The plethora of post-secondary institutions is a big draw for physicians with young families," he says.

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova

Scotia is not as optimistic. According to their annual report, "Current public policies with regard to physician training and recruitment are in dire need of review."

The college has been lobbying the government to take action on the issue of recruitment for over three years, because it anticipates "serious consequences with regard to the health and morale of the physician workforce" in the near future.

In addition to the government's debt assistance program, Dalhousie University's medical school will expand enrollment in its undergraduate medical program by accepting eight more students annually for the next three years.

James Ross, a first-year medical student at Dalhousie, says he wouldn't consider leaving Nova Scotia to practice, even if another province were offering incentives. "I think the majority of doctors don't go into [medicine] because they want to be rich," he says, "I'd like to stay in Nova Scotia."

A shortage of doctors in rural and northern areas of British Columbia has recently convinced two universities in the province to co-develop a northern medical training program. The Northern Medical Program, announced last month at the National Health Summit in Prince George, will allow 15 to 20 medical students each year to complete half of their degree at University of Northern British Columbia's Prince George campus. They will still receive their degree from Vancouver's University of British Columbia.

Students launch boycott of Coke products to protest secret exclusivity deal

Sarah Morrison

The Ubysey

(CUP) - A group of students in British Columbia have begun a boycott of Coke products to protest their school's confidential exclusivity deal.

Capilano College in Vancouver signed an 10-year agreement in 1997 with Coke. In 1999, *The Capilano Courier*, in conjunction with several other campus newspapers filed a Freedom of Information (FOI) request to get the details of the contract released to the public.

The Courier has been supported by Capilano's student union, which allowed

them to place the fridge in the student union building (SUB). "We supported the fridge because we do not support corporate encroachment on campus," said student union chair Alexandra Hansen.

The student union recently rejected a request to put a Coca-Cola vending machine in the SUB, she said. "Basically, we feel that public institutions should remain public, and should be accessible to everybody and we have a right to space where we're not being pitched something."

UBC was the first Canadian university to sign an exclusive deal with Coke in 1995, when the university, the Alma

Mater Society (AMS), and the soft drink company agreed to a 10-year confidential contract.

A 1995 Freedom of Information request by *The Ubysey* was rejected by then-commissioner David Flaherty, who ruled that because UBC and Coke agreed to a confidential contract, it must remain so. The case was then taken to the BC Supreme Court, which overturned Flaherty's decision, arguing the hearing was conducted improperly.

A second request, filed in late 1999 by *The Ubysey*, is currently awaiting a ruling by current commissioner David Loukidelis.



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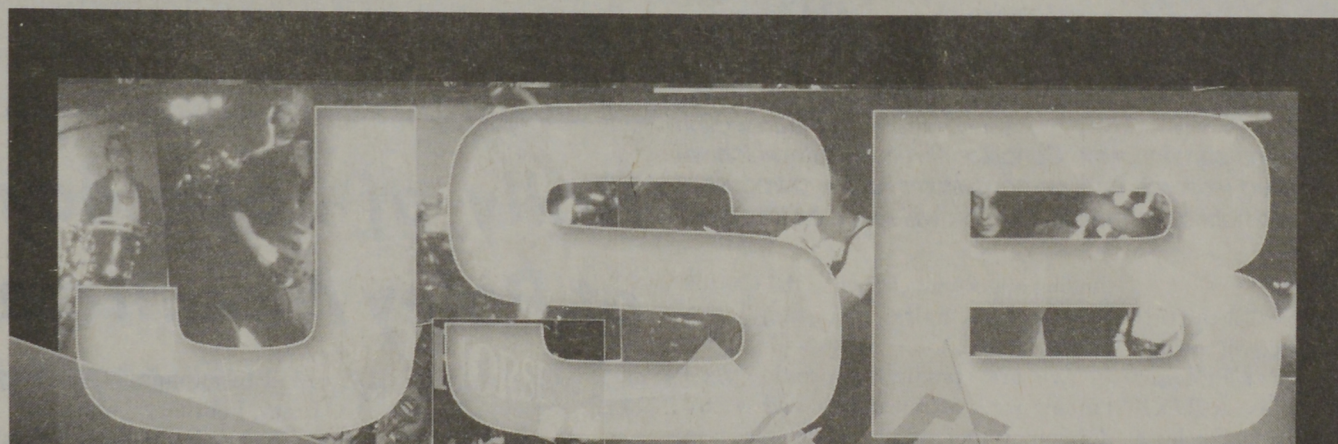
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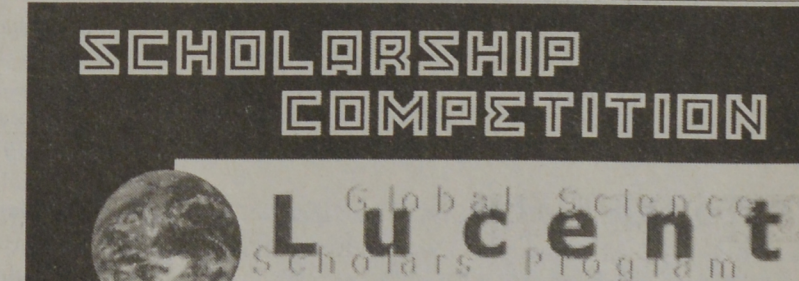
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THE CELLAR

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