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November 6, 1993

President  
Students' Association  
Grant MacEwan Community College

Dear SA Prez of 2021 - 2022:

Well, it's quite strange writing a letter to someone who has possibly not even been born yet. However, it seems that strangeness and the Students' Association go hand in hand. You may have already realized this as you have hopefully attended the SA Goalsetting Retreat this past summer. It's hard to predict how the structure of the Students' Association may change, but I would hope that some of the traditions carry on such as the Retreat, the Welcome Cabaret (you'll see clips of this on a VHS tape in the capsule), and Ciao Night.

In case these are no longer around I guess it would be proper for me to explain them a bit better. First off, the Goalsetting Retreat is the time when the new Executives gather in a remote, out-of-town location and spend the better part of three days brainstorming. We try to identify goals that reflect a commitment to providing services for all students. Usually, we will have the Vice-President of Student Services come along to facilitate the Retreat. (sometimes acting as a referee to keep us from clawing out one another's eyes.) While the sight of a cold beer is not entirely uncommon, we are absolutely committed to work during the days. However, the nights belong to us and usually a lot of valuable bonding and team-building occurs after the day's work has been set aside. (There is a copy of this year's SA Goals in the capsule for your interest)

The SA's Welcome Cabaret is the first SA-sponsored event (party) of the school-year. This year's was one for the record books. Not only is this the first year of the new City Centre Campus, but we also sold out all 600 of the tickets three days before the Cabaret itself. (September 17th) We thought that we could have sold a lot more, but just getting it off the ground this first year was effort enough and was considered a great success by all. We had a local band play for the Cabaret and we served a yummy supper of burgers and potato-salad. Who knows what may change in 28 years. You may all be eating soya-bean burgers and driving electric cars. Personally, I'm hoping we can beam around to our destinations. If this idea sounds crazy, try to find an episode of StarTrek, which was a popular television series that began in the late 1960's for a brief time and started again in the 1990's with a new cast. This newer series has been generally popular with today's students.



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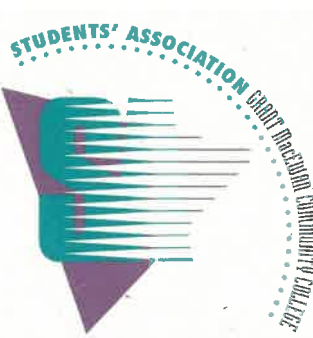
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Anyways, back to business. We also hold Ciao Night (pronounced chow for all you non-Italians) at the end of the school-year. This is when the newly-elected Student Executives get a chance to mingle with their predecessors and allows the College Administration and Faculty a chance to meet the new Execs. We typically gorge ourselves with food and engage in intensely competitive games. (like the television game shows of this era.) This is a good time to judge the character of the people you'll have to work with through the year. If they tend to cheat I have just one word of advice - try to get them on your team! Ha! Ha!

Some of the issues we are dealing with currently are as follows:

- 1) Student Housing - At this point we have no student housing at Grant MacEwan. Our College has submitted a proposal to the Ministry of Advanced Education for Alberta that included a letter of support from me, on behalf of the Students' Association. Although it's too late to have housing in place for the Fall of 1994, I won't stop hassling the Minister's Office while there is still the hope of housing coming to us by the Fall of 1995.
- 2) No-Smoking Policy - At our City Centre Campus (CCC) there is absolutely no smoking indoors except for the pub. (Recently named "Towers on Fourth") At our Jasper Place and Millwoods Campuses there is still smoking, but only in separate smoking rooms and who knows how long they'll last?
- 3) Environmental Issues - In the attempt to be more environmentally friendly, the Students' Association participates in a paper recycling program, attempts to double-side all photocopies and has lobbied the food services people (Versa Foods) to use real cutlery and dishes as opposed to plastic and styrofoam, throw-away utensils, cups, plates, etc.
- 4) ACTISEC - We are members of the Alberta College and Technical Institute Student Executive Council, which is a provincial student organization that has 12 member institutions, representing approximately 55,000 students across the province. We have had some success in working with Advanced Education and are currently discussing the issues of student loan repayment, accessibility to post-secondary education, and the seamless transfer of course credits from any institution in Alberta. We hope that one day there will be little duplication in courses and that the post-secondary system as a whole will be run in a much more efficient manner.

Describing all that happens here would take a much longer letter that I'm prepared to write, but I will tell you a bit about myself and how I see the campus now in its first year



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of operation.

I am a second year student in the Law Enforcement program and I hope to be a police officer some day. That is if I can convince my girlfriend that it is not too dangerous a profession. While school is a big part of my life (I want to be student of the year), I also wanted to have a little fun during the year. What better way to have fun and meet the student body than be a bartender at the school's new pub? Bartending has allowed me the opportunity to talk to the students on an informal basis and gives me an interesting perspective on school life. It's amazing what a person will tell you over a beer.

While policing is the field of my choice, I am also interested in maybe doing a little private investigation work before-hand, just to get a feel for things and to allow myself a little time to get in better shape. You may find that the time required to represent your student body leaves you no time to do a lot of the things you used to do. However, I was prepared for this trade-off and I don't resent this fact at all. There is so much that you do get to do as student President that you would miss it if you weren't involved. That's the way I see it. The places I've travelled (San Francisco coming up on November 19th!), the people I've met - there's no replacement for the experiences I've gained this year, just as you will 28 years from now.

I may also get into politics after some time out in the work-force. I always tell people that I want to be Prime Minister, but that isn't necessarily true. I actually had the pleasure to welcome Canada's first female Prime Minister, Kim Campbell, on the 30th of August this year. Although she just recently suffered a huge defeat in the federal election held on October 25th, I felt it was an important moment for this College to have her here, regardless of her party's success.( or lack of success)

This College carries a lot of pride to the public, especially with this new campus in place. We tell everyone how 95% of our grads find employment within 6 months of graduation, we tell everyone how this campus was built 6.5 million dollars under budget and 6 months ahead of schedule. What is sometimes hard to communicate to the outside world is the feeling of belonging that I believe a majority of this College possesses. This does not seem to exclude anyone. While you can read about our successes to date in the material provided in the capsule I wanted to ensure that this message was not lost in the shuffle. Our instructors, staff, students, facilities people, administrators - everyone - have a bond that is unique in this time. We truly are a Community College in more than one sense. We are made up of a community who surrounds us and we are responsive to programming for the needs of the workforce and business communities. Still, we haven't lost sight of our own community within. Although there are times when seeing eye to eye





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doesn't happen and tempers may flare, (and they do) there is a common thread that ties us all together and it revolves around making this place a better place to serve students.

I can only hope that this continues into the next century and that this institution does not forget it's proud roots.

I know that when the time capsule is finally opened, our glistening College will have a few nicks and scratches. The stairs will have been worn by the thousands of feet that have passed over them; the feet of inspired people like you and me.

I also know that when this inaugural year passes I will mourn for a time because the "MacEwan Experience" will be sadly missed. Then, as always, it will be time to put my learning to the test. Can Jason get a job? I guess we'll know the answer for sure in 28 years.

All I can hope is that you, the Students' Association President, will have the year I know I'm going to have.

Good luck to you and your Central Council. I can't wait to meet you.

With best wishes from the past,

Jason A. Tetzlaff  
President, GMCC  
Students' Association  
1993-1994