

SPECTRUM



GSA Happenings
From: Karen J. Matthews, GSA President

Welcome Back! to all full-time graduate students. The Graduate Student Association is looking forward to another exciting year. Right now we are in a bit of a scramble to get this year's executive set up for the 94-95 fiscal year. As a reminder, TODAY IS GSA ELECTION DAY! We hope to see each and everyone of you at our Annual General Meeting to be held in Dineen Auditorium (Head Hall C-13) 12:30 p.m.

We have received several nominations for executive positions, but there are still vacancies to be filled. We still need representatives from the following faculties: Arts, Computer Science, & Education.

We also desperately need a secretary. For those of you who volunteered to sit on standing committees, we will be in touch with you shortly. We would like to extend an invitation to any full-time graduate student to come and check us out. There is always something for someone to do. The more people we have, the lighter the load for individuals.

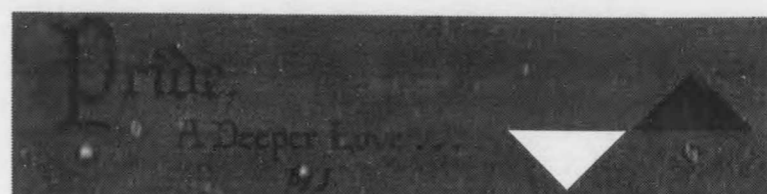
Now, for just a little news for what has been going on. The summer came & went and we saw our most successful BBQs ever. Orientation was quite successful this year.

Most of you made it out to registration and were able to pick up a copy of the 1994-95 GSA Handbook. If you did not receive yours, free copies are still available at the GSA office to full-time graduate students; part-time students can acquire one at \$3 each. We had good response to our two informal survey questions: "Should the GSA change its format to have one department from each department?", and "If so, would you be willing to be that person?"

We would also like to thank members of the executive of the various Graduate Societies on campus who took the time to register their organizations with us.

Our first social of this term was held last night at the Cellar Pub. I hope all that attended had a great time and that we will see even more of you out next time. The new executive has a lot on its plate this year as much new business was started last term. I would like to take this time to thank an incredibly hardworking 1993-94 executive.

Due to understaffing it was pretty rough at times, but when we were in the crunch they all pulled together to make this past year a success. I am very proud of the accomplishments of my executive and feel that my 2nd VP Tim Buskard deserves special acknowledgement for his efforts. 'Til next week.



Fear and Misunderstanding

It's interesting to note the reactions one gets when you confide to someone that you are gay/lesbian/bisexual. In a close (heterosexual) friend scenario, the common reply is, "How do you know?", sometimes followed by, "As long as you don't...like...you know...touch/think of me in THAT way!" As if we'd add to the difficulty of coming out by also coming on to our close friends. The result in this case can be either acceptance and understanding, or being rejected by your friends. Family scenarios are a little bit worse in terms of the amount of emotional bonds that one has with our families. These on occasion involve lots of heated, often stormy, arguments filled with teary statements such as, "What did we do wrong" and/or "Are you sure?" Mind you, not all family outings are like this, in fact some are good relationship builders, getting rid of a lot of tension and suspicion that may have been evident when a person was hiding/denying/rejecting their sexuality. In the worst cases, the individual is either kicked out of the home, sent to a therapist, shunned by family or in the best cases, accepted and supported. In terms of individuals who bash homosexuals, verbally and physically, just being gay/lesbian/bisexual is excuse enough, in their minds,

to get harassed or in the worst case, beaten.

Most of these reactions stem from different degrees of homophobia, wherein the other party(ies) involved don't understand what it truly means to be homosexual/bisexual. To them, most (mis) information originates from societal myths and stereotypes that have plagued the gay, lesbian/bisexual community for years. Recent years have improved this situation somewhat, but people still persist in believing these falsehoods. In truth, being homosexual/bisexual is the same as being heterosexual. It is a celebration of our sexuality, an expression of who we love/care about and the manner in which we express ourselves to our significant others and to the world in general. Sex is a part of this equation, but it is only a small part; being gay/lesbian or bisexual encompasses our entire life. When we deal with people who are uninformed, or misunderstand us, we need to let them see that there is more to our sexual orientation than meets the eye. We need to educate people on the facts and information concerning our lives, culture, ideals and so on.

Perhaps one of the strongest motivators behind homophobia, is fear. Fear that their son/daughter/friend is going to suddenly change into a completely different person. Fear that younger siblings, friends and "susceptible others"

might become "infected"/"recruited" into the homosexual/bisexual orientation. Fear that "I" might become one of "them". Fear that others might think that I'm gay/lesbian/bisexual through association. These fears are real to the person who is suddenly placed in a situation where someone they know is homosexual/bisexual. However, these fears are not rooted in fact. As previously stated, much of the information that society acknowledges as truths concerning homosexuality/bisexuality, are myths and stereotypes that are still in circulation. For instance, for many men and women, coming out does not involve a drastic change in personality. To their relief, it is a chance to integrate their entire persona into a whole person. For some, this may include some changes, but the changes are not wholesale surrender to their sexuality. In terms of the "infection/recruitment" myth, homosexuality and bisexuality are not illnesses in any definition of the word. Like heterosexuality, it is not a biological, environmental or decision thing, it is a part of our nature. One cannot get "recruited" by other homosexuals/bisexuals, nor do we recruit/coerce people to go against their own natures. As for the "guilt-by-association-syndrome", if other people can't get past their hang-ups, why should you worry? You know your own sexual orientation better than anyone else, so what's the point of trying to prove it to them? All in all, when you really look at your friend/son/daughter who is gay/lesbian/bisexual, what really counts is the love, caring, understanding and friendship between you, not the sexual orientation.

The Pigeon's Right Wing

Corporate Taxes
by James Kierstead
and Andrew Skaling

"... the current and still growing, level of taxation by our multi-layered system of government choking the private sector and stalling economic recovery."

The above words were written by Mr. David Holt, in an editorial of Atlantic Progress magazine, published in Halifax. He states the commonly held view that high taxes are holding back economic recovery resulting in the loss of potential employment opportunities.

In New Brunswick corporate taxes have plundered about 97 million from business coffers, representing about 2.5% of the 3.9 billion in provincial revenues.

The largest single source of revenue is the personal income tax that brought in about 770 million last year. This will always remain the primary source of revenue.

Many liberals would suggest that these figures illustrate that corporations are avoiding paying their 'fair share' of taxes. There are several reasons for this low contribution by corporations, illustrated in a recent Fraser Institute publication:

- 54% of 'profits' were actually intercorporate dividends or equity income earned by branches then transferred to other part(s) of the corporation. To tax these transfers would be the equivalent of taxing someone for moving their wallet from one pocket to another.

- 11% of profits were earned by firms that in the previous year recorded a loss.

Our tax system takes the big picture into account. If XYZ Corporation lost one million last year and earned one million this year, over the two years, it would be considered to have made no profit and taxed accordingly.

- 31% of profits were exempt because they were used to replace depreciating equipment or because they were 'paper gains', which are assets

transferred between members of the same corporate group without any economic gain or loss.

In the end a corporation is just a paper entity, unable to pay taxes any more than a tree or car. It is the owners, managers,

High taxes destroy jobs. Without action to deal with excessive taxes and regulations serving to rob the fruits of labour, risk, dedication and incentive to invest, New Brunswickers will face a bleak future.

employees and consumers who must carry the burden of the tax.

STATSCAN estimates that 51% of all corporate taxes are paid by seniors, because they depend on money from pension funds typically invested in corporations. By now it should be clear that corporations do not pay taxes and never could. The tax burden applied is paid

through decreased wages for employees, on dividends paid primarily by the elderly and by increased prices for consumers.

High taxes destroy jobs. Without action to deal with excessive taxes and regulations serving to rob the fruits of labour, risk, dedication and incentive to invest, New Brunswickers will face a bleak future. Government officials will point to the millions of dollars in grants and guaranteed loans provided to business

each year. However governments have proven as effective in picking winners and losers as they have in controlling deficits. There are many statist projects attempted, such as the Lincoln car and Upper Clements project in Nova Scotia, which are recognized as abysmal failures (at a cost of millions to taxpayers). This system of grants is

managed by bureaucrats who never had to risk their own money or meet a payroll and never understood what it takes to go out and succeed in the business world. With the immense pressure of globalization and competition the problem is only compounded.

A novel suggestion made by a local MP would be to scrap the whole system. He suggested eliminating all grants, loans and other subsidies, simultaneously scrapping the corporate income tax. This would encourage more investment in the province with almost nil effect on the budget, as well it would improve living standards, by allowing more room for wage increases for employees.

Recent surveys have shown that a business never locates based on grants, but on the availability of highly skilled labour and low taxes.

This is something the government should consider when selling our province to the world.