

Don't get the wrong idea about the HST

To the Editor:

I am writing to you to clear up some of the confusion about the new Harmonized Sales Tax I believe is of concern to readers of the Brunswickan.

Your readers might have read or heard recent published and broadcast reports that have left the impression that only "big ticket" items - such as refrigerators, televisions and cars - will be eligible for the drop in sales tax of almost four per cent (from 18.77 to 15%). This is simply not true.

On April 1, 1997, the tax will also go down on video rentals; telephone and cable bills; toys, games, puzzles and dolls; carpets, flooring, paint and wall paper; clothing over \$100; compact disc players, computers and other electronic products; recreation, sporting and camping equipment such as skis, baseball gloves and tents; appliances and tools.

We have always stated that the tax will rise on some items, but it will go down on many, many more items too numerous to mention, from alarm clocks to zoom lenses for your camera.

The tax will drop on school supplies; snack foods, restaurant meals and fast food; soap, shampoo, makeup, and other personal care products; detergents, cleaning products and paper products.

The tax will drop on hotel and motel accommodations, used cars sold at dealerships, trailers, boats, all-terrain vehicles, new cars, and repairs and parts for your old car.

As I said before, this list is not exclusive. The tax will go down on hundreds of other items - items commonly purchased in supermarkets, hardware stores, gift shops, drugstores and other popular retailers.

I have heard some people say the new tax will apply to basic groceries. It

certainly will not, and this government would never have supported a tax on food.

Furthermore, people will continue to receive federal GST rebate cheques if they currently qualify for this assistance. There should be no confusion on that matter. What we are proposing as a rebate for low-income New Brunswickers will be in addition to the GST rebate, not a substitute.

Given the misinformation being circulated, I would urge people to call the HST hotline if they have questions about the new tax. Service in English is available by calling 1-800-959-8286, or in French by calling 1-800-959-3384. Or, for those technically inclined, try the Internet site at <http://www.gov.nh.ca/finance/index.htm>. For the hearing impaired with access to a TTY, call 1-800-665-0354. People at those numbers will be glad to answer any questions you might have about the HST.

Yours very truly,
Edmond P. Blanchard, Q.C.

Cuban student looking for penpal

Hi!
My name is Oscar Escobar. I'm a twenty year old Cuban student. I'm studying English in Cienfuegos' University for being an English teacher. I'm in second year and I've three years left.

The purpose of my letter is for you to publish it because I'm looking for pen-friends. The age nor the sex doesn't matter; I just want them to be honest and decent people.

My address is: P.O. Box 167, 55100 Cienfuegos, Cuba.

On the appropriateness of digging our sacred Earth Mother

Recently, there have been a number of incidents where efforts have been made to retrieve "artifacts" from their resting place in our Sacred Earth Mother, incidents with serious ramifications for Indian people and for all people. The white oppressors may be able to rationalize and intellectualize digging into and harming our Sacred Earth Mother, but that does not make it right or appropriate to do so.

One must begin considering this from the perspective of our respected Medicine Elders. They are the ones who keep and pass on wisdom, the Wisdomkeepers. Our Sacred Earth Mother is alive and has a spirit and is just that - sacred. She is not, as in the eyes of the colonizer, a planet, an ecosystem, or a biosphere. She is our Sacred Earth Mother - the one who nurtures us, loves us, provides for us and protects us. We should at least be able to do as much for her.

Our Elders tell us that all life is sacred and that the most sacred life form is that of our Sacred Earth Mother, and that we should always treat her with love, respect, compassion and gentleness. We should not be harming her, desecrating her, exploiting her, or polluting her by constantly digging away at her for any reason.

The remains of our ancestors, artifacts included, were put into our Sacred Mother for a reason. That reason is the fulfillment of the original instructions given to us concerning the care of our Earth Mother. By giving back to our Sacred Earth Mother all that she gave to us during our brief earth walk in one final gesture, we remember, honour, carry on and pass on those original instructions. This is necessary so that the sacred hoop, the sacred hoop of life, will continue to turn.

Whatever it is that the white oppressors are expecting to learn about our people by these digs rings hollow in light of the fact that my people have been trying to share our ways with the white oppressors for the last 500 years,

but to no avail. They simply choose not to hear us or listen to us.

Even today they still refuse to listen to our words when we tell them not to dig up our Sacred Earth Mother and not to dig up our beloved ancestors. Only bad and negative things can result from digging up our Sacred Earth Mother and our ancestors, things such as those which have been happening in the world lately - earthquakes, floods, and so on.

The contact that began 500 years ago between my people and the white oppressors was a relationship - at least on the part of our white oppressors - based on white arrogance, racism, oppression, destruction and genocide. That relationship continues into today with one difference - the white oppressors have managed to recruit, condition, educate and train some of our own people to do the work for the white oppressors within our communities.

To the wannabe colonizers who are parroting the white oppressors' mantra that these digs are necessary for scientific and educational purposes, I can only respectfully suggest what was told to me by our Medicine Elders - that if one wishes to find out about our ways, to find out about our identity, one should go and seek out and speak with the Medicine Elders and participate in the sacred ceremonies, for these are the appropriate places to go to find out about ourselves.

Doesn't anyone see, notice, care, or respect the faces coming up from the ground, coming from our Sacred Earth Mother? The faces of those seven generations yet unborn?

I do ceremonies and pray every day that the two-legged will stop desecrating, destroying and disrespecting and denying our Sacred Earth Mother and begin instead to treat her as she treats us, by beginning to love her, honour her, respect her and protect her.

I now must address those of us Indians, or at least the ones with the colonized minds, who have been

educated in the white oppressor's ways. If you have a loving understanding and an appreciation of the teachings of our Medicine Elders and our ancestors there could never be any dilemma regarding what action should or should not be taken in any situation involving our ancestors or our Sacred Earth Mother. One would know in one's bones, in one's very core, what is appropriate or what is not appropriate. One would always err on the side of our ancestors and our Medicine Elders, if for no other reason than that one has love and respect for our ways, our teachings, our Medicine Elders and our ancestors.

This digging up of our ancestors has been going on over the last 500 years. The colonizers have no qualms about digging up or otherwise disturbing the

gravesites of their own dead, so we do not expect anything different from them because they have forgotten their original instructions - their elders do not pass on those instructions to them. However, our people do not have to actively take part in digs, therefore showing contempt and disrespect for our ancestors, our ways, our Medicine Elders and our Sacred Earth Mother. All that we can do is bear witness to what the colonizers do to our sacred burial sites and try to educate them to the error of their ways, and offer prayers for the healing of both the colonizers and of our Sacred Earth Mother.

Dan Emis is a graduate of UNB and is currently Director for the Maliseet Legal Advocacy Service.

Forest Breeze Consumer clearcuts

The recent debates involving clearcutting in the Christmas Mountains and the "Ban Clearcutting" referendum in Maine have been missing one crucial point: trees harvested=products consumed. Yes, believe it or not, the forest industry cuts down trees with the goal of meeting consumer demand. This is the real issue we need to tackle to ensure the future health of our forests. No matter how many regulations we create to restrict the methods of forest harvesting, the same volume of wood will come off the land.

We are all consumers with the ability to make choices in this world. We must pay attention to the source and quantity of forest products we use in our daily lives and change our habits accordingly. This is not a new concept, yet it seems to have been lost in the fray. Ahead of his time in 1928, Aldo Leopold wrote: "forest conservation depends in part on intelligent consumption". By becoming intelligent consumers, we gain much

more control over the management of forests than we could ever dream of doing with a ban on clearcutting.

We have a responsibility to change our over-consumptive habits, yet simply using and producing recycled paper products are not enough. Wood fibers can only be recycled a finite number of times; it still takes virgin wood pulp to create the products. We must demand with our wallets the most efficient and ecologically sensitive methods of extracting and producing forest products.

You can ban clearcutting and restrict forest harvesting methods all you want, but the simple fact remains that the wood will come from somewhere— unless we change our habits. We must look at the behaviors we can change as individuals today if we are truly concerned about forest conservation.

John S. Gunn is a doctoral student in the Department of Biology.

ER
ditor

workers involve
ide on changing
Will we change
ive and equated
ety have to stop
wn bread?"

omen to womyn
he oppression of
egative focus on
ive and equated
en and overcome
for the author to
anging the term
e contradiction
at reversing these
le only presents
rimination, and if
der equality is to
matter and call it

line?

apologies for the
duced by a student
-duty as our News
Bruns are regularly
site and issues 10,
will be put online as

on on

possibility that this
students to work in
order to avoid this

nd that there is
h the maintenance
loans program.
ining the part-time
inal state of a 40%
is been earned by
ould be considered

maintain the high
students in New
But the cost that
student does not
er learning is even
you to reconsider

think

you give out

et of "paper
and lighting and
raty for

ceive the
set the parking
ing or snow
ffic. Moreover,
g parking or

paved, and how
ighting of the
ok Rink, above
faculty lots
Library have
the easiest
dings and those

partment has been
your workforce
UNB made Traffic
it applies to

you plans to
expense and
stant complaints

ent publication. We
Online is an ongoing
nb.ca/web/bruns.
do not necessarily

nsnickan. While we
use any submission
re. The Brunswickan
100 words in length
or be printed.

e legible. If we can't
Macintosh or MS-
oper credit is given.

n. This week's paper
ckin' ho. Ho.
e Business Manager
3) 362-6468.

A Summer Course at
McGill University
Montreal, Canada

Why Not!

We welcome visiting students

Increase your options
Lighten your course load
Enrich your program
Experience Montreal

It's all here for you!

McGill Summer Studies offers a full range of university-level courses.

Registration opens:
February 28, 1997

McGill Summer Studies
505 Sherbrooke Street West
Suite 580, West Tower
Montreal, Quebec H3A 1B9
Phone: (514) 398-0212
Fax: (514) 398-5224
E-mail: Summer@550Sher.Lan.McGill.Ca

Please send me
1997 Summer Studies
and information
on summer
accommodation in
McGill University
Residences

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ PROVINCE/STATE _____
POSTAL/ZIP CODE _____ PHONE _____
UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE _____

The Bruns Christmas List

some aromatic candles in the shape of a football, a fire extinguisher and somebody to sit on her marketing committee

Dr. Terry Haggerty, Dean of Kinesiology - \$4,000,000 to run a Varsity football program

James Born, Director of Athletics - no more visits from Kim Norris

Dr. Elizabeth Parr-Johnson, UNB President - for the Bruns to give back its copy of the 1996 University budget

Dr. Lou Visentin, UNB VP Academic - paints for Luigi

Dave Daugherty, Forestry Dude - a pair of leather boots, dammit

Wendy Robbins, Director of Women's Studies - a department of one's own

Larry Finkelman, Director of Counseling Services - a few good men

Mark Hewitt, Super Beaver Man (you may remember him from such Beaver Educational Films as "Crunch Crunch, What's that in my burger?" and "The World Wide Wonders of Mold and Mucus") - bigger, better mouse traps

Stacey Bean, Women's Field Hockey Coach - a press agent

Matin Yaqzan - an hour a week with the debating team

Y.C. Lee, Survey Engineering Prof - a return ticket from Hong Kong

Joie Hellmeister, UNB SU President

Kim Norris, SUB Director - Hellmeister's luck with the Lotto and a new car

Gordon Loane, Brunswickan All-Star - Norris's pay cheque

The Green Hornet who parks in the SUB Fire Lane - a home subscription to *The Daily Gleaner*

Sandra Byers, Human Sexuality Prof - better visual aids and demonstrations by John Cleese

John Craighead, Dean of Residence - Prohibition and a second term as Dean

Kelly Lamrock, Campus All-Star - a new suit from Hugo Boss, but I digress...

Tom Austin, Dean of Students - a copy of the conflict of interest guidelines

Rick Peacock, Director of Security - more Green Hornets and a 10-level parking garage

Mike Power, *Gleaner* Sportswriter - a faster way to and from Oromocto

Dave Ritchie, *Gleaner* Sports Editor - some female sportswriters and an operation to remove the blinders

The Pillar - Metamucil

The Cellar - SUB Expansion and more respect from the Social Club

The Social Club - a weekly butt-kicking on the front page

Tony Sekulich, CHSR Station Manager - some opponents for the Media Bowl, a new tie and some job security

Tristis Bhaird, CHSR Program Manager - respect, that infamous raise and some job security

Joe FitzPatrick, Brunswickan Managing Editor - lots of secret memos and an updated copy of *The Kinsey Sex Survey* (so he can answer all Mary's questions)

Michael Edwards, Brunswickan All-Star - Landed Immigrant Status

Cynthia Kirby, Brunswickan All-Star - a novel to replace the one she donated to Karen

Peter J. Cullen, Brunswickan Entertainment Editor - bagels, valium, bagels and his youth back

Neil Duxbury, Brunswickan All-Star and Man About Town - world peace and whatever it is that Scotsmen wear under their kilts

Jenn Brown, Brunswickan Features Editor - yellow Docs and a room of her own

Billy Traer, Brunswickan Ambassador to the Federation - a night on the bridge of the Starship Enterprise with Dr. Crusher and a case of Keiths

Pat FitzPatrick, Brunswickan Photo Slave - honoraria and a pack of Nicorette

Drew Gilbert, Brunswickan Photo Slave - a stable home life, an everlasting pack of cigarettes and a trip to Las Vegas. 'Cause he deserves it, man.

Maria Paisley, Brunswickan Sports Staff - for those damn athletes to stand still while she's taking their photos

Elise Craft, Brunswickan Book Editor - Feminist Barbie, a pair of edible panties and a lifetime pass to Hooters

Amy McComb, Brunswickan Science Editor - a periodic table - sometimes it's there, sometimes, it's not

Jethelo Cablete, Brunswickan All-Star - straightener and conditioner

Meghan Nesbit, Brunswickan Sports Star - a road trip

Steve Seabrook, Brunswickan Golden Boy - 52 fresh weekly excuses and the negatives

Janice McConnell, Brunswickan All-Star - a ticket home, baby - and the negatives

1995-96 UNB Wrestling Team - the negatives

Al and Matt Johnstone, Brunswickan Editor-Emeritus and Son - odour-eating diapers and hemp chew toys

Mark Savoie, Brunswickan Alcohol Awareness Representative - a date with Svend

K Brookland, Brunswickan All-Star - a chummy to have her way with

Jud DeLong, Brunswickan Photo Editor - a shave, some decent glasses and a job taking pictures for Hustler

Jen Trites, Brunswickan Coroner - a kick in the ass and some polyester underwear. Oh, stop your twitching, girl.

Anthony Davis, Brunswickan Residence Correspondent - danger pay

Christina Atkinson, Brunswickan Photo Staff - a date with Matt Hough

Mary Rogal-Black, Brunswickan Editor-in-chief - a News Editor, a Sports Editor who will agree with her once in a while, automatic credit for Arts 1000 and the illusion of control

Free CD with every 12 pack of Moosehead Beer

COLLECT ALL 4 MOOSETRACKS CDS, EACH FEATURING A DIFFERENT EAST COAST BAND.

OFFER AVAILABLE AT ALL PARTICIPATING LIQUOR STORES

Visit our website at <http://www.moosehead.ca>