

CROSSCANADA

Hemp advocacy stores raided in Ontario

MONTREAL (CUP) — Ontario police are starting to enforce a federal anti-drug promotion law which, although in place for almost 10 years, had previously not been used. Stores in Ontario that distribute hemp literature and other hemp-related products were raided last month, with police officers confiscating thousands of dollars worth of merchandise.

Mike Bourque of Help End Marijuana Prohibition Canada says the recent raids are "harassment, plain and simple... The law won't stand up. The hemp stores in Ontario are being harassed out of business."

Jeff Pross of 100% Hemp Company in Kingston described the raid at his store, which occurred Aug. 30, as ridiculous.

"[Officers] came in and took approximately \$500 retail worth of stuff. That entails books, including books that are available at the Kingston Public Library. They took t-shirts, cigarette papers, stickers, newspaper articles off my wall, pipes and bracelets... [When we opened,] they [the police] said as long as we were not selling drugs, there was nothing they could do."

Det.-Staff Sgt. Robbins of the Ontario Provincial Police drug enforcement branch in Kingston refused to comment on 100% Hemp Company's bust, or charges pending. "I don't want it to turn out like O.J. Simpson," he said.

However, Robbins did say that the idea of "intent for use" in the law is a reason why things like rolling papers, pipes and bongs were seized, even though they can be used legally with tobacco.

New course on paranormal phenomena

TORONTO (CUP) — York University is now offering a course through the continuing education department that deals specifically with paranormal phenomena, as well as parapsychology. The course, which starts Oct. 15, is called Social Science and the Paranormal.

The course will be non-credit, although there are universities in the United States that offer degree courses in parapsychology.

It will teach through personal experience, including the opportunity to experience life energy through a "human circuit," as well as the chance to bend cutlery using psychokinesis.

It will be taught by Edward Mann, who studied sociology at the University of Toronto, earning bachelor's, master's and doctorate degrees. Mann has spent two years studying the paranormal. After a retirement of eight years, Mann returns to York to teach this course.

"I'm not here to make this look simple," Mann says. "I'm taking a scientific approach to all the claims of paranormal events." Mann says people who can instigate genuine paranormal experiences are very rare, like "people who are musical geniuses, or those who have photographic memories."

Students injured in hazing incident

TORONTO (CUP) — Two Victoria College students were hospitalized last week after suffering injuries from a secret initiation at a residence.

As part of a non-college approved hazing ceremony at Gate House, first-year male resident students were required to play soccer with their knees bound together with duct tape and their hands tied behind their backs, said Patrick Donahoe, dean of students at Victoria.

One student fell on his face, cracked three molars and received 14 stitches for a cut on his chin. The injury will require reconstructive cosmetic surgery, Donahoe said. Another student suffered from a swollen jaw and two chipped front teeth. The student, a faculty of music and performance trombone player, will be unable to play for one month.

The president and Gate House executive were pressured into running the event to uphold the tradition of initiation, Donahoe said. "The [Gate House] executive is somehow honour bound to the past and to repeat the initiation in the same way as before."

David Harkness, Gate House president and second-year student, and Lance Fukumoto, vice-president and third-year student, were stripped of their positions and kicked out of the residence.

Harkness says that hazing takes place at Victoria every year, and that Gate House has just been a victim of circumstance.

"I take full responsibility for what happened. Nobody else needs to be hurt," Harkness said. "The boys that are hurt are taking it well; they understand the nature of the accident and don't blame anyone personally," Harkness said.

But members of the residence charge that Donahoe saw the soccer game taking place, and did nothing to stop it.

While Donahoe did see the game take place, he says he was unaware that the students' arms were tied behind them.

Besides the resignation of Harkness and Fukumoto, the Gate House executive has been dissolved.

Canadian University Press (CUP) is a national organization made up of over 40 student papers from St. John's to Victoria. CUP enables student papers to exchange stories and ideas through the wire service, regional and national conferences. As a founding member of CUP, the Dalhousie Gazette makes sure that our university news becomes national news.

news

Student-bank relationships

by Milton Howe

Tales of students' financial woes are the exception rather than the norm, and sometimes the biggest headache in university is not missing lectures, studying for final exams or writing term papers but MONEY. The Canadian government and their provincial counterparts have a long history of involvement with various forms of student financial aid, but the process is becoming increasingly chaotic and strewn with red tape. This has led to one new concept: private student loans.

Both the Bank of Nova Scotia and the Bank of Montreal took the plunge and rented some table space in the SUB during frosh week to advertise their loan offerings, presumably primarily to the first-year student set. The people staffing the booths were not able to answer detailed questions about the loans but were happy to hand out reams of pamphlets and applications for loans, student accounts, credit cards, etc.

In the case of the Bank of Montreal, the booth was actually being run by a representative from a local radio station which is giving away a vacation to "a warmer climate" simply for dropping into the bank and filling in the entry form. This is step one in the process of winning you as a faithful customer.

After a careful examination of the glossy packages supplied at the kiosks, it remained somewhat difficult to understand why the bank would be offering such seemingly sweet deals: up to \$5,000 per year for full-time students; one need pay only the interest as long as one is in school; interest is calculated based on the

best consumer lending rate the bank offers; and there is no automatic requirement for a cosignator.

Frank Fisher, a Banking Services Manager at the Bank of Montreal office here in Halifax, explained the loan package in detail to an eager and under-financed Gazette reporter last Thursday. "We're entering into a relationship with a customer," he said, noting that the loan was part of a broad package of "Student Financial Services," including a no-fee credit card and chequing account.

"We're getting into a relationship with a customer."

In fact, any student qualifying for the loan is automatically entitled to a student credit card with a minimal credit limit.

The two major differences between these loans and the Canada Student Loan Program are the interest payments (about \$30 per month for a \$4,000 loan at current rates) and the guarantor (more than likely your parents, as opposed to the federal government).

According to Mr. Fisher, about 75 per cent of the student loans issued by the Bank of Montreal require

a solid cosignator. With this type of solid backing it would appear that the program is a good one for the bank, and Mr. Fisher admits that they were "very very happy with the results last year."

He pointed out that they will not turn down students who are not studying in a so-called "lucrative" faculty like commerce or law. "We do not distinguish between students studying different programs."

The concept the banks are working toward here is that once students have chosen a bank for a loan, they will continue to bank there up to the time when they begin to accumulate serious amounts of money (and move into the car and home buying set).

They will certainly be with the bank for some time to come anyway, as it will be seven years plus six months of grace after graduation before they have the loan paid off. In fact, after graduation the loan is really indistinguishable from a consumer loan — the student is given a choice of a floating-rate repayment plan or locking in at a slightly higher rate, subject to the state of the market at the time.

Attempts to contact the Bank of Nova Scotia were unsuccessful, in part due to the fact that their student loan program is centrally administered in Ontario. This is one interesting difference between the two. With the Bank of Montreal it is the individual branch manager who decides on the suitability of applications, and who will most certainly turn down applicants with shaky credit histories. The irony of the Bank of Nova Scotia loans being administered in Toronto was not lost on at least one Gazette reporter.

Student summer jobless rate decreases

OTTAWA (CUP) — Students recovered this summer along with the rest of the economy, says a monthly Statistics Canada employment survey released Sept. 9.

For the first time in five years, the summer unemployment rate among returning students aged 15 to 24 dropped — to an average of 16 per cent in 1994 from 18 per cent in 1993.

The 1993 rate was the highest summer unemployment rate in 10 years. Until this year, it had increased from 9.5 per cent in 1989. But this

summer's slight decrease in unemployment among students still leaves some student representatives skeptical that students are participating in the economic recovery.

Jocelyn Charron, a Canadian Federation of Students researcher, says the survey's result is skewed because fewer students were in the labour force this summer. Instead, he says they were attending summer school.

"Most of the survey is anecdotal. There were probably a few more jobs for students, but not that many."

Statistics Canada surveyed about

58,000 households every month this summer. Those aged 15 to 24 who attended school during the summer were not counted as being part of the labour force.

Students looking for work in Newfoundland were the worst off in the country — 31.5 per cent of them could not find jobs this summer. Saskatchewan students were the best off — 11.4 per cent of them could not find jobs last summer.

In other words, about 212,000 students in Canada between the ages of 15 and 24 were unemployed last summer.

DSU: On the Record

by Jen Horsey

Who wants to sit through a three hour council meeting?

Here are some points of interest which arose out of the last council meeting.

- The DSU Council Orientation was held on Sunday. This is an event which introduces council members to the operation of the Union. The day ended with a so-called "brief" council meeting, which was well-attended. However because of the length of the meeting, people began to leave, and by the final vote, quorum (the minimum number of councillors required to conduct official business) was surpassed only by two.

- The council spent half an hour debating when council meetings should take place. After a close vote, they recommended 7 p.m. Sundays. Members of residence councils expressed concern that the proposed time will conflict with their own council meetings.

- Over the summer a motion was proposed that the DSU charge SUNS a rental fee for their office space on the third floor of the Dalhousie Student Union building,

which was tabled until the second meeting of the regular session. After several 'friendly' amendments, the motion was passed with the stipulation that the executive enter into negotiations over fee rates with SUNS and report the results to the next council meeting.

- Chris Lydon was given a rousing chorus of 'Happy Birthday' after he gave a speech in an attempt to get elected to yet another committee. Several members of council objected to this and it was denounced by the chair as 'inappropriate behaviour.'

- The council has voted to direct DSU President, Rod MacLeod, to write a letter to SMUSA (Saint Mary's University Student Association) and The Journal in response to their editorial cartoon on the Darren Watts story, which depicts Dalhousie students as monkeys.

- The Chair has ruled that the election of the Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students executive was conducted improperly. In an attempt to rectify this, DAGS decided to hold the elections again.

The next Council meeting will be held on Sunday, October 16, at 7 p.m., Council Chambers, on the 2nd floor of the SUB. All students are welcome to attend.