

Homecoming at Dal

Alumni return

Brian talk taxes?

by Michael Orsini

MONTREAL (CUP) — It was letter perfect.

The same prime minister who introduced the Goods and Services Tax (GST) last December was standing for an impromptu autograph signing on a downtown Montreal street corner.

The Oct. 12 signing was just a stone's throw from one of the magazine shops that will be hit Jan. 1 if the tax passes the bloated Senate.

What was the prime minister of Canada doing in front of Multi Mags when he was supposed to be in Ottawa defending the big tax?

"I just came back from visiting my dentist not far from here," he said.

But Brian Mulroney didn't want to talk taxes.

When asked why he insisted on taxing Canadian books and magazines, the blue-suited prime minister responded: "Why are you asking that question? Ask the socialist government in New Zealand. To be effective, the tax has to be broadly based."

Critics have charged that students, who are already vulnerable, will be hard hit by the tax, arguing that this group spends more on books, magazines, and newspapers than anyone else.

The price increase may also cripple book publishers, who might have to raise prices to make up for lost sales.

Mulroney said students are not a vulnerable segment of society.

Sex threat banned

by Krishna Rau

TORONTO (CUP) — Queen's University banned a student charged with sexual assault from campus Oct. 11, even though the case has not yet been decided in a criminal court.

Robert van Oostrom, a fourth year engineering student, was charged Oct. 10 with four counts of sexual assault and one count of uttering a death threat.

According to Kingston police, the assaults extend over three years beginning in December 1987. Two of the assaults occurred on the Queen's campus, and all of the complainants were female students at Queen's.

Tom Williams, Queen's vice principal in charge of operations and university relations, said the decision was made because van Oostrom was considered to be a possible threat to other students.

Williams said taking action before the case has been judged in a criminal court was a "judgement call" on his part, made because of the perceived danger to others on campus.

The suspension will be reviewed by the dean of applied science, and the university senate will decide on Oct. 25 if the suspension should be maintained.

Town taxes tuition

(CUP/CPS) — In what would be the U.S.'s first tax on college tuition, the Evanston, Illinois city council voted recently to charge students in the city a tax of \$15 per term.

Students at Northwestern University, Kendall College, and Garrett Evangelical and Seabury-Western theological seminaries would be affected.

If the city succeeds in imposing the tax, however, students across the U.S. may face similar taxes.

"I think we probably will be seeing more of it," said David Werking, head of the University Communities Caucus, a branch of the National League of Cities.

The problem, he explained, is that college towns have to provide police, fire, water and other services to local campuses, but that colleges, because they are tax-exempt, don't contribute tax money to the towns to help pay for them.

"We need to find a source of revenue for those increasing budgets," Werking said.

The political opposition to such taxes, however, is strong.

Evanston Mayor Joan Barr has vowed to veto the measure, and Northwestern is threatening to take the city to court.

The city council approved the measure 10-8, but needs a two-thirds majority to override a veto.

Arnold Weber, president of Northwestern, calls the tax "anti-education" and "anti-business."

Northern officials say the university brings about 500,000 visitors a year to the city, pumps millions of dollars into the economy and adds many cultural advantages.

by Alex Burton

Dalhousie's first ever official homecoming, held last weekend, has been declared a success by the Alumni Association.

Betty Flinn, Director of Alumni Affaires, said "considering it was a ground laying for future homecomings, it was a great success."

The event, which Flinn estimates cost around \$1000, was organized on fairly short notice (work began on homecoming in August), and was designed to incorporate students as well as alumni.

Patti Dow, Vice President of the Dalhousie Student Union, also praised the event. "It was very successful for our first year...the people who were there during the day had a great time," she said.

However, the event was somewhat tainted by several acts of vandalism that occurred over the weekend.

Several windows in the Chemistry building (facing the Killam Library) were smashed, as was a window on the fourth floor of the Student Union Building.

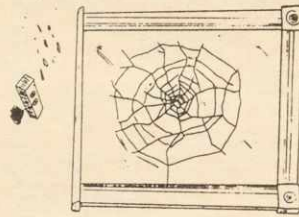
Flinn feels there is no connection between the vandalism and the homecoming event. "Unfortu-

nately that's just one of those things that's going to happen, whether you have homecoming or not," she said.

Dow agreed with Flinn, and added "by increasing enthusiasm on campus you increase pride in the school. Why would you want to vandalize or hurt something that's yours?"

Bill Lord, Director of the Dalhousie Physical Plant, conceded the two may be related.

"Certainly when you have something like homecoming, with a team and supporters, whether they win or lose they may take that out on the campus," he said.



However he went on to add "that sort of thing (vandalism) happens virtually all the time."

Lord feels vandalism is a serious problem on campus. We've found street signs and Dalhousie barricades in students dorms he said. "People think of this as student

hijinx, but every time a sign is stolen we have to replace it. People are not aware of how much money I'm having to spend."

Not everyone feels homecoming can disassociate itself from vandalism.

"Drunken students parading around with painted faces, a la Queens [University], is bound to lead to problems" said a student who wished to remain anonymous.

Flinn feels the ground work has been laid for the establishment of a Dalhousie homecoming tradition and that there is a lot of support on campus for an annual event.

However, many students seemed unaware of this weekend's activities.

"There was a homecoming this weekend" asked Warren Adams, a third year sociology student.

David Rouse, a second year psychology student described the event as "extremely nonexistent".

Flinn said next year's event is already being planned. She feels homecoming installs a degree of pride in students which deters vandalism, not encourage it. "I think its events like that (homecoming) that helps reduce vandalism" she said.

Week fleeces frosh

by Kevin Speight

This year's Frosh Week at Dalhousie turned a profit of \$2121.72, compared to small deficits in previous years.

Revenue for the program came in part from selling "Frosh Packs", which cost as much as \$16 for some students in residence, and from ticket sales for special events.

Peter Pottier, Dalhousie Student Union treasurer, said the windfall was due to "sponsorships we didn't expect, which overshot our revenues. We also got a lot of free things."

Co-chair of the Orientation Committee, Troy Wallace, confirmed "We budgeted to break even."

Wallace cautioned that the surplus for the program is not yet the final figure. "There'll be a few more bills coming in. We'll be in the black for sure, though."

Not all first-year students thought they got their money's worth. Trevor Somers said, "I didn't use any of the coupons in the Frosh Pack, and I don't like paying \$16 for a T-shirt. The only time I wore it was during Frosh Week."

Somers also complained that he wasn't allowed into some events because the admission bracelet he bought had broken in one place.

One of the frosh leaders in Howe Hall, Vivek Sood, defended the price, saying the shirts cost more to

make than the shirts for off-campus frosh, and one dollar of the price went for a ticket on a draw for a VCR.

Few students seemed aware they had purchased a ticket for a draw with their \$16.

Wallace said the extra money would go to the Winter Carnival and other student events, while Pottier suggested it might go to next year's Frosh Week. "It definitely won't go into operations spending", said Pottier.

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