

Second Class Mail #8120

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Student Union Elections
 October 5th & 6th
 Get out and vote, if you don't vote nobody else will!

Signapore Experience
 Saturday, October 2

•What better way to keep up on campus news?

•You acquire all sorts of valuable experience!

•You can learn about photography, journalism, lay out, offset, computers and much, much more!

•You will meet a lot of new people who will either become good friends or arch enemies. Either way, you'll enjoy many exciting late night conversations.

•You can become apart of a really great tradition of apathetic procrastinators who can't spel

•There is a really cool new editorial board ... NOT!!

**A textbook example for post-election period:
 Will textbooks be GST-free?**

by Dallas Southcott

"The Federal Government has severely damaged Canadian education and hurt students by taxing reading, most notably textbooks, under the GST," the "Don't Tax Reading Coalition" says.

The coalition, set up by over 900 Canadian book sellers and publishers, has been actively lobbying Ottawa for the better part of the past three years trying to get the GST removed from reading.

"Students have been hit hard by the new reading tax," said coalition chairperson, Jacqueline Hushion, in a press release.

"Students spend a large percentage of their limited incomes on reading materials. Students aren't free to opt out of book purchases without harming their education," she added.

In January, 1991, the federal government introduced the Goods and Services Tax (GST), replacing the old Manufacturer's Sales Tax. The GST is the first federal tax ever to apply to reading material.

According to the coalition, the GST has had a detrimental effect on reading material and its purchase. Since its implementation in 1991, book sales have dropped on average of 11% than before the GST was introduced.

UNB Bookstore manager, Doug McConnel, said that this is inevitable.

"With every increase in price, there



GST: Read between the lines when it comes to campaign promises. Photo by Heather Labreque-Havens.

is an equal percentage of sales lost because of the increase."

Carl Gillies, Chairperson of the Canadian Federation of Students, said that "due to the rising costs of educational material, high student unemployment and cuts to student financial assistance, some students may be forced to choose between books and food."

This is not going unnoticed though. Over two million letters and postcards have been sent to the former

and present Prime Ministers, urging them to zero-rate reading material under the GST.

The coalition is launching a major campaign to tell candidates in the upcoming election to remove the GST from reading, and is calling on students to raise the issue with their local candidates.

This campaign will include posters in bookstores across the country, outlining how each candidate in

the riding stands on the issue.

Fredericton York-Sunbury MP, Bud Bird is optimistic about the removal of GST from academic books.

"There is a general feeling across our party of favour towards the consideration of removing the GST on academic books."

Bird went on to say, "But there is no decision made as to what will be done, at this time."

Women's groups call for independent review of sexual assault claims

by Jonathan Stone

Women's groups in New Brunswick are calling for an independent review of how police officers handle sexual assault cases.

The Saint John and Fredericton Rape Crisis Centres, the New Brunswick Women's Coalition and the National Action Committee on the Status of Women have requested a meeting with the Attorney General.

They want an independent review of how police deal with sexual assault cases, statistics on how many cases are reported and what the outcome is.

They are concerned that sexist attitudes and stereotypes about rape and women are causing the police to re-victimize women who report sexual assaults.

According to a press release, there have been two recent cases of young women being charged after reporting sexual assaults.

In one case in Saint John, a 21-year-old woman was taken from

the hospital in her hospital greens, locked up in jail overnight and charged with making a false statement.

The release states that no further investigation was done into her report of sexual assault.

It also contends that more recently, in Fredericton, a 17-year-old girl was charged with mischief after reporting she had been sexually assaulted at a men's residence at UNB.

According to a witness who found the young girl slumped in a hallway in shock, the police did not even bother to question him.

"There is a very disturbing pattern developing of women being charged with false reporting without any actual investigation into the assaults," said Jane Shepherd of the Saint John Rape Crisis Line.

"We are at the point we don't know what to tell women who may want to report the assault to the police. There is a very real

See REVIEW, page 4.

Aitken House forum draws large turnout

by Jonathan Stone

Men have to change their attitudes towards women.

That was the consensus of the forum held Sunday by Aitken House to discuss ways to make residences more safe for women.

Aitken House Editor Crispin Richards said that the forum, which lasted approximately 90 minutes, was well attended—a little more than half of the participants were women.

Richards said that the House Committee noted more than 30 suggestions to improve the conditions in residence.

Ideas included: keeping hall lights on at night, building a more secure electronic entrance, getting to know and recognize people in residence, and assigning additional house watchers.

It was indicated that Aitken House, an all-male residence, needs to install another women's washroom in a more central location, as the existing facilities are located in the base-

ment.

Also mentioned was the necessity for a co-ed SafeWalk, which is already in the works, and for the volunteers to walk students right to their room doors.

Richards added that there were some accounts of occurrences of sexual abuse in other residences, but that they were never reported by the students involved.

Some women from co-ed residences said that they actually feel safer, because the men become like brothers and tend to look out for them.

In addition, it was suggested that students "put a push" on the university to report assaults instead of trying to cover them up.

According to Richards, the results of this discussion were positive, "This forum spawned other ideas," he said.

Aitken House is considering organizing a much larger event in the near future, which would include guest speakers.