

U of T student with child porn faces possible jail term

BY LOREN ALBAN

TORONTO (CUP) — A third year University of Toronto engineering student may go to jail for downloading child pornography onto his university computer account.

The 21-year-old student, who downloaded over 300 pornographic images featuring children onto the university's engineering computer system, was in a Toronto court on Jan. 20 to be handed down his sentence.

He had already plead guilty to possession of child pornography after being arrested last March.

But when Judge Mary Hogan was faced with making a ruling — either 12 to 18 months in jail at the request of the Crown or a conditional sentence as suggested by the defence lawyer — she couldn't decide.

"There are some very serious issues here," she said after hearing over an hour of arguments from both sides. "Given the options that I have, I consider it very serious."

Pushing a jail sentence, Crown

attorney Jon Ball gave the judge her fill of images of child pornography downloaded by defendant Tony Crewe.

"Is there any point in my seeing any more?" she asked the Crown, breaking the silence in a near empty courtroom after viewing a few images from the laptop of witness Sgt. David Lorbetzkie.

Ball thought so. In addition to providing Hogan with electronic images and hard copies in a 59-page document, he also described a sampling of the 317 images.

"When I'm handling it, I feel like I'm handling a time bomb. It could explode at any moment," Ball said about the images which included young girls with semen on their faces performing fellatio on men, men penetrating young girls anally and vaginally, men penetrating boys anally and bondage scenes.

The one text document found in the student's computer account was the first chapter of *Daddy's Girl*, a story of sexual abuse of a girl at the hands of her step-father.

"There was no school work on the files that I could see," said Sgt.

Lorbetzkie. "These images you've seen are just about as bad as it gets."

In pushing for a jail term, Ball emphasized how child pornography can sometimes be used by pedophiles as either fuel for their sexual fantasies or to groom their

victims. And although Ball admitted that a doctor's assessment of Crewe shows that he is most aroused by sexual images involving adult women, he says there is still a danger element.

"The possession is extremely

dangerous to young children," Ball said.

The saga began last March after an employee at the engineering computer facilities alerted campus police about irregularities in the

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Student action raises eyebrows

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"As teachers, students are our concern and we need to support them in these types of actions."

Both professors took it upon themselves to e-mail and encourage their students to support the protest.

The Atlantic contingent of the protest was largely organized by Jessica Squires (Nova Scotia College of Art and Design) and Penny McCall Howard (King's College).

At the protest, Howard spoke about the importance of a university education.

"If they don't stop increasing tuition, students won't be able to contribute to society."

Squires was disappointed with the DSU's decision not to support the event.

"I don't think taking your frustrations out on a wall is a particularly effective thing to do," Squires said, referring to the "debt wall of protest" erected in the Student Union Building (SUB) lobby last week.

"[Protesting] is a tried, true and completely effective way to get your message across to the government," she said.

"Negotiations usually come down

to the lowest common denominator," agreed Martin.

Dalhousie pulled out of the CFS approximately two years ago. Presently the CFS has 400,000 members —

rest of the way to the legislature.

Once in front of the legislature, guest speakers spoke about student debt. 30 minutes later, the large mass had withered to less than 100 participants.

Among those remaining was NDP education critic Eileen O'Connell. Asked why she came, O'Connell said that student debt is an important issue to the NDP. She then went on to speak about the absence of the other political parties.

"It seems to indicate that education isn't the priority that it should be for this government," she said.

The CFS did not invite politicians to this protest because they tend to steal the spotlight.

But Squires says that if politicians really cared about students they would attend.

"Everyone knew about the protest, it would have been filtered down through the channels. If they choose to stay home, then that is their choice."

They had signs, they made noise, they got a lot of attention and they had a big shoe. They cooked bagels over a fire on the Province House driveway, which the fire department was called in to extinguish. And in addition to all that, they sent a message to government in Ottawa and Nova Scotia.

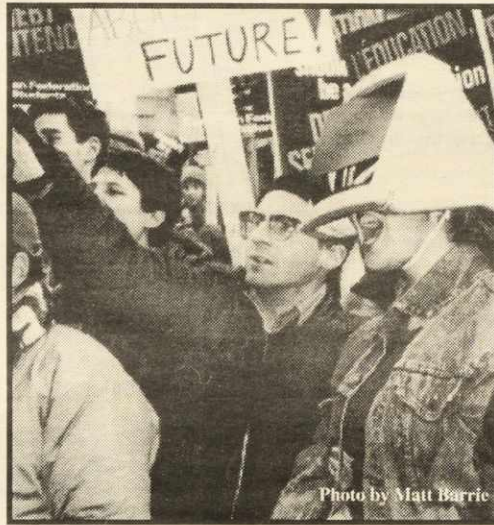


Photo by Matt Barrie

double that of CASA.

The parade began at King's, headed into the Dalhousie Quad area and briefly stopped in front of the SUB before continuing towards downtown Halifax.

When the students hit Spring Garden Rd., excitement rose and they took over the entire street, causing motorists to stop and wait. The police attempted to restore order, telling students to get back on the sidewalk, but students controlled the streets the

News in brief

Dal students assist McGill storm victims

The Dalhousie Student Union has taken an active role in assisting victims of the 1998 ice-storm that swept much of Quebec and Eastern Ontario earlier this month.

Many students living in Montreal lost most of their perishable food items as a direct result of lack of electricity.

"After speaking with some of our constituents from McGill University, we realized that if the shoe were on the other foot, we would appreciate any kind of help students from other schools could offer," said Bridgette McCaig, executive vice-president of the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU). "We decided to collect household items in our student union building and send these items up to Montreal via the Red Cross."

McCaig adds that the generosity of Dalhousie students was evident last week after the DSU collected boxes of household items in a matter of hours.

Landmark Catering, the company that provides most of the food service in the Student Union Building, donated five cents per beverage on one particular day and the DSU sent an additional \$500 to the McGill Student Association.

"The DSU has sent out a challenge to all Canadian Universities, hoping that they will follow suit and donate money and/or household items to the schools who have been through this disaster."

Dal among top 5 on endowment list

Dalhousie University receives the fifth largest amount of money in endowment funds amongst the Canadian Universities.

Vice-president finance and administration Bryan Mason recently released a paper that outlined Dalhousie's economic standing relating to the endowment funds. Toronto, UBC, McGill and Alberta are the only other Canadian universities that receive more money than Dalhousie from their endowment funds.

Endowments are financial gifts that are donated to the university by individuals or corporations. Although this sounds very impressive, it is important to realize that Dalhousie only spends what it earns off these investments. Dalhousie must also adhere to the contributors request for the purpose of the money.

In total, Dalhousie has 735 separate endowments that total \$183.6-million with the five Killam endowments comprising the largest portion at 45 per cent (\$82.5-million).

The total figure of the endowment then comes in under \$9-million, student support receiving the largest percentage of that money (more than a third). Nevertheless, according to Bryan Mason, "It is a very great asset for such a modestly-sized University."

CKDU kicks-off funding drive

Dalhousie's radio station kicks off its annual funding drive this Friday, Jan. 30 with a free concert for Dal students.

CKDU will begin its annual funding drive with a concert in the lobby of the Student Union Building from 1 to 5 p.m. The event will include a mixture of live bands and djs. Moon Socket, Buck 65 and the Shysters will perform in between sets by djs Nick Nonsense and Brendan James. CKDU is hoping to raise \$50,000 at this year's drive. To show your support, call the pledge line at 494-2779.

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