

Campus rush

Annual book hunt

by Danièle Gauvin

Are you among the thousands of students scouring the campus for cheap books and supplies? If so, your first stop may be the Dalhousie bookstore. Its prices are high but this reflects publisher's high suggested prices and the exchange rate on the Canadian dollar for the many U.S. publications rather than overpricing and/or exorbitant profits for the store according to store manager Irving Kirke.

Remember however that professors don't usually order the cheapest editions of their texts but that many will allow you to use a less expensive version in class. Whether you can shop around or whether a particular edition is required for class depends on the individual prof., so be sure to ask first.

The Dal bookstore's basic financial policy is to break even, but even that can be difficult, according to Kirke. The store follows the common practise of allowing a 20% profit margin between the publisher's prices and the sell-

ing price for the books. Freight rates, often substantial, are subtracted from the

profit margin rather than added to the costs of books, but currency exchange rates for American books are a direct addition to the cost of your texts. There is also a 10% service charge for books purchased through the ordering service.

It is hard to tell whether textbook prices are competitive since corner bookstores cannot stock texts as publishers release their textbooks titles to campus stores only. The S.M.U. bookstore, however, reports an identical 'break even' pricing policy. The Red Herring co-operative bookstore on Barrington St. carries a few volumes requested by profs. and they swear never to be undersold, so you could give them a try.

If you need study supplies, stationery, gift items or other necessities, the bookstores' prices are at least on an even par with less handy shops

such as the Maritime Campus store. The Dalhousie bookstore sells these items to tide it over after the Sept./Oct. boom.

If the S.U.B.'s prices still make you queasy, try running up one flight of stairs to the second hand bookstore in the S.U.B. music room. They have an abundance of science, sociology and commerce books in good condition, though they lack French and health books. The store will be run by the Alpha Gamma Delta fraternity until Oct. 13.

The lists peppering every elevator and bulletin board on campus are another good source of cheaper texts. They allow for comparison shopping and are usually worth the extra footwork. Also, don't miss the Sherriff Hall book sale; dates are to be announced soon. Whether you're busy book hunting or house hunting this September, remember that perseverance will get you there . . . good luck!



Long lineups outside the university bookstore marked the first week of classes, as students waited to spend an average of \$100 for their texts.

Plants pilfered

by Alan Adams

The newly renovated SUB cafeteria has been victimized by thieves. Early Tuesday morning a person or persons unknown stole five tall green plants from the new planters that embellish the room.

The plants, estimated to be worth between \$75 and \$125., were discovered missing by SUB maintenance workers at 5:30 a.m. Tuesday morning. According to SUB General Manager John Graham the planters were intact an hour earlier.

To Graham's knowledge the only people in the building at that time were Gazette staffers. Editor Marc Allain said he

had spoken to the individuals in question and is convinced that they know nothing about the whereabouts of the plants.

Graham expressed disappointment that "someone would come in and steal plants". The cafeteria has been remodeled to provide a better atmosphere for those that use it he said and now "people are trying to destroy it".

Commenting on the SUB security, Graham said, that it was impossible to protect everything and that students themselves have to be concerned for the security of the building.

Drugs; new student plan

by Daniele Gauvin

Faced with a possible deficit of \$30,000, Student Council has adopted a new drug plan for the Student Union. At last Sunday's meeting the new council chose to replace the existing plan with a new contract offered by the Toronto insurance firm M.H. Ingle and Associates.

The arrangement which council had with M.K. O'Brien's was no longer considered viable due to a change in company policy which would have cost the Student Union an extra \$30,000 this year.

The Ingle plan will expand student coverage to include accidental death and dismemberment, fracture indemnity, major sickness and benefits outside of Canada. The dental accident plan will be kept and expanded to cover non-campus accidents. Prescription drug benefits will also increase to include 12 month unlimited geographic coverage, birth control pills and a free choice of doctor and pharmacy.

However, there is a catch. Despite its obvious medical and financial benefits, the new plan may create extra hassles for students. After paying for his/her own prescription, students must fill out a form (available at Student Health or council offices) and mail it to the insurance company in Toronto for a cash refund. For those who can't afford the initial costs, there will be short-term loans available from the awards office.

According to John Graham, General Manager of the Student Union, the refund system will both transfer risks from the Union to an insurance agency and provide tighter

financial control in denying use to those not entitled to the program.

Last year Dalhousie students voted to increase the per capita fee for the old 'Prescription Drugs' plan by \$4.00 for a total contribution of \$9.00 to the health plan. Under the new arrangement, each stu-

dent need only contribute \$7.50. The extra \$1.50 already collected will be put in a trust fund to cover future increases, according to Student Union president Mike Power.

The new plan takes effect immediately and further information may be obtained from Student Health or council offices.



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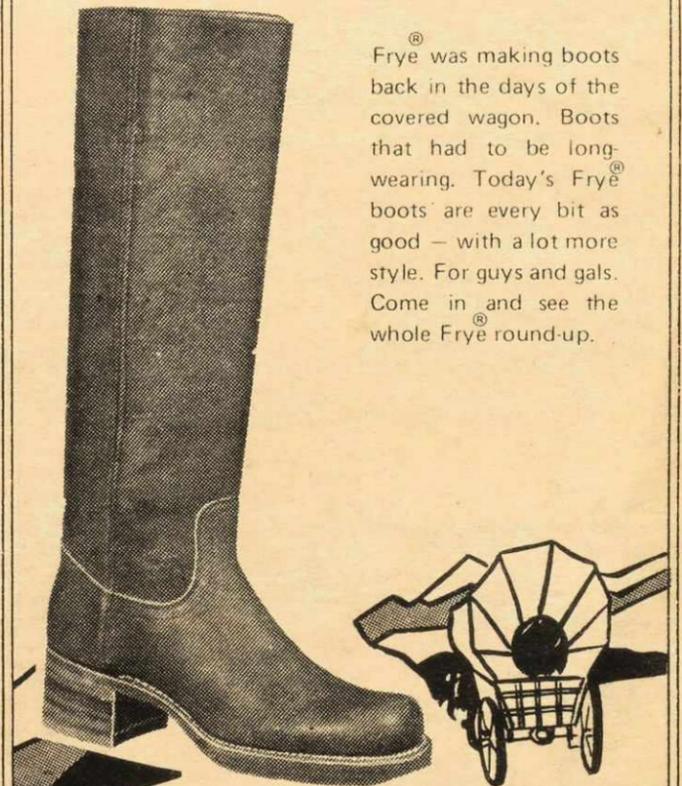
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