

McGill University debt estimated to reach \$76 million

by Susana Bejar

Montreal (CUP)--By the end of the academic year, McGill University will have what some are calling the largest university debt in the history of the world.

In a report presented to McGill's senate Nov. 7, the university's vice-president of finance, John Armour, estimated the debt will reach \$76 million by the end of next May.

He warned severe measures may have to be taken next year to deal with McGill's financial crisis.

McGill's deficit has increased this year despite tuition fee increases, a private capital campaign and a \$10.8 million injection of funds from the Quebec government.

The estimated operating deficit for this year alone is \$9 million.

Senators were told McGill has the largest university deficit in the history of the world, with second place going to Hebrew University in Jerusalem, which once carried a \$60 million debt.

The financial report did not take into account the costs of provincial and federal sales taxes, which are expected to add another \$5 million to the university's financial burden this year.

Senators grew frustrated as it became apparent that McGill's only immediate recourse is to cut its budget even further. The report warned that staff should prepare for a 2.8 percent decrease in funding across the board next year.

"It was very sad to see professors saying that they couldn't do it anymore," said student council president Kate Morisset.

"Armour stood up and said he was tired beyond patience," she said. "If you look at the administration, regardless of whether you agree with them, you can't deny that they are working beyond the capacity they should be."

The possible solutions to McGill's problems have some people on campus worried.

At a student council meeting the day after the report was released, Morisset was asked how the council is going to resist pressure the administration may put on students to help eliminate the deficit.

Morisset said a plan pro-

posed by one of Quebec's student federations, la Federation des Etudiantes et Etudiants du Quebec, is the council's solution.

FEEQ proposes a "new partnership" between universities,

government and the business community. It wants the province and business to inject more money into higher education. Under the plan, universities would cut costs by trimming their bureaucracies.

Students must also do their part, according to FEEQ, which is calling for a tuition fee freeze. It wants students to pay a tax after they graduate to help finance post-secondary education.

Fraternity party named after cult leader

by Paul Hayward

Winnipeg (CUP) Student reaction is split over a fraternity party named after a cult leader who murdered over 900 of his followers.

Delta Kappa Epsilon (Deke) fraternity held their eleventh annual "Jim Jones Remembered--Electric Kool Aid" party on Nov. 9, at their frat house.

In November 1978, members of the People's Temple were found poisoned after having drunk, many at gunpoint, a deadly cocktail of Kool Aid and cyanide. The disaster occurred at Jonestown, a commune in the Guyanese jungle named after the movement's leader, Jim Jones. The final death toll reached 912.

Second-year arts student Malcolm Rogge said his first reaction to seeing a poster for the event was disgust.

"This is ill, this is morally repugnant. It's like remembering the Holocaust and then having a party," Rogge said.

"People come from countries where this kind of insanity happens every day. Here we are in our comfortable little niche glorifying this; it's just spitting in the face of students escaping this."

Gerry Sande, a U of M professor who teaches a social psychology class which includes a study of the Jim Jones disaster, said he became aware of the party after a student showed him a poster.

"It seems to be in very bad taste," Sande said, adding that students may not have been "aware of the magnitude of the tragedy, the number of innocent people, the murder of young children by their parents."

Sande said the students in-

voled probably hadn't given much thought to the issue but other students who had seen a film on the incident could see the tragedy in human terms and were really touched.

Pete Robbie, a member of the fraternity, said he hadn't heard about the controversy, apart from a message scrawled on one poster.

"We make up an alcoholic punch, which is free. There are no mock ceremonies," he said. "We usually make a donation to the Heart Foundation, a fund for terminally ill children."

John Orlikow, an arts student councillor, said he approved the poster advertising the event with mixed feelings, adding that he is against censorship.

"We don't have a firm policy on posters but something would have to be explicitly bad to not be approved," he said.

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The crime of aggravated sexual assault is repugnant to everyone, including most hardened criminals. This week, one such assault is the subject of our feature and we're asking for help to solve it.

Friday night, April 20, 1990, a 27 year old woman returned home after spending the evening studying for an exam with a friend. At her home, located at 80 Duke St, Saint John, she changed and went to bed with a book. She called a friend, talked for a bit, studied and at about midnight, turned the lights off and went to sleep.

She was abruptly awakened by a man sitting on her. He had his arm across her chest and a hand on her throat. The man demanded that she give him her Personal Touch banking machine number. She tried to get up but was pushed back into the bed and the man began to undress himself. She attempted to push him away; he punched her in the face and her head landed against the head board of the bed. As he assaulted her, he kept demanding that she give him her banking card number. When he finished, he left and escaped through the rear door.

The victim managed to get out of bed, ran to the rear door and locked it. Shaken, she summoned the police who quickly arrived at the scene.

Investigation by the Saint John Police force indicates that the intruder most probably got into the apartment through the rear door. He went through the residence, found the victim's purse and banking card and then went into the bedroom.

A description of the suspect is as follows:

A man, believed to be about 24 years of age. He had shoulder length dark hair, layered in different lengths; he had a mustache and at the time, a shadow of a beard. He was wearing a sweatshirt, a jacket and blue jeans.

Police advise that some of the items stolen from the victim have been recovered. However, the identity of the aggressor remains unknown. Can you help?

Saint John & Western District Crime Stoppers will pay a minimum \$1000 for information that leads to the arrest of the person responsible for this sexual assault. If you have any information about this case or about other crimes in New Brunswick, call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477. We want your information, not your name. If your tip leads to an arrest, Crime Stoppers Guarantees a cash award.

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