

CROSSCANADA

MP slams "tax on literacy"

WINNIPEG (CUP) - Calling the GST on books and reading materials a "tax on literacy", Liberal MP Ron Duhamel of St. Boniface has begun working on its removal. Duhamel began debate on his private member bill C-331 in the Winnipeg House of Commons. Duhamel stated that "we have never had a tax on reading, few Western countries do. Functionally illiterate Canadians already cost the nation \$10-\$11 billion per year."

In terms of business, the tax attacks a fragile industry, causing loss of jobs, and the closing of businesses.

"It is bad government because the government has received thousands of petitions asking for the removal of this tax, but the government is not listening," said Duhamel. Despite the bill being defeated in the House of Commons, it has made Duhamel even more determined to keep up the fight.

Concordia tragedy discussed

MONTREAL (CUP) - Concordia University administrators hosted an open forum last week to determine how the recent shooting deaths of three professors there last month could have been averted.

Audience members questioned both the administration's and the police's handling of the shooting, calling for improved university grievance procedures and tighter gun control.

Audience members speculated that if university grievance procedures had worked better, the shootings might have been averted. Another person suggested that the tragedy could have been avoided if professors were better trained in stress-management techniques.

"It behooves us all to look at these events and try to understand them, if possible, so we can prevent them from happening again," said Patrick Kenniff, Concordia University president.

Panelists and audience members alike also condemned Quebec's provincial police force, the Surete du Quebec. The SQ approved Fabrikant's gun permit, despite protests from colleagues who said he was unstable and had threatened them many times.

Valery Fabrikant, 52, an associate professor in the school's engineering and computer science department, has been charged with several counts of first-degree murder.

Score one for the free press

MONTREAL (CUP) - Students at Universite de Montreal got their first taste of independent student journalism when a newspaper, *l'Affranchi* hit the stands.

The paper was formed after conflicts between U de M's student federation, FAEQUM, and the staff of the federation-controlled paper, *Continuum*, caused most of the *Continuum* staff to resign.

The former *Continuum* staffers started *l'Affranchi*.

"Independence makes it easier for us to report on news," said Caroline Pichet, editor-in-chief of the new *l'Affranchi*. "Now that we don't have to always ask whether or not the student federation will like what we report."

Relations between the infant paper and the student federation are far from friendly.

In one instance, a reporter and photographer who tried to report on a meeting of the student federation's Central Committee were turned away at the door.

According to an article in *l'Affranchi*, one Central committee member said the reporter "had no business being here."

Mount allows male visits

HALIFAX (CUP) - Mt. St. Vincent, a very Catholic university, is experimenting with over-night male visitation, and the initial response seems quite positive.

The first historic weekend went really well, according to Melissa Alexander, a Resident Assistant at the Mount, one of the university's three all-female residences. There are no co-ed or all-male residences at MSVU.

"There seemed to be more energy than usual," said Jodi Boone, a Student Union residence representation and Evaristus resident.

"It is still on a probation basis, and I hope everybody abides by all the rules, so that it won't be taken away from those of us who haven't tried it yet," said Alexander.

Winning With Wen - Do

by Judy Reid

"I'm tired of being afraid to go out after dark," was one woman's response to why she joined Wen-Do.

On Tuesday, September 22, twenty female students attended the first of six classes in Wen-do, a women's self-defense course. The classes are held in the SUB and are two and a half hours long with time allotted for discussion as well as actual training. Students begin by introducing themselves and explaining why they joined Wen-Do.

Most women talked of feeling nervous about walking alone after dark, and some expressed the unfairness of being female. One fourth-year student explained, "My parents always used to pick me up if it was late, but this year it's just not possible, so I'll ask somebody in my class to walk me home. But it bothers me that guys can feel safe on the street and I can't."

A first-year student disagreed. "Last week I said I was joining Wen-Do simply because I weighed ninety-seven pounds, but not now." She went on to explain that over the weekend her boyfriend, whom she described as "big and scary-looking," was mugged and knocked unconscious in Dartmouth. "These days," she said, "nobody's safe."

Wen-Do was formed in the late sixties, when the brutal murder of a woman in New York shocked the world. The woman was heard screaming for help as her assailant stabbed her repeatedly, but neighbours did

nothing to aid her, not even calling the police.

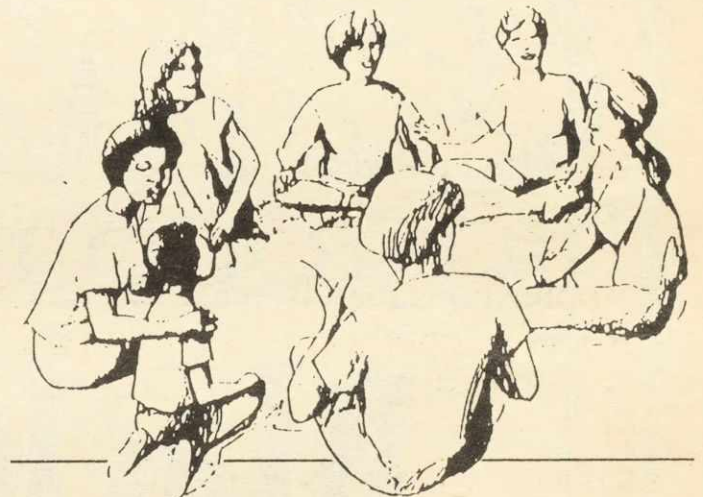
This event had a special impact on the Paige family of Toronto, who subsequently realized the need for a self-defense course specifically for women. Wen-Do has since been taught to fifteen thousand women, by women, across Canada.

The instructor, who at present is the only Wen-Do instructor in the Maritimes, described the three areas that the program entails: Awareness, Avoidance and Action. Awareness involves using intuition and mental preparation to cope with assault, as well as being aware of issues such as rape, wife and child assault and sexual harassment. With Avoidance, women learn to identify safe places on the street, at work and at home, to use assertive body language and how to get others to help. In the area of

action students are taught physical techniques ranging from making and using a fist to defending against weapons. Wen-Do also teaches to distract, startle or calm an attacker using different verbal techniques.

There is already a waiting list of women wanting to join Wen-Do, so students are reminded to register as soon as possible when Wen-Do is offered next term. Meanwhile, after just one class, twenty women now know how to use a set of keys as a weapon, how to free themselves from a strangler's hold, and how to temporarily stun an attacker with a blow to the head. However, the instructor will not let her students forget the importance of mental preparation.

"All the training in the world won't help you," she warned, "until we realize that women have the right to get mad and fight back."



Fundraising keeps DAL afloat

By Jennifer Stephenson

Monday, October 5 will kick off the eighth consecutive Annual Fund phonathon. The goal is 2700 pledges and organizers hope to top last year's return of \$104,399.

"It's a real community effort," says drive organizer Mary Ann Daye.

"Faculties are really recognizing the importance of the Annual Fund, depending on it more and more with declining government support."

The phonathon is just one part of the Annual Fund effort which last year raised \$1.4 million, up 26 per cent from the year before.

The goal of the Annual Fund this year is \$1.6 million. The money supplements the operating budget of faculties and is targeted towards specific requirements like new microscopes or audio visual equipment. For example, last year the science department received \$83,095 it wouldn't otherwise have had.

The Annual Fund is just part of the \$5.5 million raised last year by Dalhousie, up 41 per cent from the year before.

"Ten years ago not a lot of fund

raising was going on in Canada, or in Dalhousie," explains Henry Eberhardt, Vice President in charge of Public Relations, Development and Alumni Relations.

"We have probably one of the most effective development programs in Canada right now. Up 41% during a recession!"

The formula is straightforward. The Public Relations office markets Dalhousie to the outside world- its programs, its people, its future.

"we have to do the best job we can in marketing Dalhousie"

Alumni Relations keeps in touch with 65,000 Dalhousie grads, asking them for donations and having them in turn ask for donations from the private sector. And the Development Office strategizes the campaigns, from the phonathon to the major capital campaign coming up next year.

The last capital campaign ran from 1983-1989 and raised \$40.1 million.

To prepare for the next one, a steering committee with five task forces are drawing up the critical issues at Dalhousie that will determine the goals for the campaign. A student sits on each task force.

"We have to do the best job we can in marketing Dalhousie," says Henry Eberhardt. To that end, he has contracted Corporate Communications Ltd. to find out how the external world views Dalhousie, and to help develop a very targeted marketing strategy.

"Fund raising is becoming more important to the university," says Ian Nason, Director of Financial Services. In 1991/92, the operating cost of Dalhousie was close to \$116.5 million. Only 17-20% of that comes from tuition. Provincial government funding is now frozen at the 1991/92 level, and will be increasing at a maximum of 0 per cent, 0 per cent and 3 per cent over the next 3 years.

In the United States, only the state universities receive funding from the government. All other universities, like Dartmouth College in New Hampshire, depend on tuition and private donations for funding. Tuition at Dartmouth college is about \$17,000 in US dollars.