

This time I will, really...

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THE GAZETTE

Volume 132, Number 13.

Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Thursday, January 13, 2000.



Water, and lots of it. Trees too.

photo by Patrick Blackie

Sobeys decision due this week

\$1.4 million tax break on the table to local supermarket

BY CAITLIN KEALEY AND JOHANNES WHEELDON

Nova Scotia cabinet ministers will decide later this week whether to provide financial assistance to the Sobeys grocery chain.

This assistance to Nova Scotia's largest owned family busi-

ness could take the form of between \$900,000 and \$1.4 million dollars in tax breaks.

This comes on the heels of the news that Sobeys has recently acquired Oshawa Group Ltd, the company that distributes food to local IGA stores. While some have claimed this acquisition gives

Sobeys a virtual monopoly on food distribution in Nova Scotia, it likely has resulted in Sobeys gaining a local advantage.

While the Premier will not sit on the committee that decides whether or not the province will grant Sobeys a tax break, it recently has been reported that Premier

Hamm owns an undisclosed number of shares in Empire Company Ltd, the company that owns Sobeys.

In addition, he also shares a fishing cabin in Sherbrooke, Quebec with supermarket baron, Donald Sobey.

In past months, the Hamm

government has served notice to special interest groups, which has included the cutting of government funding to charity organizations. Recently, the Hamm government revoked the license of the Mother Berchmans Centre at Mount Saint

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Dal passes Y2K problem

Banner workers give sigh of relief

BY KATIE TINKER

All those who spent countless hours last year getting Dalhousie ready for Y2K heaved a big sigh of relief when the new year slid in without a hitch.

Like most other computer users around the world, the university administration went to great preventative measures to ensure its equipment would continue to function when the year 1999 ended and 2000 began.

According to those who headed the effort, by the time the new year rolled around there was little room for concern.

"I'll be honest, yes, I was expecting a giant yawn, because I knew how prepared we were," said Mary Somers, manager of Public Relations and Issues.

"It was very quiet. There were a couple of minor glitches, a counter on a machine over in administrative computing that didn't know it was 2000, but it wasn't a core function."

Associate Registrar Lynn MacDonald says the university wasn't taking any chances.

"It wasn't a matter of just keeping our fingers crossed—a lot of planning went into it."

In fact according to John Sherwood, executive director of University Computing Information Services, work on the project began as far back as 4 years ago. A Y2K Coordinating committee was formed to make sure all the major equipment was upgraded or replaced, while a Y2K contingency group developed emergency plans in case of any sort of meltdown.

"We were pretty sure that our part would be smooth, but we weren't 100 percent sure that our suppliers would come through," said Sherwood.

"So what we were planning for were things like 'what if we don't have power, what if there's civic riots,' things like that."

Mary Somers says one of the biggest fears was whether or not the fuel supplier would be able to continue service throughout the

changeover.

"All of our buildings are heated by steam created by burning fuel, so if the oil company shut down we wouldn't have had heat," said Somers.

But none of the anticipated problems occurred, and now Somers says she's just glad it's all over. And she's quick to emphasize that the smooth transition is a direct result of a lot of work, particularly in terms of changing over to the new Banner system for student information.

"Banner was a necessity, because the old system wasn't Y2K compliant. I don't know if we would have lost all the students information, but we certainly would have had trouble accessing some of it," said Somers.

Somers also says the university should congratulate itself on cooperating to make sure everything was ready for the new year.

"A large part of the university had to work together on a project that was very time sensitive. We couldn't move that deadline."



Thrush Hermit front man Joel Plaskett retires the band last December.

HBC Pastor expelled

School board examines Brown's activities

BY AMY DURANT

H. David Brown, Pastor of the controversial Halifax Bible Church, received a letter of termination from the Atlantic School of Theology (AST) on January 11.

Brown, a student at the AST received notice on December 24 that his academic privileges at the school were under investigation. The notice was given to Brown after a private meeting the school's

administration had on December 15. The December 24 letter informed Brown that discussions would resume on January 5, which Brown participated in.

The group came to a conclusion but because of school policy only Brown could release the decision.

"The decisions the faculty made are in the hands of the student," said Kevin Moynihan, Director of Advancement at AST.

"Should the decision be negative, there is always the possibility of an appeal process."

Brown refused an interview. Moynihan says the school's decision to investigate the controversial student resulted from his extra-curricular activities over the past few months.

Brown has frequently been on the Dalhousie campus, preaching to

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Dal student promotes job-search website

BY DONNA LEE

Cash-strapped students seeking employment can now take their search to the Internet, thanks to a Canadian job-search website called Campus Worklink.

Jenny Riordan, a Dalhousie law student found her current job through this website. She is now

promoting Campus Worklink

"This is the new and sexy thing, how to find jobs on the Internet," said Riordan.

But with the glut of online job-search sites comes the risk of getting scammed. Riordan stresses Campus Worklink's reliability as a

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