

THE GAZETTE

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Sloan played two hot shows last week and led our reporters into a steamy, sex-filled evening. See story (and photo) on page 12.

Une autre photo par Pascal Languillon

Nova Scotia student loans may be out in the cold

Royal Bank contract expires Dec. 31, province trying to negotiate

BY SHELLEY ROBINSON

Students with Nova Scotia provincial student loans could be stuck without the second half of their cash if the Royal Bank and the provincial government can't come to a new agreement by Dec. 31.

The Royal Bank's contract as the sole provider of provincial government student loans is up at the end of this year. And after CIBC pulled out last fall citing problems

with payback, some say the Royal has all the cards — if they pull out the system falls.

But desperate to make them stay, the provincial government may have to give up more than it expected.

Janet Bryson is a spokesperson for the ministry of Education and Culture.

She says although she can't talk specifically about the province's negotiations with the

bank, she is hopeful they'll reach an agreement in time. And even if they don't, she says the province is looking into other options.

"Students will not be left out in the cold in any situation," she said.

Hoops Harrison, national

director of the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations says he isn't so sure.

"There's a very real risk [the bank] will pull," he said. "This is about the scrooges of the Royal Bank forgetting this is going to affect real people more than their

bottom line."

A representative from the Royal Bank would not comment about the negotiation.

The issue centres around the concept of default and delinquency rates. Default is any loan payment

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Canadian compliance

Chretien shook hands with a dictator, oppressed legitimate dissent

BY AVI LAMBERT

Would you shake the hand of a man responsible for genocide? Jaggi Singh wouldn't. And he doesn't think Jean Chretien should have either.

Singh was arrested one day before last November's Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) summit in Vancouver for protesting Canadian involvement in APEC and the visit of former Indonesian prime minister Suharto.

Nov. 23 Singh was in Halifax for a forum on how the APEC protests were handled by the Canadian government, and more importantly, what the protests were about in the first place.

The panel also included Antoni Wysocki, Brooks Kind, Penny McCall Howard and Bruce Wark. Wysocki, Kind, and McCall Howard are local members of the APEC alert network — a student group organizing anti-APEC demonstrations. Wark is a professor of Journalism at the University of King's College.

Singh, now living in Montreal, was jailed last November in Vancouver for allegedly blowing a traffic policeman's ear out with a megaphone. Now he is touring the university lecture circuit, raising funds and awareness for his court case against the actions of the Canadian government during the summit.

"People have less illusions of the country because of what happened at APEC," Singh told the crowd of less than a hundred.

"Students who are naive and idealistic went out to protest and got pepper sprayed and repressed, all to appease a dictator... the supposed agencies of legitimate political dissent [were blocked]."

18 months before the summit, grass roots discussion groups were meeting in Vancouver and Singh says at the same time, the Canadian Secret Intelligence Service, known as CSIS, was mounting a counter-attack against the protesters. Operation Mandible, as it was called, did "threat assessments" for every major political dissent group in the city. Activists were photographed and put on a list

circulated through the hands of CSIS and local police.

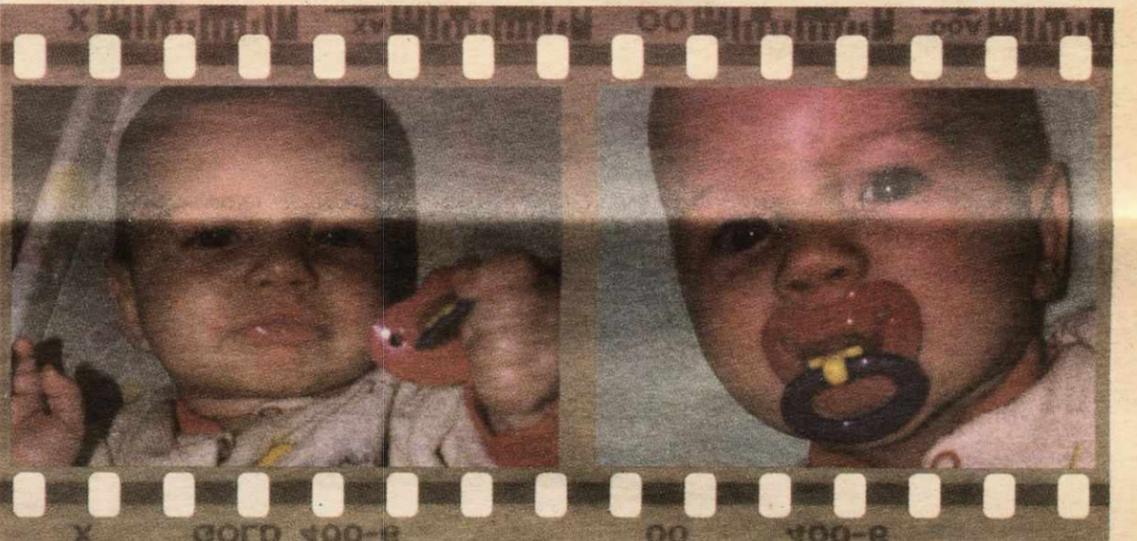
Singh says he is one of many protestors on this list and was detained before the summit for being a "troublemaker". Conveniently, he and the others were only kept in custody until after the summit began.

Though Singh was visibly bothered by the actions of CSIS and the RCMP, he says the Prime Minister's role is much more disturbing.

He says the APEC summit sets a trend where the Canadian government is likely to appease dictators if "it thinks we can make a buck."

Instead of trying Suharto for war crimes — a legal action in Canada for visiting international

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Greenpeace is concerned over chemical additives to vinyl toys.

Encore une autre photo par Pascal Languillon

Infants ingesting cancer?

Recent hype over chemicals in toys may be overstated

BY ANDREW GILLIS

Do you know where your child's chewy toy has been? More importantly, do you know what is in your child's chewy toy?

Greenpeace says that Polyvinyl chloride, commonly known as vinyl, is infused with phthalate plasticisers (PVCs) to make them more flexible. PVCs bleed out of the vinyl toys and are

ingested by infants. Greenpeace documents say that such exposure to PVCs have critical effects on the liver and are linked to cancer.

"Parents have the right to know that hazardous chemicals are being added to their children's PVC toys," Dr. Matthew Bramley said in a Greenpeace newsletter. "Unfortunately, the government still wants to withhold this right

from Canadian parents."

The Canadian government defeated a private member's motion last April demanding that all children's toys containing PVCs be labelled.

However, other nations are beginning to ban PVC-infused toys. Austria became the first European

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Bishop's University honours Archbishop Desmond Tutu

BY MATT MCCOOEYE

LENNOXVILLE, Que. (CUP) — Nobel Peace Prize laureate Archbishop Desmond Tutu came to this small community last week to receive an honorary degree from one of Canada's smallest universities.

Bishop's University awarded the archbishop of Cape Town, South Africa, an honorary Doctor

of Civil Law Degree at a special graduation ceremony.

About 250 people filled the pews of St. Mark's Chapel, the oldest university chapel in Canada, before going on to the convocation where Tutu was awarded the degree in front of about 3,000 students, faculty and community members.

The famous speaker and anti-apartheid activist, who has

recently headed South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, told the crowd young people are the key to the future.

"I ask young people to dream," said Tutu, who received five standing ovations from the crowd throughout his speech.

"We are too hard on our young

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