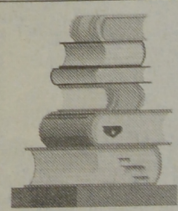


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Problems at Alberta universities

Christie Tucker

The Gateway

A former University of Alberta student who was expelled for a stabbing incident two years ago near campus was convicted last week of aggravated assault, assault with a weapon, and breach of bail.

He was sentenced to three years in prison and was banned from possessing guns or other weapons for the rest of his life.

Johnny Singh Jaswal, who on September 1, 1998, stabbed long-time rival and fellow engineering student Amanjeet Singh Dhaliwal, was just 19 at the time of the incident.

Last April, while on parole for the stabbing, Jaswal slashed two other men with a knife outside a club.

The Edmonton Journal reported that Jaswal would continue studying Engineering at the University of Calgary (U of C).

But Peggy Simons, Assistant Dean (Student Affairs) in the Faculty of Engineering at U of C, said that if a student's transcript indicated a serious academic or non-academic offence, the school would "certainly think twice" before accepting him.

SAC finds new ways to fund events

Ashleigh Clarke

The Varsity

This year's SAC orientation will be more about the U of T community and less about companies reaching the student market.

"When students stream out onto the street this year, they will not be bombarded with 'Welcome to Bell long distance,'" explained Adam Bretholz, president of the Students' Administrative Council (SAC). "We want that to turn into 'Welcome to U of T.'"

Orientation kits will still include freebies, coupons, and advertising from different companies but this year there will be no stalls along St. George st. set up solely for the purpose of selling students their products as in the past. On Friday the booths on St. George st. and the orientation parade will be composed mostly of student and community groups.

"This is a response to the alternative orientation held last year and to the sentiment that [the corporate presence] was an encroachment on the [orientation] event itself," explained Bretholz.

Last year students and community banded together and held their own corporate-free orientation titled 'This Way Please.'

"This is a great step forward," commented Oriel Varga, an organizer of last year's alternative orientation, in reference to SAC's initiative. "It was raised as an issue last year and that really brought it into people's consciousness."

Varga, along with other students and community have planned another alternative orientation this year, because the organisers feel that the SAC orientation still does not represent the whole community. The alternative event will be held on Bancroft Avenue.

"The alternative orientation is not just

about being non-corporate but it involves the different cultures and communities within U of T and surrounding it as well," explained Varga, who is also an alumni involved in the Free U of T.

Varga stated that they have been able to keep the cost of the event close to nothing because all the resources that they need can be found on campus, and provided voluntarily by different student groups and organizations.

SAC, on the other hand, needs a certain level of funding to hold their orientation.

"We have had to reinvent the wheel trying to find a different way to fund this event and make it corporate-free," admitted Bretholz.

SAC received \$100,000 from the Royal Bank to help with orientation and it is also being partially financed by the money made selling books off the SAC website.

A \$1 levy from all students is also helping to fund the event. This levy was not in place for last year's event and was voted on in the spring by the school's population.

Clubs involved should also benefit from the re-organized financing. Last year they were charged between \$20 and \$40 a table but now SAC is simply asking for a down payment, which will be reimbursed after the event.

Bretholz still believes that there is a need for some corporate involvement when events are impossible to fund otherwise.

"We can't promise that anything else done by SAC this year will be corporate-free," he said.

Yet he recognizes the importance of orientation being about U of T and not about advertising and selling.

"Frosh week has become a bit of a sacred cow. Students have made it clear that corporate sponsorship has no place at this event," Bretholz stated.

Although there will be no large companies vying for the attention of frosh, there will be a few small businesses in the community with booths and coke will be available because as Bretholz jokes, "People have to drink something."

It's all about books

Staff

The Picaro

With the new semester beginning students have to start considering where they are going to purchase their books. Although most students are led to believe that the university bookstore is the only place to find their books this is not true.

There are several options available to students who are looking to purchase books. The campus bookstore is only one of them. Other options include buying used books or going to retail bookstores, such as Chapters or local independent

bookstores. Stores such as Chapters can offer lower prices on books because of the volume they carry. Also, if at Chapters your book is not on the shelf there is an ordering system available for customers. This system offers free home shipping and the option of paying through cash, debit or credit card. Some local independent bookstores also offer to order books for customers if it is available to them. Most books on the Chapters ordering system can be received within one to seven days.

Students are best to check prices before they purchase anything. Some books, such as *A Guide to Old English* can be purchased at Chapters for \$29.95 when the university bookstore offers them for \$51.15. This is a difference of over 20 dollars. In contrast, some books that are offered at the university bookstore are actually less expensive there than at a retail bookstore. Also, some books are only available to the university bookstore as they are text books designed specifically for certain courses. In this case students can go to other university bookstores to determine if their university offers the best price.

Students need to be aware that the university bookstore is not their only option. There are stores in the area that can offer the same books at better prices. The best thing to do is to plan ahead and make sure they check prices before purchasing anything. Done right, students can save a good deal of money.

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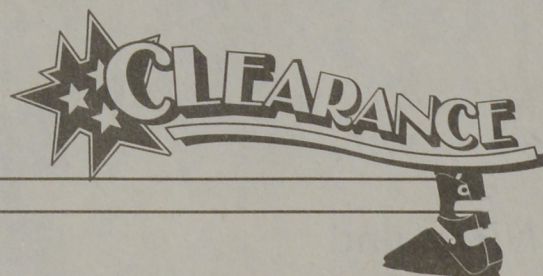
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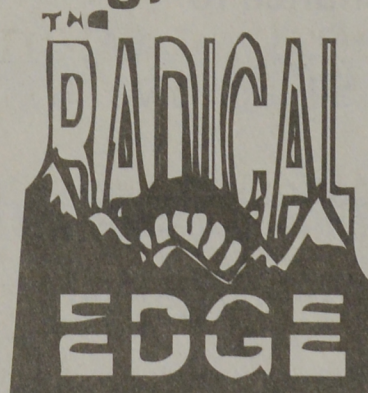
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