

# Letters to the Editor

## Dear Fellow Canadians

Now is the time to get MAD. The new term for democracy is "Say what you want but do as you're told." The GST is a blatant tax grab. Rather than make the government more efficient they make us pay, pay, pay.

Did you know:

GST in England (called VAT) is 15% on Everything.

GST in Ireland (called VAT) is 25% in Everything.

GST is being charged to charities on all money collected. When Canada follows so closely in the tracks of England, are they going to try to tell us it will stay at 7% here?

The middle class is being eliminated. Our next generation of children and maybe this generation will not buy houses. The rich, now holding and building revenue and rental property will prosper again. The government wants to keep us broke because it is the low income earners that pay all the taxes. We cannot afford the investments etc. that lower our taxes. Have you got 7% more of your wage to give away. 7% next year maybe 15% the year after. The only way to stop a snowball is to not make it or allow it to be made to start with. We are bowing under the pressure of everyone in our back pockets now. Our arrogant government is already hiring a new secret service of tax collectors before it is law.

We can still change this. Even if the mission seems hopeless. We have one hope left. To sway our MPs to vote a no confidence vote against their own party. To vote with the people. We the people have to exert this pressure on our own MPs. We have to stand up and be counted. It is time to protest this atrocity by action not apathy.

We want to form a public demonstration across Canada. This is our war. A nation wide, exact same time protest.

We are asking for volunteers in each community in Canada to head their demonstrations. We will picket the city halls and town offices across the great country all at the same time.

A housewife, a businessperson and student it doesn't matter.

Just get mad and do it!!!

Write to me now and help coordinate this public outcry. It won't be a big job. Just get the

word out to your people. This has to be done soon. Please please do it now. The time is short. Write today.

Mrs. Debbie Dunn  
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Phone (403) 346-1240 or FAX 346-2545

Make yourself the reason who made the difference.

## Watch out for Fred Flintstone

Is everyone glad that the snow will finally be gone? I know that I will because I'm tired of parking in the back forty. As most of us are aware, there is a parking problem here at the University, but when there is snow on the ground, the parking problem increases two-fold. Many ignorant parkers feel that they need at least two parking places to park their cars because of the snow. They leave spaces between their cars which are almost large enough to park a Chevette or another tiny vehicle ... but not quite. These people are lucky that no one parks their car into these spaces like Fred Flintstone would. To all those ignorant parkers, next time the snow falls, remember - other people would like to park close by too. Don't hog the spaces.

signed - Fred.

## Conversation with Freshman Students Forbidden

Director of the University of Prince Edward Island Computer Center, James Hancock, [allegedly] said that conversation with freshman students through the Universities Vax computer system is strictly TABOO.

Since the beginning of the computer era, the main purpose of computer technology (so we've been told) is to aid mankind in the repetitious and predictable tasks in our lives. We can speed

up simple arithmetic processes which take up considerable time in our often busy schedules. Also we are able to sort, view, and

manipulate vast amounts of data at the touch of a few keys on a computer. As computers begin to flood into the nation's households, it only makes sense that the act of simple communication, a communication which is guaranteed by the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, should be made accessible to all who wish to make use of it.

Basic political, educational, economic, and business decisions which are crucial to the welfare of this small world we live in, are now being decided by the touch of buttons; buttons who's homes lie on the keyboards in many business offices, and households throughout the world. Instant information can be sent VIA telephone lines, information too vast to hear and understand through simple verbal communication, yet as accurate, and precise as the original data. What would happen to today's world if this vital link were to be broken. James Hancock, Director of the University of Prince Edward Island's Computer Center would know better than anyone else here at U.P.E.I.

Mr. Hancock, in his infinite wisdom, has seen fit to decide which UPEI students should and shouldn't be able to communicate using the University's computer system. He, of course, wasn't brave enough to remove it from all students, but rather picked on just freshman students; not all freshman students, but most. It appears that the few freshman students that he has deemed more important than others, were overlooked in his communication crackdown. One Student, Tracy Smith, was [allegedly] granted Mail privileges as long as she promised not to persist in her complaints to the Student Union.

As for me, I wasn't so lucky. After standing up for what I believe is right, I not only had my mail privileges revoked, but access to my personal account which I use for school projects, was also denied. I was writing a program, in my spare time, which would allow freshman students to communicate using the computer facilities. Unfortunately, according to Mr. Hancock: "...Freshman students should not be communicated with...".

It's time we, as students, stood up as a whole, and protected the rights we have earned.

We should remind faculty that as students we pay the bills around here, and decisions like removal of major communication devices should be at least discussed among the students before they are implemented. They should not be done behind the students' backs, and they definitely should not be done without the students approval. The Computer Center solved a difficult problem (slow response time on the VAX) with a fast inappropriate solution.

They have decided that their power is absolute and GOD-LIKE, and they will continue to pick on minorities until all students are too discouraged to even turn on the computers. They will continue to prey on the weak, and ignorant unless the weak get strong, and the ignorant more educated on the subject. It's time we, the students of UPEI, crumble the bureaucratic pedestal which people like James Hancock and the staff both below and above him so almightily sit upon!! Stand up now, for who knows what minority they may discriminate against next....

Lloyd F.J. MacDonald

Rally!! Rally!! Rally!! Rally!! Rally!! Rally!!

Buses leaving at 12:10 and 12:25 PM  
Bring a friend, bring your mom  
Bring your little sister and brother  
Bring your neighbour to Province

House Friday, April 6th.

The Gem  
The Gem  
The Gem

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Any member of the university community can make a contribution to The GEM, but the editor also reserves the right to print submissions from outside the university community.

The staff of the GEM can be seen in their natural habitat in their basement office in Main Building, room B06. We can also be contacted by voice by calling 566-0629, or leaving a message with our secretary at 566-0530.

The GEM

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