

Refuse in recycle

by Wayne Groszko

Last week, several members of the EcoAction Working Group sorted through a barrel of newspapers to check up on the effectiveness of recycling at Dalhousie. The black barrel, one of many on campus, is supposed to be for recycling newsprint only.

According to EcoAction spokesperson Mary Chan, many other things besides newsprint were found in the barrel. Among the objects found (besides newspapers) were two apple cores, a banana peel, a teabag, five Mr. Sub wrappers, five paper plates, seven coffee cups, two glass bottles, a potato chip bag and a chocolate bar wrapper.

Some other items, such as milk cartons still half-full of rotting sour milk, and three bags with half-eaten lunch remains in them. These items made the smell so unpleasant that EcoAction did not dig through all the way to the bottom of the barrel, as the smell became worse with depth.

According to EcoAction, it would be very difficult to recycle such smelly and contaminated material, and there is a danger that this level of contamination would result in the newspapers being thrown out at some point in the recycling chain.

When measured by mass, the barrel was found to contain only 87% newspapers, and 13% other materials. In some recycling programs, newspapers with contamination levels above 4%

are simply thrown out. EcoAction members were unsure if the papers would be thrown out in this case, but said they would hate to have to be the person to recycle something with so much garbage in it.

Mary Chan said that EcoAction and the Dalhousie Physical Plant are working to provide "Recycling Centres," which would be recycling bins with more obvious marking on them so that people will be more aware of what should go in them and what shouldn't.

EcoAction is a working group of the Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group. They can be contacted at 494-6662 or by email (nspirg@ac.dal.ca).

Concern for belugas

by Barbara Müller

The Board of the Biodome of Montreal recently adopted a report calling for the exhibition of five arctic beluga whales "for reasons of conservation, education and research." In the event that belugas are acquired, the committee recommended that the operation be done with "professionalism, support of the public, and cooperation of animal protection organizations." (None have agreed to cooperate so far.)

The Biodome of Montreal is like an indoor zoo, representing the four types of world climate. I remember visiting the biodome two years ago and wondering how they wanted to

fit five belugas in that tank they have, which I thought was too small to keep even one humanely.

Belugas are used to swimming many kilometres every day and have very active social lives with close family bonds.

The Shedd Aquarium in Chicago got seven Belugas two years ago, and within two months two had died. This writer has yet to hear of the other five.

Public opinion will play a key role in the capture decision. If you wish, please express your opposition to the capture and keeping of beluga whales on humane and conservation grounds to:

Mr. Gille Desaulnier
 Directeur Générale
 Biodome de Montréal
 4777 rue Coubertin
 Montréal, Québec
 H1V 1B3

The Honourable Brian Tobin
 Minister of Fisheries & Oceans
 House of Commons
 Ottawa, Ontario
 K1A 0A6

The Honourable Jean Pore
 Mayor of Montréal
 Ville de Montréal
 275 Notre Dame Est #115
 Montréal, Québec
 H2Y 1C6

Threatened river

by Dena Cator

VICTORIA (CUP) — Conflict concerning Alcan's Kemano Completion Project resumed last month when British Columbia Liberal Leader Gordon Campbell called on the New Democratic Party (NDP) government to permanently shelve the project.

If completed, the Kemano dam could divert as much as 88 per cent of the water from the Nechako River, located in northwestern B.C., to the Kemano powerhouse.

Critics are saying the venture will threaten spawning grounds which serve 20 per cent of the Fraser River sockeye salmon population, as well as significantly reduce water levels.

Campbell said the potential negative environmental and economic

impacts on the river system are too serious to ignore.

"Times have changed and public values have changed over the last 30 years. Society is now far more concerned about the impact of such development on the environment," Campbell said.

"British Columbians will not trade the fishery, tourism, recreation, and esthetic values of B.C.'s rivers for major power projects."

Alcan responded to Campbell's announcement by saying that the Liberal's stand was premature since the results of a year-long public review of the project by the B.C. Utilities Commission has not yet been published.

"We are still a participant in a public-hearing process that is not yet complete," said Bill Rich, Alcan's

vice-president for British Columbia.

"Without prejudging the outcome of the review, we felt we had to point out to the Liberal party research staff that the information before the commission is much more extensive and reliable than the information contained in their background."

Campbell made his statement two years after Liberal Neil Sweeney began researching Alcan's \$1.3 billion hydroelectric development plan.

"People say that we've flip-flopped on this issue," said Sweeney. "But that's not true. People have the impression that because of other Liberal ventures, we're lackeys for big business. I think the project should be shut down and so does Gordon Campbell."

POINTLESS PONDERABLES

Last week's answer:

Congratulations go out this week to Steve Dinn, who emailed the correct answer in on Thursday at 3:15 p.m. Why didn't the dog hit the car? The answer is because it was daytime.

We got about 15 answers to this question — the most ever sent in. One person even complained about the simplicity of the question, so we here all hope you have fun trying to figure this one out:

This week's question:

Back to the adventures of the hapless fishing boat captain...

You've become very famous since your successful passage through the Nova Scotia Triangle, and have decided to capitalize on your newfound fame by doing a movie. Your agent shows you three scripts, each written by a different author, and tells you that one of the scripts is nothing but blank pages. If you pick that script there'll be no money — and no money! Another one was written by Hollywood's best, and is a sure money-maker. The third one was written by the same team that worked on *Ishtar*.

You choose one of the scripts, and your agent picks one of the others up, revealing that it's the blank one. She then asks you if you want to stay with the script you have, or change your mind and pick the other one. Are your odds better by switching scripts or does it matter?

You can bring your answer in to the *gazette* at room 312, in the SUB, or you can email it to gazette@ac.dal.ca. The first person to get in the correct answer gets their name published in the next issue.

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