

Service, business or bookstore



PHOTO: ADRIANO CALDI

Line-ups aren't the only problem at the Dal bookstore, but with some pressure, things may improve.

Cookbook funds crisis centre

by Eleanor Brown

HALIFAX (CUP) — This city's rape crisis centre is funding some of its programs by selling a cookbook.

The one thousand copies of *Fun and Fantastic Feasting* were out just in time for the Christmas rush and sold for \$10 each. The book features the favourite recipes of many Haligonians, including the mayor of Halifax.

But the Service for Sexual Assault Victims (SSAV) wouldn't have to spend time and effort on cookbooks if it could count on regular money from outside sources.

"We need sustaining, ongoing funding. The grants are great — they keep you going. But only for a short time. Then you're caught in a catch-22 situation," says SSAV's Ann Keith.

Every year SSAV must justify its funding levels to the provincial government. Most of the money goes to a 24-hour crisis line, support groups, and a community education program.

A counselling program for adult incest survivors was cancelled in November when an 11-month job development grant expired. One hundred women were participating in the program.

According to Keith, it is estimated that one out of every four women is sexually assaulted or abused in her lifetime. That means over 100,000 women in Nova Scotia alone could need access to a counselling program.

"This is a need for women survivors of childhood sexual abuse

— the walking wounded, I call them. Their whole life has been turned upside down," Keith says.

SSAV isn't the first group to turn to cookbooks as a way of raising money. Halifax's Family Services Association has just released one. And Adsum House, a shelter for homeless women, released *From Our Maritime Kitchens* in the fall of 1986.

"Fundraising is draining," says to Adsum House executive director Susan Bulger. "It's hard to keep fighting for the same dollars everyone else is fighting for."

Employees and volunteers must raise fully half the shelter's \$180,000 yearly budget. Town councils provide \$33.28 per night for each woman housed. The home can accommodate up to eighteen residents but Bulger said the nightly average is ten.

Adsum House sponsors luncheons, book and record sales, and benefits from charity fun runs.

Last fiscal year, SSAV made \$2500 from a direct mail appeal. Some \$66,000 came from the provincial department of community services and the four municipalities SSAV serves. The rest of the just over \$100,000 budget came from special one-shot grants.

SSAV's Keith has great hopes for the cookbook, though. She said an Ontario transition house raked in over \$200,000.

"Everybody loves a cookbook — people eat!" Keith said. "We'll certainly raise money — but we'll also raise awareness of the agency and educate people."

by Geoff Stone

The Dalhousie Student Union and the administration say there are problems with the Dal bookstore, but solutions are difficult to come up with.

The Dalhousie administration has been doing a review of the bookstore, looking into some ways to improve the cramped conditions and lack of automation, says Mike Wright, the administrator responsible for the bookstore since April.

The bookstore, after many problems through the 1970s still needs to change in order to work, says Bob Bagg, director of the bookstore.

Bagg says planning has never been a priority for the bookstore. "The university has probably never really determined what it expects from the bookstore. Planning has taken a back seat to budgeting," he says.

Bagg says the bookstore should expand into a service to the community. He says just selling textbooks is not enough "They (bookstores) don't make a

lot of money from textbooks."

He says while the bookstore is often accused of overpricing, only professors can pressure publishers, because they can choose whether or not to get a book for their class. "We are in the same situation as the students (on book prices). We sell at the Canadian list price."

Ian McCarthy, vice-president of the Student Union, says there are more fundamental problems with the bookstore. "The administration shouldn't be looking at it as a business. It should be on a cost-recovery basis," he says.

While there is a need for a bookstore for more than textbooks, McCarthy says the bookstore's supply items are overpriced. "Looseleaf paper is remarkably cheaper at Shopper's Drug Mart," he says.

McCarthy says despite Dalhousie's 10,000 students, the bookstore lost money in the last few years. With its assured market, he says, staffing and other costs could be closely supervised.

McCarthy also says the book-

store has done a miserable job with Dal paraphernalia", and says he hopes the Student Union will take the opportunity to sell clothing and other items for students.

Discussing the idea that the Student Union would ever want to take over running the bookstore, McCarthy says, "We would just be taking a headache off the administration's hands". He says any such move would take a lot of planning, since the store would have to start breaking even.

In order for the store to function more efficiently, McCarthy says the store should be run more as a warehouse, where students supply the name of the books, which are then brought out by the staff. Also, the bookstore would have to find a way to attract students downstairs in the SUB. "If you're walking by with \$5 in your pocket, you could make an impulse buy at the bookstore but that doesn't happen. You need a better reason than expensive school supplies," McCarthy says.

Baha'is sponsor

Peace now

by Heather Hueston

A Baha'i-sponsored cross-Canada peace promotion tour made its first Atlantic appearance on the Dalhousie campus last week, but student response was less than great.

Tour co-ordinator David Andrews says student interest at Dalhousie is much lower than at Ontario high schools and universities. The group toured Ontario prior to arriving in Nova Scotia.

The group consists of five youths who have written and staged a multi-media presentation, "Let It Be This Generation", about obstacles to peace.

Andrews contrasts the Dal students who came to talk after the presentation with the "flood" of people they had during their two months in Ontario.

"There's no feedback here. The whole group is wondering, are they shy? What's wrong?"

But in keeping with the show's upbeat message, Andrews is positive about the effect of the performance, even on the apathetic loungers and spectators in the SUB Green Room, where the show was held.

"We focus on the possibilities of peace, not the horrors of war," says Andrews, who sported a

"World Citizen" T-shirt. "Collective will is basically the message. The prerequisites to peace are based on unity."

The performers include music students and professional folk dancers. All are Baha'is who have volunteered a year to the tour. They are lodged in local Baha'i homes, which cuts costs that would otherwise run close to \$1300 a week, says Andrews.

The show reflects Baha'i values of overcoming hatred and strife by concentrating on the basic humanity common to everyone — the "human spirit".

As one of the earnest, articulate teen-agers featured in the slide show says, "If mankind could work as one unit, towards one goal (world peace), we would be unstoppable."

"This Generation" came together last summer following a 5-day international youth conference held in London, Ontario, which 2000 youth from 72 countries attended. Of these, 150 from 16 countries set out on a 12-day peace walk, camping along the way from London to Toronto. The whole experience seemed too good to end, so a group formed with the idea of visiting the whole country and raising people's consciousness.

The show was workshoped in two weeks in October 1987. "We



PHOTO: ROCHELLE OWEN

Richard Lynch raps for peace in the Green Room.

didn't have any money, didn't know who would pay for this," says Andrews, "until the Baha'is offered to sponsor us."

Comments from the few students who were watching the whole show last week were generally favourable. Aurelio Sablone, a computer science student, enjoyed the show, but was left puzzled about the group's goals.

"They could've explained more of what peace is. The slide show said 'it's not this, it's not that'. My question is, what exactly are they looking for?"

Brechan McLean, Dal substitute teacher, also enjoyed the show. "The slide show touched on so many points. It makes a lot of sense to me."