



It's all an illusion: with no perception of depth, these "one-eyed" on lookers can't tell if the ball is circling or swinging back and forth.

Photo by Todd K. Miller, Dal Photo.

## Science fair a success

By CHARLENE SADLER

OVER 100 PEOPLE TURNED out for the Dalhousie Science Fair, held February 7 and 8 at Studley Gymnasium.

"We were overwhelmed at the response. We didn't expect this much interest from the community," said Lori MacLean, a science representative on student council.

The Science Fair was a project of a consortium of science 'B' societies, each responsible for setting up their own displays.

"We tried to make the displays as touchable and tangible as possible. People like to be able to participate with displays," said MacLean.

With the chemistry display, people were invited to test their sense of smell by sniffing unidentified aromatic esters. If they were able to find one unoccupied by overzealous kids, they could pit themselves against "passion testers", hour-glass shaped containers, half filled with liquid. The liquid flowed into the upper chamber when warmed by a person holding the bottom part.

People had to watch extra-carefully when they looked at the psychology department's optical illusions. One display involved looking at an ever-spiralling circle with one eye for one minute.

When the person switched eyes, an illusion was created where the spiral seemed to go the opposite way.

The fair was held for a number of reasons, the main one being to increase public awareness of day, said Joanne Vaughan, president of the Science Society.

"By giving the public an idea of what goes on at the university it lets the taxpayers know where their money goes and shows them there are very good reasons for the standards of education at Dal. This wasn't a primary aim but it came at a good time."

Richard Cloutier, another science representative, brought the idea for a science fair to Dalhousie.

"I came from Quebec City, where open houses are used regularly to make the public aware of what is happening at the university and to give students a chance to choose which university they might like to attend," he said.

Cloutier saw the science fair fulfilling another mandate of the science society.

"It's a means of gathering the 'B' societies to work together and giving the science society more cohesiveness.

"People have the idea that science at the university level implies a lot of work. It is but it's rewarding and fun work," said MacLean.

## Core curriculum is more bad than good

By CHARLENE SADLER

THE CORE CURRICULUM, recommended for providing a more liberal education, was criticized for limiting options and inhibiting progress.

In the Royal Commission report, it was recommended that such a programme would consist of courses in the grammar and literature of French or English, a modern language, philosophy, mathematics, history, political economy, and a science.

"The whole proposal for a core programme for all Nova Scotian universities should be looked at quite carefully," said Dr. Alan Andrews, associate dean of arts and science.

By following a core programme as extensive as the one recommended Dr. Andrews said elective choices would be blocked off, ultimately inhibiting the students' freedom to choose.

He said it would "lock up time", deterring faculty from embarking on new research projects and stopping students from taking courses "slightly out of the way but interesting nonetheless."

"The recommendation is a response to a lot of suggestions of getting back to the basics in the school system and universities," said Dr. Andrews. "It is true that the student must be able to function effectively in the language being taught."

He says the Royal Commission is a two-pronged attack on the problem of student standards in that it has recommended both entrance exams and a core curriculum.

Margaret Fulton, president of Mount St. Vincent, said the problem should not be focused on what subjects the student takes but on how the courses are taught.

"University is supposed to train students to analyse, make judgements and think critically. I am all for a program that will produce critically minded people

but no one course can do that better than another," she said.

Angus Johnston, director of the foundation year at King's College said the core programme is not black and white, but includes shades of grey.

"To learn, you must know what you want, but you must be ignorant, so you can learn," said Johnston. "The lack of core curriculum assumes students knew what they want, yet the Commission is emphasizing the other side, that students must be led. This is not an issue where you can choose one or the other."

He said there are examples where the two work together.

"Dalhousie and King's College

have programmes that complement each other. The Foundation year and the journalism school work well with Dalhousie's courses," said Johnston.

Elizabeth Chard, registrar at St. Mary's university, said there were other complications with the recommended core curriculum because it implied an extra year of study.

"We have genuine concerns for certain students, like handicapped and part-time students who can't always take five courses each year. It would be difficult to get the proper sequence of courses in the cases where students only take two courses per year," she said.

## DND spending lost jobs

By TOBY SANGER

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL defence spending cost the Canadian economy over 100,000 jobs in 1983/84, says a report issued by the Canadian Union of Public Employees.

The study, presented in the January issue of *CUPE Facts*, estimated both the number of jobs resulting from DND spending in different industries and the number of jobs which would have been created had this money been spent by consumers.

It estimates that 146,600 jobs across 180 industries were created by DND spending in 1983/84 whereas some 257,000 jobs would have been created in these industries had consumers spent the over \$6 billion DND budget in 1983/84, for a net loss of 111,200 jobs.

Of these jobs "lost", an estimated 61,300 were women's jobs and an estimated 41,000 jobs for youth (both sexes).

These findings are roughly similar to figures estimated by a

1983 report prepared for internal DND use by a group at the Royal Military College. This report concluded that "a shift of federal spending from defence to other government activity would stimulate the economy in terms of production and employment as a whole." The change would have generated an estimated 30,000 to 40,000 jobs per year.

The CUPE report also found an inverse correlation between military spending as a per cent of GDP and the rate of growth of manufacturing productivity among OECD countries in the years 1970-1980.

This suggests military spending results in few economically significant technological spin-offs to the civilian sector and has a negative impact on R&D in non-military sectors by siphoning R&D resources off from these areas.

The report argues more jobs and greater security could be provided by spending money on technologically advanced but cheaper and more effective defensive systems.

## Vandalism in Green Room is costly

By HEATHER COUTTS

VANDALISM IN THE Student Union Building is costing students \$20,000 a year, says Andrew Beckett, general manager of the Student Union.

A portion of student fees are used by the Student Union for operations in the S.U.B. Beckett said we could be using the \$20,000 for other things.

Vandalism occurs in the cafeteria and other places, but the Green Room is a particular problem. The damages consist of students peeling the chairs and there have been fires lit on the carpet.

Beckett said they haven't

caught many people. "It's hard to catch them because we don't want continual surveillance in the room as this will make students feel uncomfortable," says Beckett.

The Green Room was closed down for a while last year, but Beckett feels this is a little drastic.

Beckett said that if they caught a student, the Student Union would initially put him to work around the building for a week for free. He said they would "try to avoid charges."

Vandalism happens more during the day than in the evening because during the day there are no security staff to keep watch, while during the evening there is.

## COC opens Dal chapter

By BRUCE SMITH

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY has joined a growing number of universities organizing chapters of the Council of Canadians.

The council is the creation of publisher Mel Hurtig, who twanged nationalist heart-strings with his popular *Canadian Encyclopedia* last fall. Since the founding convention in October, membership has mushroomed to over 3000 across the country.

Fear of a Canada-US free trade agreement sparked the group's formation. "Canada, as a country, has a lot at stake if bilateral free trade comes into effect," says Andrea Fanjoy, an organizer of the Dalhousie chapter.

But the COC says it will take up more than fighting free trade.

"We hope to make students more aware of the issues and their implications to the future of Canada," says Fanjoy. She says the issues range from economics and the environment to culture and international affairs, "increasing awareness and working for what we value," says Fanjoy.

University of Ottawa student and national board member John Frederick Cameron admits he is surprised at the response. In the beginning he thought students would not care about Canadian sovereignty, but now, "the students I've been talking to feel that we have to become a nation," he says.