



photo: Daryl Macdonald

First project is "Week of Reflection" New group makes mark

by Lara Morris

"Until women have reached social, economic and political equality there will be a need for people to organize around women's issues. The Dalhousie Women's Group is just one example of how people are working towards equality," said Chris Bellon, a member of the Dalhousie Women's Group.

The Dalhousie Women's Group is the newest student group organizing around women's issues. Its predecessors include the Dalhousie Student Union Women's Committee and the Dalhousie Women's Alternative.

Formed this fall, the group has over 30 members, mostly female students. "I think it's great that so many women are interested in working on these issues on campus. There is a strong feeling within the group that we can work

together to educate ourselves and other students," said Nicole Schmidt, a member of the group.

The group has identified a number of issues of concern to women. "Our first project is the Week of Reflection to remember the 14 women killed in Montreal and raise awareness about the violence against women that occurs every day. We hope to continue with other projects next term and address issues such as campus safety," said Bellon.

Members of the group feel it provides a supportive environment for women to express their feelings and frustrations. "We had one meeting where all we talked about was why we exist. Some of the women had some incredible stories about discrimination and abuse. That's what has motivated most of us to come together," said Schmidt.

The group operates within a feminist framework. "We are non-hierarchical, consensus-based. That means we all share responsibilities for chairing meetings and organizing events. There isn't any presidential veto and the group only acts on issues when every member supports an idea. It may take more time, but it means women's voices are being listened to," said Bellon.

Members of the group hope they can work to reclaim the word "feminist". "Too many people shy away from calling themselves feminists. We think we can assert our beliefs and show that being a feminist means striving for equality by education others and sharing our experiences," said Schmidt.

With Week of Reflection well underway, the Dalhousie Women's Group is off to a good start!

No, I don't know where the pigeons went. But take it straight from the horse's, errr, mouth. You should contribute to the Focus on Dalhousie page.

Law symposium

by J.B.V. Kelly

Toronto lawyer Edward Belobaba was the principle speaker at the annual Ronald St. John MacDonald Symposium held recently at the Dalhousie Law School.

The symposium, sponsored by the John E. Read International Law Society, was entitled, "Doing Business in the USSR and Eastern Europe - A Canadian Trade Lawyer's Perspective".

Belobaba provided an interesting overview of the changes affecting the Soviet Union and 'Eastern Europe'. He said the description, 'Eastern Europe' should now be used only in its geographical sense, as it can no longer refer to the 'monolithic' structure which has recently crumbled.

As a commercial lawyer, Belobaba's remarks centered on the mercantile aspects of the new emerging regime in the Soviet Union. He said corporate Canada could take greater advantage of the perceived affinity between our two countries based on such similarities as the federal state, the northern climate, and the fact that one in eight Canadians have an 'Eastern European' or Russian heritage.

Canadians are in danger of being left behind in the Western rush to access the new marketplace of 290 million people. Belobaba stressed that despite the hardships of doing business in the Soviet Union, the corporate credo remains; "not philanthropy, but ruthless commercialism".

The lawyer's role in this race is one of "educator and communica-

tor". The lawyer must abandon the old style of practice in favour of a more team-oriented approach. The emphasis will shift to the lawyer's role as another of the client's servants, together with the economists, management and business consultants and government officials, Belobaba said.

Boris Alekhin, currently studying Canadian Capital Markets at the Dalhousie School of Business before returning to Moscow where he will be responsible for starting up a Stock Exchange, also addressed economic opportunities in 'Eastern Europe'.

Alekhin told the audience not to expect an Exchange to be operating within two months, contrary to rumours in the press. He said, "seventy-three years ago we went in the wrong direction", and asserted that changes necessary before the opening of an Exchange would take some time.

He said, for example, brokers would need to be trained. Alekhin said that he doubted the efficacy of the "500-Day Plan" and the "Gorbachev Compromise" of the Shatalin proposal, but said he supported the logical basis underlying the reforms.

The audience was left with the impression by both speakers that they are indeed fortunate to be observing the massive changes gripping the Socialist Block.

The Symposium is named for Professor MacDonald, a past Dean of the Law School and a member of the European Court of Human Rights. John E. Read is the only Canadian to have sat on the International Court of Justice.



photo: Mark Wilson

Participants of Annual Ronald St. John Mac Donald Symposium.

Hey kids, get out of that Jello tree...and speak to the student body.

That's right every week in the Dal Gazette we're reserving a space for you.

The FOCUS ON DALHOUSIE page is designed for societies, interest groups, clubs, and social networks so they can let the Dalhousie community know what they are up to.

If your group has an upcoming event or special occasion this is the place to put it.

STOP! Before you run off and start writing your free advertisement read the rest of this message.

FOCUS ON DALHOUSIE is not an announcement space, nor is it a place to put an add. This is a page with news style articles focused on groups at Dalhousie.

We will not print your piece if it reads like this:

"Hello to all my fine feathered friends. We are the Birds are People Too club. We meet where ever seagulls gather. At our meetings we generally crow, chirp, tweet, and gobble.

We love to meet other people who enjoy dressing up like birds and hanging around garbage dumps. Sometimes we even go to parks and ask for bread crumbs.

Why not come join our group."

Make sure your story has a lead (covering the who, what where, why, and when) which is approximately 30 words long.

Do not forget to include quotes in your story. They can be from your president, a member, or some one who is an authority on what your group does. Quotes legitimize your article and are very important.

Write in inverted pyramid style. That is to say give the most important information in your story first and the rest in descending order of importance.

Why not drop by our office on the third floor of the Student Union Building and talk to us. Usually we're pretty friendly, and we can give you an idea of what were looking for..