

# Women are boozin' it radiorap-up'

By KATHRYN WAKELING

In a society that seems to be orientated towards the 'he' aspects of life, we are seldom aware of the 'she' as an alcoholic, according to Barbra Vrae of the Department of Health and Welfare. This is quite a problem because "we are insensitive to the fact that women are actually using alcohol for the same means of escape that men do", she said Tuesday. Due to the social attitude towards women who drink, either alone or in excess, many female alcoholics closet themselves in the privacy of their homes where no one can see them. The pressures are somewhat more relaxed in the home whereas in a bar a woman seen drinking is labelled as loose or 'on the make' according to Vrae who said people seldom think she is relaxing after a day's work. Women, Vrae continued, are under social pressures to perform as the upholders of morality and they are given such roles as wife and/or mother in society. To the nonconformist there are pressures related to shedding such labels — they became deviants and after

are confronted with guilt for having such thoughts according to Vrae. She said alcohol becomes that out. Husbands who discover their wives are alcoholic often tend to ignore the situation and when it comes to the point where it can no longer be ignored they lock their wives in the home in order to maintain their position of 'controller', head of his household.

Alcohol is only one source of addiction encountered by women, according to Vrae who said another major source is Valium — especially for women between the ages 35 to 55. Many women are depressed with their jobs or perhaps the children are leaving home she says, and there is a period of identity crisis creating this depression. Often women will seek out their physician who upon listening to her complaints concerning non-specific ailments (which may be valid she adds) almost always prescribe valium. When symptoms begin to reoccur 4 to 6 weeks later, dosages are often increased eventually creating an addiction of which even the patient can be unaware. Pills are a prevalent part of our society and

are viewed as being a cure — especially when prescribed by a doctor, she stated. The problem, she added, is not necessarily the doctor but in the media presented to doctors through medical journals. Often it is implied through subtle advertising that valium is excellent for depressed women. But there is also a danger involved she said, if the woman is alcoholic and silently calling out to her doctor who is prescribing valium. She may develop a second addiction — "one must", she emphasised, "educate our doctors" to recognize the alcoholic because it is not something that someone will generally admit on their own.

There are many problems related to women and addiction problems, and there must be a better sense of awareness created in people towards the subject — especially for staff in treatment centres orientated to male patients, she said. There is also the need to raise the consciousness of the different needs of women undergoing treatment — a role Barbra Vrae is now fulfilling within the Maritime Region.

Another year of regular programming began for CHSR on Tuesday, the 16th of January. Many of our specialty shows will be returning this year, including "Feature" with Ric Lee and Bob Ellis, "The Blues Ain't Bad" with Andrew Secord, and the "Dirt, Silver, and Gold" show with Kevin Thompson. Although CHSR has always had many shows of interest, unless one listened regularly it was impossible to discover when they were taking place. The purpose, therefore, of this article will be to outline the various social events and specialty shows taking place at CHSR each week.

This year, CHSR plans to sponsor a number of discos. The first of these took place on Friday, Jan. 12. We would like to thank everyone who attended for making the disco a success.

Coming up in the next week is:  
 "The Dirt, Silver, and Gold" show on Saturday, Jan 20th from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.  
 "The Blues Ain't Bad" on Sunday, Jan 21st from 12 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
 BBC Fleetwood Mac Profile on Monday, Jan 22nd at 9 p.m.  
 "Feature" on Wednesday, Jan 24th from 9 p.m. to 12 p.m.

Remember, if you want to join CHSR, then come up any time and there will be someone there to give you an application form. Also, if you ever have any requests, then phone us at 453-4987 and we will try to put them on the air.

— Rick Valenta

## Who gets the bucks?

A meeting Tuesday between student representatives in the Maritime provinces and members of the Maritime Higher Education Commission was the "most productive yet" according to Student Representative Council president Steve Berube.

Berube said that while nothing definite came out of the meeting there was a lot of "philosophical decisions about such issues as student aid, increased cost of University and similar student related issues. Student members included UNB's Berube and SRC Vice President External Claire Fripp, as well as representatives

from Dalhousie, St. Marys, St. Francis Xavier, Acadia, Mount St. Vincent and Holland College. Berube said the main issue at the conference involved the loss of accessibility to education because of increased costs.

He said that "For the first time in history" students can no longer go to university because of costs. He felt that this was responsible for decreasing enrollment in universities and cited the loss of 100 students between September and December at Mount Allison as an example.

Berube said that the MPHEC asserted that a tuition increase

measured by the cost of living was a reasonable demand but felt the 11 out of 15 members of the commission who attended may re think this assertion.

Student Aid was another topic of discussion with students asserting that more money should be available to students. He said the problem lies in deciding who should receive aid according to the Commission, who are in a

quandary as to who should receive the money. He said that the MPHEC has to decide whether money should be made available to those who really need it at the expense of those who don't really need it. He said the commission is working on the same budget as last year due to government restraints and that they can either give more money to students at

the bottom of the "scale" or give more money to applicants as a whole.

He said the MPHEC announced a decision to Form a Study into Student Aid, with 3 student representatives on the committee. The study is expected to take a year and further details will be available after the February meeting of the Commission.

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