



THE GAZETTE

Volume 132, Number 15.

Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Thursday, January 27, 2000.



Juba'lee celebrates 300 years of cultural heritage and tradition. See story on page 13.

photos by Amy MacDonald

CASA Director comes to Dal

BY AMY DURANT

Jason Aebig, National Director for CASA, (Canadian Alliance of Student Associations), visited Dalhousie at the beginning of the week to discuss student debt and CASA's current "Education Builds a Nation" campaign that he is promoting all over Atlantic Canada.

CASA has four main student directed goals. These goals include

the establishment of a GST textbook tax credit, more funding for post secondary education, the elimination of inter-provincial discriminatory tuition fees, and lower interest rates on student loans.

CASA has a membership of 17 nation wide universities — six of these schools are in the Atlantic region.

Dal is one of these schools. With their head office in Ot-

tawa — just six blocks from Parliament Hill — the four employees work to improve the bleak financial situations that many students find themselves in today.

"You don't need more than that [number of staff] to lobby the government," says Aebig. "It keeps things at a low cost."

Dal's annual fees to CASA are about \$1.11 per student. CASA has both minimum and maximum

fees — UBC pays the maximum fees (\$24,000) because of their large enrollement, while Fredericton's St. Thomas University pays the minimum fee of \$2,000 annually.

Aebig's year as CASA's national director has seen changes to the previous years of student lobbying.

Aebig and student leaders from all over Canada travelled to Ottawa for five days to lobby a

number of MP's, student loan officials and representatives of the millennium scholarships in Ottawa.

According to Aebig the five day conference achieved many goals.

"It was a tour de force — It was the first time student leaders have actually done the lobbying process and not simply relied on the

continued on page 3

Development of the NS Human Rights Commission

BY DANIEL MCKILLOP

A formal presentation was delivered by the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission on January 20 at the Radisson Hotel. The general focus was on the evolution of the commission since 1968, when its first sanctioned and full-time directorship began.

The six panelists included current and past Executive Directors and Chairpersons. Each panelist provided reflections about their time with the commission, and answered questions first posed by Douglas Ruck, the official moderator of the event, and then by the audience. With nearly 150 people, the turnout was impressive; only 100 people had been anticipated.

Marvin Schiff, Consultant and former Executive Director of the Human Rights Commission from 1968-71 (then called Coordinator), spoke about the general social and political atmosphere in Nova Scotia at that time. He described it as a period of general awakening for blacks and aboriginals, an atmosphere of militancy and people taking power. The anger and fervent expressed by minorities at the time generated fear and bewilderment among the majority.

"Minorities had been demanding for a Commission of Human Rights for a long time," said Schiff.

When asked whether or not the goals of the Commission are different from those of the late 1960s, Dr. B. Pachai, professor of history and former Executive Director (1989-94), replied that the voices of society's members change over time, but that it is crucial that every voice has an avenue to be

heard.

"In that context I became aware that what is absolutely indispensable is public education. The civil service sector has to be educated and re-educated on the responsibilities of their offices. How do you reach this goal? By informative persuasion to changing attitudes permanently," said Pachai.

Wayne MacKay, Dalhousie Law professor and former Executive Director (1995-98), said how difficult it is to prove racial discrimination. Currently, cases are a result of much more complicated, systematic discrimination.

"An act of racial discrimination is rarely an individual affair. There are fewer acts such as these than there are acts of discrimination against whole groups of people," said MacKay.

He decribed discrimination as usually systematic and not overt.

"We are never going to have a perfect society, but the most effective means we have of improving it is securing the commitment of people to respect the rights of others, which can only be achieved through education," said MacKay.

"Barriers will never be broken down, to the point where barriers will not exist," said Dr. Pachai. "A lifetime commitment is required. We should be challenging racial relations headlong, because we will always be confronting this problem as new events and people arise."

Mayann Francis is the current Executive Director, since 1999, and is the first black woman to hold the position of directorship.

From 1970 to 1999, 139 cases were heard; of these, 23 were racially-based, with only one such

continued on page 3



Get well soon: Dalhousie Nursing Society presented the "Health and Wellness fair" last Monday in the Green Room.

Dalhousie societies raise money for charity

Toque Tuesday keeps heads warm

BY AMY DURANT

Dalhousie students all over campus were bombarded by many of their counterparts energetically selling \$5 toques for charity.

Toque Tuesday, an event occurring in three locations throughout Canada — Halifax, Toronto, and Vancouver — is raising money for Canadian homeless people.

This is the first year of what Raise the Roof's organizers hope will become an annual event.

Both organizers and participants realize the potential problems with this event because it's the first year. However even this is seen as a positive thing.

Rose Cousins, Vice President Community Affairs at Dal, is excited about her role in the event.

"It's awesome because it's the first year — I'll be able to comment on what works and what doesn't for future years," said Cousins.

Dalhousie is the only Halifax university participating in the event.

Cousins, says the event is a good thing for Dal because it leaves the Halifax community with a different impression of students.

"It's another way to connect with the community," said Cousins. "Dal's working for the betterment of Halifax, instead of just populating the bars."

Approximately 12 Dal societies participated in the event, as well as a number of independent students.

The day began early this morning when Cousins and about five other students appeared on Breakfast Television.

Rather than going back to bed after the taping of the show, some of the students began selling the toques in various halifax locations.

Some of these students raised close to \$500 by noon.

The volunteers ended the day at the Grawood with drinks and food, waiting to hear how much money they'd raised throughout the day. The society which made the most money during the day went to the corporate dinner that same evening where they spent the time chatting with stars of This Hour has 22 Minutes.

Cousins has extended this Toque Tuesday into a weeklong event for Dal so that more money can be made.

The society who wins best overall at the end of this week wins a pizza party.