

Still a few bugs in the system

by Wayne Groszko

Paper is collected in barrels for recycling on the Dalhousie campus. Black barrels are for newsprint, and green barrels are for bond paper. But what happens to your used paper after you put it in the recycling barrel? A tour through Dalhousie's paper recycling system revealed some answers.

The barrels are collected by Physical Plant employees and taken to a garage on campus, where four students are employed part-time to take the paper from the barrels and separate it into several categories, including mixed bond, white bond, computer paper and newsprint.

Two of the students, Sue Bagosi and Sylvain Riopel, demonstrated the sorting process. It takes a long time, and there are many things in the barrels which don't belong in them.

Some of the things they have found recently in recycling barrels include toilet paper, oranges, bananas, muffins, other food, potato chip bags and overhead transparencies. They keep a tin can of more

bizarre items they have found, like a metal socket wrench, scissors, nuts and bolts.

Sometimes they find large stacks of brand new paper and envelopes which have never been used.

Workers load the sorted paper onto a truck and take it to Scotia Recycling in Burnside Industrial Park. The students who sort the paper cannot keep up with the amount coming in, so gradually a pile of unsorted paper builds up. When this pile gets too big, it is loaded into a bin and taken to the recycling company unsorted.

The sorted paper is sold to Scotia Recycling at prices between 2¢ and 5¢ per pound, depending on the grade of paper and the fluctuations of the market. The unsorted paper used to be taken by Scotia Recycling for nothing, because it is such a low grade of paper, but with a recent increase in demand, Dalhousie now gets 1¢ per pound for unsorted paper. The university also saves 3¢ per pound by avoiding landfill tipping fees.

Scotia Recycling is a small ware-

house where piles of paper and cardboard of various grades are bundled into square bales and sold to various buyers. Newsprint and mixed bond are usually sold to a mill in Hantsport, where the newsprint is made into egg cartons, insulation, and cat litter.

The mixed bond is made into egg cartons, backing for scribblers and notebooks, restaurant carry-out trays, and those purple trays that go inside apple boxes to keep the apples from getting bruised. The white bond and computer paper fetch a higher price, and go to Québec to be made into paper towels, napkins, and toilet paper.

None of the paper from Dalhousie is recycled back to its previous form as writing paper or newspaper, so the recycling loop is not closed. The exception is corrugated cardboard boxes, which are made into more corrugated cardboard boxes.

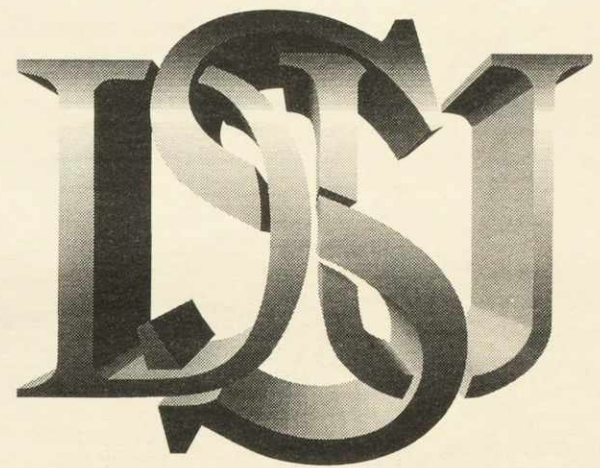
Sue Bagosi said that in general, paper is not used very wisely on campus.

"People don't think before they

throw paper in here. They could use the other side of this paper for their notes in class." She also said they find piles of ruined photocopies, all with the same mistake on them, that could have been avoided by more careful photocopying.

Some other things to consider:

"The very bright, fluorescent papers are not recycled because the colour is too strong. Please consider not using them, because we just have to throw them out, and please don't throw garbage in these bins, especially food. It's a real pain!"



Positions for Election

President } Team
VP Executive }

VP Academic

VP External

VP Community Affairs

VP Communications

2 Board of Governors Reps

*1 Senator from each Faculty: Science, Arts, Management, Law, Medicine, Dentistry, Graduate Studies and Health Science

*Subject to change—call Student Union Office for more information

Referendum Issues

1) CASA: join or not?

2) Pharos: \$5.00 more yearbook or not?

3) SUB Improvement Fund: \$10.00 or not?

4) Gazette: \$4.00 or not?

Important Dates:

Feb. 27 Monday 8:00 am

Nominations open, Pick up Package at DSU Office 2nd Floor SUB

Mar. 1 Wednesday 4:00 pm

Nominations close

Mar. 3 Friday 3:30 Candidates Mandatory Meeting with CRO

Mar. 6 Monday 8:00 am

Campaign Starts

Mar. 12 Sunday 8:00 pm

Campaign stops

Mar 13,14, 15 Voting

Mar 15 7:00 pm

Counting of Ballots

If you have any questions or concerns, call Paul Larkin at 494-1106 or e-mail at plarkin@is.dal.ca.

If animals could talk

by Barbara Müller

About twenty people participated in a nationwide anti-fur protest this past Saturday in Halifax. The group of silent protesters wore black arm bands to mourn the millions of animals that suffer and die for the fur industry each year. Protesters marched up and down Spring Garden Road, then moved to the Vogue fur store, and wrapped up in front of the World Trade and Convention Center.

The protest was organized by the Nova Scotia's Voices for Animals and Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group's Animal Rights group.

The farming of fur-bearing animals involves confinement to small cages with little or no attention paid to their social or behavioral requirements. Mink, fox and lynx are solitary, nocturnal and timid animals. On fur farms, they are packed into wire cages alongside numerous other individuals, with nowhere to go for cover. These conditions instill constant stress and fear upon these fur bearing animals. In the wild, these animals typically cover large distances every day. Confined to their small cages, they are restless and bored. Furthermore, husbandry methods have resulted in inbreeding, causing many congenital defects that result in some very basic and painful physiological malfunctions.

In response to the lower productivity due to inbreeding, researchers from Dalhousie and the Nova Scotia Agricultural College (NSAC) have received a \$210,000 grant to use DNA fingerprinting to improve mink reproduction.

"That's one focus of the protest," said Minga O'Brien, from NSPIRG's Animal Rights group. "When so little funding is available for research, money is wasted to help inhumane practices such as fur-farming."

"Trapping is an inhumane activity conducted primarily as an income supplement. It is invalid as a means of disease or predator control, and it cannot help to promote healthy wildlife populations. It is

non-selective, killing both wanted and unwanted species," states part of a pamphlet called "Don't be caught DEAD in a fur coat" given to pedestrians who passed by the protesters. One sign had a picture of a cat with a hurt leg which stated "Buddy, died 10 days after being caught in a leg-hold trap."

Many were quick to comment about the leather issue — what's the difference, or why were some protesters wearing leather shoes? Marni Gent responded that cows are not killed for their skin, but the leather is a by-product of the meat industry, where as fur-bearing animals are killed solely for their skins. "If anyone ever makes a controversial move, they are criticized," said Sylvain Riopel, a protester. "People have got to start somewhere. You can't just wake up one morning knowing everything."

Money and jobs are often also a big issue. In some people's eyes, employment is not a good excuse for an inhumane act.

"It's like saying that you can't stop concentration camps because those feeding and torturing the people will lose jobs," said Alex Lyons, another protester.

As an example for alternatives, The Sea Shepherd Conservation Society has created a non-violent cruelty-free, non-lethal alternative to traditional sealing: brushing. This hair is ideal and makes excellent insulating material — rivalling goose and down for warmth.

What about the natives? Aboriginals have always hunted and trapped for their sustenance. They live with the Earth, in harmony, and show great respect for their fellow beings. They know the animals, and when they kill, it is also to give back to the land, to strengthen the animal packs. They do not take more than they need, unlike the fur industry. They do not cause unnecessary pain, unlike the fur industry. They believe that what goes around, comes around.

POINTLESS PONDERABLES

Last week's answer:

Congratulations to a "T Pierce" who did not sign his or her email message with the correct answer of "twelfth" to last week's question. In the future, please sign your name so we know who to send the Ferrari to. Thanks! (T Pirece's name wasn't on the finger info for his/her account either.)

This week's question:

You're free! You board a train to go on vacation at a resort on the south shore, exactly 200 km away. By coincidence, another train is leaving the resort to come back to Halifax at the same time. A fly resting on the nose of your train takes off and heads straight towards the nose of the other train. When it reaches the nose of the second train, it immediately turns back again towards your train, where it starts over again.

If both trains are going at 50 kilometres per hour, and the fly travels at 75 kilometres per hour, how much distance will the fly have covered before the train you're on collides with the other one?

Answers can be dropped off at the Gazette in room 312 in the SUB, or can be emailed to gazette@ac.dal.ca. The first person to send in the correct answer gets their name published in the paper, so hurry now!