

In the Black

Program aims to increase Black youth entrepreneurship

BY GREG MCFARLANE

There are about 34,000 businesses in Nova Scotia. Less than 250 are owned by Black Nova Scotians. A new program promoting Black youth entrepreneurship hopes to boost those numbers.

The Black Business Initiative, also known as BBI, recently unveiled its latest program, *Business is Jammin'*. The program is designed to help Blacks aged 13-30 make a successful go at commerce. And BBI director Rustum Southwell says he expects good things.

"We have a lot of work to do, but it's really about trying to get our community into [business]."

The program will require participants to attend a series of seminars, write a business plan and enter a business development competition. The best plans will earn young entrepreneurs the funding to start a new business.

All entrants in *Jammin'* will also be partnered with mentors that will help tap private and public sector support for their ventures.

Organizers say they saw the need for a program like *Jammin'* because, although many mainstream programs exist, some Black youth felt uncomfortable in those settings.

Gordon Blackmore, program co-ordinator of the Cultural Awareness Youth Group in Halifax, says *Jammin'* will allow young Blacks the opportunity to develop business skills in a more

comfortable setting. "There is a lot of intimidation... being alone inside of a large group and not feeling that you truly have someone that is like

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you, racially and culturally," he said.

Blackmore also says the BBI's vision goes beyond commerce itself. The expected spin-offs can lay down the infrastructure for further economic growth.

"It'll strengthen the community. You have these students that are starting businesses and if they are successful, in future years they can hire other students, and they can serve as a role model for younger students."

Tyrone Williams, the program director for *Jammin'*, is a Halifax

native who has a degree in economics from the University of Western Ontario. He was also a Super Bowl Champion with the Dallas Cowboys.

He likes the program because it places confidence in participants and emphasizes learning.

"I went to school and was an athlete. I don't

believe in limiting [anyone]... [they] can be great athletes and great businesspersons. But for this program, I want the focus to be on education and the business side."

Other organizations supporting the BBI in *Jammin'* include the Canadian Youth Business Foundation, the Black Educators Association and the Centre for Education, Entrepreneurship and Development, among others.

Anyone interested in *Business is Jammin'* can contact the BBI at 426-7752.

Dal to sign Talloires Declaration

At the recommendation of the Senate, Dalhousie is about to sign on to an international agreement for sustainable development.

The Talloires Declaration is a voluntary agreement for university leaders to actualize sustainable development both on their campuses and in the larger university community. The

declaration is organized by the Association of University Leaders for a Sustainable Future and has been signed by 21 Canadian universities as well as 250 universities from around the world.

Dr. Ray Cote, Chair of the Senate Committee on the Environment, says although Dal had been approached to sign the document previously and declined, now is a good time for the university to sign on.

"It's a good idea to sign on now when we've actually started doing a number of things recommended in the declaration," he said. "Dal has done a number of things for the environment recently and I think it's important to recognize that."

Dalhousie is known for their teaching, research and operating programs in environmental and sustainable development issues, but has been absent from the list of signatories for many years.

Elections slow

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smoothly and fairly.

Before Tuesday evening's forum, he said he had received no complaints and he has found the elections so far to be encouraging.

But Brian Kellow, a candidate for executive vice president, says the forums have been disappointing. He says the point of the forums are to let

students ask the questions they want answered.

"Questions and dissent [are] not encouraged right now."

A Wednesday night forum held at Sherriff Hall was an attempt to correct some of the earlier difficulties.

Candidates were given more time to answer questions from the audience — a full minute — and there were over thirty minutes allotted for audience questions.

20 Years Ago This Week...

Guelph elects "nobody"

During presidential elections, students at the University of Guelph decided nobody was better than somebody. They took advantage of the no candidate option on the ballot — and two thirds of the voters chose the option, which forced the Canadian Students' Association to hold new elections. Students said they were dissatisfied with the candidates. The new election will cost the Students' Association more than a thousand dollars.

Unemployment caused by women — Chretien

Finance Minister Jean Chretien said women are the cause of the high unemployment rate in Canada. At a conference in Toronto, Chretien said too many women have entered the workforce in recent years. He did expect the number of women to decrease in the "near future". Carol Swan, an executive member of the National Action Committee of the Status of Women said Chretien's comments confirm the government's attitude towards women. She said high unemployment was caused by the government's inability to cope with the needs of a growing workforce.

Petition for exotic dancers

Dalhousie councillors were presented with a petition of 200 names for the allowance of exotic dancers in the SUB. The petition objects the Engineering Society's planned "Stag and Stein" as being immoral. President of the Engineering Society, David Bolivar, said exotic dancing is an art form that happens to have

nudity at the end of it. He defended the party as saying when a "bunch of males get together you get something of a sexist nature". Council passed a motion to allow the party saying they couldn't censor any group on campus.

Law students in Quebec protest exams

Francophone law students said a final examination system for notary students was too harsh. Notary students had to write exams for two days in June which were worth 50 percent of their final mark in their fourth year. At the Universite de Montreal, students had to write 30 exams and 10 papers in their fourth year. In February, law students at UdeM protested the Chambre des Notaires du Quebec to replace the "double evaluation system". The students would prefer an internship with a notary office.

Most bars per capita?

Halifax myth debunked

BY AMY DURANT AND BRIANNE JOHNSTON

As a port city with seven universities, Halifax has a lot of bars. The most bars per person even. It's what people have been saying about Halifax for years. But is it true?

Lesley Spencer, a second year science student from Fall River NS, thinks it is.

"Everyone says it," she said. "[And there's a] whole hell of a lot of bars in Halifax."

Greg White, manager of the Velvet Olive on Market Street, agrees.

"I think it's basically a fact," he said.

Halifax has a population of 113,910. And there are 215 liquor licensed establishments downtown — and 375 regionally.

That's 1/19th of a bar for every person in Halifax.

But a liquor licence does not a bar make. Licensed establishments include bars, pubs, restaurants and hotels. And some of these establishments, like hotels, may have multiple licences — sometimes as many as three or four.

In contrast to this number is the small town of Stellarton, NS, which has 4,968 residents and 11 licensed establishments.

And Halifax beats Stellarton

with a narrow margin. Stellarton has 1/22nd of a bar per person.

But compared to Toronto, Stellarton is not the place to drink. The Toronto liquor licence board indicates that the population of Toronto is approximately 2.5 million and they have anywhere between 3500 and 4000 licensed places.

Over on the West coast, there are 76,334 residents of Victoria BC who have the choice of going to 431 licensed establishments.

So that's where the myth ends. That's where we stop and realize Halifax no longer has the most liquor licences per capita. And maybe it never did.

But don't be too disappointed. We do have more choices than good old Stellarton. And St. John's, Newfoundland.

St. John's is another port city with a population of 125,000. Their number of licensed establishments is determined differently. The city has what Gene Healey, an employee of the liquor control board of St. John's, estimates to be 17,000 brewery agents. A brewery agent allows beer to be sold at corner stores. However, St. John's has 144 of what Healey calls "lounges".

But 215 bars in downtown Halifax still makes one hell of a pub crawl.

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Karyn Colwell RN	473-7182 or pager #2893
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