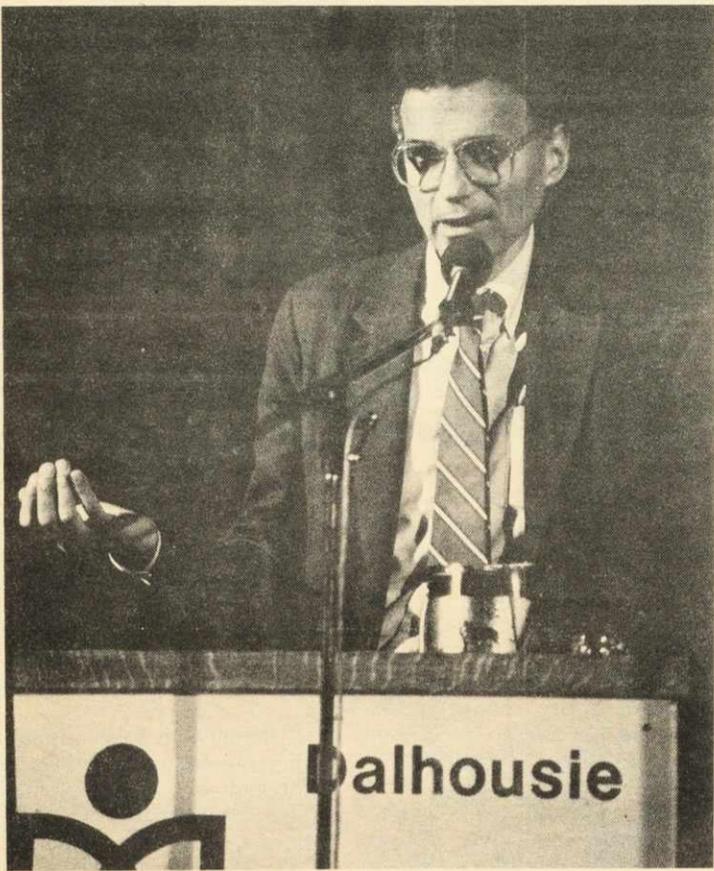


# Nadar pushes for a PIRG in N.S.



Ralph Nader tells the DSU microphone that students must generate their own metabolism for their concerns. Dal Photo; Todd K. Miller

By JONATHON PLYMOUTH

"IMAGE WILL ALWAYS triumph over reality as long as citizen apathy governs citizen exertions."

With these words, Ralph Nader, consumer advocate and civic activist, came to Dalhousie to urge the establishment of a student based, "Public Interest Research Group" in Nova Scotia.

Addressing an audience of about 275 in the McInnes Room, Nader said Dalhousie students were in an advantageous position. Since they control student levies, they could initiate such an organization and create an effective voice of civic responsibility, says Nader.

Public Interest Research Groups (PIRGs) exist in 24 American states and Ontario and B.C. Funded by a special levy from student activity fees, these organizations use the "special assets" of students to mount effective lobbying efforts.

Students, he says, have a rare opportunity — with time, resources and idealism — to commit themselves to civic works. Citing the decline in overt student activism since the early 1970s, Nader says students still

have numerous issues of concern, not just as students but as citizens. Students must now "generate their own metabolism for their concerns."

A PIRG would act as a channel and a catalyst for student activism and civic interest, Nader says, contributing to the "fulfillment of an important part of your personality: your civic personality."

Using Ronald Reagan as an

example, Nader says civic apathy has increasingly dire penalties. Students must not spend valuable years maturing out of adolescence, but must recognize their potential and prepare to be leaders of social justice.

Nader wants students here to form a leadership group that would work towards a referendum on a levy within Dalhousie activities fees to fund a Nova Scotian PIRG.

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## Confusion over visa fees

By KATHY KENNEDY

FOREIGN STUDENTS MAY soon be paying additional fees to study in Canada.

Last February the Department of Immigration and Employment implemented the Immigration Cost Recovery Program, a user-pay policy requiring applicants for Canadian visas to pay a \$50 processing fee.

Joe Clark, minister of external affairs, justified the move by citing the American practice of charging \$35 (U.S.) to all employers wishing to hire temporary foreign workers.

"Canadians are already paying for (their own) passport and licensing services" stated Clark.

The visa application fee was discussed in Dalhousie's senate last fall, and is on the agenda again next Monday.

Senate chair, Bill Jones wrote to external affairs after the legislation was introduced asking that foreign students be exempt from the fee.

A reply from Clark stated "a moratorium on fees for processing applications for student authorizations" had been obtained until "completion of a policy review on foreign students now being conducted by the secretary of state."

Sadi Erksoys, an M.A. student from Turkey says the fee already affects foreign students who have teaching assistantships. Also, students may find themselves paying twice to have their visas renewed if their passport expires during the school year.

Dean of Student Services Ted Marriott said this year some foreign students were confused about the moratorium.

Aside from being confusing, "the fee increases the burden on already hard-pressed foreign students, especially for those from developing countries which are experiencing rapid devaluation," says Sanjay Yadav, a Ph.D. student from India at Dalhousie.

Former Dalhousie president, Andrew MacKay called for "the obstacles to studying in Canada (to) be minimized."

MacKay suggested an alternative in a letter to Benoit Bouchard, minister of employment and immigration. Foreign students would be allowed to apply for visas for the length of their program. This would reduce processing costs and save students the cost of renewing their visas each year.

wanted to get across to people that they could do whatever they wanted to do," he says. "This will be a wonderful opportunity for Dalhousie students to show that they care about charity and about their school."

The run will also provide an opportunity to defeat an overconfident King's College, which claims that they can get a higher proportion of students to participate in tomorrow's run. As an added incentive, the winning institution will receive a large, striking red and white flag, embellished with the image of Terry Fox, on which can be placed a school crest.

Those who did not register at the SUB earlier this week but wish to join in the fun tomorrow can register at the run for a nominal fee. Non-athletic students are invited to exercise their vocal chords, cheering on other students.

## Dal to out Fox Kings?

By ERIN GOODMAN

THE DALHOUSIE STUDENT Union is going to give King's College a run for their money, tomorrow and help beat cancer as well.

Although the annual Terry Fox Run for the City of Halifax took place last Sunday, Dalhousie is now taking part in a province-wide challenge for all universities and colleges to raise money for the Canadian Cancer Society.

The DSU organizes a 10 km run this Friday, which will start in front of the Student Union Building at 2:00PM and continues until 4:00PM.

Community Affairs Coordinator Barney Savage, who helped organize the run, says students aren't limited to running alone, but should feel free to cover the distance in any other (preferably legal) physical manner.

"The Canadian Cancer Society

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