

# Ecology in Action Seminar

by Tarra Kongsrude

"Land use is an indicator of the well-being and proper functioning of a society." That statement came from Michael Simmons, secretary of the Commission for Land Use Planning in Nova Scotia, when he opened the first of four Ecology in Action seminars held March 8-9 at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic.

The seminars were sponsored by the Environmental Planning Department of the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, in cooperation with the Nova Scotia Museums, to highlight the complex web of land use problems in North America and developing countries.

Mr. Simmons said the Federal government's recent legislation of a land use policy is an indication senior levels of government are taking a "more realistic view" of the land use issue. Land use is now viewed as a desirable goal in itself rather than as a mere "economic externality."

Land use policies typically deal with urban redevelopment, subdivision of municipal lands, location of industrial facilities, management of watersheds, recreational access to the countryside, and protection and conservation of wildlife.

The discussion of land use problems at the seminar ranged from specific municipal concerns to sub-federal land use policies.

Barry Zwicker related the difficulties faced with the Bedford Municipal Planning Department. Bedford is the first new town to be incorporated in Nova Scotia in fifty years and therefore has many problems to tackle, he said. He noted there are small difficulties, such as the capacity of sewer lines and the

role of cottage industries.

With its 7,000 inhabitants, Bedford must also deal with the impending threat of being engulfed by a Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) residential development project which would bring an estimated 21,000 new residents to the area, Zwicker said.

The discussion shifted to provincial concerns when John McClellan of the Prince Edward Island Land Use Commission explained how the island's feelings of intense regionalism are manifested in its strict legislation. The Lands Protection Act passed in 1982 requires that all non-residents, whether Canadian citizens or aliens, must receive approval from the Executive Council to purchase more than 10 acres of land. "The legislation," said McClellan, "was passed to forestall apprehended dangers, rather than to correct widespread existing problems."

Joe Arbour from Environment Canada described the new federal land use policy as "very general and broad." Its objective is to achieve "proper use and appreciation of Canadian lands."

Mr. Arbour stressed that land use is within provincial jurisdiction according to section 92 of the Constitution Act. The federal government only has direct policy control over Crown lands, he said. However, as Mr. Simmons pointed out, federal funding can dictate provincial compliance to federal guidelines.

Other topics discussed at the seminars were: The City — so Human an Ecosystem, Environmental Management, and Opening Conservation to Man.

## Where there's smoke, there's fire — usually



by Bob Morrison

On Monday afternoon the smell of smoke filled the Weldon Law Building, fire alarms sounded, people exited the building. Four fire trucks arrived but the only unanswered question was, as one bystander commented "Where in the hell's the damn fire!"

At first it was believed the source of the smoke was somewhere in the basement. However when Platoon Chief Murphy of the Halifax Fire Dept. examined the situation, he

concluded the source was a small pile of papers and match folders which were set afire at the back of the building at the basement level. The smoke had been drawn into a nearby air conditioning vent and from there the odor circulated throughout the building.

Despite the false alarm Murphy said, "It was a good fire drill and everyone got out quickly". The only damage incurred was when one person, in a frenzy to exit the building, kicked in the glass of a fourth floor fire exit door.

DAL STUDENT UNION PRESENTS

*Fear and Loathing*  
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WITH  
Dr. Hunter S. Thompson



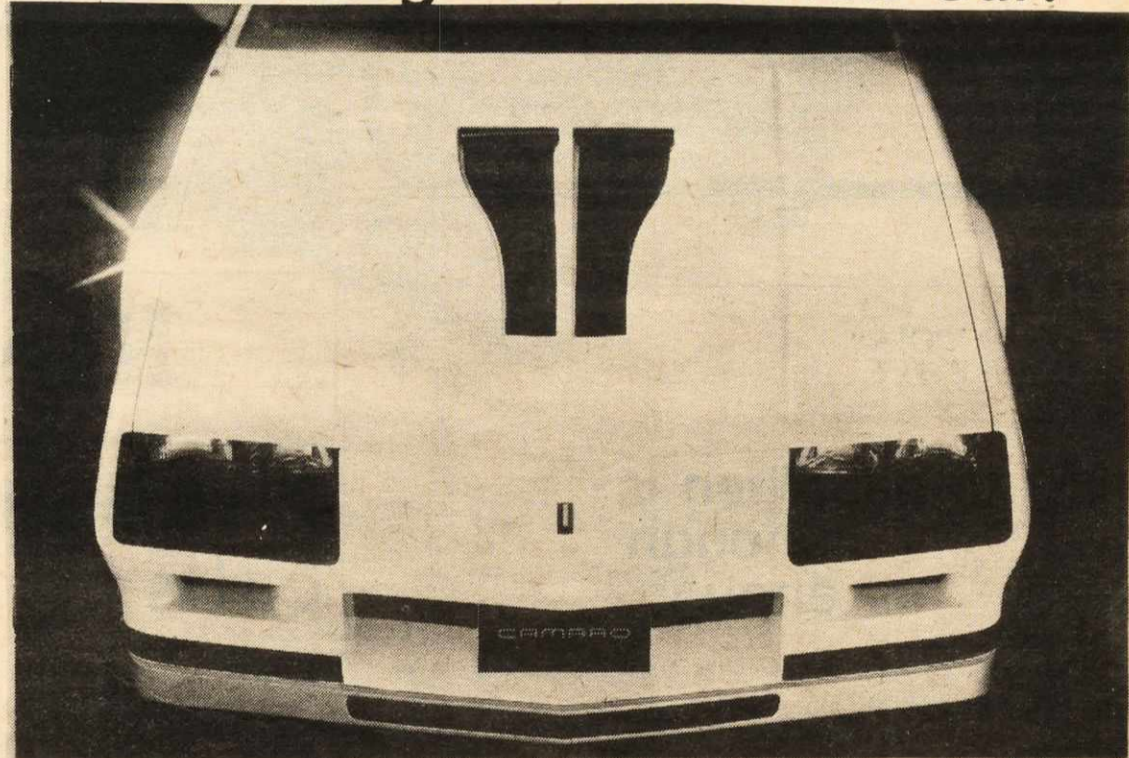
Dr. Thompson, best selling author of *The Great Shark Hunt* and *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*, is coming to Halifax.

The "reclusive high priest of counterculture journalism" will speak at Dalhousie University in one of his rare public engagements.

Tickets are \$5 for students and \$7 for general public. Sales commence March 1st at the Enquiry desk in the Dal Student Union Building. For information call 424-2140.

**HUNTER S THOMPSON**  
McInnes Room, Dal Sub  
March 15, 8pm

## Purchasing Your First New Car?



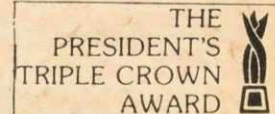
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**Presentation '83**



a showing of selected '83 models and a review of their Student Purchase Plan.

**DATE: Tuesday, March 15**

**TIME: 7:00 p.m.**

**PLACE: Green Room (SUB)**

**Mark Dickie 423-5600**  
**George Fraser 429-5772**