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Dalhousie University

TEACHING ASSISTANTS

The Presidents's Advisory Council Subcommittee on Financial Support for Graduate Students has been established by the President, Dr. Howard Clark, to review the level and allocation of financial support to graduate students, including policies regarding the employment and remuneration of teaching assistants.

The Subcommittee invites teaching assistants to attend a forum on Tuesday, November 12 1991, and raise issues that they feel the Subcommittee should address when it makes recommendations to the President.

To accommodate students' schedules, two times have been chosen:

12 Noon - 2:00 p.m. Room 307, Students Union Building (bring your lunch)

7:00 p.m., Grad House, third floor

Teaching assistants who want to speak with members of the Subcommittee are encouraged to attend either session

Garbage on back burner

BY MATTHEW MURPHY

The decision to build an incinerator for the Halifax county municipalities is not written in stone.

Public awareness of the incinerator's environmental impact has been growing rapidly.

The incinerator deals with the problem of waste disposal with "a back end solution," says Lois Corbett, director of the Ecology Action Centre.

The incinerator puts recycling and composting on the back burner, Corbett says. It only confronts the burden of unseparated garbage. This, she says, is the incinerator plan's biggest flaw.

Corbett says the incinerator's second flaw lies in its poor relationship with the environment. The incinerator will release sulfur dioxide and nitrogen monoxide in to the air, contributing to acid rain,

Carbon dioxide and mercury will also be released in the process. Proponents of the incinerator claim

that 99.99 per cent of the fly ash produced in the process will be caught in state-of-the-art filters. Corbett says the E.A.C. has received information revealing that the state-of-the-art filters on Charlottetown's incinerator have

> The toxic ash will end up in a landfill site

not prevented the system from exceeding acceptable emission levels. Furthermore, she says, the toxic ash will end up in a landfill site; Landfills leak and both the bottom and fly ash are toxic materials.

The E.A.C. considers Moira

Ducharme to be a "green mayor" (environmentally speaking that is).

When the M.A. voted for the incinerator project, Moira Ducharme voted against the plan. Since then she has been elected Mayor of Halifax, thus altering the balance on this political issue.

For now, she says, the incinerator is the direction that the Metropolitan Authority is taking. The process, however, is not finished. It must undergo an environmental assessment before final approval is given, she says.

If the M.A. was to vote on the incinerator again, Ducharme says that the outcome would be difficult to predict because the recent municipal elections have changed the face of the group.

Ducharme's alternative to the incinerator emphasizes recycling and composting. Organic garbage would be separated from inorganic by the individual.

Two separate landfill facilities would exist for the two different types of garbage.

Blue bags hit high rises

BY GUY MAJOR

Last week city council shifted into phase three of its recycling program by adding high rise condominium blue bag collection to their route. But Lois Corbett of the Ecology Action Centre says the city is still not doing enough.

The blue bag system involves private citizens sorting plastics, aluminum and glass into separate distinctive blue bags for their collection and subsequent recycling.

"The city is still not delivering a comprehensive waste reduction program," says Corbett.

'They have yet to target some of the other major waste producers like the hotels, grocery stores, restaurants and businesses."

Haligonians are also in a position to radically reduce their garbage output, she says. People really have to learn to stay away from things like glossy paper and plastics as much as they possibly can.

Municipal recycling in Halifax is a very recent development brought about by public pressure applied over the past three years, says Jim Bald, an Assistant at the Halifax city Engineering and Works department.

The first phase of the program started in June of 1989 with newspaper recycling. The second phase began in April of this year with the blue bag program. The third phase commenced this week with blue bag pick-up spreading to include high rise condominiums in the city.

Bald claims Haligonians are embracing the garbage program with open arms. His estimated participation rate is 75 per cent for newsprint and 40 per cent for the blue bag program.

The blue bags themselves are being "captured and shipped to a bag manufacturer in New Brunswick for recycling," he says.

High rise dwellers did not get the four free blue bags that other residents were given earlier this year as an incentive to recycle.



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