

Dal Eco-warriors

by Wayne Groszko

Six Dalhousie students gathered in New Brunswick last weekend to discuss more ways to help the environment.

They went to attend the fourth annual Atlantic conference of the Canadian Unified Students Environmental Network (CUSEN), held at the Université de Moncton.

The conference opened Friday evening with a speech by Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., an environmental lawyer who has successfully argued many cases against polluters of the Hudson River in the United States, and been involved in the effort to stop the Great Whale hydroelectric project in Québec, among many other achievements.

Kennedy spoke about trying to save the Hudson River, and related this to a river which is in the "backyard" of many of the conference participants, namely the Petitcodiac river in Moncton.

The Petitcodiac had been shrinking and filling up with mud for 27 years since a causeway was built across it. The restriction in flow also inhibits the mixing of fresh and salt water. The result was a loss of fisheries and other economic and environmental values. Local groups are working to have the causeway gates opened up to restore the volume of river flow.

The evening also included a moving speech by Chief Roger Augustine which put into perspective the challenges which the Mi'kmaq people face in trying to survive as a nation in a money-centred society while respecting the values handed down from their ancestors, and particularly respecting Mother Earth.

Before and after Chief Augustine spoke, the Thunder Eagle Singers drummed and sang several First Nations songs. Near the conclusion of the evening, the beat of the drum was so inviting that a group of students asked to dance. The performers invited everyone in the auditorium to come up onto the stage and form a circle to learn the native round dance.

Conference delegates were busy in numerous workshops on Saturday, including topics as diverse as environmental law, aboriginal culture, waste management and vegetarian cooking. Saturday evening, a benefit concert was held to help fund the campaign to restore the Petitcodiac River.

On Sunday, delegates from the four Atlantic provinces split into groups to discuss provincial environmental problems and strategies for solving them. The Nova Scotia contingent was mostly composed of students from Halifax universities, which made it difficult to get a broad spectrum of province-wide issues.

The Nova Scotian representatives decided to set up a provincial youth environmental network, which would link young people across the province. The network is to be modeled after the successful Youth Action Group in New Brunswick, which organized a recent blockade to protest road construction and clearcut logging in the Christmas Mountains in Central New Brunswick.

At the last session of the conference, delegates from all the Atlantic provinces discussed possibilities for regional campaigns.

Don Whiting, of Ecologically Concerned Saint Mary's Students (ECOSS) was chosen as the new Atlantic regional representative for CUSEN. The CUSEN Atlantic office will therefore be at Saint Mary's University for the 95/96 academic year.

For information about CUSEN, you can contact (ecoss@husky1.stmarys.ca).

POINTLESS PONDERABLES

Last Week's Answer:

Congratulations go out this week to Michael Small, who correctly came up with the answer that the fly travels 150km before the trains hit each other.

This Week's Question:

How do you get into these things?

You made a bet with a friend that you're an incredible problem-solver. Now she decided to put you to the test.

You've been put in a room with three light switches, one of which controls a light bulb in another room, which you cannot see. The other two aren't hooked up to anything. You can manipulate the switches any way you see fit, but you can only make **one** trip into the other room to see the bulb. How can you find out which switch controls the bulb?

Assume all switches are currently off.

Assume all switches are labelled on/off.

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 get the correct answer in gets their name published in the next issue, so hurry!



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