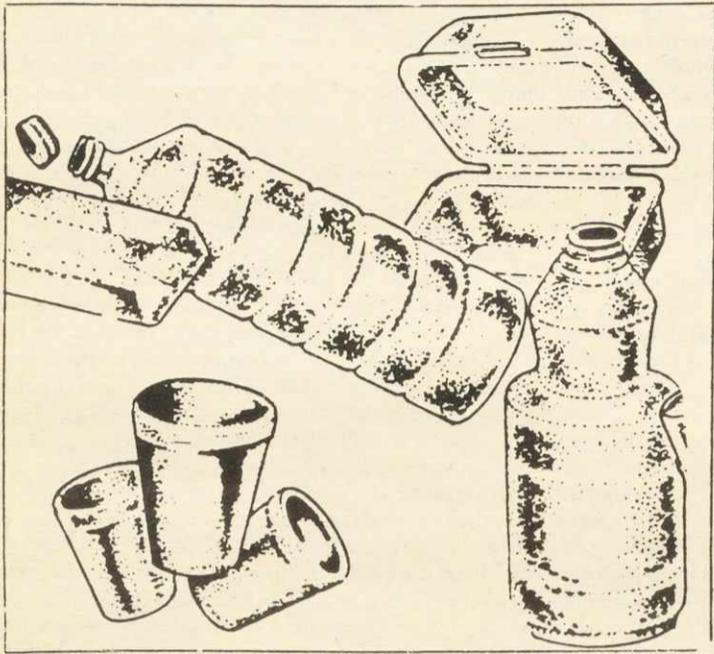


news

Wanton, wicked, wasteful



by Lisa Roberts

The Clean Nova Scotia Foundation is sponsoring Waste Reduction Week, October 22-30. CEAG (Campus Environmental Action Group), PIRG and the Physical Plant are busy planning events for the week, especially for Wasteless Wednesday.

REDUCING WASTE...

Why?

- Canada produces more waste per capita than any other country in the world- 2 kilograms per person per day.
- Most of this waste ends up in landfill sites. Halifax is already in a garbage crisis. By 1997, 50% of Canadian communities will run out of landfill space.
- Generating garbage uses a lot of resources, many of which are non-renewable. Forests are considered a renewable resource, but they are not being renewed at the rate of consumption (40,000 trees daily for Canada's newspapers, just for example).

- Leachate from landfills pollutes our water supplies.
- Most of the waste we produce can easily be eliminated.

How?

- Recycle. In Halifax there is curbside collection of tin, aluminium, and steel cans, 2 litre plastic pop bottles and newspapers. Just put these things in a see-through plastic bag and leave them out next to your garbage on your regular collection day. Your newspapers should be put in a separate plastic bag if it's wet out.
- There are also collection containers for recyclables around campus. If you need more information about recycling in Halifax, call the Clean Nova Scotia Foundation or the Ecology Action Centre.
- Compost. About 30% of the waste from our homes is compostable. This includes all yard waste and food waste except for meat and dairy products. It's easy to do. If you have space for a compost heap outside, get a container with a few holes in the bottom,

put some twigs or corn cobs at the bottom to keep air circulating, and start throwing in your yard and food waste. It's good to balance these two types of compostables, so collect some dried leaves now and add them in with your food waste over the winter. If you don't have a yard, get some wood shavings to throw in once in a while.

If you live in an apartment, try worm composting. Red wigglers will break down your kitchen waste into fertilizer. You need a plastic or wooden unit, with a drip tray, a lid, and ventilation holes, and twice as many worms by weight than waste produced daily. Keep in mind that each half pound of worms requires a cubic foot of living space. Need more info? Again, the Clean Nova Scotia Foundation is a great resource. They also have deals on commercial composting units. As well, CEAG will be in the SUB with lots of information on Wasteless Wednesday.

- Be a smart consumer. Buy unpackaged and reusable goods.
- Be imaginative and dedicated. Take paper from the recycling bins next to photocopiers for notepaper. Reuse the front half of greeting cards as postcards. (This is great for old Christmas cards.) Carry a mug and a cloth napkin.

WASTELESS WEDNESDAY

This is a day dedicated to reducing all kinds of waste; garbage, electricity, water, resources. Please try and make the small changes in your schedule which will achieve this. Bring your own lunch in reusable containers and bag, rather than eating in the wasteful on-campus dining facilities. Ride your bike to school, or take the bus, or, at least, carpool. Start your compost heap. Do your laundry in cold water, using enviro-friendly soaps. Then use a drying rack or a clothesline. Think about the impact of all your activities, and minimize the waste you create.

Might as well go for a SODALES

by Stephen George Atchison

On the weekend of September 25, Sodales (the Dalhousie University Debating Society) hosted its Annual Novice Debating Tournament. Open to all schools from the Atlantic Provinces, this tournament provides a chance for new debaters to try their hand at debating in a competitive context.

The tournament was well attended, with fourteen teams representing six Atlantic Canadian universities. The schools included Dalhousie, King's College, Memorial, Mount Allison, Saint Thomas University and the University New Brunswick.

Six debating rounds were conducted, and teams had the opportunity to attend seminars between each round. The first seminar provided an

introduction to the sport of Canadian University Debating and subsequent sessions focused on the specific skills needed for competitive debating.

All debaters performed exceptionally well, and the dinosaurs (commonly known as experienced debaters) agreed that the level of debate exceeded that found at many large championship tournaments.

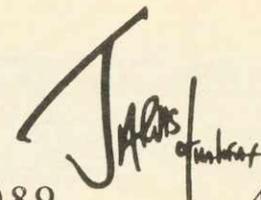
The teams from Dalhousie and King's College proved to be the strongest speakers of the weekend as the King's team of Laura Penney and Jessica Radke defeated the Dalhousie team of Patricia Thiel and Shannon Aldiger in the final round by arguing that frontal nudity by both sexes should be permitted in Canada. Thiel and Penney also served notice of their speaking prowess as Thiel took the top speaker and Penney placed

second, a mere 0.5 point behind. Also placing well in the individual speaking category were Mateo York from Dalhousie (3rd), Jessica Radke from King's (4th) and Alice Smith from Mount Allison (5th).

Many thanks are due to Sudana MacDonald (Tournament Coordinator), Jennifer Harnum, Scott McDougall and the many others who volunteered their time and efforts for the weekend.

Sodales meets every Tuesday at 6:30 in the Council Chambers of the Student Union Building. Any Dalhousie or King's Student interested in debating, public speaking, improve their presentation skills or just listening are welcome to attend. Any questions may be directed to 477-4532 or to Sodales mailbox located at the Inquiry Desk of the SUB.

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