

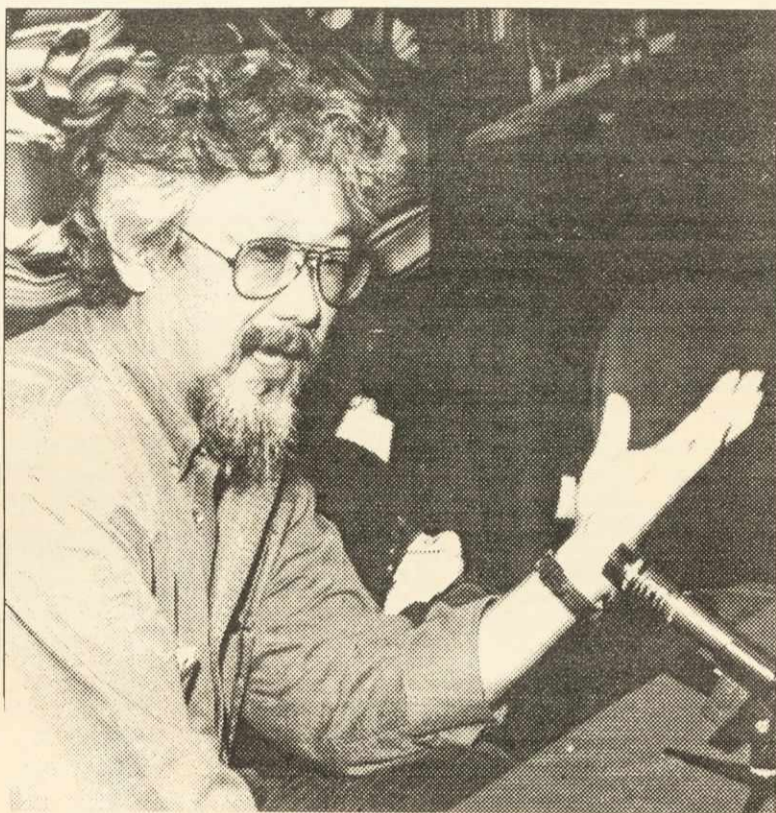
science

Suzuki goes fishing for an answer

As a member of the *Dalhousie Gazette*, I had the opportunity to not only attend the Economics and the Environment lecture hosted by the Dalhousie Science Society (DSS), I had the chance to participate in the pre-lecture news conference. Through both events, a few issues came through quite strongly. The first is that the crisis in the Atlantic fisheries is widespread and scientists don't have a solid explanation yet. Secondly, the DSS brought together four speakers each with a different perspective on the issues. Lastly, there are too many people who seem to believe that every word out of David Suzuki's mouth is scripture.

The first speaker at the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium was Dalhousie's own Dr. Bob Fournier. He is certainly an entertaining speaker and he outlined the problems well, but his conservative approach to a possible solution was not well received by most of the audience or some of his fellow speakers.

Following him was the president of Clearwater Fine Foods and an officer of our Board of Governors, Mr. John Risley. He attempted to bring a "concerned businessman" viewpoint to the discussion, but despite his possible explanations for the present crises and his brief history into previous fish crises, he still came across as the bad guy. All through his talk and through the press conference I got the impression that he was trying to lay blame elsewhere while refusing to accept the possibility that big business may have to shoulder most of the responsibility. His cause was not helped by a cheap shot he made di-



David Suzuki at the news conference.

DALPHOTO: MIKE DEVONPORT

rected at some environmental groups.

By far, the most passionate speaker of the whole evening was Mr. Gary Dedrick. I was finally presented with a face and a point of view that helped me identify with the fisherman's side of this crisis. He clearly presented the frustration and desperation most fishermen feel in a very down-to-earth and direct fashion. He offered no scientific explanations or solutions, but did stress that he and most fishermen felt it wasn't the people who over-fished, it was the gear they used. While this sounded ludicrous

at first, Mr. Dedrick's knowledge as a fisherman and his personal passion on the subject managed to convince me this explanation was at least possible.

This brings us to Dr. David Suzuki, the obvious drawing point for the lecture. Dr. Suzuki is certainly a very entertaining speaker (he spoke for close to two hours and always kept the audience's attention) and is quite knowledgeable, but he wandered off topic. Whether this was by design because he was the keynote speaker or if he wanted to fill up his time, I

don't know. The amount of time he concentrated specifically on the crises in the Atlantic fisheries was no more than 15 minutes while the rest of his time was devoted to tying all of the world's environmental problems into each other and the fact that as humans, we still have a very narrow view of our role in the Earth's ecosystem. Time after time he stressed how little we understand nature and that perhaps we should slow down our technology and concentrate on how we can better fit into nature. For every bit of vigour and intensity Mr. Dedrick expressed towards fishermen and their industry, Dr. Suzuki surpassed it in his devotion towards solving the ecological problems of today.

points, he certainly is convincing in letting the listener know that changes in our lifestyle and our attitudes must start now.

This brings me to one final point on Dr. Suzuki and the lecture as a whole: what Dr. Suzuki or any of the other speakers say is not always going to be the final word on a subject. Too many times I found people applauding Dr. Suzuki for comments that didn't merit the response. This is in no part his fault; he cannot be responsible for how people react to his statements. What people should do though is examine his comments, along with Dr. Fournier, Mr. Risley and Mr. Dedrick, and then form their own opinions and act on those.

While I may not agree with all his

Colin Mac Donald

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POINTLESS PONDERABLES

Answer: What could the wise truck driver have told the two students? Simply to switch cars. Since the race stipulated that it was the last car to reach Dartmouth that determined the winner, switching cars would mean each student would want the car they then drove to be first, ensuring that their own would be last. Our winner this week was Greg LeClaire who bounded in eagerly at 11:30 with the answer. An honorable mention goes to James Hubley from SMU who had the interesting answer that the truck driver informed the two of a sale in Dartmouth. Keep those answers coming, and remember to respond early as winning answers have been arriving very soon after the paper hits the stands.

Question: In response to some requests for a harder puzzle, we have what may be a stumper for a few. You are in a local Green Gables getting ripped off on a few items. After looking around, you head to the checkout with four things to be purchased and hand them to the clerk to be rung in. The clerk works the register and tells you the total is \$7.11. "What a coincidence," you say, "just like 7-11, the American convenience store. How did you arrive at this total?" The clerk responds by telling you she multiplied the price of the four items together. "What crooks!!" you blurt, "You're supposed to add the prices!" Embarrassed, the clerk adds the prices this time and tells you the price is still only \$7.11. What could the prices of your items be then, assuming none are free?

Please send answers c/o the Gazette, Room 312, SUB or by email to GAZETTE@ac.dal.ca. Entries must be received by Monday at 4 pm.

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