

## Students take out the garbage **SUB** trash displayed

by Wayne Groszko

On Tuesday, October 25, garbage was piled up in front of the Student Union Building (SUB). The pile of garbage was on display to mark Nova Scotia Waste Reduction Week.

According to the organizer, Mary Chan, the pile was a collaborative effort between EcoAction and the Dalhousie Physical Plant. EcoAction came up with the idea, and produced posters with information about garbage at Dalhousie University. For their part, Physical Plant piled the garbage on the lawn in front of the SUB, and took it away afterward.

The pile of garbage, about the size of a car, represented the amount which is thrown out from the SUB each day. To put the amount in perspective, if the Student Union was forced to keep it in the building, it would fill the McInnes Room in a year.

Signs poking out of the pile explained the composition of on-campus garbage, and pointed out that the majority (over 75%) need not be thrown out, because it is either compostable, recyclable, reusable, or should never have been produced in the first place.

One particularly troubling component of the garbage (almost 20%) was materials for which a recycling program already exists on campus. These materials are newsprint, fine paper and aluminum cans. If 20% of the garbage is still made up of these materials, then the recycling programs which already exist are not used to their full potential.

The existing on-campus recycling programs are operated by Physical Plant. Michael Murphy, Dalhousie's manager of Environmental Services, said that Physical Plant is working to improve existing programs. A waste audit of the campus was performed last year. The waste audit formed the basis of the information displayed by EcoAction, and also contained several recommendations for how programs could be better designed.

Physical Plant is now working to implement some of the recommendations. Of course, the success of any program depends on the willingness of students, faculty and staff to learn to use it properly.

The reasons for Physical Plant's efforts to reduce waste are both environmental and economic. There are obvious benefits to the environment as waste is reduced, but as the cost of waste disposal increases exponentially, the economic benefits to the university become significant as well.

According to EcoAction, the purpose of the display was to demonstrate that too much garbage is produced here on campus, and in our society generally, and that the solutions to this problem are not technically difficult.

Solving the problem will be a gradual process of realizing that the present pattern cannot continue, and shifting to buying less garbage, re-using materials, composting, and recycling. A workshop entitled "Alternatives to the Garbage Can" was held the same evening to work on incorporating these solutions into day-to-day activities.

## Charges laid

by Judy Reid

Seven people have been charged in the beating of Phi Kappa Pi fraternity member Darren Watts.

Watts, a University of King's College student, was nearly beaten to death on September 11 outside the fraternity house on Robie Street. Watts has since regained consciousness and according to reports can read and talk.

Six of the seven charged during the arraignment on October 24 are Damon Cole, 18; Spencer Dixon, 18; Herman McQuaid, 18; Guy Robart, 24; Stacey Skinner, 18; and Cyril Smith, 19. The identity of the seventh, a youth, is protected under the Young Offenders Act.

"The frat is relieved that the people who have done this are in the custody of the law," said Phi Kappa Pi member Joey Crocker.

Two more charges were made in connection with the beating. Terry Dixon, 18, is charged with assaulting 19 year-old Shannon Burke, and

Burke was charged with assaulting two women at the fraternity party.

Constable Gary Martin said police investigation was difficult because of the number of people that had to be interviewed. Approximately 60 witnesses were interviewed.

In order to protect two key witnesses from harassment and intimidation, Crown attorney Frank Hoskins will not release their names until they are set up in a witness protection program.

"Halifax police are very pleased with the people that stepped forward," said Constable Martin.

Gurpreet Singh is one of many students who have been following events since Darren Watt's beating.

"I feel really bad for what you went through," said Singh when asked what she would say to Watts if she had the chance. "I hope you pull out of it soon."

"The brothers of Phi Kappa Pi sincerely appreciate the support Dal students and King's students have given," he said.



Members of EcoAction (back, l-r) Mary Chan, Laura Mucklow, (front, l-r) Kerry Butler, Sean Moore and Barbara Müller hang out with some trash in front of the SUB.

PHOTO: MIKE DEVONPORT

Membership in national union set to end on June 30, 1995

## Dalhousie pulls out of CFS

by Jessica Berry

Sixteen per cent of Dalhousie students went to the polls last week and voted to reject Dalhousie's membership in the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS). Almost 900 votes were cast in support of leaving the organization compared to the 695 for remaining in CFS.

Dalhousie is one of the CFS founding members and currently one of its four largest affiliates. By leaving CFS, Dalhousie reduces the CFS membership by more than 10,000 students and its revenue by more than \$60,000.

Oponents of CFS claimed the association was a waste of student's money.

*"...students finally got the chance to voice their opinions."*

Hal Maclean of the 'No' Committee stated in the CFS referendum supplement published by the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU): "For twelve years CFS has gotten away with taking your money and never earning it."

In response to the election results, Maclean said he was "glad students finally got the chance to voice their opinions." Maclean is pleased that Dalhousie is no longer a member of the CFS. He believes that there are more constructive ways and groups available to advocate the Canadian student voice.

Although still in its infancy, Maclean feels the Canadian Alliance of Students Association (CASA) offers a viable alternative

to CFS. CASA, composed of 23 non-aligned schools, is in the process of drafting a constitution to be presented this November in Edmonton.

The difference between CFS and CASA, according to Maclean, is that CFS conferences are "hard core, frustrating, with a structure impossible to fix" whereas CASA has the potential to achieve a "high degree of consensus not possible in CFS."

Dalhousie is not the only school questioning the merits of membership in the CFS. The CFS faces the possibility of losing other universities. Twelve campuses are holding referenda this year, including the four largest CFS members: Dalhousie, McMaster, York and Simon Fraser.

Candida Rifkind, a member of the 'Yes' committee, acknowledged that some problems exist in the CFS. However, she did not see them as necessitating Dalhousie's complete withdrawal.

"The way for students to be heard is not to leave CFS, but to focus on making some concrete changes," said Rifkind.

Rifkind accepts the election results but finds the demographics of those students who came out to vote intriguing. Before the count from Howe Hall (the largest residence at Dal) was in, there was a margin of only 75 votes between the two sides.

"[Students at] Shirreff Hall, the Arts and Administration building and Dalplex all voted in favour of continuing Dalhousie's membership in CFS," said Rifkind.

While both the 'Yes' and the 'No' committees agreed not to campaign in the residences, Rifkind felt the 'Yes' side may not have adhered to this agreement. Both the demographics and the fact that some members of the 'No' committee, includ-

ing Maclean, live in Howe Hall appear to support Rifkind in her assumption.

With respect to CASA, Rifkind tamed her enthusiasm for two reasons.

"Firstly, CASA does not yet exist; it remains an informal organization," said Rifkind. "And it takes years to set up contacts in Ottawa." Rifkind believes CASA is "naive" to think they can effectively influence government policy right away.

Furthermore, Rifkind questioned CASA concern over "what is a student issue and what is a social issue. CASA plans to a focus on primarily what it perceives as student issues such as tuition.

"CFS," Rifkind pointed out,

*Before the Howe Hall count was in, there was a margin of only 75 votes...*

"spoke out about both student and social concerns. With CASA, campaigns such as "No Means No" [a CFS campaign on acquaintance rape] will be impossible."

Whatever the outcome of this year's 12 CFS membership referenda or the November meeting of CASA, Dalhousie students have voted to exit CFS.

Dalhousie remains a member until June 30, 1995. Rifkind hopes students will be made aware of this and that the DSU will do its best to see that Dalhousie benefit from CFS, as this year's fees have already been paid.