

Wasting away again

by Peter Angione

By taking simple measures and by thinking before buying and discarding, Nova Scotians can reduce the waste they put out for collection by up to 84%. October 24-30, 1992, was Nova Scotia's first Waste Reduction Week, organized by The Clean Nova Scotia Foundation to get our province moving on waste reduction.

Every Canadian produces approximately 2 kilograms of garbage per day. Multiply that by 27 million Canadians and you have a lot of garbage. In fact, Canada produces the most waste per capita of any country in the world.

Dalhousie University is doing its part to help save our environment with its own recycling program. The University's recycling program has sent 128.4 tones of paper products to Scotia Recycling since it began.

"More and more people are be-

coming aware of the program," says Mike Murphy, manager of the university's Environmental Services Department.

"We've had exposure in both newspapers on campus and through individual departmental newsletters," says Murphy. We've tried to put

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some signage up around campus but we find that it disappears," he adds.

Murphy is hopeful that in the near future a general recycling information centre will be set up so that people around campus will know what the different colour barrels around campus mean and what goes in and what does not.

Although the recycling program has been deemed a success, Murphy admits there are still a few glitches in the system which he hopes to correct over the coming year. "Barrels in high traffic areas such as the SUB tend to get used as garbage cans rather than recycling barrels," says Murphy.

The program has been pushing for the recycling of glass and plastics, however, Murphy says only certain plastics are recyclable in our market. "They tend to be grocery bags and the large 2 litre pop containers," says Murphy. "The waste audit will tell us in terms of plastic or glass we produce on campus and through that result we will determine what kind of a program we can have for those items," he adds.

Murphy foresees future expansion of the program over the next few years. "We are filling in some of the holes that exist and we will be adding a few more aluminum can containers," says Murphy.

Grumblings from Mardi Gras

by Judy Reid & Wendy Williams

Halifax's Mardi Gras may quickly lose its status as one of North America's largest Halloween extravaganzas, second only to New York City's. As compared to an attendance of 60,000 in 1988 and 15,000 last year, this year's street party dwindled to a paltry 5000. Approximately 100 police were on patrol to make 103 arrests. Despite the drop in attendance, the number of people in the drunk tank was a comparable 125. In fact, the ratio of liquor-related charges increased 2 1/2 times.

Line-ups to some clubs were an hour or more long and people could be seen hopping up and down in an attempt to keep warm. It was a cool 3 degrees, but still warmer than other Mardis in the past.

Although lacking in size, Mardi Gras proved to be colourful and lively. A walking Far Side cartoon, a piece

of toast, too many well-endowed cows to count and students wearing their university jackets were among the imaginative and the not-quite-as-imaginative creatures present.

Choruses of off-key singing could be heard as partiers tried to out-shout each other to the tunes of "American

too many well-endowed cows

Pie", "More than Words" and "Jingle Bells." The streets also rang with shouts of approval from fellow masqueraders. One Captain Picard in particular was besieged by trekkies who couldn't believe he wasn't the real thing. However, not everyone was delighted with the comments on their costumes.

"I'm sick of people asking if I'm a potato," explained a piece of toast,

and proceeded to insult a lumberjack who had asked if he was supposed to be a tooth.

There could be a wide range of variables contributing to the apparent decline in popularity of this Haligonian tradition. Perhaps it is the past bad publicity surrounding Mardis Gras as one huge drunken brawl. Maybe all the baby-boomers stayed home to take the kids out trick-or-treating instead. It could be an example of the subdued effect of the recession on frivolous spending, or simply the result of total burn-out after the Blue Jays partying during the World Series.

In any case, there will always be a few die-hards to keep Mardis Gras alive.

"I love this," said Captain Picard as a slightly intoxicated Grim Reaper hit his knees in shock at seeing the Captain before him.

"I wouldn't miss this for anything."

EWOC

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Will increased wages be the union's only objective?

Wages will certainly be one concern a union local will address, but it will not be the only one. A union local can also deal with other issues raised by its members. These might include work loads, job security, medical and dental benefits, pension plans, maternity leave, and occupational health and safety issues. It will be up to the educational workers at Dal to decide if, and how, we should deal with these or other concerns.

How would increased wages for educational workers affect the "freeze the fees" campaign? Will fees go up?

There is no reason to expect that fees should increase to provide educational workers with reasonable working conditions. Despite the current provincial wage freeze, President Clark recently wrote that regular faculty received Career Development Increments of \$1300-2000, and members of the senior administration got "only" \$1000-2000 increases this year (Dalhousie News, Sept. 9, 1992). Although other educational workers represent only a minuscule part of the University's budget, they got nothing at all again this year. EWOC feels that, if funds are managed properly, it should be possible to provide TAs, sessionals, and others with reasonable wages and working conditions without increasing student fees.

How can I have a say in EWOC?

If you have any questions, comments, complaints, or concerns about EWOC, if you would like to receive the EWOC newsletter, or if you would like to help us in your department, we can be reached by phone at 492-8295, by FAX at 423-9056, or by mail at #102-1271 Church St., Halifax NS, B3J 3L3. Or use campus mail to contact Jenn Hoar or Steve Smith in Biology, or Tim Stapleton or Mike Earle in History. Or attend our information session at 1 pm on Nov. 14th in room 224-226 of the SUB. We would especially like to hear from undergrad TAs, tutors, and markers, since you are the hardest people for us to locate. If EWOC is going to effectively represent your views, we need your input.

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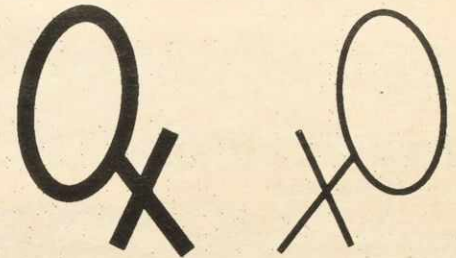
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