

Ecology Action Center needs funds

by Michael Clow

The Ecology Action Centre, the prominent Halifax based environmental group, is seeking emergency funding of \$3400 to prevent being forced to close next month. "We're being hurt by inflation", Susan Holtz of Ecology Action said

Tuesday. "Even mailing costs to 450 members, printing costs, phone costs, all the things essential to keeping the information flow... but people's contributions have not risen with inflation. People who gave \$10 five years ago are still giving \$10 today."



Dal Photo/Grandy

Energy strategy next Wednesday

A major presentation on the implications of an energy strategy for Nova Scotia which relies on "soft" technologies (i.e., decentralized, low-impact, renewable technologies) will be held Wednesday, November 30 at 8 p.m. at St. Mary's University in Theatre A in the old library. The panel discussion is being sponsored by the Ecology Action Centre and will be open to the public.

Economist David Brooks will make an opening statement on the role of renewable and decentralized technologies, including energy conservation, in Nova Scotia. Brooks is former director of the federal Office of Energy Conservation and is currently Ottawa representative of the international environmental organization Friends of the Earth.

Anti-hunt campaign

FROBISHER BAY (NDS-CUP)—The anti-seal hunt campaign pushed by conservationists worried about endangered species, is enjoying a world-wide success which threatens to take away the livelihood of Inuit in northern Canada.

A spokesperson for the Inuit Tapirsat, the association of Inuit, many of whom earn their living selling sealskins, says that fur prices are down by two thirds. The situation has become so desperate that the Inuit have turned to the federal government for emergency assistance.

Conservationists are deeply concerned that certain species of seals, including the harp seal, are in

danger of being wiped out—not by the native hunters, but by larger commercial operations. The spokesperson claims that the adult seals his people hunt are not in danger of extinction, and wishes that the people who are boycotting seal coats would learn to distinguish between those seals that are endangered and those which are not.

Conservationists in the Gulf of St. Lawrence drew similar criticism last year when they interfered with the sealing operations of Newfoundland fishermen whose winter income depends on the sale of seal skins.

Tuition lottery prize

WATERLOO (CUP)—The University of Waterloo, like the federal and provincial governments searching for more bucks, has turned to the lottery—but it's a lottery with a difference.

The winner of Watolotto will get free tuition for a year—a prize worth \$725.

Richard Smit, the newly-elected student federation president who proposed the lottery, said it would be ideal for a university because all prizes would be related to tuition. Other prizes would be \$100 or \$200 toward tuition costs, he said.

Smit said the lottery, which would require a provincial licence, would offer tickets at \$1 apiece.

The Centre has developed an active and respected profile amongst both government and the public since its establishment in 1971, being involved in a wide spectrum of environmental issues, such as:

- Wreck Cove Hydroelectric report.
- research on environmental legislation.
- spruce budworm symposium.
- Public Utilities Board hearings on electricity rate increases.
- 'Energy and People' conference.
- report on municipal environmental impact assessment.
- waterfront redevelopment issue.
- car pool project.
- briefs to City of Halifax's Municipal Development Plan hearings.
- environmental kit for teachers.
- paper recycling.
- Quinpool Road issue.
- Time for Transit booklet.
- Anil Hardboard Plant issue.
- promotion of public transit.
- 'Bring Back the Refillable' container campaign.
- 'Transit Dartmouth' project.
- etc.

The Centre's main emphasis has been consciousness and awareness raising, putting a priority on changing attitudes and values, "which is not a cheap thing, especially as the quality of information gets better and better."

The Centre's activities have not been halted by the financial crisis, although the Board of Governors of EAC has had to lay off the Centre's co-ordinator, Susan Mayo. "People assume somebody's funding us, but we do run on local contribu-

tions, which is one reason why we're so independent, trying to 'call 'em as we see 'em'," Holtz told the Gazette. Compared with other environmental groups, EAC's budget of \$17,000 has been unusually small and compares extremely favourably dollar for dollar with the much larger but generally less efficient groups in other parts of the country. The main portion of the \$3400 debt is back salaries (\$2500) for the smallpaid component of the largely volunteer organization, a core staff that the Centre believes has given it the ability to engage in the sort of research and preparation needed to have presented briefs before the Public Utilities Board and other government hearings. "We've not made our reputation by just being negative, but by posing positive alternative strategies which would be more acceptable," she continued.

Although the financial problem is severe, Holtz expressed a strong belief that the Centre will overcome the crisis with the support of the members and the public. The Centre has sent a letter to its members concerning the financial situation calling on them to renew their memberships now. They have launched a drive for new members (\$5 individual and \$25 contributing member) and are holding a booksale at the Dal SUB on Thursday and Friday. Those who would like to support Nova Scotia's own active environmentalists can drop over to the Centre in the Forrest Building (next to the Tupper), enclose a cheque in the mail to the EAC, Forrest Building, Dalhousie or see the staff at this week's booksale in the SUB.

History students support strike

We the graduate and undergraduate students of Canadian Historiography 498, cancelled our class, Monday 21 November 1977, in order to express solidarity with Union Local 968 of the International Union of Operating Engineers. We request other students to support this decision by raising this issue in class.

Signed:

David Angus
April D'Aubin
Rick DeGrass
Peter DeLottinville
Joseph Elias
Catherine Johnson
Keith Johnston
Tony Kelly
Peter Lambly
Peggy Morrison

We the members of the History of Canadian Labour class (History 322) support the strike of local 968 (International Union of Operating Engineers). In conjunction with this stand we have cancelled our class on November 21, 1977. We urge fellow students to take similar action.

SIGNED

Thomas A. Rose
Kathy Kiuesie
Brenda Lee Potter
David Angus
Paul H.D. Richare
Murray Dickwin

There will be a meeting of the Dalhousie History Society held in SR2 on Friday, 25 November at 11:30 a.m. The following business is to be discussed:

- 1) Appointment of a committee to formulate an evaluation form on professors' teaching abilities and methods.
- 2) Discussion on the current strike of Local 968, International Union of Operating Engineers, against Dalhousie University.

All undergraduate history students are urged to attend.