



photo: Mary C. Sykes

Because they didn't submit a piece to the Focus on Dalhousie page no one showed up for the second annual Flamingo and Duck pot luck dinner.

Hey kids, get out of that Jello tree...and speak to the student body.

That's right every week in the Dal Gazette we're reserving a space for you. A space so special its got people dancing in the streets.

The FOCUS ON DALHOUSIE page is designed for societies, interest groups, clubs, and social networks so they can let the Dalhousie community know what they are up to.

If your group has an upcoming event or special occasion this is the place to put it.

STOP! Before you run off and start writing your free advertisement read the rest of this message.

FOCUS ON DALHOUSIE is not an announcement space, nor is it a place to put an add. This is a page with news style articles focused on groups at Dalhousie.

We will not print your piece if it reads like this:

"Hello to all my fine feathered friends. We are the Birds are People Too club. We meet where ever seagulls gather. At our meetings we generally crow, chirp, tweet, and gobble.

We love to meet other people who enjoy dressing up like birds and hanging around garbage dumps. Sometimes we even go to parks and ask for bread crumbs.

Why not come join our group."

What we do want is a news story about a special event your organization is planning, or a milestone your group has reached. Follow these directions and you shouldn't have any problems.

Make sure your story has a lead (covering the who, what where, why, and when) which is approximately 30 words long.

Do not forget to include quotes in your story. They can be from your president, a member, or some one who is an authority on what your group does. Quotes legitimize your article and are very important.

Write in inverted pyramid style. That is to say give the most important information in your story first and the rest in descending order of importance.

All submissions (and this goes for letters, opinion pieces, and all other copy) must be typed and double spaced.

If all these demands seem a bit much, drop by our office on the third floor of the Student Union Building and talk to us. Usually we're pretty friendly, and we can give you an idea of what were looking for.

If you really can't stand the smell of our office, or maybe you just think our editors are too dam ugly, take a look at the first couple pages of the Gazette. It should give you an idea of how to write a news story.

So get those typewriters and/or computers working and get your story in by Friday (that's our deadline). Before you know it you'll have hoards of people lining up to get into your event, or at the very least you'll get to see your name in print.

Sodales defends title

Dalhousie debates

Sodales, the Dalhousie University Debating Society, is preparing to defend its title this weekend at the Atlantic University Debating Championships. The event will be held at the UNB St. John campus from Oct. 26-28. Sodales will send 14 students to represent the university.

Scotsburn Dairies, a new corporate sponsor, has signed on to cover the costs of the event for Sodales debaters.

President Tim Daley said the new corporate sponsorship is a recognition of the value of debating and the efforts of Sodales in recent years. "We are the only debating society in Canada with such sponsorship. We sought it in order to reduce our dependence on traditional university sources of funding. Everyone seems delighted with the results," he said.

This is not the first time corporations have been involved. "Last year Imperial Oil funded our participation in the National Championships. Sodales won that title and the resulting publicity was very positive for us and our sponsor," Daley said. "As a result, Maritime Beverages, Esso and Scotsburn have signed on to sponsor the World, National and Atlantic Championships respectively."

"Scotsburn has been terrific. They understand what we try to do in debating and support our efforts. Scotsburn has shown an interest in students that is quite encouraging," Daley said.

Sodales will be defending its title for the third year in a row. At the two previous competitions, Sodales debaters dominated the top positions and Daley sees little rea-

son to doubt this will happen again this year.

"We look forward to this event as both a top-level competition which we can win and as an opportunity for our newer members to develop their skills at a competitive level," he said.

This is the third of ten tournaments Sodales members will compete in this year. There are 60 positions open to members to attend tournaments this year.

"We have made a great effort to increase our funding this year to allow more member participation. This has been coupled with a recruiting drive on campus. The result is a membership of over sixty students so far and plenty for them to do," said Daley.

Sodales holds weekly meetings on Mondays from 7.30 to 9 pm in the DSU Council Chambers.

PIRG wants to help

After a long and at times stressful nascence, the Dalhousie Public Interest Research Group seems to be on its way towards fulfilling its mandate.

The establishment of a Board of Directors last Thursday night, and the long-awaited arrangement of full funding from the Dalhousie Student Union means, according to Research Director Joe Morrison, "all the necessary preconditions have been met to allow PIRG to develop a research and action agenda".

The general tasks set by the Board were fivefold; to provide funding and leadership in generating and publishing research on issues in the public's interest, to begin work on a project aimed at supporting cyclists' rights in Halifax, to support the Dalhousie Women's Group in its Week of Reflection on violence against women November 12-18, to develop a program to support food banks and shelters for battered women and homeless people, and to develop community and student participation in public issues work.

"The focus," said managing director Anna-Marie Larsen, "is to get students to realize that PIRG allows students to put the ideas they're learning at the university into practice. The resources we've collected at PIRG would make students anywhere outside of the rich countries completely envious. We have more money and power than lots of large communities in the third world probably do! The potential for education and action make PIRG literally a school within a school."

Anna Stamford said the bicycle rights action campaign has the potential to blossom into a full-blown project aimed at promoting rational transportation in Nova Scotia.

"Our reliance on automobiles is incredibly socially and environmentally destructive. It's time government, business and people begin challenging the obnoxious and wasteful legacy of the oil

companies and the automobile manufacturers," she said.

Summing up the agenda established by the PIRG board, Lara McAllister said, "people with public interest ideas who want help should contact us. And anyone who wants to be part of the group is welcome. You've got nothing to lose but your feeling of disempowerment."

Paul Webster

African assoc. raises awareness

The African Students Association's main goal is to promote understanding between the peoples of Canada (and other nationalities in Halifax) and the peoples of Africa.

The association attempts to do this through various activities organized throughout the year, including seminars, symposia, and cultural activities.

The association also collaborates with other organizations involved in development education, including IEC (International Education Centre), Oxfam, CUSO, Coalition Against Apartheid, and the Association of Black Students in Nova Scotia, in an effort to discuss and analyze current issues relating to Africa.

The association is presently preparing for Africa Week (Oct. 31-Nov. 3) and Africa Night (Nov. 3) Members hope to examine some topical questions over the next couple of weeks, including Africa's place in a new and evolving world order, and the effects of the changes in Eastern Europe in relation to Africa.

The association welcomes any suggestions and or participation from individuals, groups, or organizations during Africa Week and Africa Night, as well as in all other activities. Come and find out more about the Association at their next meeting or drop them a note at the Enquiry Desk, Dal SUB.

Nyambura Rugoiyo
for the Committee

