

# Students: "Hey, Stew, whatcha gonna do?!"

by Karin Bergen

Verses were chanted, slogans yelled and placards displayed by a large group of concerned students last Thursday night at the all-candidates meeting held at Dalhousie. The students were there as part of a student union sponsored protest to demand action of the candidates present to bring the strike to a quick end. "Legislate to educate" often echoed this concern in the hall.

The Dalhousie Faculty Association's strike was not directly addressed during the meeting's question period, but it was given sympathetic attention in all the candidates' opening statements.

Following these speeches by PC candidate Stewart McInnes, Liberal Mary Clancy, NDP Ray Larkin and Communist Party Miguel Figueroa, questions were taken from the audience.

"Still bubbling, Stew!" was one sardonic interruption from the audience as McInnes gave a short review of his past accomplishments, including the Halifax harbourfront clean-up project of which he said he was "quite proud."

Hecklers were out in full force, directing themselves each time to McInnes as various issues were

addressed, including Canada's role in NATO, in international development and in research and development spending.

Asked where the Liberal Party would find the billions of dollars needed to fulfill election promises, Clancy replied they would "find the money in the budget after the Liberal Party is elected."

Wage parity was high on the agenda of a group of dockworkers who attended the meeting. With three separate questions they attempted to have McInnes explain why after he had promised change, east coast workers were still earning \$3.36 less per hour than their west coast counterparts.

McInnes replied that the wage gap "would be narrowed by one-third," a response which brought cries of "liar!" from the workers.

By now frustrated by the constant heckling, the moderator, DSU Treasurer Frank DeMont yelled back, "If you think he's a liar, you don't have to vote for him, but let him speak!"

When asked about their parties' future relationship with US President-elect George Bush, McInnes replied the Conservatives "don't have to kowtow, but we have to recognize the reality of



Students protest government's lack of education funding at candidates' forum.

Pauli Grandy: Dal Photo

the USA as a big power." NDP candidate Larkin took the opportunity to voice the first Free Trade opinion of the evening with "yes, let's face reality, but let's get out of the free trade deal while we can." Liberal candidate Clancy stated that Canadians have to face Americans as independents,

"from the other side of the fence." All candidates were sympathetic in their responses when asked what improvements their Parties would make to the Canada Student Loan Program. Clancy and Larkin were "committed to an overhaul of the system," while McInnes told the

audience to "look to considerable relief from our party program."

Miguel Figueroa expressed a more detailed solution to the problem, stating that "(Communists) would get rid of the loans system, and implement an all-grant program."



## SUBterranean shop

by Ryan Stanley

Starting later this fall, the Student Union Building will feature a convenience store where students, staff and faculty will be able to buy most of the items now available in local, privately owned or chain corner stores.

The new store, to be located on the bottom floor of the SUB in place of the departing Kampus Klipper barber shop, will sell a variety of items from snack foods to staples like milk, bread and cigarettes.

Steve Gaetz, the DSU General Manager, calls the opening of the

convenience store "a service to students." Previously, students have had to venture off campus to other establishments that either are too far away to be "convenient" or have prices that many students consider unreasonable.

The SUB store, with its central location, will be much closer at hand for any student in search of a late-night snack, and will try to offer competitive prices for the products it sells, Gaetz says. All profits from sales in the store will go to the student union's surplus fund.

The exact date for the opening of the store is not yet known.

## Be responsible about . . . BOOZE and DRUGS

by Alex Burton

This week, November 13 to 20, is National Drug and Alcohol Awareness Week.

Using the slogan "Keep your dreams alive," the Nova Scotia Commission on drug dependency has organized a series of events across Halifax to raise awareness. This is the ninth year for the awareness week, which has spread from Nova Scotia to the rest of Canada.

Kevin MacPherson, public information officer at the Commission, says "the purpose of the week is to make people more aware of drug dependence and drug use." He says it's important for people to "be aware of their own personal use ... often drug users point to others to show that they are not abusing drugs."

MacPherson is quick to point out that he is not just talking about illegal drugs "but drugs bought over the counter," also. When speaking of illegal drugs, MacPherson says there is only one alternative: "don't use them." However, drug awareness week is also about the abuse of legal drugs. "Aspirin, for example, is a very powerful and potent medica-

tion, but because we're so familiar with it we forget its potential danger. I want people to be better informed so they can be responsible in drug use," says MacPherson.

The drug most often abused by society is alcohol. MacPherson says "alcohol is a drug and it's the main drug of choice." Partly in response to this the commission has created a special program for bar staff in the Halifax region called "server intervention."

Alison Hughes, a supervisor and bartender at the Grawood pub, has taken the program. Hughes says the program "talks about how bars promote drinking through happy hour and shooters and teaches you about how much pure alcohol you're actually serving to a person per drink." MacPherson says "the whole point of the Server Intervention Program is to help servers realize they have a responsibility to the people they're serving."

## Health Education students offer rubella screening clinic

Rubella, or German measles, is a mild viral infection that is common in childhood. It may result in an inflammation of the nose and air passages, a slight fever, or a rash that lasts two or three days. In adults, rubella is so mild that its symptoms may be overlooked or attributed to other conditions.

A rubella screening clinic will be held on Wednesday, November 23, between 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. at

Shirreff Hall by students from the Department of Health Education. Join us in taking the first steps toward the eradication of birth defects due to rubella. One child born with rubella is one too many. This tragedy can be prevented by ensuring that all women are immune to rubella.

Come out to the clinic and find out where you stand. You'll be doing a favour for yourself — and for the next generation.