

So long Howie, baby!

by Lilli Ju

Dalhousie will soon be saying goodbye to the most respected and the least respected person on campus. Yes, folks, Howie's leaving us next year. And it's the arduous task of the Presidential Search Committee to find Dalhousie University's 11th President and Vice-Chancellor. The Committee, comprised of reps from the Board of Governors (BoG), Senate, and the Dalhousie Student Union, is currently seeking input on the kind of president it should be looking for, and the kind of issues our new president will be facing over the next five years.

The Committee intends to make its recommendation to the BoG by December, 1994. (By the way, all senior university appointments are

made by the BoG.) The new president will take office on July 1, 1995.

As this is probably one of the most important decisions our university is facing right now, *The Gazette* decided to go out and ask some students what they thought is the most important quality of a university president.



Allison Kearns
Music, 3rd year
Her love of music.

Hugh Richards
Recreation, 4th year
Honesty. Ability to change and accept change. A team player.

Kara Brophy
Finance, 4th year
They should not be married so we can eliminate the salary for the spouse.

Josef W. Tratnik
Bachelor of Arts, 1st year
Strength of character. Determination in the face of adversity.



Do you have any other suggestions or advice for the Presidential Search Committee? The Committee is compiling the following information: strengths of the university, issues facing Dalhousie over the next five years, experience profile and skills we should be seeking in potential candidates, and names of potential candidates. Send your stuff to Joann Griffin, Secretary, Presidential Search Committee, c/o Board of Governors Office, Arts & Administration Bldg., Dalhousie University, B3H 4H6, or e-mail to JGRIFFIN@ADM.DAL.CA. For more info, call 494-1598.

Crunchy granolas meet to talk shop

by Erin Goodman & Connie Clarke

Last weekend, participants at an Alternative Economics Conference near Fredericton put their mouths where their money is — dining on a 'Maritime diet' of locally produced foods such as scalloped potatoes, cabbage salad, blueberry pudding, apple crisp and salmon.

Kitchen staff of the Kingsclear Hotel and Resort, owned by the Kingsclear Maliseet Band, responded to the spirit of the conference by providing meals that reflect efforts of the many Maritime agriculturalists advocating local food production for consumption by local markets, an environment-friendly approach intended to create jobs and to keep money within Maritime communities.

The focus of the conference, co-sponsored by environment, regional and international development groups in the Maritime provinces, was on building 'sustainable communities' through the adoption of alternative economic models. The 175 participants were environmentalists, development planners, farmers, fishers, foresters, entrepreneurs and community activists. Representatives of the First Nations, non-Native anglophones and francophones from the Maritimes, visitors from every province in Canada and from as far away as El Salvador and Thailand brought their unique perspectives to the conference.

While food was not the only focus of the weekend, local food production was acknowledged as a cornerstone of a healthy Maritime economy. Conference organizer, Janice Harvey, former director of the Conservation Council of New Brunswick, related the tale of the breakfast pancakes to conference participants. When pancakes made from a mix were served the first morning of the conference, someone suggested that a more appropriate product was being produced locally. The following morning, the pancakes had a slightly different, heartier flavour. Unbeknownst to the diners, the kitchen staff had substituted Maritime-grown and stone-ground flour from nearby Speerville Flour Mill.

The pancake story held particular significance for conference participants, after keynote speaker Marcia Nozick, an urban planner, community activist and author from Winnipeg, pointed out that the av-

erage food molecule travels 2,000 miles (mostly via transport trucks) before reaching our kitchen table. The social, environmental, and economic costs of importing the bulk of the food we eat are enormous. The question conference participants were encouraged to ask themselves is why imported goods continue to dominate the supermarket shelves.

The answer, according to Dalhousie Economics professor Michael Bradfield, a keynote speaker at the conference, is that North American society is afflicted with the 'TINA' syndrome.

"Messages we receive from big business, politicians and the media

tell us that 'There Is No Alternative' to the present-day system of economics, and if we were to try something new, we would be condemning ourselves to a sub-standard, 'crunchy granola' life-style," says Bradfield.

"The right-wing complains to

anyone who will listen that we have to cut our social programs because there is no 'free lunch'... however, there is no 'free market' either." Bradfield points out that the business sector is propped up by subsidies and tax concessions. A breakdown of the federal deficit reveals that 94% of the \$36 billion owed is a result of high interest rates and tax concessions to big business (both functions of government policy), while the remaining 6% is government spending, including funding to social programmes.

A question that came up repeat-

edly during the weekend was whether alternative economic models are feasible today, especially in an economically depressed region. Leonard Buckles, director of the Cheticamp Development Commission in Cape Breton, described the success of the cooperative movement in his region. Since the establishment of a fish marketing co-op in 1917, Cheticamp has grown to support 15 co-ops, ranging from food co-ops and credit unions to a recent venture into a co-op dinner theatre designed to capture some of the lucrative tourist market. Co-ops provide 350 jobs with a total payroll of \$2.3 million, money that gets circulated back into the community. While Cheticamp's geographic location and tight-knit Acadian population have contributed to the success of their cooperative businesses, other economic innovations have worked well in areas with more diverse and widespread populations.

Also attending the conference were two entrepreneurs, Barb and Cecil Smith, who are participating in an innovative peer lending programme established two years ago in Shelburne County, NS. The Partnership Assistance for Rural Development (PART) provides initial loans of \$500 for small business start-up, with up to \$5,000 available in six loan installments. Four to ten self-employed individuals join to form a PART group, which together approves each member's loan. The money is provided by a Toronto based non-profit society, the Calmeadow Foundation, and administered through a local bank.

Barb Smith, who started a small business offering pony rides, explains that loan criteria is based on 'your good name in the community'. There is no need for collateral, credit ratings, business plans or equity. Smith points out that although PART group members are not responsible for each other's loans, the desire to see their group succeed has meant that with 85 loans to 50 people in 11 PART groups, there hasn't been a single default.

"You'd be amazed to see what people can do with \$500," adds her husband. Based on the success of the Shelburne Co. pilot project, the Calmeadow Foundation is planning to establish a Nova Scotia Chapter in the near future.



Graphic reprinted from Sustainable Times.

Save Kelley's Mountain

"And, if I have offended anyone... tough shit." So concluded Sulien Herney, a Mi'kmaq from the Eskasoni reserve in Cape Breton, after having addressed 175 people gathered at the Kingsclear Hotel & Resort outside of Fredericton for a conference on Alternative Economics.

Participants had just been learning about the importance of protecting the environment and working with nature to sustain communities and traditional ways of life. Discussions focused on striking a balance between our communities and nature — recognizing the complex relationship between the various ecosystems on earth and the cyclical relationship of life. Participants were feeling energized and positive about the new spirit of sharing that they were experiencing at the conference.

Sulien was at the conference that day to ask for help. Despite the many reasons people of European descent have given First Nations people to distrust and even to hate, he was reaching out a hand of friendship. He asked that non-Natives join First Nations activists with their effort to

save Kelley's Mountain in Cape Breton from corporate interests bent on destroying it and its spiritual significance to the Mi'kmaq.

Sulien talked of the community energy invested in putting an end to apartheid in South Africa, while Scot Paper is devastating the Native peoples' way of life in Pictou County, NS. He talked of a country in which Canadian law books still have a bounty on the head of a Native person. And pointed out that at the conference, time, money and energy had been spent in the effort to translate words from French to English and vice versa, but no effort was made to translate Sulien's language, Mi'kmaq. He reminded us that if not for his ability to speak to us in our own language (English), we would not hear his words. He was forced to learn our language at a residential school in which he was placed at the age of nine, where he was physically punished for speaking Mi'kmaq.

Sulien also related how he was recently invited to attend a gathering in honour of the International

Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination at Province House. It was a four-hour ceremony, in which there was only a single fleeting reference to the people of the First Nations. In frustration and disgust, many Native people in the audience got up and left.

"How I envy the Black people of Nova Scotia," says Sulien. "At least they are treated as human beings."

In regards to Kelley's Mountain, Sulien described his experience of writing a letter to the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission on the basis of freedom of religion, protesting the planned deforestation and mining of Kelley's Mountain, sacred grounds of his people. The commission did not respond with an inquiry or investigate his concern. Indeed, the Commission chose to respond by forwarding Sulien's letter to the NS Museum.

Individuals interested in supporting the struggle to save Kelley's Mountain can contact Sulien Herney at 195 Shore Rd., Eskasoni Territory, BOA 1H0, Phone: 379-2791, fax: 379-2629.