

# Keen? Think green

by Christy Napier and  
Charmaine Coke

Are you worried about the way Mother Earth is being treated? Do issues such as global warming, ozone depletion and over-loaded landfill sites keep you awake at night? If so, there is a solution to your problem. The Campus Environmental Action Group (or CEAG, as it is commonly known) may be for you.

CEAG is the voice of environmental concern at Dalhousie. It is made up of people (students, faculty, alumni) who care about earthly issues. With the motto of "Think globally, act locally", CEAG is attempting to do whatever it can to make this world (and the Metro area in particular) a cleaner place.

Many campuses across Canada are beginning to express an environmental conscience and Dalhousie is no exception. Recycling of the aluminum cans and stacks of paper we consume is one way of dealing with waste. CEAG, however, has other goals in mind. Educating students and faculty about stewardship of the earth's resources and altering their

ecologically unfriendly habits is a major goal of the group.

Using an informal grassroots approach CEAG has co-ordinated four sub-committees: Waste Management, Education and Awareness, Transportation and Public Relations. These sub-committees each serve different functions within the group and across campus. Items such as aluminum can recycling and the new bicycle racks are some of the examples of CEAG's efforts.

The Environmental Crisis has been making headlines for many years. Numerous parts of the globe are experiencing the negative effects of water and air pollution, crowded garbage dumps, the unthinking slaughter of the earth's wildlife and the misuse of natural resources. The good news is that it is not too late! Something can be done: rethink, reduce, reuse, recycle. A great man once said "I have a dream..." The Campus Environmental Action Group has a dream too. A dream of a cleaner, greener earth. What will you do to nurture that dream.

CEAG meets the first and third Tuesday of every month at 5 pm in RM 304, SUB

## Don't procrastinate debate, debate, debate

by Tim Daley and Stephen Pitel

Sodales, the Dalhousie University debating society, hosted its first novice tournament over the past weekend.

Designed to introduce debating to students who have never been involved in a debate before, the event received rave reviews from many of the participants.

Some 28 students from Dalhousie, Kings, St. Francis Xavier, Mt. Allison, St. Thomas, and the Coast Guard College participated. Over the two days students took part in four seminars on debating and public speaking conducted by senior Sodales members and alumni.

The seminars were coupled with six rounds of debating among the novices. Each round was followed by a detailed critique of each participant's performance by an experienced judge.

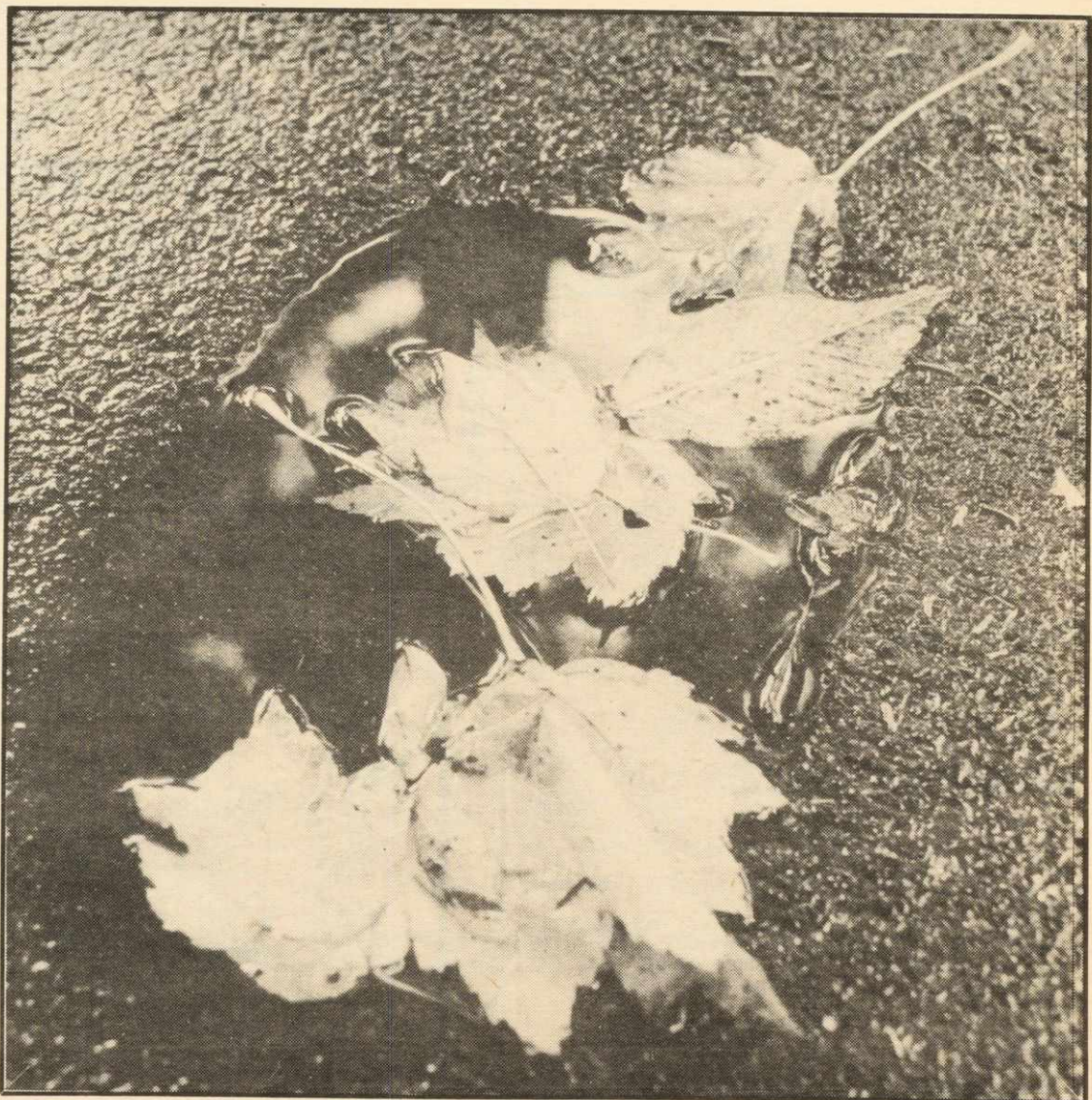
Saturday evening included a dinner and a Pub Round Debate at Domus Legis, The Law School House.

At the Pub Round, four Sodales members entertained the participants with a funny and irreverent round of uncontrolled debating. Many found this to be the highlight of the weekend.

This event was just one of the many activities Sodales members will be able to participate in this year. Another novice tournament may be held next term.

Sodales members are eligible to participate as one of over 60 debaters who will travel to ten tournaments this year. These will include trips to the National and Atlantic Championships to defend Sodales titles. Members also have the chance to travel to the World Championships and six other invitational tournaments.

Sodales holds weekly meetings on Mondays from 7:30 to 9:00 in the Dalhousie Student Union Building Council Chambers. Membership is open to all Dalhousie students regardless of faculty. At each meeting members can choose to debate, learn about public speaking, or just watch.



## PIRG working for you

by Paul Webster

Who are all these people running around the SUB talking PIRG? Public Interest Research? The audacity! Next thing they'll be wanting somebody to do something. Don't they have careers to worry about?

There seems to be a Public Interest Research Group on campus. They've got \$4 times the number of full-time students on campus, an office on the 3rd floor of the SUB, desktop publishing facilities, a paid office coordinator and some interesting ideas germinating amidst the files, the paperclips, the chewed-up ballpoints, the suspicious looking literature on positive social change.

Not that there's anything especially radical about the DAL-PIRG concept. PIRGs have been around for years on campuses across the U.S. and Canada. Students on

campuses in Ontario and British Columbia have been working for years on PIRG-sponsored projects ranging from seminal acid rain research to political landscaping and consumer advocacy.

Anybody scared about the implications of having a group working for positive social change on campus can take comfort in the fact that there's a PIRG at McGill, where even the concept of a women's studies program still causes alarm far and wide.

Managing Director Anna-Marie Larsen sums up the PIRG initiative at Dalhousie by pointing to the group's issue orientation and overall sense of purpose. "We're in our infancy. We're setting up projects aimed at raising public consciousness of gender violence, the nuclear threat in Halifax Harbour, poverty in Halifax, consumer environmentalism, rational transportation and anything else

anybody cares enough about to try and do something about. People are starting to come forward with their ideas and get involved."

Scanning the ranks of the PIRGies, various faces focussed on specific ideas are revealed. Neil Craig is working on bicycle rights advocacy, Sarah Nichols and Lara Morris are working on what are (by now surely incorrectly) known as women's issues, Arlene Goss is sorting out the organization's internal structure. Peter Ross is gathering information for a journal and working on waste disposal issues in Nova Scotia.

In summing up the potential of PIRGs on campus, Morris suggests "...this is a fantastic opportunity for students to put their ideas into practice. What could be more educational? The range of issues we're committed to make the PIRG an idea whose time has come at Dalhousie."

O.K. Dalhousie, here it is, your once in a life time chance to really speak to the student body. That's right, this page is reserved entirely for you.

This is the first week of the FOCUS ON DALHOUSIE page. Every week societies, interest groups, clubs, and social networks will be given the chance to write something about themselves and what they are up to.

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

Before you get wild visions of free promotion for no work let us set the record straight. We do not want "Hi we're the Hog the Limelight Society. We do terrific work and everybody loves us. We meet every time there is a blue moon. We gather in the clock tower of the Arts and Administration building. Come out and join"

What we do want is a news story about your organisation. Make sure your submission has a lead (covering the who, what, where, when, and why) which is approximately 30 words long. Don't forget to include quotes in your story - it legitimizes what you have to say. Lastly, write in an inverted pyramid style. That is to say, give the most important information in your story first and the rest in descending order of importance.

If all this seems a bit much drop by our office on the third floor of the Student Union Building. There is always (or at least most of the time) someone there who can give you some ideas and information on how to write a news story. If all else fails, examine the news articles on the first couple of pages of the Gazette, you'll get the idea.

Don't forget, deadlines for submissions are Friday. So get your articles in so you can get people out...to your event.