

SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENT

Victoria environmental activist organizes forest rave

BY NATASHA MARSDEN

VICTORIA (CUP) — Holding a rave in the woods — and not just any woods, but a forest that's a major source of contention for environmentalists and the logging community — is a bizarre concept. But that's exactly what local activist Ian Hunter did recently in British Columbia's Walbran Valley in an effort to get young peoples' support in pressuring timber companies into changing their clear-cut practices.

"Usually there are raves in search of location, but this is a location in search of a rave," says Hunter.

With traditional methods growing stale, *Rave the Walbran*, as it was called, tried to bring environmental activism into the 1990s by combining politics with music and fun.

It's time environmental issues are opened up to new sectors of the community, the thirty-something Hunter says.

"It doesn't seem to work to be stoic, self-righteous, gleamy environmentalists. It doesn't end up attracting young people at all."

The weekend of Sept. 12-13, local disc jockeys and musicians entertained about 30 people at the

outdoor party about a two hour drive down a logging road in the forest.

While the rave, which was planned the last minute, failed to draw a huge crowd, Hunter says he wants to use the site again soon.

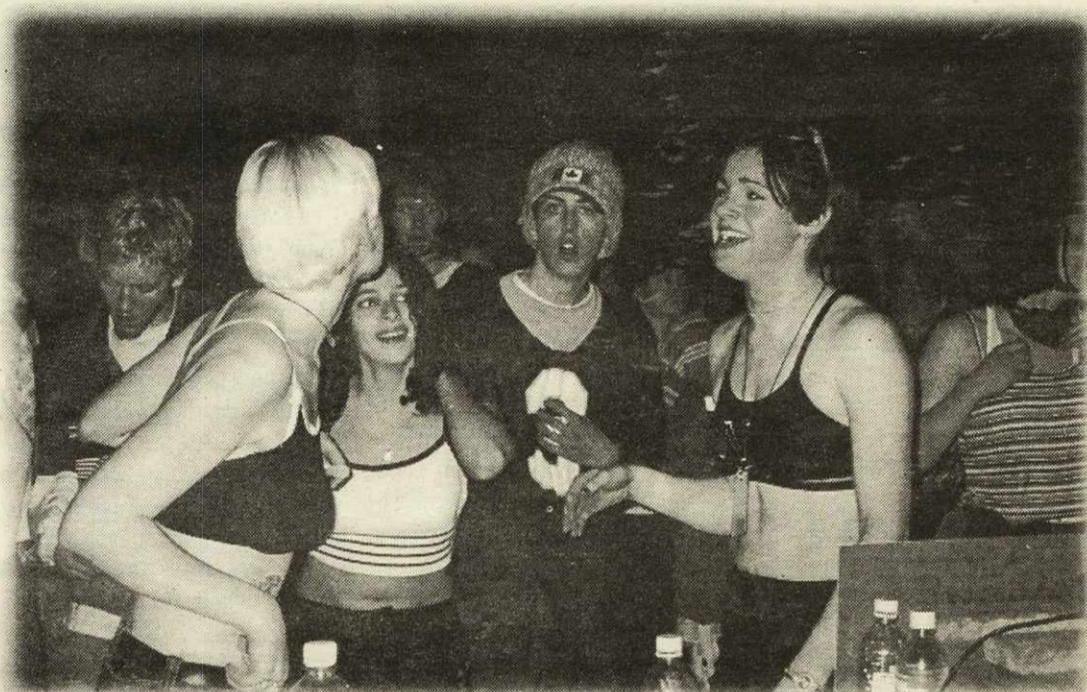
The Western Canada Wilderness Committee and Sierra Club, for their part, expressed support for Hunter's idea of trying to politicize youth through the rave.

But some local rave promoters say the event may lead the rave music scene away from its roots.

"The production, the way it's marketed, and the way it's geared may not necessarily do justice to the issue at hand and what the rave scene stands for," one promoter said.

The old growth section of the Walbran Valley where the rave was held has never been logged. But lumber companies Macmillan Bloedel and Timber West are actively cutting in other parts of the valley as well as in areas that have already been over-cut.

And while the fight to save the Walbran began in the early 1990s, logging companies aren't recognizing the scientific realities that face it, says Neville Winchester, a biology professor at the University of Victoria.



"So, what are you using for toilet paper?"

"(Logging companies) have not taken into account important guidelines for things like maintaining biodiversity — maintaining all species and their processes," said Winchester.

INCIDENT WITNESSED BY DALHOUSIE SHINE-A-RAMA FUND RAISERS - PARKING LOT (ZELLERS) BAYERS ROAD SHOPPING CENTER SEPTEMBER 7, 1995

ANY DALHOUSIE STUDENT WITNESSING AN INCIDENT IN THE PARKING LOT OF THE BAYERS ROAD SHOPPING CENTER, CLOSE TO THE ZELLERS ENTRANCE ON SEPTEMBER 7, 1995, INVOLVING THE DETENTION AND PHYSICAL RESTRAINT OF A YOUNG WOMAN IN THE VICINITY OF HER AUTOMOBILE BY SECURITY PERSONNEL, PLEASE CONTACT MR. GABRIEL - 463-8800

The Gazette needs an Office Manager. To apply come to Room 312 SUB at 4:30 on Monday, September 28.

HEALTH PLAN

Do you have one? Dal doesn't.

But that could change.

On October 7th & 8th, you will decide if Dal will offer a Health Plan to students.

For more info, contact: DSU Council Offices
Ph: 494-1106



Are you for or against a health plan at Dal? You can officially lobby for either side of this referendum question. Pick up a nomination form at the DSU Council Offices for more information.

Nominations end September 29th

HELP WANTED

Polling Clerks

Needed for
October 7th & 8th

\$5.90 / hour
Dalhousie Health Plan Referendum

Apply @
DSU Employment Centre
4th Floor Dal SUB

Deadline for applications
September 30, 1998

