



FINAL AWARENESS WEEK

HELD by Stacy Dunn

From March 30 to April 3, Student Union held Person With Disabilities Awareness Week in association with the Disabilities Committee on campus (see April 2 issue for story, page 24). The slogan was "Label jars...not people". Pamphlets and ABILITIES, the magazine which focuses on issues regarding people with disabilities, was on display in the breezeway all week, and on April 1, three people with disabilities spoke to students in the Pit.

Scott Morrison, Marieca LeJeune, and Kim McGuigan told the students how they got their disabilities as well as how they cope with them. Scott is paralyzed from the knees down. His low-level paralysis was the result of a motorcycle accident five years ago. After Scott was released from the hospital, he used a wheelchair to get around and moved into the CP Prince Edward Hotel since it was the only wheelchair accessible place to live in the city at that time. He uses a cane now, to get around and lives in an accessible apartment building. Scott did criticize those buildings which were not wheelchair accessible and stressed the importance of accessibility.

Marieca has a partial hearing loss. She believes her hearing loss developed from loud machinery that her father worked with. Marieca can hear background noises and bits and pieces of conversation and added that she can read people's lips when these people are talking directly to her. Her advice to everyone was when you are speaking to someone with a partial hearing loss, you should look directly at that person so he can understand what is being said. Kim McGuigan is blind. He became blind when the retina in his eyes began to hemorrhage and doctors had to detach the retinas. He received rehabilitation in New Brunswick and a guide dog was provided for Kim. In university, Kim got along by taking oral exams, or with assistance from a student guide, he would write the exams, and his textbooks were read onto tapes or sent to Ontario to be translated into braille. He encouraged the students to be open to accepting people with disabilities, to be comfortable with them, and to seek own beliefs about these people, do not use others' beliefs.

When they finished speaking, Marion Basha from the Disabilities Committee talked a bit about this committee. After her speech, Mrs. Basha pointed out