

# Hearn handbook inadequate

by Emmi Duffy

This year's student handbook was made available to Dalhousie students last Friday afternoon. While it is occasionally informative, the booklet is an informal and highly personalized tour of the university by Student Union Vice-President, Jim Hearn.

The purpose of a student handbook is to provide students with information that will help them adjust to university life. Hearn seems to agree with this as he has included much material from last year's edition.

There are differences, however. Note, for instance, what he says on student government:

"All students should be familiar with the Constitution (see appendix). In order to benefit fully from his time at Dalhousie, a student should know what sort of system he is living in and what his position is." (p. 10).

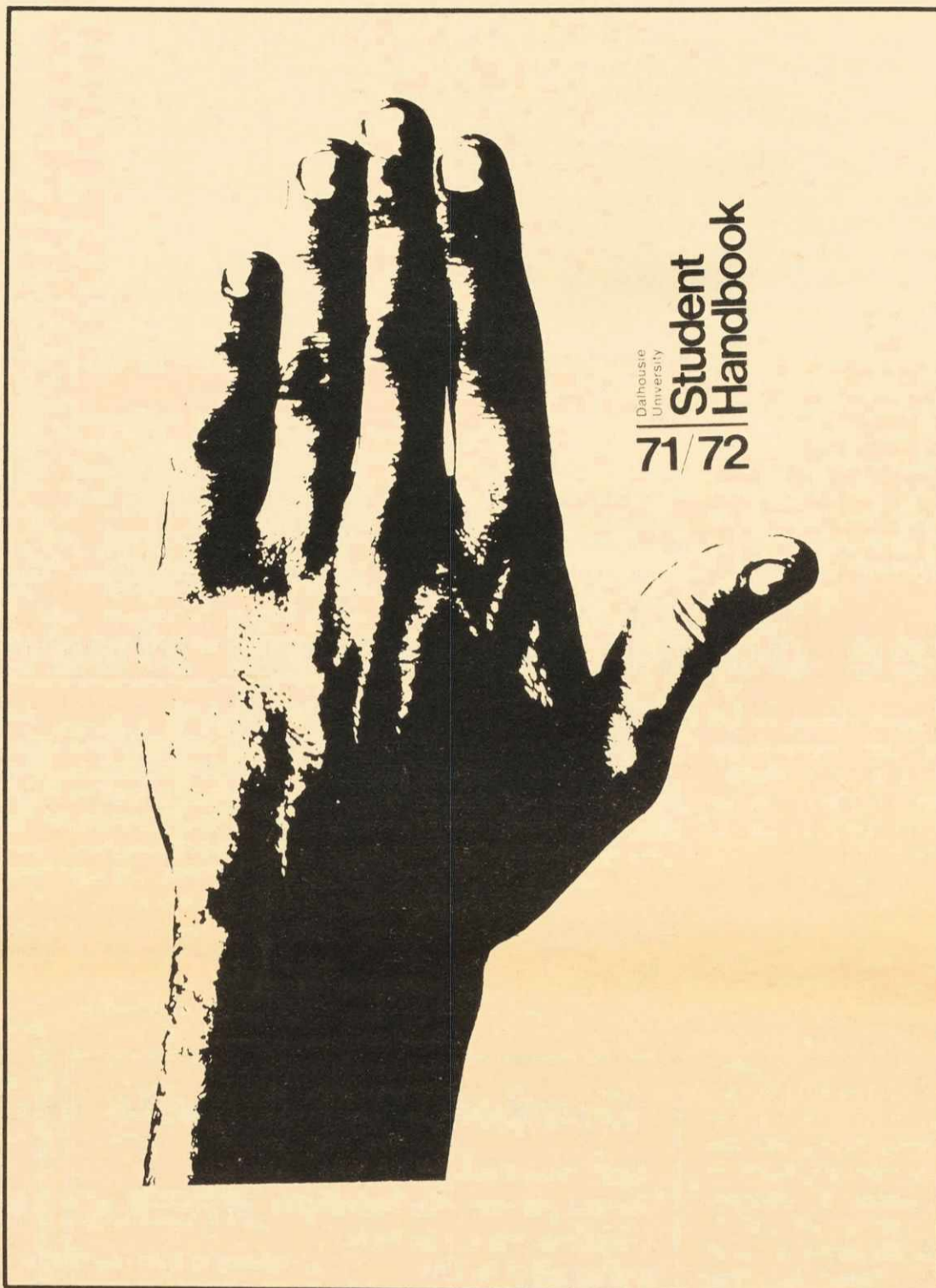
This is all very well. Unfortunately, there is no appendix in this year's booklet. The Constitution has been replaced by Hearn's personal definition of student government and a brief mention of the Board of Governors, the Senate, Administration, and Alumni Association.

Hearn also includes last year's student directory and a section on university services. Yet he neglects to mention Student Union Building and emergency numbers and does not elaborate on or update the services available.

For example, he lists the Dal chaplains, but does not mention that they offer aid to draft dodgers. An information list is not included either, even though many students would be interested in knowing which establishments offer student discounts.

Social events are of interest to the majority of students, yet they are all but neglected in "Hearn's Handbook". Surely there are more events planned for the year than "Freshie Week" and Winter Carnival. What about Jazz "n" Suds, films, Sub Chambers, concerts, dances, exhibitions, Okotobeerfest? A calander of these events is conspicuously absent.

Although Hearn is brief when discussing the social scene, he more than makes up for it in his section on athletics. Granted, athletics are important extra-curricular activities but whether they deserve nineteen pages is debatable. Only twelve pages are devoted to SUB operations and policies. Which affects the students more?



The subject of extra-curricular activities raises the question of why the Dal Gazette is given so much space. Dal Radio, photography, DMDS, film society, and others are equally important. Likewise the various religious, political, departmental, and social clubs could all have been expanded upon — what do these clubs do? When do they meet? How do you join?

There is no Women's Lib group listed among the clubs. However, this handbook may result in the formation of a local chapter. Approximately half the students at this university are women. Why, then, is the handbook male-oriented?

The drinking spots are noted for being "a place to take your girl to impress her" or "a great place to meet girls". The Public Gardens is a place to "take your best girl". Nurses are "attired in white bobby-sox, strolling hand in hand and staring timidly at the ground". The paragraph on Sheriff Hall contains an inspiring message to freshmen.

"Go! Go! I say to you within your first week on campus to this monument to femininity". After an impressive list of perfumes, Hearn guarantees that some "winsome lass will beckon wickedly from the billowed folds of her abode, promising pleasures hitherto undreamed of!"

The main criticism to be made of the handbook is its personal nature and lack of concrete information. This could have been overcome by having more than one person, or another individual who is more objective, produce the booklet.

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