

LET'S GIVE HIM A HAND GANG!



### Editorial

## Why They Did Not Come Back

Last week the students held their second Alumni Homecoming. It was not a success; together with a black week-end in sports it reduced student activity to an all-time low.

What are the facts? There are, in Halifax alone, two thousand Dalhousie alums. There are approximately three thousand more, most of whom live in eastern Canada. On two occasions, well in advance of the week-end, every alumnus was individually circularized by the Council Committee in charge of the Homecoming. In addition to this there was a large quantity of miscellaneous publicity, including, we are informed, notices in the Alumni "News", which every alumnus receives. In spite of this, only forty-two were interested enough to appear.

On Saturday about forty students and eleven alums braved the weather and appeared at the football game at Wanderers; an even smaller number graced Studley. No doubt the lack of student support was just as bad (if not worse) as the alumni showing—perhaps both are symptoms of the same illness—but we are here concerned with the alumni Homecoming. Why should so few alumni take the trouble to appear when it would have been so little trouble for so many of them, and when one would expect them to have some interest in the affairs of their alma mater?

This is a liberal University of some renown. We are not concerned, at the moment, with the fact that we cannot produce the top teams that lesser institutions produce, or with the fact that the vast majority of our students display no interest in the affairs of the University. But bearing this in mind it may be less surprising to find that we can expect even less success in interesting members of the Alumni than it would be if we make the mistake of thinking of them as the normal produce of a normal University.

We may as well face the fact that the vast majority of the Alumni do not wish to revisit the University, either once a year or once every two years. They will probably remain equally undisturbed if even at ten-year intervals no invitation is extended. The reason for this must be found in their period of study at the University; it cannot be found anywhere else.

In search of enlightenment we spent some time questioning students as to their opinions on the subject. Were they happy at Dal? Would they return to an Alumni Homecoming? Would they leave with fond memories of the old school? In most cases the answer was an emphatic "No". Nor have we discovered any good reason for believing that this state of affairs was never very different. The students of today are in much the same boat as was occupied by their predecessors; their existence here, except for the classroom or library, is largely off the Campus. Most students remain only for one reason—to get their degree and then leave as soon as decency and the regulations of the University permit.

The life of a student as a student is not one calculated to arouse enthusiasm—at least, not here. That product of community life which is generally referred to as "college spirit" does not exist at Dal because there is no community life to produce it. Those intrepid souls who do venture into the extra-curricular activities of the student body receive no thanks and copious quantities of blame for anything they do. The remainder (sensibly, perhaps) employ themselves in their spare time outside the University.

If we conclude, then, that most students do not enjoy their stay at the University very much, and have no desire to return once they depart with a degree, it is less surprising (if no less disappointing) that we have sustained such a defeat in the task of interesting the alumni in the lighter side of University endeavour.

It cannot be a question of blaming anyone. The Committee did everything that could be done; presumably the University did what it could to help, and the Alumni Association placed its facilities at our disposal. The fault, if it lies anywhere, lies with the apathy and lack of interest that are as much a part of this University as the buildings.

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# DAL TO VISIT ACADIA TOMORROW

# DALHOUSIE Gazette

AMERICA'S OLDEST COLLEGE PAPER

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## HOMECOMING FLOPS

### IMPORTANT

The Students' Council requests that all students who attend Acadia this weekend act in a manner befitting their status, and that there be no damage or unnecessary disturbances.

## Only Forty-Seven Alumni at Week-End of Special Events

Last weekend the events for Dalhousie's second Homecoming were presented. The idea behind Homecoming week was to encourage the Alumni to return for a few days to their Alma Mater to renew old friendships and refresh their memories. With this idea in mind a schedule of events was drawn up that would, it was thought, prove attractive and interesting to former Dalhousians.

A total of roughly eight thousand have graduated from Dalhousie and of this number almost two thousand live in the Halifax area. Yet only 46 alumni registered for the event of the Homecoming.

A breakdown of this figure shows that 42 were residents of Halifax and immediate vicinity. The other four were from Yarmouth, Lunenburg, Springhill and Asbestos, Quebec. This latter Alumni was in Halifax at the time and decided to attend some of the functions while he was in town.

Nine out of the 46 alumni who registered attended the Canadian Football game.

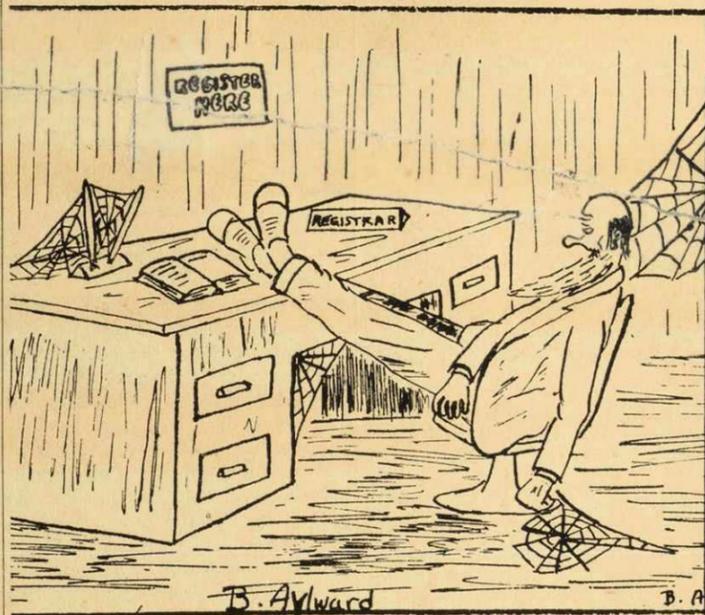
Attendance at some of the other events was comparatively better, nearly fifty alumni turning up for the smoker on Thursday evening.

At most of the Homecoming events, however, the alumni were noticeable by their absence.

Dalhousie students turned out in fairly large numbers to most of the functions, and from this point of view most of the Homecoming events were a moderate success.

Approximately six hundred attended the performance of the Inter-collegiate Drama Festival and the same number were at the Dal-Q.E.H.S. basketball game.

### Homecoming Registration



## Homecoming Highlights

The ribbon, cut by Hon. H. Connolly at the official opening of the rink, was bid for and secured by O'Brien (of gym fame) at the rink rat dance, who presented it to Mrs. A. E. Kerr later that evening.

Congratulations to Professors H. R. Theakston and A. F. Chisholm for going out of their way the day of the rink opening to paint lines in hopes of having the rink ready for the student display.

The alumnus from Asbestos, Quebec, ended up at Dal because he was in town for a wedding and figured it was worth it.

The cutting of the ribbon for the formal rink opening was accompanied with neither cheers nor clapping. Must have been surprised to see the ribbon cut so easily.

Serenading of the girls after the Smoker was the least enthusiastic serenading in years. The main body of the delegation stayed for five minutes, then left, and only a handful did the serenading.

Congratulations to the Homecoming committee chairman, Pete Doig, Arpy Robertson, Gretchen Fraser and Strat Poulos, for the effort put into the program.

The Homecoming committee mailed a notice of the Homecoming to 6,934 alumni. Then mailed 4,900 follow up post cards.

### This Week-end

Friday—Pep Rally—7 p.m.  
"Hay Fever"

Saturday—Rugby at Acadia  
Football at Wanderers  
Soccer at Studley

Monday—"Hay Fever"

Wednesday—S.C.M.

Next Friday—Boilermakers' Ball

## No Cheer Leaders No Band, No Win

Wednesday afternoon the Dalhousie Rugby team played Acadia in the first of two games for the Nova Scotia championship.

A fair number of Dalhousie students turned out to watch the game, but a bigger crowd would have been expected for this event.

There was no band present at this game and the cheerleaders were also absent.

What is the matter with the people who are running things at this college that they neglect to have cheerleaders and a band at a game which, if it had been won, could have resulted in Dal having a good chance at copping the championship. As it was what cheering there was was quite disorganized and of little inspirational value to the team.

It is planned to have both band and cheerleaders at the Canadian football game against Stadacona Saturday. Thus they will appear at Acadia in the final game of the series.

Dalhousie and Acadia have been natural rivals for years, and it is shameful that the band and cheerleaders did not put in an appearance at the game Wednesday. The same thing is to be repeated Saturday at the Acadia home field, where the Dal team will have little enough support. This is certainly poor organization.

### Canadian Football

## DAL vs. STAD

Saturday