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Advertising Department For Dalhousie Student Union

Big Brothers and Sisters

Spend time with a child

by M.L. Hendry

So, do you ever miss your kid brother or sister? Ever long for the nine-year-old genius from next door, who listened wide-eyed to your every observation on the workings of the universe?

Do you like hopping in snowstorms, flying kites, or watching Disney movies, but worry about your reputation?

If you can answer yes to any of the above, you need a kid to hang around with.

And right now in the Halifax-Dartmouth area, there are 150 boys and 30 girls waiting for a big person like you, somebody to have fun with and to be a friend.

Big Brothers-Big Sisters of Halifax-Dartmouth is looking for people over 19 who want to be a friend for a boy or girl from a single-parent family.

Kids aged 8 to 16 are matched with volunteers, on the basis of what they're like, what they like to do, and where they live.

Bob has been a Big Brother in Halifax for the past seven years. "I don't know why I didn't do it sooner," he said. "Initially it was scary, but I wanted to do something for the community."

When Bob was introduced to his first Little Brother, it felt a bit strained. "Originally it was a contrived match by a caseworker, but now we're friends," he said.

"Being a Big Brother didn't change my lifestyle, I do all the things I'd normally do, like watching hockey games, going fishing or camping, except that now I take a little brother along."

Bob has had three Little Brothers in Halifax. The first boy was 12 when Bob met him. "Now he's

19 and in high school," Bob said, "but we still see each other."

A Big Brother or Sister is introduced to a child not as someone who will replace a mother or father, but as a friend, like a special aunt, uncle or neighbour.

"We ask for a commitment of three to four hours a week, for a minimum of one year," said spokesperson Phyllis Hoopay. "Most of these kids have already lost a parent, we don't want them to lose a friend too."

A successful match between volunteer and child is great for both the Big and Little people. For the parents, the knowledge that their child has an adult friend

whom they can trust is also helpful.

Usually boys without fathers and girls without mothers are thought of as candidates for a Big Brother or Sister. However, if desired, the agency will also provide Big Sisters for girls living with mothers and Big Brothers for boys living with their fathers.

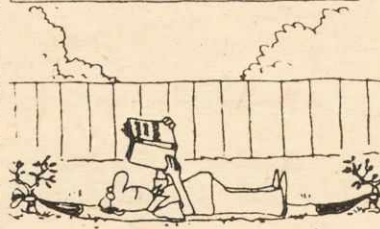
"Women who would consider a Big Brother for their sons often don't think of getting a Big Sister for their daughters," Hoopay said, "but the ones who have think it's fantastic."

Couples who would like to spend time together with a child can also be matched.

Big Brothers-Big Sisters of Halifax-Dartmouth, as a private social agency, raises about 50 percent of its operating budget through fund-raising events such as their annual "Bowl for Millions" campaign.

This year's bowlathon, similar to a walkathon, will run February 6 through 13, and everyone is welcome to participate.

GRADUATE: ACME SCHOOL OF PATIENCE



Arts Week- success

by Bruce Galloway

Arts students came out of the closet last week in force to participate in a wide range of activities. "Arts Week" (actually three days) was sponsored by the Arts Society which represents the 1500 or so Dalhousie students enrolled in Arts programs.

"We were very pleased at the participation level at all the events," said Robert Stanley, chairperson of the Arts Society. "Last year we were lucky if two or three people showed up to general meetings," he noted and added, "However, last Friday's general meeting was attended by approximately 40 people." The three days of activities were designed to increase awareness among Arts students about their society and what it can do for them, explained Stanley.

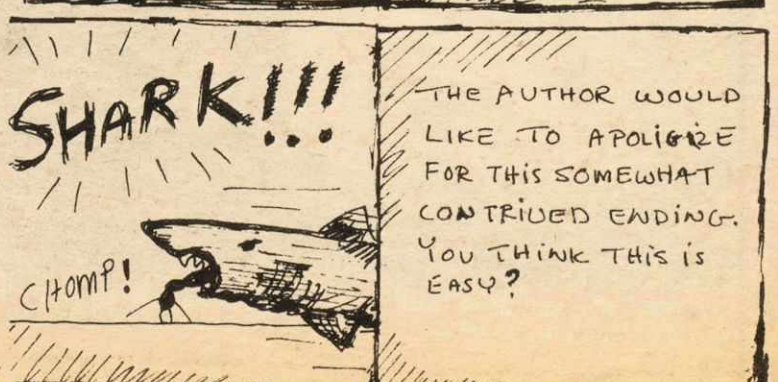
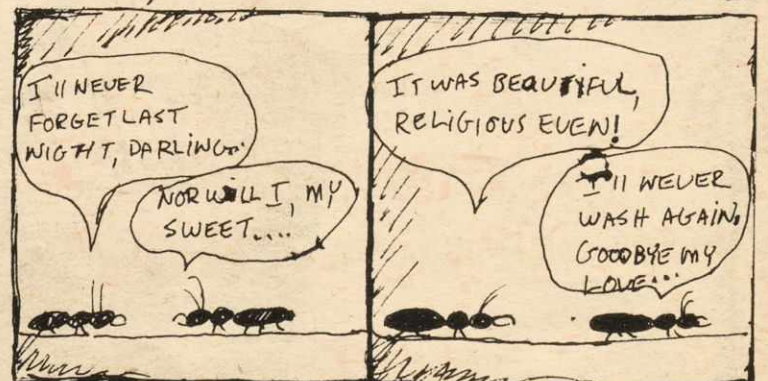
A major part of this idea was

the setting up of information booths in the lobby of the Student Union Building to register new members. As well as the Arts booth itself, other groups, including the Russian, Sociological and History societies, set up shop to induce new members.

Two of the week's more popular events were the mini-film festival, featuring such classics as **Duck Soup** and **The African Queen**, and the Beer and Pizza Bash on Friday night. The Beer Bash proved to be a fitting end to the week, and was such a rousing success that many of those who attended (including certain members of the executive) were, by the end of the night, reduced to uttering garbled, unintelligible praise for the Society.

At Friday's general meeting, the members of the executive were introduced and a new constitution was adopted.

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