

Task force to investigate student life

by Bruce M. Lantz

Student Union president Brian Smith has set up a task force on student life "to find out what makes students tick".

The committee, sponsored by Smith and chaired by D. Ray Pierce, evolved from several discussions following last year's successful SUB Christmas Party. This party brought usually apathetic students together with an empathy not generally found on this campus.

"No one seems to know what the student is interested in," Smith explained. "It's possible that money is being spent in the wrong directions."

He thinks this is a responsibility of the Student Union, "whose primary concern should be with students. The Union is in a unique position because it is a very responsible and influential force. Yet something is not right within it." The Union must understand the interests of students and encourage them to take part, Smith added.

The task force will obtain information through briefs, open and closed forums, questionnaires, and first-hand experience (officially and otherwise). It has no actual power except request and persuasion. Questionnaires will be sent to students who registered for this year but failed to arrive.

The task force is attempting to cover all aspects of student life. They have advisors on such varied topics as community/university relations, cultural affairs, university and industry, church and counselling, housing, and employment. The idea behind such broad coverage is to ensure a total evaluation.

"It may be that we will find that certain areas are so lacking in what they are supposed to be doing that a whole committee should be set up to report to the Student Union president on it," Pierce said. "People seem to think that the

only activities students will attend is something with liquor. I don't think that is the case. The reason is that we haven't found the proper entertainment."

The target date for completion of the report is February, 1972. At this time, the group will present their recommendations to the related areas. After a period of time, they will return to see if their ideas were implemented, if not why not, and what the reaction was.

"If the requests aren't carried out and no valid reasons given, then it is probable that those responsible will probably be asked to justify their position in an open forum," the chairman explained.

To date, several meetings of the core and advisors have taken place, and some general discussion has been held with individual students.

The next step is to have a closed meeting with individuals



D. Ray Pierce, Chairman of the Task Force on the quality of student life.

who will be asked to give opinions on student life. This is being done "to test our method of obtaining information in closed forum. If it doesn't work out, we'll dispense with open forums, but this doesn't mean that the force will disband."

The findings will be presented in an open forum. An edited report will be published for students and members of the

community free of charge, as well as distributed to other universities. Until then, students will be kept informed through the Gazette, Dal radio and local media.

The project has received the recognition of the Board of Governors, the provincial Department of Education, and the Secretary of State, Gerard Pelletier.

Free admission to all student reps — still

The Students Council got this academic year underway in fine fashion at its first meeting September 13. There were not enough members present to have a quorum.

The next meeting, held on September 20, saw a quorum plus one present.

Science Rep, Mike Evans, moved and Commerce Rep, Mike Bowser, seconded a motion that the previously-passed motion allowing Council members and guests free admission into all functions be reconsidered. Bowser was the Council member who moved the original motion. He informed Council that a total of 33 members and guests attended Orientation events for three nights, at a cost of \$49.00.

Although some members seriously questioned the original motion on the grounds that all Student Organizations would want free admission, the motion for reconsideration was

defeated.

In discussing the first two meetings later, Student Union president, Brian Smith, told the GAZETTE that he had expected general apathy from the Council, as it had always been that way. "But part of the reason for poor attendance was that the first meeting was held early in registration week, and many returning students

weren't back yet."

Council member Bowser expanded on the motion to admit Council free to Student Union events. "It's a better way of repaying Council members for their work than actually giving them money. The Campus Police get paid for their job. The theory is to let them into events so that in case something breaks out, they'll be

there to stop it. But some of them are so drunk they couldn't stop anything. They can't even find the door."

Smith stressed that another reason for the privilege was to arouse Council participation. He said that "only members in good standing will get this consideration." The cards

necessary for admission will be distributed individually. At this time, members will be advised that attendance at meetings is imperative, as is participation on Student Council committees.

"If sufficient interest in these things is not shown, members will be asked to resign," Smith added.

Graduating Students

Are you aware that the first Recruiter on Campus this year requires resumes to be submitted to the Manpower Centre before

Oct. 15th



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AROUND HALIFAX

FRIDAY, OCT. 1

Pier One Theatre Premiere,
Grad Party in Grad House,
Dunn Building "Dr. Strangelove"

SATURDAY, OCT. 2

Football — Mt. A at Dalhousie

SUNDAY, OCT. 3

The Festival Winds — Cohn Auditorium

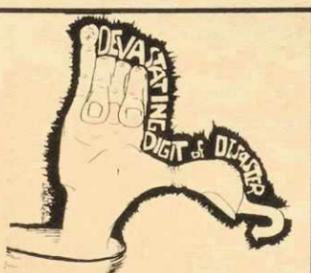
THURSDAY, OCT. 7

Dal Film Society — "Stone Flower"

compliments of:

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This week's devastating digit is unequivocally awarded to hapless Jim Hearn for what has to be this year's most enterprising ego-trip, the inappropriately named Student handbook (see editorial p. 4). We recommend Hearn take his digit and stick it — on his wall.