

National Student Day flops

by Paul Clark

Unless you were one of five or six students celebrating in Peddler's Pub last Monday afternoon, National Student Day probably passed you by without a whisper.

"I'm not sure whether it was a busy time of year or other matters cropped up, but nothing really happened", reflected Dalhousie Student Council President Gord Owen. "It was kind of ironic—National Student Day and everyone forgets about it."

The National Union of Students this summer had designated Monday, November 17 as National Student Day to coincide with International Student Day. Don Perry, NUS fieldworker for the Atlantic Region, said it was intended to be a celebration of

a fact that "the student movement is still alive and well".

Instead, no university in Halifax held any functions to commemorate the occasion.

Owen said at two previous plenaries of the Student Union of Nova Scotia the idea of all the universities sponsoring an entertainment event at the SUB had been discussed, but nothing was ever resolved. A room had been booked in the SUB for some kind of activities, but it was later cancelled due to an alleged lack of interest. Owen admitted, however, that he forgot to mention National Student Day to Dalhousie's student council.

Perry said National Student Day was last celebrated in Canada on November 9, 1976. Then, he said, the

purpose was to build an awareness of student issues and the student movement. He said, however, that this year's celebration was intended to be the culmination of a semester's long awareness campaign and was supposed to show that participating in the student movement is not all work but can be enjoyable as well.

But he added it was hoped the Day would "bring home the fact that there is one strong student movement that can protect the rights of students and develop a very important part of society".

In the absence of any formal celebrations on Halifax campuses, Perry and several other celebrants retired to the Peddler's Pub to pay their homage to the student movement.

McGill gets involved

MONTREAL (CUP)—In the wake of a speech made recently at McGill University by consumer advocate Ralph Nader, telling students they cannot remain passive about issues of public concern, an organizing committee has decided to establish a McGill Public Interest Research Group (PIRG).

"The basic thrust of this group will be to explore all issues of public concern—consumer problems, ecological problems and the anti-nuclear issue," said Peter Bruck, a member of the

organizing committee.

PIRGs already exist in many American states and WPIRG, which began several years ago at the University of Waterloo, expanded to become the Ontario Public Interest Research Group.

Bill Rich, a McGill biology student, who has worked for New York PIRG, said the major objective is to "defend the rights of the public."

A three point strategy for establishing a PIRG at McGill was approved. The group would become a student society club first. Then mem-

bers would try to increase student involvement and support for it on campus and finally a referendum would be held to establish a student levy for the group.

An issues committee was established to investigate what areas of research should be pursued. At the organizational meeting students said they wanted to deal with food services, and student housing, both on and off campus. Other issues raised were consumer rights, environmental protection and the anti-nuclear movement.

Let's play football

by John Cairns

The month is November, the year 1980. A chilling wind blows as a student plods between buildings at Dalhousie. One of his hands supports a stack of books and the other holds a woefully thin jacket tight about his neck. The trees around him are naked, and as he moves he kicks aside the leaves that were once their clothing. It is the transition between late fall and early winter, a time when students discard summer jackets for winter ones and when the weather moves toward snow. It is also the one time when Canada can be gripped by football fever.

Within days the best of eastern Canadian football will be pitted against the best of the west at two levels. Both the Grey Cup and the College Bowl are taken pretty much for granted now, but once upon a time football was not necessarily the king of fall sports.

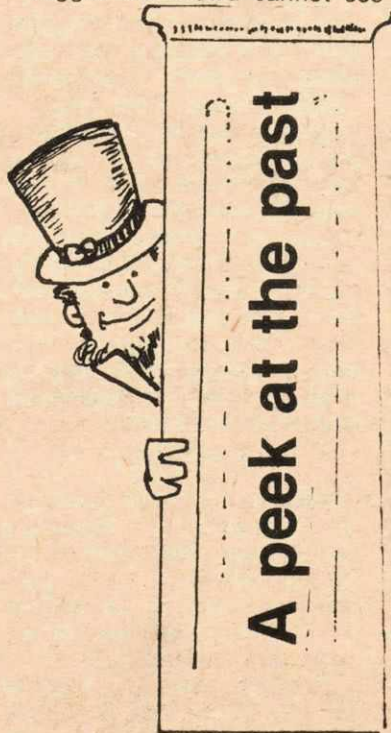
Now the month is October, the year 1947. In *The Dalhousie Gazette* we find a letter to the editor advocating Canadian "football" over English "rugby". Let's read:

"Dear Editor;

While the effect of this missile (sic) on the English-Canadian rugby controversy will be negligible, I thought that possibly the ideas of one who has played a bit at both

games would be of interest to the devotees of the gridiron.

I am pro-Canadian football for three reasons. First, because it is a superior team game. In the scrum of English rugby the crowd cannot see



whether you are pulling your weight or not. In Canadian rugby anyone who hasn't his heart in the game is easily spotted. Because of the complexity of the Canadian game intricate team work is essential.

True, the linemen don't get a chance to handle the ball as they sometimes do in English, but any college sport is primarily a team game, not an individual effort. Since Canadian football involves more team work than English, hence it is a more interesting game for the player, and the school.

Canadian football is a better game for the crowd too. There is something about watching an end run develop or a pass caught that can't be emulated in any other gridiron sport. The deceptiveness of the play and speed and violence of impact have fascinated huge crowds of rugby fans for years in Canada and the States.

Finally, as far as Dalhousie is concerned, we should make Canadian football our major fall sport because by doing so we will be in the same class as the rest of Canadian colleges, and after a time enter into competition with them, and add prestige to the university name as a modern educational institution.

Yours truly,
Joe Levison"

Though Joe Levison might wish otherwise, intercollegiate football has come and gone at Dalhousie, and rugby remains alive, well, and playing championship games of its own. That, too, in the month of November as a chilling wind blows

Handspun Wool

natural colours & textures
from my own sheep

Sally Ross: 826-2981 or 425-3263

424-6532

DAL-ADS

424-6532

The Advertising Department For Dalhousie Student Union

STUDENTS!

BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE
AND ALL YOUR MONEY IS SPENT
JUST SHOW US YOUR CARD
FOR ELEVEN %
OFF ALL ORDERS \$10 OR OVER
ONLY AT

THE PRINTING SHOP LTD.
1586 ARGYLE STREET

QUICK XEROX PRINTS

the canadian
STUDENT TRAVELLER

All the information you need for travelling domestically and abroad. Before making your plans, read it.

canadian universities travel service
dalhousie student union building
424-2054

CANADA'S NATIONAL STUDENT TRAVEL BUREAU