Dalhousie Gazette

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VP Hearn says:

"Dal must play greater role in community"

by Cheryl Sawler

"Dalhousie University is a part of the Halifax community, and as such should play a greater role in community life", according to Student Union Vice-President, Jim Hearn.

Hearn, who is in charge of Dal's community relations, has strong feelings about the lack of interest we display in community happenings.

He says, "We come to university to get an education which will enable us to take our place in the community, but we then end up looking for the best niche in the middle class society

While at university, we exist in an "ivory tower", cut off from the community way of life. Hearn feels that it is important for Dal to help in the community because the university takes help from the city and province. This aid is also needed

because the governments aren't doing enough to help the underprivileged. By contributing to the com-

munity, Hearn says university students will be appreciated

highest paid job to give us the more and experience less discrimination in the sphere of apartment rentals, etc.

At present, there are several programs underway in which Dal is trying to help the community. One is the free-school program which operates in both the north and south ends of the city. The north end free-school was so successful last year that it is being financed again this year by the Student Union as is an additional one running in the south end.

Another program is "Reach Out Tutoring", a service to help children in the north end with school work.

This is designed to help the child in school and thus lessen the probability of him dropping out, and not getting enough education to break the cycle of poor begetting poor.

Hearn mentioned that unfortunately there is some resentment on the part of the people being helped. This is perhaps natural when, for example, a middle class student comes into a very poor home. In such a case there is unwitting condescension by the student and unbending pride on the part of those being helped.

The most important and beneficial agency provided for the community by the students is Legal Aid. Now in its third year of operation, Legal Aid is a service provided by Dal Law students (anyone over 2nd year). It has given free legal service to thousands of people and has helped fight injustices that might otherwise have

Student Union Vice-President, Jim Hearn.

escaped unquestioned.

Professor David Lowry, the director of Legal Aid, first started the service several years ago with Dan Lapres, now a third year law student. Mr. Justice Pottier, formerly of the Nova Scotia Supreme Court, acts as advisor.

Finances for Legal Aid come not only from the Student Union but also from the Nova Scotia Bar Association and the provincial government. The service is spreading, and its usefulness has certainly not gone unnoticed.

This summer Legal Aid operated a family court in Sydney.

These services are the only ones offered now; however, in the near future, the union hopes to start more programs in the community. According to Hearn, everybody who enters university is looking for a cause to support. If you are, try one of these.

Late registration fee waived

Resulting from the unexpected delays in the processing of student loans for the 1971-72 session, through provincial offices, the University is prepared to waive the late registration fee of \$35 for all students who can provide certification that an application was made for a provincial loan prior to August 15, 1971, and to whom no notice of acceptance or rejection was made available on or before October 29, 1971.

Until such time as the University is provided with proof that the loan has been approved or rejected by the Province, the \$35 charge, plus interest from October 1, is due and payable.

The student should present proof of the date of application and notice of acceptance or rejection to the Director of Awards, and if satisfactory, the refund of the \$35 late registration fee will be made by the cashier. Interest charges, however, will pertain from October 1, 1971. D.H. McNeill, Vice-President (Administration) Formal Wear RENTALS Black or White Tuxedos and Accessories Available from Stock ubin's) SCOTIA SQUARE PHONE 429-5936



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