

FOCUS

Dalhousie student societies The list goes on...



BY LEE PITTS

Dalhousie is peppered with student societies and clubs, just like most every university throughout the country and around the world.

Dal has a wide spectrum of groups, clubs and societies ranging from the Dalhousie Rowing Club, and the Bisexual, Lesbian, Gay Association of Dal (BGLAD) to the German Club and the Dalhousie Association of Psychology Students (DAPS).

Steve Cote, the Vice President Internal for the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU), believes student societies provide great opportunities for students to meet new people.

"You get to meet people outside of academics," he said. "You get to meet people who are interested in the same stuff you are."

Cote is speaking from experience. He's not only in charge of the student societies this year, but also joined the Kinesiology society his first year at Dal. "I'm a kinesiology student, so I joined Sappher," Cote says societies and clubs are important

for students who don't live in residence.

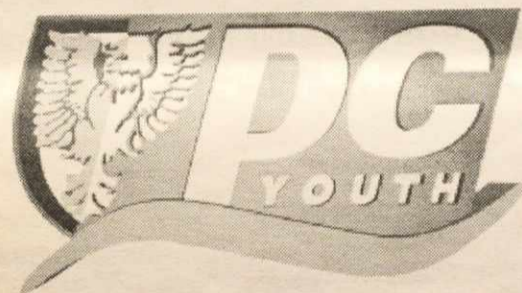
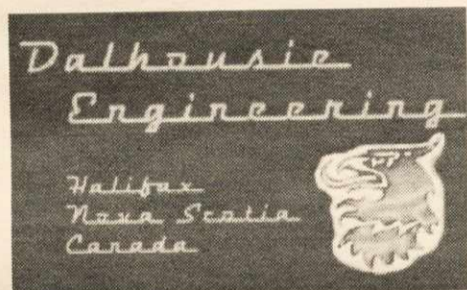
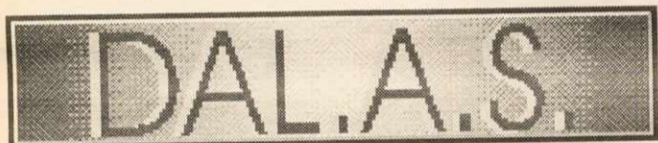
"It's important more for people who are off-campus. First of all, it's a way for those to get involved," Cote said. "It's a way for people to get to know each other besides through academics, and secondly, it's a good way to try new things."

Dal has close to 180 societies, with that number expected to increase to 200 this

be involved in things other than just studying. "It's generally recognized that students learn within the classrooms and outside it," McKee said. "It also adds richness and diversity to campus life."

And he adds, it looks good on a resume. "Employers look for it when they hire. They look for people with good grades, but they also look for people who have other experiences. People with

"You name it, we've got it"—Cote



Signs of the times: a few Dal society logos.



Lets get technical: a Dal Engineering group meets.

year.

Every year new societies are born. There's always a influx of new students with different interests and tastes. Two new groups joining the list this year include the Kendo Japanese swordfighting club and a self-defense course.

Societies have been around since Universities have existed, or so says Eric McKee, Dal's Vice President of Student Services. He says it's important for students to

group skills and leadership skills."

Dal's societies are broken down into five groups, "A" to "E". "A" societies have a seat on student council, and receive some funding from the DSU, such as the Dal Arts society. "B" societies also sit on council, but these groups don't receive a levy. These groups include BGLAD. "C" societies don't sit on the DSU, but they do receive funding. Whereas "D" societies neither have a seat on council, nor do they receive any money. Finally, "E" societies are just like "D" societies, except they don't have umbrella groups.

It's not difficult for students to organize their own societies, if a group they want isn't around. All that's required is a written constitution to be presented to council. Cote is in charge of that and urges interested students to go to him.

McKee feels it's important for students to get involved in student societies from the beginning of their university career.

"It may be easier [to join] after you've been [at university] for a few years and know the opportunities, but I think it's important to get involved in societies from day one," he said. "Particularly off-campus students, societies are one of the important ways [to meet other students]."

McKee feels student societies are one of three ways for off-campus students to meet others. The others being intramural sports and classes.

Dal has groups or clubs to fill almost all interests. There is a club for almost every language, including the German club, French club, and Spanish club. There's the Dalhousie Association of Marine Biology Students (DAMS), the English Society, Amnesty International, African Students Union, Dalhousie Progressive Conservative (PC) Youth, and the list goes on.

"You name it, we've got it," said Cote.

Almost everyone seems to agree that student societies and clubs are great ways to meet new people, besides helping provide a well-balanced university career and the opportunity to learn new things. Like skydiving through the Dal Parachute Club, or fencing in the Dalhousie Fencing Club. Now

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