

Foreign students

Dal offers confused welcome

by Susan Edgett

Imagine you've just reached your destination, a country half way around the globe from home, wouldn't it be comforting to know that friends are awaiting you and there's a place to crash for a day or two until you've recovered from jet lag and are ready to attack your new situation?

The International Students Association (ISA) had intentions of providing an organized welcome for new foreign students this year. ISA president, Bikash Roychoudhury, sent letters to all new overseas students dated August 6, 1979 saying, "Mr. George Adolf and volunteers from our Association will be happy to receive you and help you with temporary accommodation if necessary when you reach Halifax."

Unfortunately, in the interlude, the Selection Committee for the post of Overseas Student Co-ordinator, (Chairman E.T. Marriott, Dean of Student Services), appointed John Orkar to replace George Adolf as of September 1, 1979.

As a result, foreign students arriving at Dal became confused when they telephoned for the former co-ordinator. Roychoudhury had many students (he stopped counting at 18) approaching him for temporary/permanent accommodation.

On their meagre resources, the ISA was able to rent rooms on Kent Street and Carleton Street. For \$2 to \$4 a night, students were given simple lodgings. The arrangement did not quite break even and the ISA was left with the bill.

The ISA president has been working jointly with the president of DAGS, Siona Bastable,

who also received desperate calls from unsuccessful home-hunters. With the help of caretakers and landlords in the city, they were able to find temporary/permanent accommodation for most students who sought their aid.

About two weeks ago, on Sunday, a girl telephoned the Women's Residence for assistance. The voice on the phone assured her there was indeed temporary accommodation at the residence, but she did not possess the authority to allot rooms to anyone without the Dean of Women's approval and she could not be reached until 9:30 Monday morning. No provision had been made in the case that foreign students arrived unexpectedly on the weekend.

Roychoudhury sent a letter to Dean Marriott on August 30, 1979 as follows: "The Committee (the Executive Commit-

tee of the ISA) felt that a new appointment was not necessary, at least at this time of the year. If a change was necessary, it should have been effected at least two months earlier, if not one month later. New students are coming in and a Co-ordinator who knows the ropes has a chance of rendering better service."

Roychoudhury presented the problem to John Graham of Dalhousie Housing, but he could not come up with any temporary accommodation. However, Graham offered to provide financial aid for a room on Robie Street.

The ISA also felt the association should have been involved with the Selection Committee. The ISA works in close co-operation with the Overseas Student Co-ordinator, as well as with DAGS and the Student Union. The asso-

ciation does not have facilities and a steady source of income but renders a respectable amount of service to the student community. The Student Union allotted \$450 to the ISA at last Sunday's meeting and DAGS donates \$150 to its cause.

The ISA president and the Chairman of the Selection Committee have made a compromise. They agreed that the timing for the co-ordinator's appointment was not in the interests of the new students and the co-ordinator. Roychoudhury recommended that the appointment of a co-ordinator be effected as of October 1, so the co-ordinator is prepared when the foreign students need his advice most of all. He also advised students not to arrive on weekends when university authorities may not be available.

Tutors Wanted

Outreach Tutoring is off the ground for another year. For those of you not familiar with this program, Outreach Tutoring is a non-profit volunteer agency which grew out of a need for an individual tutoring service in the North End of Halifax and Spryfield areas. Many students attending school in these areas need help with their school work; help that may mean the difference between passing and failing.

Limited only in its number of volunteer tutors, the program assists students from five schools and receives many more requests for tutors than it can handle. Most children require assistance with reading and comprehension, while others might need instruction in Math or Science. Students usually require only one or two hours of tutoring weekly.

The success of the Outreach Tutoring Program depends upon committed volunteers who, as well as help these kids, benefit from their experience with the program. The program offers tutors an opportunity to gain teaching experience, meet people and develop a rewarding relationship with a youngster.

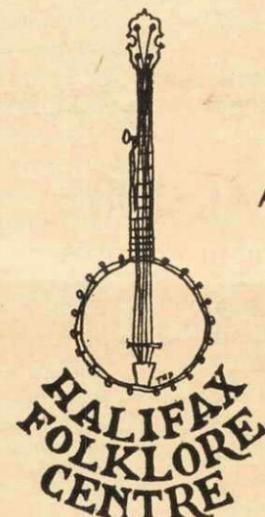
The bottom line is that Outreach Tutoring needs volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering or just interested, give us a call or drop by our office. Outreach is located at: Veith House, 3115 Veith Street, Halifax, N.S. Phone 453-4322.



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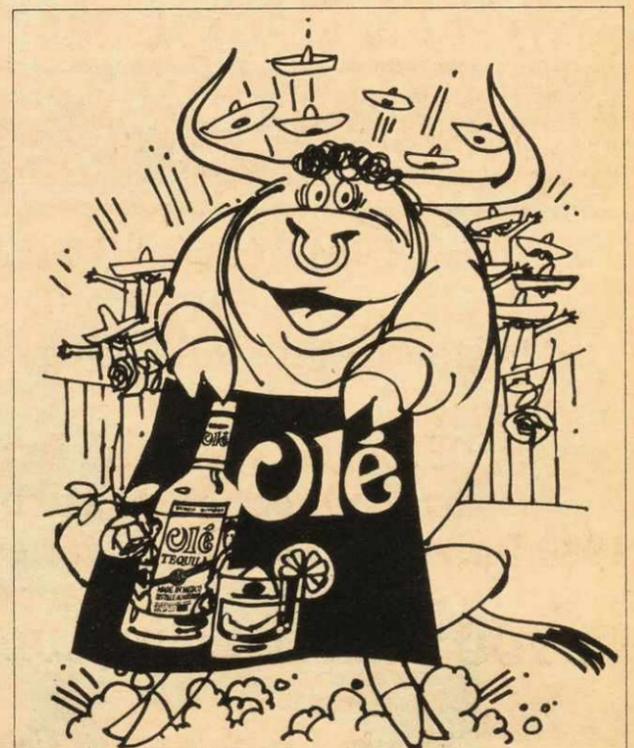
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