

# Why Initiation?

NOTE: This article was written before the recent ban on hazing had been announced. We have decided to print it anyway.

Well, keeds, it's Freshmen Week again, despite all the persecution the Frosh have more fun than anybody. There's no more definite way of at last being at Dalhousie than to line up for a yellow and black beanie and a ridiculous placard, to carry books and do push-ups for stern sophomores, (and, incidentally, Kings Students,) to snake dance down the street, though I suspect it was "bunny-hop" this year—to buy textbooks at Roy's Store and timidly advance to the canteen—to sit in a classroom taking unfamiliar notes from a black-gowned professor—it's all new, it's all fun, it's at last—Dalhousie.

There's more to Freshmen Week than meets the eye. The "Initiation" has a lot of critics, as everyone knows, and in defense of their theory that Freshmen should not be Kept Down, they recall that a Freshman died at such-and-such a college from cruel treatment, that another caught pneumonia from being thrown into the college fountain, and another suffered a nervous breakdown because someone put bread crumbs in her bed and she thought they were spiders. Unfortunately these stories are true, and it's a great pity, because Freshmen Week, used properly, is one of the greatest benefits a Freshman gets from his first term at college. His first week the Freshman is a strange face among strange faces—terrifying experience. But by means of the various activities, trials, persecutions and hoey planned for them by the Sophomores (bless 'em) they all get to know each other as partners in tribulation, and also, of course, they know the Sophomores. It's a gentle introduction to studies, and a lot of fun for everybody.

The excesses which unfortunately have caused "Initiation Week" to be banned at some colleges are unknown at Dalhousie, where Freshmen Week is strictly for the Frosh, not for the entertainment of the more feeble minded Sophomores.

So, have a good time, Freshmen! Welcome to Dalhousie!

## We Need Writers

Do you like to write? Have you a flair for poetry, a good nose for a story, a gift for cartooning, a few ideas which you would like to write out and have printed—if you only had the opportunity? "We sound like one of those "This is your Golden Chance to Win \$1000, Fame and Fortune" advertisements, and we mean to. Because although we can't promise fame or fortune to anyone, we can promise a lot of fun, the benefit of working with a staff on a college paper, the thrilling experience of having your own work read and criticized, and points towards a silver "D."

How do you obtain all this? Simply by coming to see us at the Gazette office. We need good Feature Writers with ideas, not only on the permanent staff but as outside contributors. If you have a short story or two, a poem, a favourite essay, we would like very much to have it, and more like it. If you would prefer to affix an anonymous signature to your writings, by all means do so—we do, and have for years.

We want to have a good paper this year. Since the publication has been restricted to once a week instead of twice, this paper is to be a six-page instead of a four-page issue. We want those six pages to be filled with Dalhousie talent, not reprints from other college papers. We most anxiously and hopefully solicit talent from among the newcomers. How about it? (The Gazette office is in the Men's Residence, and there is usually someone in there all the time.)

### FOUND

In the Truro Youth Centre, after the Glee Club's performance of "H.M.S. Pinafore" last March, two scarves and one key. The owners may have them by identifying them at the Glee Club Office.

### PHAROS MEETING

A meeting will be held in the Pharos Office, in the west end of the Men's Residence at 11 p.m. Saturday for all those interested in working on the year book. Photographers are need in par-

## FRESHMEN IN FAVOUR

Are you in favor of Initiation at Dal as it exists today?

Yes, because I think it has a good leveling influence, as it puts everybody in the same boat and under the same difficulties.

Sarah Pullen (Freshette)

Yes, I am definitely in favour of it. It tends to make the "Frosh" get acquainted with their seniors. Everything they do to us is in good fun, and it should be taken that way. Entering college with an initiation is a big let-down to most of us. So, I think it is a mistake to cut it out.

Carl Webb (Freshman)

Definitely initiation at Dalhousie provides an opportunity to meet and make new friends. Initiation is in fun and any good sport should be able to take it that way.

Ann Rainnie (Freshette)

To a new college student the word "initiation" immediately brings a thrill. Everyone wonders what will go on this time, all are excited about this new phase of their life, and think it is fun. How else are the new students supposed to get acquainted with the seniors? When something is given in fun it is fun, especially when you know that no one is out to hurt you intentionally.

Buddy Smith (Freshman)

Initiation, like everything else, has its good points and its bad points. Remove those parts of the initiation program which are apt to prove a disadvantage to the first year students and cause them embarrassment; then the result will be good clean fun, appreciated by all. No, I am not altogether in favour of initiation as it exists today at Dal.

John Mercer

## THE CONTINENTAL

This column wishes to extend a very sincere welcome to the Freshmen Class of Dalhousie, and it is hoped that you will have an enjoyable and successful college year.

To introduce the Canadian University Press column, this year under the title of "Continental," it is necessary only to say that it will attempt to give a resume of the news and events from our other Universities across Canada.

Queen Journal: announces the completion of a new Administration Building, to be ready for occupancy this coming Spring. The total cost will be \$600,000 which will include the furniture and the additional cost of demolishing the Muir House which had previously occupied the site. Also, from the Journal is the announcement that their Glee Club will present Smetne's comic opera "The Bartered Bride" sometime this Fall. The Kingstonites have added a new twist to Initiation by the introduction of a wiener roast which combines both Freshmen and Sophomores. The trend seems to be toward mutual aid rather than the furthering of the old termed "inferiority complex."

From Western Ontario's Gazette comes some news of NFCUS. To quote "in addition NFCUS co-ordinates all the work of the Student Councils of its 18 member Universities and its motto remains 'service to our fellow students.'" Continuing to say that "each year NFCUS holds a conference which this year will be at McGill University from Oct. 12 to Oct. 17. The main theme of the Conference will be 'the Education Outlook in Canadian Universities.'" Those of us who know little about NFCUS, but who remember the Russian Exchange question of last Fall, look forward to an interesting and elucidating report.

For the general interest of a poem "The Enthusiast" resurrected from a corner of the Gazette. To wit:

"Ah, learning is a wonderous thing, so forth to learn go I;  
My bank account is very low my spirits very high;  
How wise the tall professor look!  
I simply long to see  
If from their wells of knowledge they will sprinkle drops  
on me."

Last but not least we turn to the Toronto Varsity. That venerable institution announces a new Pharmacy Faculty as an addition to the campus. The situation which formerly existed at the University of Toronto is similar to the position of the Faculty of Pharmacy at Dalhousie.

## Last Fling

Let the rain beat on summer-worn trees,  
On faded leaves, dull and limp;  
Blackening the grey branches  
Lined and worn like old women's hand;  
Pleased, they bow and nod,  
Glossy, covered with rain diamonds,  
The August trees are April once again.

-N.B.W.

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