

# Orientation week event-filled

By JOEY KILFOIL  
Editor-in-Chief

"Let's Start Some New Traditions" was the theme for UNB's Orientation this year, and according to Gerard Finnan, some new traditions have indeed been started.

Finnan, a fourth-year arts student, is this year's orientation committee chairman. It is the orientation committee that is responsible for seeing that students new to UNB get settled in comfortably and get adjusted well to their surroundings and campus life in general. Other orientation committee officers this year include Dave LeBlanc, vice-chairman; Steve Covey, High School Relations Officer; Nancy Forbes, secretary; Sue Lynch, public relations officer; and Wayne Schreuer, comptroller.

The Orientation 1981 executive was chosen in September of 1980, and Finnan said it was decided at that time to make Orientation a year-round thing, instead of just a summertime happening as it had been in previous years. This meant being more available on a regular basis; as well, said Finnan, freshmen were asked to fill out surveys stating what their opinion of the previous orientation week had been and what they would like to see in the future. As well, he said, the new orientation committee met with the frosh and "learned a lot" from that, he said.

One change this year has been a major improvement in the frosh pack, said Finnan. He explained the frosh pack is simply a "welcome wagon" type of package which contains keepsake trinkets relating to UNB as well as information from the university and promotions from local merchants.

Finnan said a major problem in the past has been lack of student spirit. He said the committee figured the freshmen would be a good place to upgrade student spirit, as they would most likely be the first to get involved. With this in mind, the committee came up with a new, original poster depicting various elements of campus life and bearing the slogan: "Let's Start Some New Traditions." This phrase quickly caught on, becoming the theme for Orientation 1981.

This year's freshman information centre has improved drastically over last year's, said Finnan. Located in the lobby of the SUB, it bears a professional-looking sign and represents a sharp improvement over the tables set up

last year, he said. This means freshmen will be more inclined to avail themselves of the services offered and less likely to wander around looking lost, Finnan said.

"The more information a freshman has, the better off he will be," said Finnan.

Activities for new students kicked off Tuesday with faculty addresses. In these sessions between students and faculty deans, the importance of the faculty advisor was stressed, said Finnan. This was also emphasized in a letter written to would-be freshmen this summer, he said.

Finnan said members of this year's orientation committee sent out about 2,000 handwritten letters this year. Over 100 replies were received by the committee, a significant increase over the one student who replied to the letters last year, he said.

A parent campus life symposium Tuesday afternoon provided parents of students new to the university a chance to meet various faculty members and deans and get to know a little bit about how the system works at UNB. This was followed by a reception by President James Downey, which Finnan said was "packed" and was very successful.

President Downey addressed the students in the Aitken University Centre Tuesday night. Following this, students purchased frosh packs and received the identification bracelet which allows them free admission to various orientation week events as well as indicating the number of their freshmen group.

Finnan said there is one leader and one peer helper for group of about 50 freshmen. This is something which will be carried on through the year, he said, as the students were informed of how to get in touch with their leaders and peer helpers any time they need assistance.

A frosh dance attended by about 1,000 people wrapped up Tuesday's activities.

Wednesday started off with Math and French placement tests, designed to give students taking these courses some idea of the level at which they should begin studying. Frosh groups met for the first time Wednesday evening, and Finnan said the main purpose of this initial encounter was to establish a relationship between

the frosh and their group leaders and peer helpers. As well, the registration procedure was explained and questions were answered. Finnan said he estimated about 90

per cent of all the freshmen showed up for the meetings.

A superb concert by Fredericton rock group Redeye was attended by over 600 throughout the evening. This, like the other freshmen events, was non-alcoholic.

Thursday was registration day for the about 1500 freshmen at UNB this year, and Finnan said about 60 members of the orientation committee were present at the Aitken Centre to assist confused newcomers in any way they

could. Symposia for international students and mature students - those over 23 years of age starting university - were held in the evening. Casino Nite wound up the evening in good fashion, as about 500 freshmen turned out to try their hand at various games, accumulating play money to bid on prizes donated by local businesses. For those not too tired, a number of movies were shown all night, free to freshmen wearing I.D. bracelets.

Friday saw another meeting between freshmen groups and their peer helpers. As well as continuing to build a relationship between the new students and the group leaders, the meetings helped the frosh prepare for Saturday's Shinerama campaign, an annual event whereby UNB freshmen raise money for Cystic Fibrosis research by shining shoes. A record \$8,288.77 was raised in this year's effort.

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### ESSO CAREER DAY

DATE: Tuesday, September 29, 1981

TIME: 12 noon to 7:00 p.m.

PLACE: Head Hall, C-10

FORMAT: Continuous Video Tape Program and one-to-one discussions with company representatives. Drop-in format.