



It's his Bagg...

The Purposes of Orientation

In recent years, the approach taken with incoming freshmen university students, at most Canadian campuses, has been one of "orientation" rather than of "initiation".

Robert Bagg, Chairman of the Orientation Committee this year, explains the purpose of Orientation at Dalhousie this way: "At the end of Orientation Week the freshman will have learned something about himself; he will have a clear idea of where the various buildings are located on the campus; he will have become acquainted with many other freshmen; and perhaps most important of all, he will have come to feel a bit at home, whether he comes from Halifax or from India."

In order for this aim to be realized, Bagg and the members of his committee have been planning Orientation Week since early last March. The result of their work is a week-long round of activities designed to provide every freshman with information as well as entertainment -- an awesome job in light of the fact that some 800 freshmen are expected at Dal in September.

One of the major difficulties which Bagg foresees is the widening gap between residence and non-residence students, which, as enrollment increases, is becoming more pronounced each year.

"This is the biggest problem on our campus now" says Bagg. "Such a gap frequently means that non-residence students may have no contact whatsoever with affairs on campus. This destroys the unity which our student body should have."

When asked whether he thought that the gradual disappearance of the old hazing system of initiation was partly responsible for the apparent decline in "university spirit", Bagg replied: "Maybe hazing does create spirit. . .but all too often it creates the wrong kind of spirit. . .that of revenge. From our point of view this is a highly undesirable form of enthusiasm, and certainly does not represent university spirit as we would like to see it."

He went on to say that another problem with hazing is that it has often been known to get completely out of hand. "It is difficult, if not impossible, to control the natural sadistic tendencies which some persons unfortunately seem to have. For this reason, our committee has means by which strict control will be exercised over the upper classmen to prevent any instances of sadism which might otherwise occur."

On the other hand, however, Bagg feels that some respect for upper classmen must be shown by the freshmen. To a great extent this "respect" boils down to the fact that the freshmen should appreciate what is being done in the way of orientation activities, and be willing to participate as fully as possible.

Said Bagg: "We realize that some students are afraid and uncertain in this new situation, and our aim is to give them as much to do as possible in order that they may meet one another and get acquainted with their circumstances. We have tried to prepare a program which looks as full and as interesting as possible to our new students." Bagg added that the response of upper classmen to help the Committee with the week's events has been excellent. "I'm very pleased", he said.

The schedule of events for Orientation Week will begin with some films being shown in the Dunn Building while all the new students are completing the process of registration.

On the days following this, activities include a morning of welcome speeches by President Hicks and Dean James. The freshmen will be divided into groups of no more than 15-20 people, and these groups will participate in a program of inter-group sports, as well as a detailed tour of the campus.

On Wednesday night, the International Students' Association will present a concert in the gymnasium, to be followed by a square dance.

On Thursday and Friday, a train trip to Lunenburg is planned, giving freshmen an opportunity to see a little of the Nova Scotia countryside as well as to enjoy the excitement of the Lunenburg Exhibition.

Saturday is the day for the Shine-A-Rama, with proceeds going to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

On Saturday evening a barbeque will be held, and later on there will be an outing to Point Pleasant Park.

The week's activities will come to a close on Sunday with an interdenominational church service, and later, a tea in Shirreff Hall.

Bagg also expressed the hope that an evening could be arranged for discussions of various courses, during which the freshmen would be able to talk with upper classmen about their doubts or difficulties after the first few days of classes.

"This has never been tried before" added Bagg, "but we certainly feel that even if it helps a few students, then it is worthwhile."



Program

Monday, Sept. 9

- AM 9:00 - Registration and Group Allocation - Halifax and out-of-town Freshmen - Arts and Administration Building - Compulsory -
- PM 1:00 - Films in Room 117, Dunn Building - Free admission with Frosh Card

Tuesday, Sept. 10

- AM 9:00 - Registration and Group Allocation - out-of-town Freshmen - Arts and Administration Building - Compulsory -
- 10:00 - Guide Orientation for all Guides and Group Leaders in Room 117, Dunn Building
- PM 1:00 - Films in Room 117, Dunn Building - Free admission with Frosh Card

Wednesday, Sept. 11

- AM 10:00 - Welcoming speeches in the gym by University President Dr. Henry Hicks, Student Union President A. Randall Smith, Orientation Chairman D.R. (Bob) Bagg, and Dean of Arts and Science, Dr. James -- short film and lecture for Cystic Fibrosis Shinerama attendance compulsory
- 11:00 - Campus Registration for all Freshmen - Gym - compulsory
- PM 1:00 - Campus Tours -- Student Union Seminar - Seminars -- Lounge Hour -
- 7:00 - International Concert, sponsored by International Students Association, and square dance with Vic Mullen -- in Gym -- free with Frosh Card

Thursday, Sept. 12

*****Groups 1-20 Inclusive*****

- AM 10:00 - Campus Tours - --Student Union Seminar - --Seminars - --Lounge Hour -
- PM 7:30 - Non-Residence Frosh Meet at rink for Mammoth Scavenger Hunt
- 8:30 - Residence Night -- This time is left open for activities in the Residence Orientation Schedule.
- 9:30 - Open House at Fraternities for all Non-Residence Frosh or possibly a Record Hop

*****Groups 21-40 Inclusive*****

- AM 10:00 - Train Trip to Lunenburg -- Free with Frosh Card, \$6.00 for all upper-classmen -- lunch and supper will be provided, and a full range of activities on arrival is planned space for upper-classmen is limited, so be forewarned.

Friday, Sept. 13

- AM 10:00 - Campus Tours - -- Student Union Seminar - -- Seminars - Lounge Hour
- PM 7:30 - Non-Residence Frosh Meet at rink Mammoth Scavenger Hunt
- 9:30 - Open House at Fraternities for all Non-Residence Frosh or possibly a Record Hop

*****Groups 1-20 Inclusive*****

- AM 10:00 - Train Trip to Lunenburg -- Free with Frosh Card, \$6.00 for all upper-classmen -- lunch and supper will be provided, and a full range of activities on arrival is planned. Space for upper-classmen is limited, so be forewarned.

Saturday, Sept. 14

- AM 10:00 - City Tour - Meet at Gym - Free with Frosh Card -
- 12:00 - Free Steer Roast on the Quad in Front of Howe Hall
- PM 1:30 - Football Game - Mount Allison at Dal - Free admission
- 6:00 - All Frosh Meet at rink for departure for Point Pleasant Park for an evening of Bacchanalia and a free hot snack. Bonfire and Singalong -- in the event of rain or other inclement weather, an alternate programme of indoor entertainment is planned for the rink.

Sunday, Sept. 15

- PM 1:00 - Panhellenic Tea Party for all girls - Shirreff Hall
- 7:00 - Non-Denominational Chaplains Service, in the rink evening activities still undecided as of this revision date