

ORIENTATION- The Best of its Kind

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Features Editor

Last year, the UNB Orientation Committee was recognized as one of the finest in North America by the National Orientation Directors Association (NODA). At a National conference held in Scottsdale, Arizona last year, UNB's 1985 Orientation Executive were awarded the "Best of Show" first prize; Best Packet/Package, first prize; Best paraphernalia, second prize. The NODA conference is attended by North American Universities. Last year Marc Braithwaite and James Young represented the Orientation Committee at the NODA conference. The Executive of UNB Orientation this year are: James Young, Chairman; Marc Braithwaite, Vice-chairman; Julie MacDonald, High School Relations Officer; Lynne Doiron, Public Relations Officer. The Promotions Officer is Tim Judah; Andrew McAllister, Treasurer; Brent Smith, Secretary and Claude LeBlanc, Shinerama Director.

An alcohol-free frosh week was planned for UNB students this year. This was in keeping with the Committee's theme of a non-alcoholic frosh week. The frosh week sponsor of 10 years, a brewery was dropped. The official sponsor this year was Pepsi Cola and Maritime Beverages. The alcohol awareness program is the first program of this size in any Canadian university.

Committee members were quick to point out that they are not anti-drinking but want students to be responsible when they drink. The inspiration for the alcohol awareness program came from the news of 8 deaths as a result of orientation programs in 1985. Seven of those deaths were alcohol related. The Orientation Committee combined the best programs in North America and developed theirs in conjunction with the Alcohol and Drug Dependency Commission. The Commission donated \$6,000.00 to the Orientation Committee. The money was used to buy t-shirts with the "More Hugs - No Drugs" logo.

The Orientation Committee wishes to express a special thanks to Dr. Everett Chalmers for his support to frosh week.

The Alumni Association was also supportive by supplying the cases for the frosh kits. The Alumni Assoc. also pays 1/3 of the Co-ordinator's salary.

The dictionary tells me that orientation is a program introducing one to a new environment. The UNB Orientation Committee has completed another freshmen/women orientation week. Students arrived at the campus and were given a "frosh pack" which consists of a number of articles. A "More Hugs - No Drugs" t-shirt, a glass



mug, pencil, a student handbook and other items.

The Student Handbook contains information on every aspect of university life and will be a valuable reference throughout the year.

The Orientation Committee answers any ques-

tions new students to UNB may have. No small task when over 1400 new students arrive during the same week. The Committee organizes new students into 40 groups. Each group has one male and one female leader. The Committee executive

feels that smaller groups are more personal. Mature students are usually given their orientation from Campus Counselling Services.

International students are given an additional kit to help them understand the Canadian climate and how to dress for it; plus invaluable information on currency, health care, transportation, map of Fredericton, etc. A pick up service, at the Fredericton airport is also provided twice a day. The Committee members make sure that international students have a place to sleep. They also take new students around the city and campus for the first week to help them get acquainted with their new surroundings.

Finding accommodations is often difficult for foreign students looking off campus. Again students on the Orientation Committee will step in to assist. Help is also available on registration day to pick out courses and arrange timetables.

Another new feature of this year's orientation was Student Activity Night. All the clubs and organizations on campus were represented. The Fredericton Volunteer Bureau also set up a booth to inform students about opportunities for community volunteer work. Tim Horton's supplied coffee and donuts. The Social Club sold memberships and provided an opportunity to get NBLCC card.

UNB Orientation in co-operation with the Dean of Residence Office provided a Parent Orientation Handbook. It is the first time Parent Orientation has been tried at UNB; although it is a popular feature at American universities. The handbook provides contact numbers and other pertinent information to parents. The eight rules to parenting a freshman provides a humorous touch to the factual data. An example, "Rule #1: Don't ask them if they're homesick". Guided tours of the campus, a breakfast social and brunch with the President of the University were part of the Parent Orientation Program.

The Director for the Shinerama '86 is Claude LeBlanc. Last year students raised over \$14,000 to fight Cystic Fibrosis. The goal for this year's effort was \$16,000. Last year UNB had the third highest per capita collection of all Canadian universities. The Social Club on Sept 5, 1986 donated 5¢ from every liquor sale to Cystic Fibrosis. The take from sales and the door was in excess of \$500.00. CHSR handled the PR for the Shinerama campaign. This year's total from Shinerama is near the \$14,000 mark once again.

On Friday, September 19, 1986 is the final event for Orientation '86, the Frosh Ball.