

off campus with the frosh squad

By KIM McCLENAGHAN

THE WORDS "DUMB FROSH" rang through the campus as hundreds of first year students were initiated through the ancient rites of universities.

There was a good turn out for Frosh Week and, as always, a huge variety of events, from toga parties to picnics to the all-time favorite, the beach party.

It was back to class on Sept. 8 and the A&A rang with "What do I do? . . . Where do I go? . . ." It is only natural that first year students should have some problems with adjusting. And they do. Overall though, first year students in residence seem to have a positive outlook as they are in a perfect environment for meeting people and participating in events.

This, however, could become a negative aspect. Peer-pressure becomes an issue as does self-discipline — when to say "no, I'm going to stay home and study". Students in residence have added responsibilities and whether or not they can handle them depends on the individual. So

socially, academically they could be in a real bind.

Off-campus students have a less enthusiastic view. Whereas many off-campus students still live at home, there are many more that are out on their own for the first time. They do not have the structured environment residence offers.

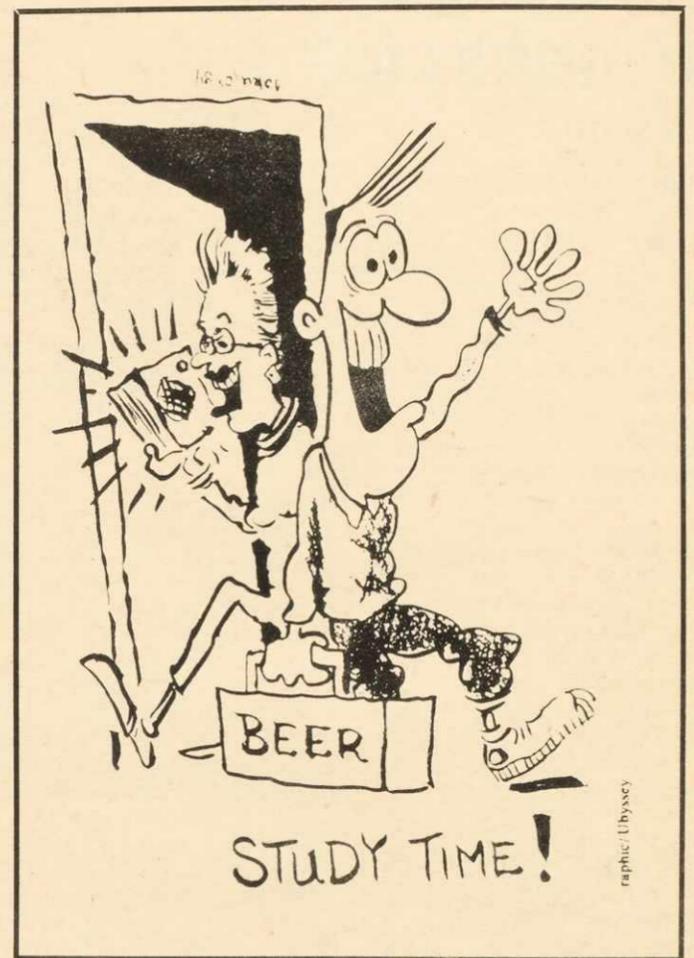
Adjustment is the issue, and how well they adjust actually depends on the students themselves. It varies greatly. If someone comes from a large city, that person tends to be more independent, better able to adjust. People from smaller communities often have a harder time adjusting.

Homesickness is one of the most frequent problems that first year students face. Judy Hayashi, the psychologist for Student Counselling, located in the Dal SUB, says many are "taken aback by how strongly they feel and don't realize that many others feel the same way". She says this feeling does pass and usually by Thanksgiving, students are more sure of themselves.

First year students also have to

deal with financial problems — the "am I spending \$5000 on just a whim" syndrome — and they also have to learn to cope with the new demands constantly being made of them. For instance, in class tutorials, students are often asked to speak in front of the class. A shy person might not be able to cope with the anxiety. The Counselling Services (4th Floor SUB) offer seminars on how to cope with these anxieties. There is also a counselling group for shy people, in which you are taught assertiveness, conversational skills, and general ways to interact with people. Both of these counselling services work their times around the students' schedules.

Orientation Week, however could have been better organized. The events are geared too much towards the people living in residence and not enough towards the off-campus students. There is also a little too much emphasis put on alcohol, which could easily become an issue within the university. Despite this, however, it cannot be denied that there is a real determination in the univer-



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sity to introduce a healthy psychological environment for the first year student and make the adjustments less difficult.

Meanwhile, the University of New Brunswick orientation committee broke new ground this year when it decided to dump its traditional sponsor, Labatt's Breweries, for Pepsi, to reduce the alcoholic influence during the week of activities it planned for first year students in Fredericton.

Labatt's contributed about \$10,000 to last year's \$37,000 UNB orientation budget, and Marc Braithwaite, vice-chairperson of

the eight member orientation committee says Pepsi's sponsorship "comes out to about the same if not a little more."

With first year students averaging 18 years old, "it seems ironic you are pushing a brewery on people underage," he says.

Last year, UNB's orientation was voted the best in North America. Two years earlier, the orientation committee at St. Thomas University, also in Fredericton, decided against seeking brewery sponsorship for its welcoming-week activities.

Loan policies disputed

IN RESPONSE TO INCREASING numbers of incidents of infractions against circulation regulations and consistent expressions by Library users of discontent for the present loan policies, the University Library formed a Circulation Review Committee in September, 1984, review all circulation policies in the Killiam and Macdonald Libraries. The Committee reviewed, among other things, loan periods at other institutions and surveyed our own users for their preferences

The Committee found that out of nineteen comparable University Libraries fourteen had a non-circulating policy with regard to the circulation of unbound journals. In our survey of Dalhousie Library users we received responses from 247 faculty, 206 graduate students and 293 undergraduate students. Of these respondents, 64% indicated that

current periodicals should not circulate at all and given the option of various loan periods 52% favoured an overnight loan period. There is a preference among most Library users here, and elsewhere, that current periodicals be available in the Library. The University Library Committee concluded that an overnight loan period met the needs of those users who wanted journals available in the Library while also making it possible for others to take journals out with the least inconvenience to the majority of users.

Endorsed by the University Library Committee in the spring, the new loan period went into effect on July 2, 1986. Now in keeping with the longstanding policy in the Macdonald Science Library, Killam's policy permits current issues of journals to circulate from 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 a.m. A fine of 50¢ an hour is levied on overdue material.