

# Initiations are Obsolete!

It has long been the policy of many organizations and societies to hold initiations, many of which are secret and impressive ceremonies. Others, as in the days of the ancient knights, were of a mere physical nature, and sought to test a man's courage and valour. All these served their purpose for they were the basis of acceptance into the group.

The main advantage of a college institution, however, is that all freshmen are drawn together. They come to associate themselves as a group for they have between them a mutual bond—the result of "having been through it together". Initiation quickly plunges all freshmen into the routine of campus life. They are made familiar with the university and its various activities, and since their interests are made known, the various organizations avail themselves of this opportunity to find fresh blood for their groups. Furthermore, the enthusiasm shown in initiating them impresses upon them a real sense of college spirit. They are told that they are Dal men or King's men and as a result develop a feeling of belonging, a feeling of unity and a feeling of being a part of college life.

**King's Use Rough Approach**  
Many say that this is not a good thing. First and foremost because of its effect, both psychologically and physically on all concerned. It is not good for a person, thrust into such new surroundings, to be bullied as the freshmen are. Some of those involved have just come to Canada and this certainly makes a very poor first impression. Similarly it is wrong for anyone to feel he can order his fellow human beings around and humiliate them as the sophomore does. It is also felt that enjoyment, derived from being a participant in such activities is a sign of immaturity.

On the other hand, many consider this "Reign of Terror" at Kings well worthwhile. It separates the men from the boys; the good sports from the bad. The way a freshman stands up to this trial is an excellent indication of his character. Some are

surly, some afraid, but most will laugh it off and accept it in the spirit in which it was meant.

**Dal Gentle, But Less Effective**  
Dal, however, bands their freshman together on various occasions, caps and placards them, and proceeds to lead them through an assortment of functions, such as parades, football games and dances. The freshmen and the freshettes are urged to mix with each other as well as upperclassmen. They are shown

that university can be a place of play as well as work, and are encouraged to participate in extra-curricular activities. In short, they are shown around their new home, in the hope that they will do their part to make it run well.

It is obvious that Dal cannot conduct an initiation on such a scale as that carried on at Kings, for Kings has the great advantage of having only a small number of freshmen, 95% of whom live in residence and thus close at hand for the call of sophomores. They could never, with such a large class, lavish upon the freshmen that individual attention which a Kings sophomore so willingly gives to his charges. Yet the situation could be improved—if improvement is needed.

Both Kings and Dal strive to accomplish the same thing during initiation week—to make the freshmen feel welcome. How well do they succeed, and does the end justify the means? Here are some opinions.

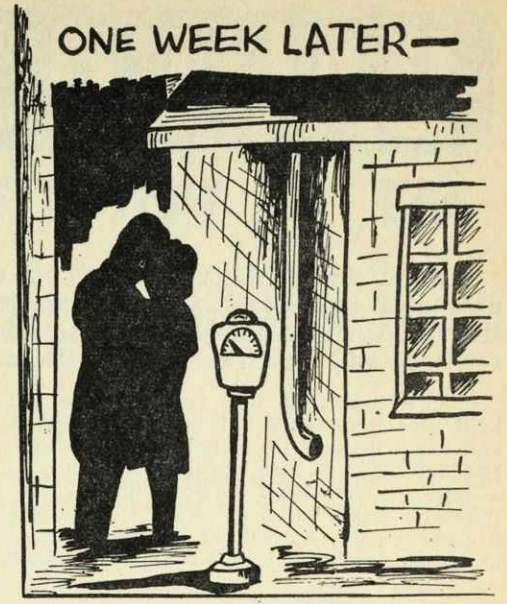
**King's Sophomore:** "We're all for it. After all, King's was built on tra-

dition and we can't stop now merely because some few people are a bit squeamish. King's sophomores all go for it."

**King's Freshman:** "King's has always had the reputation of having the worst initiation in the Maritimes. Much was put into it to live up to its "standards". It went over with great success, insofar as most sophomores and a few freshmen were concerned. Otherwise it was a farce. It was tedious and irritating, but must be borne with rather a forced grin."

**Dalhousie Sophomore:** "Our initiation was successfully carried out, although there should have been more control on the part of the sophomores. But we are not trying to torture or humiliate the freshmen merely to introduce them to campus life."

**Dalhousie Freshman:** "The initiation was possibly too mild. Few freshmen got much satisfaction from the affair, although most did have a bit of fun. Generally, though, it lacked spirit. It seemed dead."



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## THEY PLAY IT HOT AT 777

by JIM HURLEY

Smoke curls up lazily to the high, dark ceiling under the dim glow of blue lights, there is a sound of clinking glass and a constant murmur of voices as hot jazz flies out from the brightly lighted blue and silver section against the far wall of the room. This is Club 777.

Club 777 was founded about five years ago in a Nova Scotian hotel to satisfy the need for live jazz in this area. After a few years of wandering, the club finally settled at the present location—777 Barrington St. Not only does the Club supply live jazz for the rabid fans in Halifax, but it also supplies an outlet for local talent and thus nurtures our local jazz life.

Some students have not yet been initiated to jazz. For these students, the only way to find out what jazz is like is to attend one of the Club's jam sessions, which are held each Sunday evening, and to discover a new world. They will note that jazz consists of harmonious improvisation, where each musician plays with independence within the general framework of the musical selection. If you don't understand jazz after attending a jam session, don't ask anyone what it is. Bob Oxley, President of 777, and who is also an announcer at CHNS, says that anyone who has to ask what jazz is will never know what it is.

The club that sponsors this jazz is a non-profit organization. However, there is a small fee for members to help make improvements for the musicians and the audience. The weekly fee is 75c, but with a NFCUS card it is only 50c. Eventually, the club hopes to have loudspeakers, a hi-fi play back machine, and other facilities that will increase the enjoyment of all.

The President of the Club has suggested that, if there are enough jazz fans at Dalhousie, a campus appreciation club might be set up. This would allow all interested parties to assemble periodically to listen to recorded jazz. Such a club would help to satisfy the inner cravings of many jazz addicts.

The members of Club 777 feel that their club sponsors a jazz life of high quality in Halifax. They point with pride to one of their "graduates", Warren Chaisson, who now plays with the George Shearing Quintet. Besides, they find a lot of personal pleasure out of their membership in the club.

If you are interested, or if you are merely curious, don't forget to drop in on Sunday evening and see for yourself what fun is the wonderful world of live jazz.

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