

Orientation '81 - our boys left holding the bag



The Orientation '81 report has finally been accepted by the SRC. This happened after much waiting, much disappointment and many questions. As it is, it is still incomplete.

The original report by President Gerard Finnan seemed to be an extremely rushed job, done without preparation or thought. This report brought forth numbers that are absolutely meaningless in every sense of the word. As well this report failed to tell any one what happened during Orientation '81. All Finnan presented were useless figures with a meaningless explanation.

The second report presented by Comptroller Andy Young was much better in the financial sense but lacked any explanation at all. The only attempt to explain anything is a sentence telling councillors to see him if they had any questions. Mr. Young does deserve some credit for he does name some events such as Ache 'n Wake, Frosh Packs and

miscellaneous events. You all remember miscellaneous events, weren't they fun? What are they? We await your reply.

Both reports are unsuccessful attempts to tell anyone what went on during Orientation. Any report such as this should explain an event fully and not require previous knowledge of it to understand what went on and its level of success. The only hint of an opinion as to the success of Orientation was when Finnan stated "...Orientation '81 was deemed a success by all and that it was the most successful in years." As to an explanation of the events, well, perhaps that is just inside knowledge.

The main recommendation in the report was that Orientation should not have profit-making as a major goal. If it does, then these profits should be used to offset costs for the next year.

From this rather good idea Finnan's logic may have gone somewhat astray. He

suggests that the university administration is upset because it contributes approximately 12 per cent of total costs and doesn't share in any potential profits with the SRC, who presently have all rights to same. Finnan's solution is adequate despite any lack of foresight in its elucidation.

Again, the idea of only inside knowledge comes into play when considering that no recommendations of any sort were made as to improving the organization or settling the question about who is to be Comptroller for Orientation - their own elected official of what the regulations and by-laws stipulate - the Assistant Comptroller of the SRC. Is the silence in these areas an indication that Gerard feels that the organization of Orientation is perfect? We hope not!

The timing of the report is rather questionable. Did it take over four months to

gather "All that mountainous material and information." That was distributed in the report? For the amount of relevant information contained, the report should have been presented sometime last September, not after the Christmas break as it was this year.

It is hoped that the council takes action to prevent this type of bungling in the future, by passing some amendment to the regulations and by-laws demanding a report by a specific time.

Our recommendations for the present report: a) the addition of an accounts payable notation in the expenditures section so as to conform to accounting principles and b) Council should demand an event by event explanation in the report. We realize it would be hard to do now but steps must be taken to ensure situations like this do not happen again.

We want these events above board, not under it!