



## To frosh or not to frosh?

Now that Orientation Week and all its attendant horrors are over, yet fresh in the memory, it's a good time to reflect on the week's events, whether for better or worse. What with the library being overwhelmed by people coming in to find out how many works "by and on" Shakespeare there are in the collection (322, I believe), ill-feeling towards the requirements for entry to the Ache 'n' Wake (19 being the unsatisfactory crucial age) and certain more questionable events that have happened during the period of "madness", Orientation Week has given a decided atmosphere to the UNB campus and the minds of its inmates, sorry, students.

Despite the fact that any campus institution, any educational establishment, needs to have a good "atmosphere" in which to foster a healthy social and, yes, academic environment, it sometimes happens that a few of the constituents who go towards making this unmythical aura leave quite a lot to be desired. What I am referring to here are 'minor' matters, that some might label "none of your goddam business", such as the incident in one of the Houses last week where some poor, probably "sensitive", soul who wasn't making enough effort to fit in with the House spirit, had his belongings thrown out of his window on the second floor, including breakable possessions which would be an undoubted financial loss. 'Live and let live' is a saying that is often heard and, without wanting to appear dogmatic, it seems that it is a

good concept. When does "frosh-bashing" cross over from good-humoured fun to intimidation? Surely one of the advantages of a university or college education is that it offers one the chance to become open-minded and more tolerant of other people's opinions. If someone doesn't want to take part in a particular 'frosh' event, they should not have to; they have the right to a basic human privilege - individuality. Without it, the world would be a hell of a boring place; what lovers see in each other are individual characteristics, the same goes for friends. And, needless to say, the same goes for complete strangers. So let's have a bit more tolerance.

Now on to more pleasant things. Overall, especially on the organizational level, Orientation Week has been a fair success. All credit is due to Wayne Schreuer and the Orientation Committee, particularly for the quite unique idea of having members of the Committee simulate what it is like to be a freshman, coming to UNB for the first time, and all the confrontations that a freshman might encounter, whether academic, social or administrative. This should be a 'must' for any Orientation Committee in the future. Group leaders were thought to be pretty good and handled their jobs well. Shirerama and the unofficial events in each respective House also seem to have been a success and deserve congratulations.

There has been some criticism of the Ache 'n' Wake in so far that as it is scheduled during

Frosh week, anyone under 19 i.e., most Frosh, is not allowed entry. (However, this is a matter that should be taken up with the Province, not with the Orientation Committee). The alternative events laid on for freshmen in such an event were also felt to be inadequate, although this probably only refers to a few events, by no means all. It was felt that there was more variety at the Casino last year than this year. And there was a general feeling that more information could have been given on the location of campus buildings etc. Maybe it would also be an idea to have more restriction on entrance to the late-night movies - bypassing the "no liquor taken in" restriction by getting inebriated beforehand is not conducive to the pleasure of those who are in a fit state to appreciate the movies.

The Frosh pack itself will probably be a matter of controversy for some time. It is rumoured that many who paid their \$15 never turned up to collect their Frosh packs. Well, that seems to be a case of bad financial sense to me. If you pay for something, make sure you get it. Whether or not the Frosh pack is intrinsically worth \$15 is debatable. It seems rather a lot for giving information to freshmen which should be given to them free. Some degree of printing costs must, of course be taken into account, but it could be the freebies (free taxi rides, bookstore tickets, etc) push up the costs. One thing, it's a damn good way of passing an hour, reading through it all, and it's

the best way to learn about what social events or clubs there might be available to you. The Orientation Book itself was very well produced and packed full of useful information; perhaps one of the most admirable and necessary articles was that written about methods of contraception and the severity of rape and its consequences. Its quite surprising how ignorant or uninformed many people are concerning contraception, and it sure makes for a less troubled life if you are clear about the success percentages for the respective methods and the effects on the partners - greater understanding of a rape victim's feelings and problems is desperately needed; this could be achieved most successfully by a reappraisal of everyone's approach to this social disease.

Finally, all the freshmen who were at the Aitken Centre on Tuesday when the President of UNB greeted you, would do well to try and remember most of his speech in the next few years, even including the story about the little bird and the pile of ----. A university education is, at the moment, a privilege and that is something to appreciate. It is also probably going to be one of the best periods of your life.

However, a university education should be something available to any young person, reasonably intelligent, and not dependent on finance or position in society - it would be a good thing to campaign for in the future. Education is a right not a privilege.