

opinions

Frosh week: half baked...

"D is for dumb broad, and that's good enough for me..."

The week following Labour Day is traditionally Dalhousie's "Frosh Week". During this time, most of Dal's newest arrivals are busied with activities and events that are supposed to offer a chance to make ties with other new students. As students who have observed and participated in several of the Frosh Week events, we noticed a number of patterns in the week's events. Frosh Week, although intended to be a week where older, "veteran" Dal students embrace the first-year students, seemed not to be all-inclusive (we say "seem" because we did not attend every event). Furthermore, some parts of the week's events were even offensive.

One kind of this non-inclusiveness was observed earlier this week. Much of the week seemingly involved a lot of energy-building activity (i.e. lots of yelling and singing). During one of these events, there were several groups of new students, separated according to which dormitory they lived in. There was a group for each residence hall and one group for the off-campus students. Each group would take a turn chanting out their residence hall's name and

Following military-like tradition, this group was singing while marching. What were they singing? 'D is for dumb broad and that's good enough for me'

would then cheer. After this the whole crowd would cheer. After the off-campus group had displayed their pride, the crowd booed. This is not a warm welcome for those new students who have decided to live off-campus. Exemplifying school pride is important - even having pride in where you live is crucial. However, dividing up the students by residence, and opposing on- and off-campus students is not promoting community-building, but rather competition and perhaps even animosity.

Another Frosh Week activity we observed troubled us quite a bit. A group of new students was being marched off to another point on campus. Following a military-like tradition, this group was singing while marching. What were they singing? "D is for dumb broad, and that's good enough for me..." This kind of activity not only ostracizes fifty percent of the new student population, but also offends many other women and men on campus. This kind of behaviour is also recognized as being harassing, and has the effect of stifling people in their efforts to achieve personal fulfilment. It creates a negative atmosphere for work and study. It runs counter to

Dalhousie's goals of academic excellence.

Frosh Week can be a vital event on campus, offering new students a chance to learn about their university and to make some friends. In some respect, Frosh Week works very well; the new students can feel the energy and pride the orientation leaders are giving off. That is important.

We did observe some things that truly seemed to involve bonding, all-inclusive activity. At several points, groups of new students travelled across campus in huge lines, holding hands. Although perhaps originally intended to be some form of homophobic humiliation for the frosh (no Same-Sex hand-holding for Real Men and Real Women - whoever they are), it was, interestingly enough, a great way to break some barriers and make people feel a little more comfortable. Again, there was an overall high-spiritedness that was admirable. Another great activity was the Sexual Orientation B.B.Q. which showed new students that Dalhousie recognizes different kinds of people.

Frosh Week is in itself a tradition. Most colleges and universities across the continent hold similar activities, and similar things occur on all the campuses. Traditionally, the energy level is high and many fun-filled events are planned (usually quite silly ones). However, we need to remember that there are some aspects to the Frosh Week tradition that cause alienation and even pain for some. Not all men are out looking for a woman, and one can carry out an interesting analysis of the kind of straight man who wants a woman who would let him call her "dumb broad". Not all women are looking for a man, and no woman likes to be called a dumb broad.

The group of incoming first-year students is composed of people from all over the province, from across Canada and around the globe. They include individuals coming from different backgrounds and cultures, and we are all familiar with the many kinds of groups which make up our communities. Perhaps ways should be sought to keep the upbeat, high-energy tradition of Frosh Week while still embracing all new students, recognizing their diversities and what they bring with them to our campus, making them feel truly welcome.

**Paul Ricciardi
& Chris Horton**

...or well done

Frosh week, an overwhelming success, with a few suggestions. The following is an article on the excitement of frosh week as experienced by the frosh at Dalhousie from Monday, September 8 to Sunday, September 13, of this year. The most significant suggestion expressed by most off-campus frosh, was to mix the on and off campus frosh in activities and not to split them up.

To describe the daily events would take up too much of your time. So, to maintain your attention span, I shall summarize the exciting, most excellent events of frosh week. For those of you who are wondering who am I to tell, I shall remain anonymous. For those who care less, I am a not-so typical frosh attending Dalhousie University. Though to my regret, the time was not available to receive the opinions of all 3400 frosh at Dal. The

following are the opinions shared by many frosh, both off and on campus. Hence, I am writing from experience and not speculation.

For the on-campus students, frosh week started on Monday, September 7. From what I can gather, they spent most of their day finishing their unpacking and meeting fellow floor-mates. Yet, they saved time to party and dance in the Grawood that night. A most appropriate welcome.

Plain and simple? Not likely on Tuesday, September 8. The following day, most frosh stood in line for an hour, meeting new faces and purchasing loot-bag like frosh packs filled with essential information and toys. The new-to-be frosh were split from their small cliques and formed into frosh

groups. In their massive groups, they met more people and learned some tricks about Dalhousie from their excited and experienced frosh leaders. Truly, for Victor Bijio, Ron Hyson, Stacey MacDougall and their committee, it was not so simple. They were all running around looking busy thinking of something they missed that they were responsible for. Later that night, frosh made some interesting line formations and met more people through original, exciting and frequently humorous activities. From extensive research, I gathered that this event was one of the best sober times for the frosh. Their night did not end there. Later, most frosh attended Howe Hall's all-open room party and danced at the Grawood.

Without question, the favorite event on Wednesday, September 9, was the Barney Bental concert at night. A great time was shared by all frosh. Barney's story about him losing his girlfriend to his best friend kept the attention of the audience.

A most eventful day was planned for Dalhousie frosh on Thursday September 10. They roamed the streets shining shoes, heads, bags and many other hard-to-believe objects. While seeing some of Halifax's most attractive sights, frosh and their leaders raised a total of over twenty six thousand dollars. Way to go team! A very well organized event that was fun and for a great cause! That night the on-campus and

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