

Frosh-eye view orientation

By BRUCE GILLES
 "I expected it to be harder,"
 "I think they should let us sleep
 at night."
 "It was very easy, I think they
 should keep the hazing."
 "Yes, I think we should pay
 respect to upper classmen. We
 have much to learn from them."
 "It should be made rougher
 next year. Why? Because I'll
 be a sophomore."
 "I think upperclassmen should
 stay out of freshmen dances."
 "Something should be done to
 help the chairman's voice to hold
 out all week."
 "Well, it's more or less a big
 drunk, eh!"

These were some of the com-
 ments made by freshmen and
 freshettes regarding their intro-
 duction to Dalhousie during
 orientation week. Opinion on the
 change from the "dump on the
 frosh" attitude of previous years
 was mainly favourable, although
 there were still a good number,
 even among the neophytes, who
 expressed a preference for the
 old format.

Outlining the aims of the pro-
 gramme, Dave Osherow, the head
 of the orientation committee,
 cited a tendency towards aca-
 demic orientation rather than
 initiation, and an attempt to bring
 the professors closer to the stu-
 dents.

"We're trying to treat them
 (the frosh) with responsibility
 rather than making them feel like
 scum," he said.

He was very pleased with the
 success of the programme, and
 called the response of the campus
 organization "tremendous".

The thing I liked best about
 the comments I received was the
 kids asking about organizations
 and how to get into them. This is
 one of the things we were trying
 to accomplish."

Regarding participation, he
 said "The Halifax-Dartmouth
 students have come out en-masse
 while the residence students have
 been the stragglers." He felt
 that this was partly due to the
 unfamiliarity of the residence
 students with the city and campus
 and partly to the interference of
 the individual orientation pro-
 grammes of the residences.

There was agreement on this
 point among the freshmen and
 some advice:

"Yes, there was a fair bit of
 conflict between the campus and
 residence organization. I think
 the house organization should be
 planned around that of the
 campus."

"The schedules could be re-
 organized. I received three dif-
 ferent ones and this made for
 confusion. One comprehensive



Orientation Chairman Dave Osherow, left and new Dalhousie Freshmen, answer questions about initiation.
 Photo - Steve Archibald.

one covering residence and cam-
 pus activities would have been
 better."

On the social side most of
 those talked to, were pleased,
 but there were some suggestions:
 "It's been good socially and
 for meeting people, but I think
 upper classmen should stay out
 of freshmen dances."

"It was a very good concentra-
 tion on intermingling of the two
 sexes."

"We need more girls. The
 freshette situation is very bad!
 They threw a dance at the rink
 and took all the freshettes on a
 city tour."

One item that almost everyone
 had an opinion on was the
 seminars with groups of thirty
 frosh meeting with a professor.
 The success of these meetings
 seemed to depend almost entirely
 on the professor who was in at-
 tendance. Some thought they were
 very useful, and praised the idea
 and their professor. Others were
 disappointed or found them
 boring.

One smiling young man who
 obviously had the right approach
 to the activities admitted.

"Our group leader wasn't there
 and our professor wasn't there,
 but otherwise we had a great
 discussion."

The welcoming speeches given
 by the faculty came in a good
 deal of criticism:

"It could have been a lot more
 snappy. I suppose it was good
 advice but it was lost advice on
 most people."

"It was just boring! I fell asleep
 so I'm not sure if anything signifi-
 cant was eventually said, but
 what I did hear was nothing but
 platitudes."

Others felt differently:
 "I really enjoyed hearing the
 professors speak!"

"Dr. Hicks made people feel
 that they're really glad you're
 here."

Saturday's SHINERAMA was
 hailed as a good idea by almost
 everyone, but those who partici-
 pated often expressed disappoint-
 ment in the turnout. It was prais-

ed as a "constructive way to use
 initiation time" and "the best
 part of initiation week". A damp
 note was placed on the affair when
 the local fuzz stepped in and
 would not allow the frosh to
 "shine for cystic fibrosis" at
 the Halifax Shopping Centre Mall,
 in spite of the fact that the com-
 mittee had procured a licence
 from the city council.

Although not really under the
 jurisdiction of the orientation
 committee, registration drew a
 good deal of comment, mostly
 negative.

"It was a nightmare. We didn't
 even know we were supposed to
 make up our time table or how
 to do it."

"It was terribly bureau-
 cratic."

"The only good part of it was
 right at the end when we met
 the orientation committee."

Of the foreign students inter-
 viewed, the consensus was that
 they were somewhat confused
 by the whole thing and did not
 appreciate the hazing even in

small amounts. They were
 generally pleased, however by
 their welcome to the campus.

The chief criticism of the
 initiation was the lack of mixing
 between the town students and
 the out of town students. It's hard
 to say where the fault lies. Ac-
 cording to one Halifax girl:

"The residence people didn't
 turn out. I was expecting to see
 lots of boys and girls from out
 of town and I didn't meet any." One
 the other side, a freshman
 from Toronto claimed that he
 expected more effort on the part
 of the Halifax kids to introduce
 themselves."

As a whole, the week was a big
 success for all concerned. The
 new approach with the reduction
 has proven its effectiveness and
 will no doubt be continued in the
 future. The frosh have had their
 first taste of the sophisticated
 glorious world of Academia, and
 seemed to like it.

As one coed summed it up:
 "People really couldn't have been
 nicer. It was wonderful!"

CYC denies commie infiltration

OTTAWA (CUP) -- The execu-
 tive director of the Company of
 Young Canadians has denied that
 his organization is the victim
 of a Marxist take-over.

Alan Clarke said here Thurs-
 day (Aug. 23) there were some
 CYC members with leftist opin-
 ions, but there had not been a
 take-over or attempted take-
 over by any group.

The charges that a Marxist
 group was infiltrating the com-
 pany were laid in an unattributed
 story in a recent edition of the
 Montreal Gazette.

The gazette used for the basis
 of its story, an article published
 in Scan written by a Victoria CYC
 member, Lynn Curtis.

Scan is a communist-oriented
 magazine published in Toronto,
 and the article referred to "the
 rotting middle class" -- a phrase
 which the gazette reportedly took

exception to.

Also mentioned in the Gazette
 attack was David Depoe, 23, a
 CYC field worker who was ar-
 rested for "causing a distur-
 bance" at a sit-in in Toronto's
 hip Yorkville district Aug. 21.

Curtis's article suggested any
 radical who wanted to forward
 his ideas and gain substantial
 backing should join the CYC. He
 said there was a leniency within
 the organization which allowed
 the members to do almost what
 they wanted.

He also said he was pleased
 with the executive director's
 handling of the Gazette's
 charges.

"The official CYC position has
 improved greatly since the last
 time we played one of these little
 games. This shows a definite
 growth within the organization,
 Curtis said.

"For the first time, the com-
 pany is on the offense. When-
 ever the CYC has been attacked
 in the past, it has always been
 very defensive.

"This time, the national office
 has stood behind the members
 and defended their actions,"
 Curtis said.

Curtis said the original con-
 tract which the CYC administra-
 tion asked members to sign re-
 quired all workers to have any
 writings cleared by the national
 office before they were pub-
 lished.

"I scratched the clause out be-
 fore I signed," he said.
 Curtis admitted a large num-
 ber of the company's members

had socialist political philo-
 sophy.

"However, our job is to im-
 prove the standard of living
 among the people we work with,
 not to instill in them a political
 philosophy," Curtis said.

Toronto Teach-in

TORONTO (CUP) -- The third
 international teach-in organized
 by university of Toronto students
 is getting static from the Ian
 Smith regime in Rhodesia.

Teach-in organizers have in-
 vited former Rhodesian Prime
 Minister Garfield Todd to ad-
 dress the gathering, but Ian
 Smith's government might pre-
 vent him from leaving the coun-
 try.

In 1965 they confined Todd to
 his farm for a full year when he
 tried to leave the country to
 speak at a similar teach-in.

Mr. Todd said he was recently
 warned by the government he
 would be similarly restricted
 again if his activities became
 "a threat to the nation."

Teach-in organizers have also
 asked his daughter Judy, an out-
 spoken girl living in London, to
 speak in his place if he cannot
 attend.

The theme of this year's teach-
 in is the role of religion in inter-
 national affairs.

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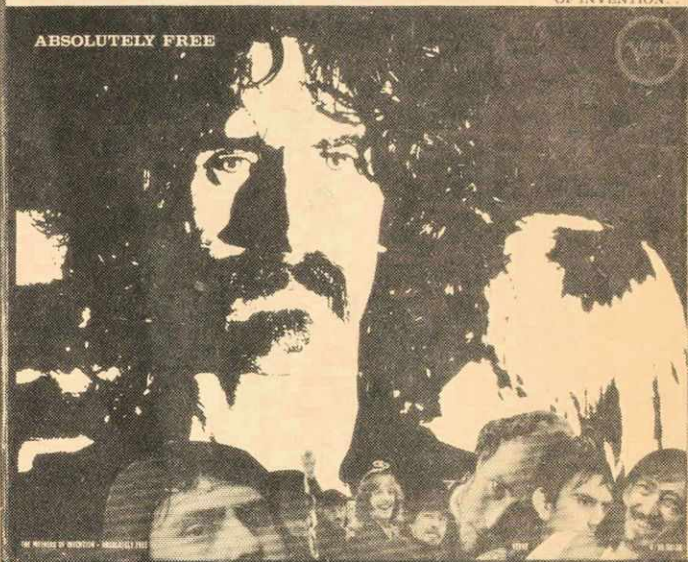
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