

# the Gazette

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## Hazing at Henderson: the whole story

by Adam Newman

*"We're the Henderson Raiders, the Raiders of the night  
We're dirty sons of bitches,  
we'd rather fuck than fight  
So hidy hidy Christ almighty,  
who the fuck are we?  
We're the Henderson Raiders, the studs of Dalhousie!"*

—the traditional cheer of Howe Hall's Henderson House, which has since been changed.

Frosh Week can be the best week of your life, but it can also be the worst. Frosh festivities at Howe Hall's Henderson House this year appear to have gotten out of control. "This is my first time living away from home, and all week I've wanted to go back, said a first-year student at Henderson House. "When I got in the door I wanted to have a shower, and maybe a beer. Somebody stamped the word 'insane' on my hand; you see, I'm insane and I like to party.

"The feeling I had was 'I'm going to be here four years...and I want to go home.'"

The resident went on to describe the week's events. "They made us walk around and hold hands all the time, but that was the best of it. Every time we passed people from Bronson and Cameron (two other Houses in Howe Hall) we had to yell, 'Bronson butt-fuckers', and 'Cameron cocksuckers'. It's hard to meet people when you're forced to insult them all the time.

It seems that the Leaders at Henderson House put down others in an attempt to build spirit. "Bronson butt-fuckers" actually live in a co-ed residence, unlike the "studs" of the all-male Henderson House.

Apparently some Frosh felt that they had no choice but to participate. "We had to do it. Otherwise the Squad Leader would reach into his 'surprise bag for Frosh.' I just kept quiet because if you got mouthy they would take a Joe Louis and stick it inside your underwear, and they would check later on to see if it was still there."

Other sources said that the Frosh Leaders promise that, "we'll check at midnight" was just joke, and Frosh were free to remove the pastry from their own butt cheeks. According to most sources the Joe Louis punishment occurred seven or eight times during the first two days of Orientation. "Usually they took the guy into another room and no one got to watch," said the aforementioned resi-

dent. "But the other day the Leaders pushed a victim in front of the group, and then told someone else to come forward and pull the guy's underwear back. They made him drop it in, and they made sure that the guy sat down to squish it around."

"If you took it out, and they caught you, they would give it to you again and again. At least one guy I know has gotten it twice."

"I just don't see the attraction in humiliating people," he said.

There are 122 students in Henderson House; approximately 100 are first-year students. Most participated in the week's events; of these, the large majority seem to have enjoyed themselves.

"I got Joe Louised, I got egged, rolled down a hill, and had the time of my life doing it," said Randy Morgan, another first-year student at Henderson. His nickname is 'Ram Me Frosh'.

"I think the guys who led us did a really great job of welcoming us; they gave us the go-around during the day, but at night it was like they were our best buddies."

"What's so big about a Joe Louis anyway?," asked one of a group of Henderson Frosh. "Oooh, oh boy, that's painful!," he laughed.

Upon hearing the allegations the Administration disbanded the Frosh Leaders, and further reprimanded them.

"It's bullshit. Every one of the Leaders is excellent," said a first-year student.

However, another first-year student disagreed. "The Leaders told us to 'scream louder, Frosh faggots.' They're homophobic. One time the Leaders thought that we weren't screaming loudly enough, and one of them said, 'Put some balls into that. Come on guys, squeeze your balls, or I'll do it for you.' They made us walk around for 20 minutes, squeezing our balls and screaming."

He said that he was living in a constant state of paranoia. "You couldn't do anything about it because they would make your life a living hell; these guys were living on our floor. We couldn't step out of our rooms without putting ourselves at risk." He and his roommate were considering locking themselves in their room, sneaking out in the middle of the night to buy food, and hiding out until Monday, the first day of classes.

"I'm living off campus. I have a Henderson shirt with my own name on it, and I keep coming back for more," says Dan Tremitas, a first-year student, nicknamed 'Dan Fielding Frosh' by his Squad Leader. He was attracted by the camaraderie of



residence life.

"One time I got egged and the guy beside me laughed. So our Leader turned around and egged him. The group is here to support you, and no one is allowed to laugh at you."

"If there is pressure to attend activities and obey the Leaders, it is created by the students and not by the Leaders," said Ryan Monaghan, a first-year student. "If I'm going to get out of bed, I want my roommate to come too. If you're in a line and

three people in front of you are on their knees 'worshipping' the Leaders, and three people behind you are also down on their knees, you have to have a very strong will to stay on your feet."

"I felt no peer pressure; it was more like a feeling of belonging to a group," said David Cormier, another first-year student at Henderson House.

Some expressed regrets about not being able to see the university. "Aside from not having free time to

relax and meet people, I didn't even know about any clubs or societies, because we didn't have time to look around.

The Orientation Squad Leaders are volunteers, and received a week-end of training. The in-House Leaders are chosen in March by the House Council, the president of which is elected annually by the students. Residence Assistants are usually not

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## Head nods to Women's Centre

by Joanne Fry

Dr. Howard Clark, president of Dalhousie University, endorsed the establishment of a Women's Centre on campus last week during a meeting with the Dalhousie Women's Centre Committee. Committee members were very pleased with this announcement; without the University's commitment to the Centre accessible and practical space on campus would be difficult to obtain. Poor location would impede the Centre's ability to provide services to Dalhousie women.

The Women's Centre will serve as a resource and referral service for men and women, a permanent location at which women's groups across campus can meet and organize events, and as a drop in centre for female students, faculty and staff.

"The Women's Centre will not

serve as a political centre," stresses Candida Rifkind, VP External and chairperson of the Women's Centre Committee established by the Dalhousie Student Union. It will be a reflection of the needs of women on campus, not of feminists in particular.

"Response to the idea of a Women's Centre on campus has been very positive," said Rifkind. Organizations and individuals lobbied over the past summer have supported the creation of a Centre which will provide services to women by women. Similar support is expected from students attending Dalhousie this fall.

Women's Centres on university campuses across Canada are common, particularly in Ontario. Such universities as Trent, York, University of Toronto, Concordia and McGill support Women's Centres. Acadia has the only campus Wom-

en's Centre in Nova Scotia at this time.

Rifkind pointed out that until Dr. Clark endorsed the Women's Centre, the Dalhousie Women's Centre Committee considered finding space on campus to be a more difficult task than locating funding. Revenue for the centre will come from a DSU start-up grant, private donations, and various fund-raisers throughout the year. Committee members expect the Women's Centre to be capable of self-funding after its first year of operation.

Students interested in learning more about the Dalhousie Women's Centre or able to contribute resources and furniture can contact Candida Rifkind at 494-1281 or attend a coffee house in the Green Room 4-6pm Thursday, September 17, following which a meeting concerning the Women's Centre will be held.