

feature

Fresh Ideas For Frosh Week

by Adam Newman

"Initiation" is being replaced by "orientation" in the Nineties, as more and more people are seeking an introduction to university life that offends no one. This leads to the question: what alternatives are available for a new student who wishes to meet a lot of people in a non-traditional way?

Let's take the example of a male student. He wants to live in residence so that he can meet more people, and is accepted to Howe Hall. Of the five Houses, two are co-ed; there are less than 300 spots for young men in an all-male residence at Dalhousie. At Sheriff Hall, there are 445 spots for young women in an all-female residence. This reflects the applications received and the needs of different people, said Heather Sutherland, Director of Housing and Conferences.

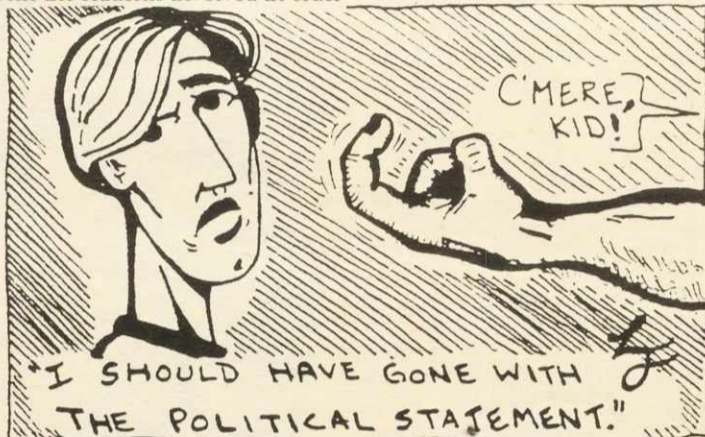
Over one-third of first-year students wishing to live in an all-male residence are placed in Henderson House. Each new resident is introduced to his Resident Assistants (RAs) and House Council. He is told that they are there for him, and asked to please come talk to them should he ever experience any problem. During the next week he will meet and likely make friends with his floormates as they are subjected together to the same rites of initiation. He knows that he is free not to participate, that everything is voluntary, but that if he doesn't participate he will not meet as many people, and he will be making a strong political statement instead of just making friends.

For over 30 years incoming people have been introduced to university

life through Howe Hall in this way.

A Frosh Squad Leader is excited about the week ahead. He has signed a vague contract with the DSU promising not to "haze" first-year students. Recently he met with the executive of the Residence and House Councils and from them received guidelines for his conduct as determined by the Administration.

There is no student-run non-academic disciplinary committee at Dalhousie. The idea is that if there is a case of misconduct the House Council and the Administration will meet with the students involved in order



to resolve the conflict.

Meetings concerning disciplinary action had already occurred a few times at Howe Hall, before the "hazing" controversy erupted this fall. In one incident, the Administration was unhappy with names which had been printed on Frosh T-shirts, and they were promptly changed, said Ben Clark, president of Henderson House.

"The important thing is communication. All the leaders are responsible individuals. The actions of the Frosh Squad as a whole were accepted by each individual because this is what had been done in the

past. If anyone had a problem, the leaders are responsible enough to deal with it by altering their actions, but in this case they weren't given the chance," said Jeff Rappell, president of Howe Hall.

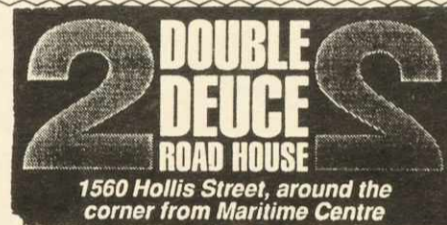
"They treated us with respect, and we treated them in kind. Then when the press got involved, the respect suddenly vanished, and we were treated like children," said Clark.

The story that appeared in *the Gazette* last week was also covered by CKDU, the Chronicle-Herald, and ATV's Live at 5.

For example, one young woman at Shirreff Hall felt it was OK to describe drinking in the residence songs and chants, but all sexual content should be omitted.

"We are open to suggestions. It's important that the Administration involve us in the process of making changes," said Clark.

"There will be discussions between the residence staff and the Residence Councils to develop a framework for next year's orientation with which all parties can be comfortable," said Eric McKee, VP of Student Affairs. "We're certainly willing to talk."



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Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students (DAGS)

ELECTIONS

10 COUNCILLORS-AT-LARGE & PRESIDENT

Nomination Period

Open - 9:00 a.m. Sept. 23rd

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ELECTION - OCTOBER 8TH, '92

Voting Stations:

The Grad House, School of Business, the Tupper Building, and Life Sciences Building

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Nomination forms are available at the Grad House Bar and the DAGS office on the third floor of the Grad House

DSU

TO ALL STUDENTS:

DSU

We, the Dalhousie Student Union, strongly support and recognize those individuals who have voiced their complaints and concerns about events and/or behaviour during FROSH WEEK.

The Dalhousie Student Union does not tolerate harassment of any kind, at any time.

We encourage anyone who has concerns or complaints about events and/or behaviour during FROSH WEEK or at any other time throughout the year, to approach either your student union executive members, or your representative on the DSU Council. Please call 494-1106 to find out who your representatives are.

Sincerely,

the Executive of the Dalhousie Student Union

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