

First year registration frustrations

by Ann Grever

A freshman's first impressions of the university are mostly negative because of the nightmare known as In-person registration.

But although nobody likes the line-ups, the writing competency tests, or the prerequisites most freshmen survive to drink beer during Freshman Introduction Week.

Some freshmen found they slipped through the system. Unfamiliar with most of the services and resource people who can help them, these students went around in circles. The most common complaint from these students whose problems were more complicated or serious for table A is that there was no one they could go to.

For the student who doesn't know if he has been accepted or whose loan hasn't come through or whose courses were all wrong for his program, the phone number of a counsellor should be given along with the earliest confirmation of application.

So here are the words of our newest group of trendy freshmen published on the occasion of their week — Freshmen Introduction Week.

Laura Taylor — Phys Ed.

Taylor was originally from Ontario and attended Carleton university there. "I hated Carleton. It was really competitive and snobby." Taylor is going to be very active this year. "I've been asked to join the soccer and gymnastics team. I'm also interested in cross country skiing."

Chint Wong — Commerce

Wong is a transfer student from Concordia. "In Concordia registration is much easier. I only spent two hours there registering. Here I spent the whole morning — and I've had no problems."

Maureen Stinson — Science

"I didn't like the lineups although everybody was really friendly." Maureen was also worried about the writing competency test.

Rob Earle — Arts

"I definitely need a beer."

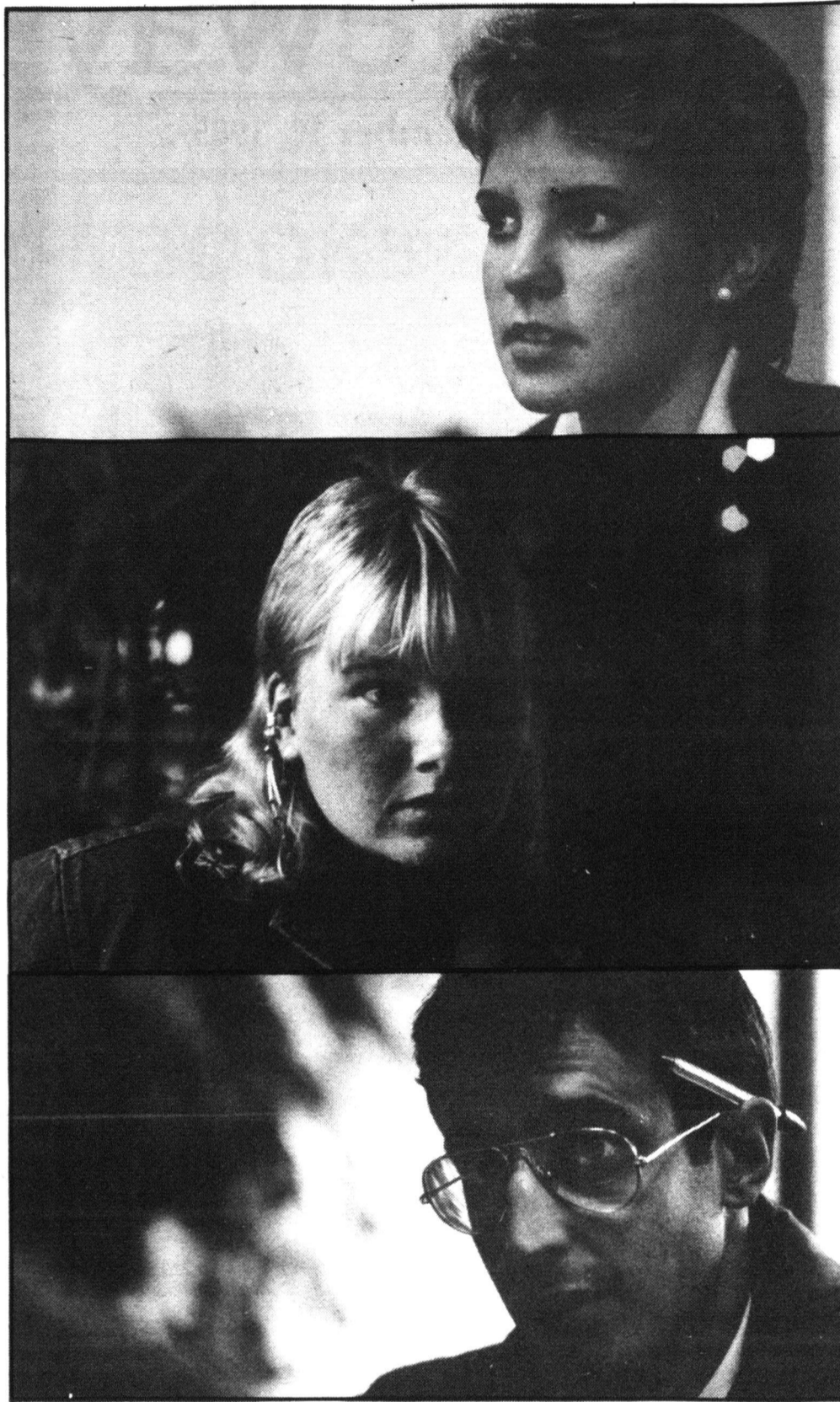


photo above—Maureen Stinson

centre—Laura Taylor

bottom—Paul Gagnon

Paul Gagnon — Arts

Gagnon is a transfer student from Quebec. "I've been treated fairly as far as the administration goes. They let me have a few credits." He admits he was frustrated by registration although "I pretty well got through today."

Lisa Murray — Arts

Murray's problems started when her student loan didn't come through. She then began preregistering for January instead but found that a prerequisite for her anthropology program — Geology 202 — was not offered then.

"The professor told me it was impossible to register in Geology 203 (another prerequisite) because I wouldn't have learned the vocabulary taught in 202."

"My degree is set back a full year. I am too old for an extra year." Murray is a mature student. "If I go back to work in my 50's I won't get hired."

"Although everyone was friendly, there is no one I could ask about my problem — I had to pester everybody." When asked about any orientation courses Murray said the mature students orientation was impossible for her to go to because she worked evenings.

Steve Marsh — Engineering

"The only blot is the writing competency test."

Kari Germann — Arts

"Registration has been hell. At first I didn't even know if I was registered. There were no counsellors, no place to ask questions. We just phoned and phoned until we finally got a nice receptionist who gave us some information."

"It makes a person want to say 'to hell with university, it's not worth it'."

Of res and refuse

by John Watson

Look past the empty beer cans, the broken corn chips, the toilet paper and other refuse scattered about the room. You see students. Just what is it that these first year students on the second floor of

Kelsey Hall think of university life after their first week?

They are staring — motionless — at the TV screen. Despondent? Well, maybe, but they must be thinking a bit about what they have seen so far.

Registration? "It's insane," says one. "When it takes you two days it's too long."

The engineer in the crowd perceives things differently. "No complaints here, it was easy," he says.

How about the people here? "Meeting so many people with so many philosophies of life" is a perk of residence life for one of our members.

After a few minutes of careful thought, he adds, "Everyone here is a party animal, that's good!" Yeah, great, just don't step on the vomit.

Which brings us to the most interesting aspect of res life — the food.

The limited hours in the dining hall during registration week seems to be the only major complaint. Surprisingly, the consensus seems to be that the food is okay.

"It's not the best — but it could be worse," says one. "I missed dinner the first days here but when I looked at the menu, I wasn't too concerned."

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