

Orientation is a success

BY LILLI JU

Another school year, another Orientation Week. This one will be remembered not only for the great times it produced but also for the significant changes it saw during the week and even before that in the planning stages.

The most outstanding and noticeable difference this year was in the off-campus frosh squad. They showed a level of enthusiasm and dedication like never before. The on-campus frosh squad has always been hyped for frosh week, traditionally more so than the off-campus squad. But this year saw an overall change for the better in the training, commitment, and attitudes of the members of the frosh squad. The combination of the on-campus squad's active participation and the new and improved off-campus frosh squad's energy brought about a new kind of exciting and welcoming atmosphere to the whole week. Aside from the organizational aspects, much of the week's success should be accredited to these volunteering frosh leaders.

The frosh leader training weekend was where most of the difference was made. According to Troy Wallace, Fall Orientation '91 Chair, the training weekend "really changed the tone of the week." In the past, the training weekend was held at McNab's Island, with bare facilities and free beer. This year, training took place at Camp Nedouuae, Boy Scout camp (hence, no alcohol was permitted on the grounds), with better facilities and catered by Beaver Foods. The actual training portion of the camp was run by the Youth Leadership Council who organized hours of leadership training activities, trust games, and helped frosh leaders become better able to effectively handle a group of first year students.

Another significant change this year was the introduction of the "Fall Orientation Leader Contract". Although criticized by some returning leaders, Wallace pointed out that the contract helped make leaders "more aware of what they're doing and more aware of the responsibilities they hold to students beginning their university career." "I'm all for leaders having a drink," Wallace said, adding that the main goal was to "promote responsible drinking." This year the off-campus squad consisted of about 60 members. Last year there were over 150 leaders, a lot of whom took part with little concern for their duties and responsibilities as frosh leaders. The smaller number of squad members eased the training process and also significantly helped bring the group together in spirit and dedication.

Every year, one frosh leader is picked as the "Most Enthusiastic Frosh Leader." Traditionally this has been an easy choice since the

leader that was able to keep his group of frosh together throughout the week was picked. This year, however, the task of picking the "most enthusiastic frosh leader" will be much more difficult since the majority of leaders did indeed keep their group. This by itself is an enormous accomplishment for the organizers of Fall Orientation Week. Wallace was very pleased with this year's squad's achievements. "I was overly impressed.. they had their groups, they met them before events... it just blew me away."

"Off-campus frosh brought about a new kind of exciting atmosphere to the whole week."

Other changes include the replacing of bracelets by tickets for events that cost money. Tickets were found to be much more feasible and convenient. As well, frosh leaders and first year students alike donned environmentally-friendly T-shirts all week. Did you know that the T-shirts were undyed, unbleached and, 100 per cent bio-

degradable? A non-alcoholic night was introduced at the Grawood as part of the week's festivities which turned out to be great success.

Fall Orientation Week '91 officially started on Tuesday morning with Opening Ceremonies and Downtown Dalhousie with approximately 1500 students in attendance. In the evening was Playfair, a huge ice-breaker held at the Dalplex fieldhouse. Students at the event witnessed with horror the kidnapping of the Dal Tiger by a group donned in blacks and carrying guns (they left a ransom note telling people to go to the scavenger hunt). This year's participation at Playfair was the best ever. "Playfair kicked... just great" was what Wallace had to say about the event. Afterwards was a non-alcoholic night at the Grawood. The place was packed with students enjoying the atmosphere and the music by D.J. James Webster. Pop sales were very high that night.

Wednesday morning, first year students attended the Orientation Convocation at the Rebecca Cohn auditorium. Dr. Mary Anne White was the keynote speaker who stressed important things to remember for students embarking on their university career. The convocation was followed by the Welcome Show, filled with skits about various aspects of university life. The show was well-enjoyed by those in attendance and was both entertaining and informative. Later that afternoon was the "scavenger hunt/find the tiger" event. Although the event ended short, the

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