

**Frosh Pleased**

# But is that Really enough?

by Martha MacDonald

At least 1000 new students are down to the routine of classes this week, trying to look orientated and amalgamated, to fit in to the total picture of university life and be simply Dal Students.

They have come out of a week of freshman activities.

There was record participation, genuine interest and enthusiasm on the part of the participants. Even critics of orientation must give credit for the hard work and long hours put in by the committee and their sincere effort to provide a good programme, no matter how misdirected one feels this labour was.

As a result of their efforts, freshmen have become familiar with their surroundings, had a week of enjoyment, made many acquaintances and perhaps friends.

But typically, the programme had its share of complaints, both from the participants and upperclassmen. "Too many people got in free," was a common, if minor complaint from many freshmen as was... "we never really got out of our high school groups." Some thought, as well, that though things had started well enough, they had "died a bit" by week's end.

**Carbon copies subhead boldface**

Freshmen complaints were almost carbon copies of those of previous years as the curtain came down on Frosh Week. However, these legitimate complaints invariably get shelved by the time the next orientation rolls around. Each orientation committee starts cold, and thus each program is a new experience; lessons are seldom applied the following year. Hopefully, this year's committee will complete its job and see that there is some carryover to next year, whether it be active participation advisory activity, or written recommendations. On a more serious level, the whole purpose and philosophy of orientations has been questioned. Many people were turned off by the hazing during the horror show of registration. There were many incidents, and the whole business of dumping on Frosh made it hard to relate to them as people and as classmates. Certain upperclass personalities relished their role - campus nobodies playing big shot. Upperclassmen, though, were often more humiliated by it than the victims. Attempts were made to stop it, guides were told to be more sweet and friendly.

**Individuals**

The guides eventually did become personally involved, and the freshmen emerged as individuals.

Oddly enough, many freshmen said they would have liked more initiation along with the orientation. As the hazing died, the wider issue of separating the freshmen lingered.

They were made a group unto themselves, paraded around, labelled. They were still "different". This issue was taken up by the Graduate Students Association in their cry of "Freshmen, take off your beanies!" But few freshmen did. They wanted to be involved, and the only involvement available to them was through the orientation program.

Objection was raised concerning the exclusion of upperclassmen from programs. The freshettes wanted to meet upperclassmen. Many felt that they were only oriented to their group, not to the larger university community.

**Isolation**

As indicated by the Graduate Students' leaflet, the idea of isolating the freshmen as a group was opposed on principle by many.

The Orientation Committee stuck to their plans, stating problems of numbers and money as defence, and reiterating that the program was primarily designed for frosh to meet and know each other.

The pros and cons of these arguments are debatable and hard to resolve. It is hard to rationalize the exclusion of the upperclassmen from events such as the illuminating speeches whereas it is understandable that the square dance could not be opened. The unfortunate result of this conflict is that the orientation workers came across at times like a gestapi, and the freshmen as herded sheep.

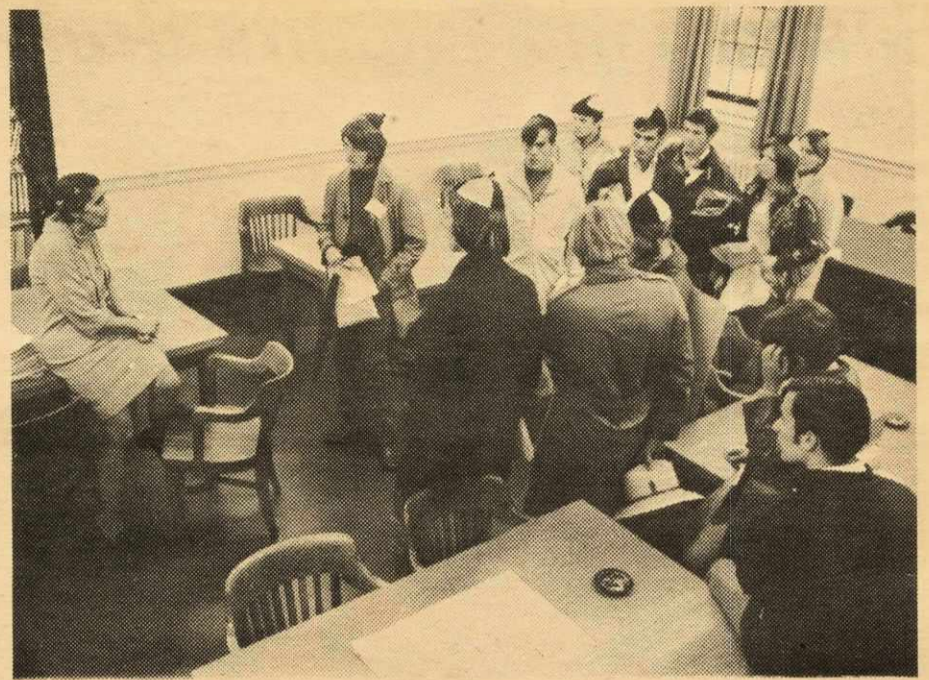
Some of the major objections raised about the goals of the program were constructive and legitimate. There was more emphasis on the social aspect of the program than on the educational aspect. There were only two events which attempted any kind of communication. The speeches which fulfilled SLAM's challenge "Ten to one they say nothing"! were an exercise in rhetoric and /or a bid for blind support; the "Frosh meet the Faculty" could have been good except that only ten faculty members took the initiative to come. Judging by the large turnout of Frosh, there was a real interest in this type of program.

**Meaningful program**

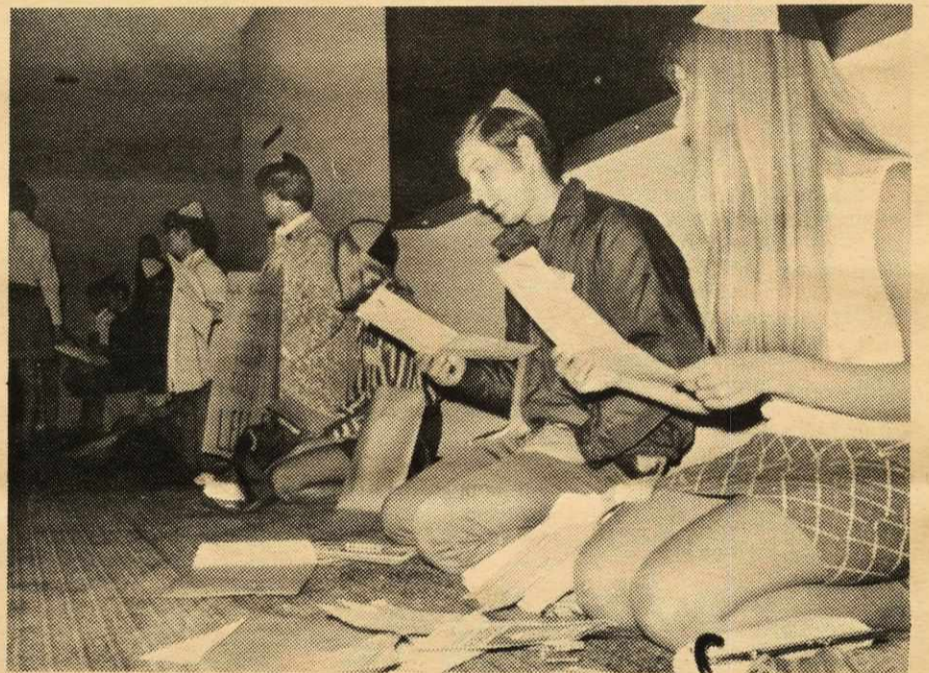
Future committees should seriously consider the recommendations of the graduate Students' Association urging more meaningful programs and a more truthful approach.

The social nature of the program should not be canned; freshmen need to feel at ease, get acquainted, have fun before the more serious programs increase their anxiety.

**This**



**...or this**



**...or this**



**...or this**

