

NSO

WEEK

A Participant's Perspective

by Emilie Adams

As a first year student at UPEI, I would like to commend the organizers of this year's New Student Orientation Week for doing an excellent job. Everything was really well organized and there were a lot of things to do. I was a little apprehensive at first about going to orientation because I did not know very many people, but now I am glad I went.

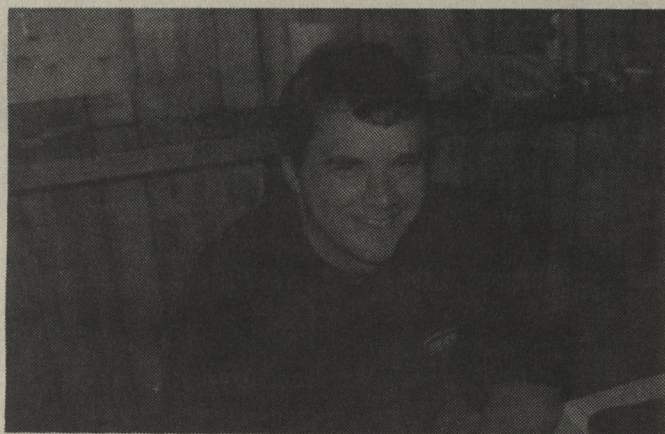
Everyone was divided into teams and at registration our team leaders gave us our orientation packages which included a nice UPEI hat and a very fashionable "Toward 2000" T-shirt.

On the first day the team leaders were really great and they immediately began getting to know their team members and tried to make them comfortable in the group. We played some ice-breaker games, my favourite being Human Tangle. How can you avoid getting to know people when you are in a huddle of about 20 strangers?

I also attended two very useful information sessions on Time, Stress and Money management and Sex, Drugs and Alcohol. The sessions were interesting and informative, and it was comforting to know that I was surrounded by people with the same concerns about university. We were also taken on a tour of the campus which helped

me familiarize myself with some of the buildings.

Karaoke was one of the evening events and a highlight of the week for me. Everyone got involved somehow, either singing or dancing, even those who could barely do either. My legs were still sore a couple of days later from dancing so much.



Getting crazy with The Amazing Santini

Casino night was enjoyable even though I think I lost more than I won and an auction was held at the end of the night so we could spend our funbucks on school stuff and other good prizes.

The week wrapped up on Wednesday night as hypnotist Steve Santini performed his magic for a very enthusiastic crowd. If ever given the chance to see Santini or another hypnotist perform, definitely go see it. Some of the things the people do on stage are absolutely hilarious.

There was lots of fun, lots of laughs, and I'm really glad I participated in the activities. It was a great way to meet people, both first year and older students. The best part was when I walked into my class on Wednesday morning and I actually knew some of the people.

A lot of my friends who didn't go to the activities

missed the benefit of gradually getting used to the university and they also missed a lot of fun. Now, unfortunately, I have been pumped up for partying, but it's time to hit the books. Maybe I can look forward to being a leader for next year's orientation...

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A Twelve Step Program

So, you think you know everything there is to know about going to UPEI and surviving, eh? Bet you don't. The following twelve steps are meant to save you a lot of time and embarrassment, trust us.

Step One: Learn not to say FROSH.

Step Two: Purchase a good wilderness survival manual, and a Swiss Army knife. You'll be surprised how useful they will be.

Step Three: Profs are either your best friend or your worst enemy. Decide early.

Step Four: Don't bother trying to find the tunnels at UPEI. We've tried and all we've ever come across are a few rats and a skeleton.

Step Five: Look both ways before you cross the campus. (Lawn tractors have been known to eat unsuspecting students.)

Step Six: Bring 32 pairs of underwear. That way you only need to do wash once a month. Those in residence should buy extra (Wanda Wyatt side-effects can be nasty.)

Step Seven: Bring a sled. The hill between Blanchard Hall and the cafeteria becomes a world-class luge track. Those interested in safer travel should bring a toboggan.

Step Eight: Let wounded Profs be. They can be dangerous.

Step Nine: Don't drink the red juice at the Pit Stop.

Step Ten: The Barn is not really full of animals, except the ones drinking draft straight out of the pitcher.

Step Eleven: Don't try and put a twoonie into the pop machine in Main, or any where else on campus.

Step Twelve: Don't procrastinate, rethink, check your email for inspiration, go have a coffee, or take a vacation. Finish your essay -- tomorrow.