

ARE YOU CONFUSED ?

An introduction to newcomers on campus

By Don Lane

If you are confused, don't worry. It is a natural human state. It is even more natural if you are new to the university. So this article is for all you frosh, new vet students, transfer and mature students of all ages. For you are "The Confused," and someday, "The Confused Shall Inherit the University".

You might be wondering what university life is all about. It is something that you have to live to experience. These are supposed to be the best days of your lives - so live up to that ideal.

Get involved in some aspect of university life besides academics. Become active, but not too active. There are lots of

groups, teams and organizations that you can join. Most of the academic faculties have their own clubs: business, engineers, psychology, vets, chemistry (to name only a few), but there are also special interest groups which you can join, such as WUSC (World University Services of Canada), your yearbook (Nexus '88), your campus newspaper (The Gem), student politics, MAPUS, etc...

Look in your intro - pamphlets for a complete list, or go to see the information officer or Student Services (both in the Robertson Library Building), the Student Union (in The Barn), or us here at the Gem. We are located in the Utility Building on the lower floor. Any of us can help you out. Check

out as many of these groups as you are interested in, but only stick with one or two of them. Remember that you are here for your degree first and involvement second. One without the other is a hollow education.

The Athletics Department also has plenty to offer those of you who are athletically inclined. You can sign out a wide variety of sports equipment from them, and you also have access to the weight room, the gym and the tennis courts. The tennis courts were re-paved over the summer, and are thus in great shape.

If you want to know more about a course that you signed up for, or if you want to learn about all the idiosyncrasies of your new prof., you'll find that an extensive verbal un-

derground calender exists among many 3rd and 4th year students. Approach them, question them, harass them - they won't bite...well most of them won't, but it's a risk that you have to take. They have gone through the same period of anxiety that you are going through right now, so they can understand your concerns.

So, how do you like your first issue of The Gem so far? If you like it, you'll want to be a valuable part of "The Gem Machine." If you don't like it, your unique qualities can help make the paper better - the way you would == like to see it. That's all for now, but remember, involvement is the key to success.

First Year Is

- carrying your books in a briefcase...
- getting lost in your own residence...
- buying all your books and paying cash...
- trying to figure out 600 different abbreviations...
- developing a taste for coffee...
- learning to hate cafeteria food...
- trying to tell the registrar what the problem is when you don't even know...
- getting five 8:30 classes and not knowing what they are until you get there...
- getting five 8:30 classes...
- finding out that labs are only fun the first day...
- missing a class thinking you'll get the notes later...
- getting your first student loan...
- learning profs aren't all that smart...
- falling asleep in Duffy Amphitheatre and having your prof wake you up...
- spending five hours in the library card catalogue to discover all the books are OUT...
- finding out at 8:30 that the other people came disguised as empty chairs...
- never washing your bedsheets from Sept to December, January to April...
- having everyone asking you "what are in" and you don't know...
- saying you'll catch up on Sunday...
- wishing you'd spent all your money on a stereo instead of your clothes...
- finding out what an all-nighter is and wishing you hadn't...
- counting the words in your first essay...
- finding out it doesn't really matter...
- going to class all year and never finding out anyone's name...
- meeting a lot of great people...
- wishing you'd taken a year off...
- walking late into the wrong class and having everyone stare at you...
- having a water fight in the residence or Bio lab...
- rooming with the youngest alcoholic you've ever met...
- having your mother visit every weekend you've asked someone to sleep over...
- learning to knock on doors before you enter...
- learning to live on pizza and A & W "food"...
- being broke at Christmas...
- being broke again in February...
- not having any gloves in the winter...
- finding out you really didn't love the person you left back home...
- losing track of your friends back home...
- finding shaving cream in your bed...

