Investiture 2006

Today is 20th September 2006. Wednesday. Week seven. Today also happens to be the day of Hall One’s JCRC Investiture.

A serious affair, everyone was informed to be seated by 830pm as the VIPs would arrive at 845pm. Surprisingly, a large proportion of hall oners turned up for the event. The investiture started off quickly – the emcee introduced the VIPs who gave us a rather insightful introduction of the investiture. The previous 24th JCRC headed by now ex-president Weimin were individually presented with a plague for their contribution to Hall One in the previous academic year (2005-2006).

The current 25th JCRC waited at the sidelines with abated breath, eager for their turn. Next up was the handing over of posts from the 24th to the 25th JCRC. Tokens of appreciation as well as words of encouragement were exchanged. The presents ranged from a bottle of absolute vodka to a Garfield soft toy.

Ka Leong, the new president led his capable team in reciting the investiture pledge, moment I believe he will remember forever. Later, to my amusement, I realized that my hall has a hall song. If only I knew the words, I would sing them proudly. Ka Leong then gave his inaugural speech, citing his vision for hall one in the upcoming year. I could see determination written all over his face and I believe he will bring our hall to great heights.

Refreshments were available, but people were more eager to have their photographs taken as a memento to this day. Photograph sessions for the various committees commenced and were required to gather in front. I somehow found myself in quite a number of committees. The different committees include, social, sports, publicity and publication, welfare, recreational, bizmag, cultural etc.

The investiture ended at about 9.

CONGRATULATIONS to the 25th JCRC!! I’m sure you all will do a great job and achieve great things. With passion, anything is possible.
After battling it out for a month or so, the Inter-block Games (IBG) and Inter-block Recreational Games (IBRG) has finally come to a close.

Blood didn’t exactly fly as different mountains battled it out to be the champions, yet it was an interesting fight that saw Andes emerging to be the IBG champion, and Rainiers was the IBRG winner.

No, new mountains did not suddenly form in NTU (the present one is bad enough). In our hall, the six different blocks are divided into four different mountains.

The mighty Everest Mountains consists of blocks 13 and 14. The imposing Andes have blocks 15 and 17 under its call. The serene yet strong Rainiers have the forces of blocks 12 and 16 in its ranks. Finally, the almighty Rockies commands the loyal troops of block 18.

Possibly due to the introduction of the new Hall Allocation Scheme (HAS) disrupting the hearts of faithful hall residents, the general feeling was that the turn out was less than satisfactory.

“Turnout was quite ok for some games like contract bridge, but for games like weiqi, it was...pathetic,” commented Shu Qin, our recreation secretary.

Ka Leung, hall 1’s president, wryly said, “IBG and IBRG turnout was a bit disappointing for some games which participation dropped by a lot”

Some seniors mentioned that the overall atmosphere was better in previous years. Kherray, our hall’s female basketball player said, “Last year was more fun! More people participated, both the seniors and the juniors.”

On a brighter note, our hall’s vice president, Qimou smilingly commented that, “there are some well received games like basketball n badminton.” According to our Sports Secretaries, this interest in basketball might result in a bigger-scale basketball tournament in replacement for IBG2, next semester.

So hall oners, do try to support our hall in the upcoming Inter-Hall games! Schedules are up, and posted also on our hall website. Keep our hall’s spirit burning strong.
The butter sizzles up...

...At butter factory, where our hall bash was held. Let Elaine Low, our very own Pageant Queen, narrate her story...

On the 17th of August 2006, the ever fun-loving Hall Oners sizzled in the heat of Butter Factory. As a pageant contestant, I had much preparation to do prior to this event, where the finalists would be unveiled to the hall oners.

The girls were dressed in clothes from Staplewear and the guys Bluezone, though many of us fervently wished we hadn’t.

Amidst the flurry of activity, the rising anxiety levels (which hit new heights with each respective raucous cheer from the crowd), and the thick make-up and funky hairdos, the couples managed their poses and corny lines introducing one another with flair and poise.

The excitable horde was insatiable. Though there was a relatively modest turnout, the supporters made up for the numbers with rowdy catcalls and were more than happy to be cajoled by the emcees of the night into some games. I was also grateful to see many fellow freshmen amongst the seasoned sophomores and seniors.

Although, of course, it was still pretty embarrassing playing the balloon games and all to entertain them with our pageant partners. The night progressed with more individual family activities, with some going out for supper and the others partying along with the music and getting tipsy.

All in all, it was certainly one exhilarating night, for it’s the tight company of fellow Hall Oners that makes our lives in NTU more fulfilling and enjoyable.

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Retro Heaven

Hall Ball night – a night where our royalties are crowned, and beautiful memories are shared. Let Jocelyn Poh bring you the story

On 26 August, Hall One turned up in style for the Hall One Dinner and Dance 06/07. Held at Traders Hotel, the event marks the end of orientation held during the first few weeks of school.

Everyone traveled back in time that night to the 80’s, for the theme was retro. From loud floral prints, to oversized sunglasses, it certainly brought out the “groovy” of the night with a capital G.

The night was filled with lots of fun games, and a lucky draw where everyone hoped to bring home the coveted top prize of an iPod Nano. Not to forget the highlight of the night – the Hall One Pageant 06/07!

For this pageant, 5 stunning couples, namely Tze Shien, Sin Yi, Chris, Xiao Min, Jerry, Cheryl, Dixon, Miak, Kenny and Elaine, were selected during the Hall One Orientation Camp. The night was bursting with energy as the crowd ecstatically cheered their favourites on.

With the end of the D&D, the new Hall One King and Queen were crowned. Chris from Disney and Elaine from Simpsons have taken over the regal throne. Miak and Kenny from Chipmunks were the princess and prince respectively.

But the night did not end there. Everyone traveled back to the present and kicked off some 21st century style partying and schmoozing, Hall One style!

Of course, this incredible night could not have happened without the remarkable team behind it, which was led by the co-chairpersons Christopher Chng and Ye Junjie as well as all the sponsors for the event. We’ll be looking forward to next year’s Hall
Prior to attending the Hall 1 Freshman Orientation Camp 2006, Temptation Paradise, I was filled with apprehension. Nevertheless, I decided to sign up for it with my room-mate, Chris (Hall King!), as we were both eager to make new friends in Hall 1. We did not regret our decision at all.

The 1st day when I arrived at camp, the seniors wasted no time to warm the freshmen up with ice breakers and something they love so much…Forfeits! Between the pole dances, banana dances and the strip ‘teases’, everyone started to open up what followed was just 100% pure fun. Oh, we were also given a warm introduction to The Pond too during a bridge-crossing game where both sides competed to fill up a leaking pipe with water.

2nd stop…Sentosa! My most unforgettable memory from this day? Water wrestling… I felt like a “seahorse”. My partner, Jase, was pulling my hair ecstatically and laughing in joy as though she was riding on a pony. She pulled out quite a few strands of hair that day. And of course, the “Great Wall of China”. I was appalled at how violent my female seniors are.

My spine still shivers at the thought of the pulling of our leg hairs, twisting of our nipples, and pinching. Hall camp was all about getting down and dirty literally. There was hardly a day where I could go back to my room ‘unscathed’. Field games, “water” (there was mud in it) bomb games and forfeits turned my yellow t-shirt brown on one of the days.

The Old Tan Tock Seng hospital was where we went for Fright Night. I would have to admit that the place was very eerie. Inside, the air was still and had this damp taste to it. It reminded me a lot of a graveyard. Spooky stuff. The high point of the camp came on the night of Cheer Fight Before that night, the seniors consistently emphasized how crucial the night was. As a result, I was quite tensed up as Cheer Fight drew closer because I was the Cheer Fight IC. There was the Cheer Fight IC handing over ceremony as Ka Leong, Chipmunks’ last IC handed me the Cheer Fight IC cap. It was really an interesting tradition and I felt even more compelled to do my best. But alas, the Chipmunks lost in the 1st round and we were all very dejected. However, our CGL, Kay Jiunn, managed to bring our spirits up with his “Its alright as long you are happy” or “Hua Hi Jiu Ho” in hokkien attitude.

I cannot imagine my hall life now if I had not joined Temptation Paradise. Surely, I would not have made all the fantabulous friends I have in hall now and life would be so so so much more boring. Kudos to OMC for organizing such a successful camp!
Our theme this year sounds delicious doesn’t it? Let our best freshies – Joseph Thia and Aw Lay Hoon bring you their narration of what’s hot and what’s not in this year’s Freshmen Orientation Camp 2006.

Written By: Aw Lay Hoon

30th July

It was a Sunday evening, I seriously didn’t feel like attending FOC at that point of time. I was deprived of sleep, the canteen 1 chicken rice tasted awful, I just finished cleaning up my room and I was dead beat. However, the flip side of the coin is, you get to know more people, which is extremely important especially when you desperately need help in your studies and daily chores! Ultimately, I still dragged my feet all the way to 18 TV room. I knew I had not made the wrong decision. I was warmly greeted by a bunch of Disney seniors. The ice-breaking session was definitely a start to an enjoyable camp.

31st July

I will never forget the passing of the buttered raw eggs during the NTU games, using our mouths! It was disgusting! It had my first kiss taken away from me!

1st August

Running around Sentosa had all of us mesmerized by Jimmy, who brought us around Sentosa as though it is his second home. Water rugby and water wrestling left scars all over us. Despite that, we couldn’t get enough of the sea games. The game of great wall revealed the ugly side of many girls. They were so aggressive such that they resort to ‘underhand methods’ to free Vynesh.

Candle fight had Disney freshies becoming more bonded. We cheered our lungs out for the minor cheer competition after the candle fight and emerged victorious!

2nd August

During SP night, Disney was paired with Simpson. I was lucky enough to be paired with Benny, a real gentleman who helped me to carry my stuff and took drinks for me. I had an awesome time, chatting and laughing at people who were called onto the stage. The day had come for the cheer fight cheer. As a cheer IC, I was under tremendous pressure of living up to the seniors’ standard of looking fierce + being loud + remembering the cheer sequence. I was touched by the encouragements from everyone. Despite the loss, we had a great time learning the “Bangla-one-so-long” cheer from the seniors. Honestly, I was so glad that cheer fight was over! It was a huge burden off my shoulder.

4th August

I was SO not looking forward to the ghost walk that night. Attempts to lie that I was halal to avoid doing the tasks didn’t work. Though I knew the ‘ghosts’ were all human beings, I still screamed into Tze’s ears. Thanks to Tze, I came out ‘alive’!

5th August

Finally, it was the last day. We had our fair share of a ‘tekan’ session of dirtying our CGL, MGLs etc. They were ‘nicely decorated’ before being thrown into the pond. All Disney freshies were being forcefully thrown in thereafter. Well, it’s supposedly a tradition after all.
Fly Me To Chang Er

Peeping at Chang Er. Did we really do that? Our writers, Clara Lim and Song Jia Jia, bring you the story.

The telescope was set, and the lanterns and mooncakes were prepared. Despite the haze, up to a hundred Hall Oners turned up to celebrate Project P.A.C.E (Peeping At Chang Er). Though the moon and the stars were shrouded by the haze and clouds, it was a night of hall-bonding activities filled with infinite fun.

The event kicked off with a rendition of ‘Yue Liang Dai Biao Wo De Xin’ by the 24th and 25th JCRC presidents. Followed by a magic show by our Hall One magician, Jason Law and a song and strum item.

The second half of P.A.C.E. took place at the carpark infront of Blk 13. Tasty, refreshing bowls of ice-kacangs was sold at a dollar – a canvassing project organised by the Hall Production committee.

The climax of the night’s events, was the release of the Kong Ming Lanterns, a tradition that Hall Oners partake in the annual mooncake festival celebration. Some of our international students were also seen mingling with the local crowd, intrigued by the happenings around.

“This year’s celebrations seem very promising, with a series of interesting activities lined-up. Using this carpark space in front of Blk 13 has been a good idea as it has encouraged the international students to participate in hall events.” commented Professor Kong, Hall One’s Hall Fellow.

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Who would have imagined movies in canteen 1? Let our writer, Maureen Lim bring you the story.

Hall One’s “Movie Marathon” was held on the 21st of September at Canteen 1. The day finally arrived and though the movie marathon was scheduled to begin at 8 pm, it was only about 9 plus before the screening started, due to technical glitches. Although little publicity was done due to time constraints, the turnout was not too shabby. By 845pm, there was a steady stream of people coming in. Movies screened that night were Click, Saw II and Lake House.

Click: Adam Sadler works on the emotions of all soft Hearted movie-goers. A fantasy brought to reality; it made me wish I had such a remote control to take charge of my life! Yet, the regrets I would have when I realised the novelty had worn off and life just isn’t totally opposes the realm of logic! The movement back and forth in time was a little confusing at first. I thought it was a good show though the ending didn’t blow me off my feet.

MOVIE SCORE: B+

Saw II: This is one show that totally screams Gore in your face! Still, it was totally enjoyable as long you learnt to cringe when necessary and focus on being amazed at the many ways you can kill someone. Sadists and psychotics out there, this show was made for you!! With directors who try too hard to make it gruesome; it ended up being partly nauseating, partly funny! MOVIE SCORE: A-

Lakehouse: Oofoo!!

Keanu Reeves and Sandra Bullock are absolutely made for each other. One’s real hot, the other’s real pretty, and both ooze charisma. A lovey-dovey story about 2 people who communicate through a mailbox which acts as a time portal.(note: they have a time lag of 2 years.) Possible? Go figure. I think it completely opposes the realm of logic! The movement back and forth in time was a little confusing at first. I thought it was a good show though the ending didn’t blow me off my feet.

MOVIE SCORE: B+
Dear Residents of Hall 1,

I extend my greetings to all of you. For the seniors, I am very glad to see you guys in Hall 1 again. For the freshies, I welcome you to our Hall 1 family.

It’s a new academic year and our first event in hall was FOC2006. I would like to say, great job to OMC 05/06 for a job well done. Going through the FOC again with the new batch of freshman gave me the opportunity to experience the great feeling of being a freshie again.

In our annual Hall Ball, the Hall Ball committee 05/06 had worked hard. They did well choosing and training the beautiful and handsome cpaagent contestants, who presented their best during Hall Ball night itself. Overall, it was an expertly organized event.

This year, we changed the system we usually use to allocate halls. We will be adopting the new Hall Allocation System (HAS).

Uncertainties about the new system are present. On our part, the 25th JCRC will act according to the best interest of our residents. Certain activities in hall were affected due to the HAS. Participation rate for IBG & IBRG has dropped significantly and subcom recruitments did not achieve our desired results. However, our quad coms recruitments went well.

We had our Movie Marathon and Mid-Autumn Festival as well, which was both successes. The 25th JCRC has planned to organize events that are different from previous years. Be prepared to be surprised by our upcoming events!

Lastly, I really want to thank every Hall One residents for voting for the 25th JCRC, for giving me the chance to take up the post of president of Hall One. On behalf of the 25th JCRC, I wish everyone good luck for your studies. have a fun and fulfilling stay in Hall One!

Yeung Ka Leong
President
Hall 1 25th JCRC

SANITY MAINTAINENCE @ EXAMS

Miak shares her secret weapons for exams survival in this fun piece on the last page of this Hall 1 Publication.

1. Take a breather after each intensive break by jogging or having meals with your hall-mates. DO NOT ‘POND’ people during this period of time for fear that they are depressed and would rather drown in the pond than to sit for their papers.

2. Have your room well stocked with food so that you will not end up devouring your innocent roommate when you are feeling ravenous and maniacal due to stress.

3. Do get sufficient SLEEP. By forgoing sleep, you will not be able to think, react or reiterate well. Most importantly, you will end up as a walking-zombie scaring people around you, especially your unsuspecting toilet-mates when they first see you in the morning.

4. ‘kay-poh’ (a highly inquisitive person). During this period, you will hear lots of weird noises around. Leave them alone as people have different ways of releasing their stress. Do not cross onto their paths if you value your life.

5. Be a considerate hall-mate by keeping your noise level down. I am sure you do not want to be hit with a shoe, pot, or worse still, a dictionary-thick module file. Conversely, for those who are irritated by noise-makers and want to maintain your sanity, the above listed items are suggestions for keeping noise-level down. The Hall One Newsletter team thanks you for reading this publication. Do leave comment or feedback on http://webx.ntu.edu.sg/hall1