By Julie Tiao

The time: Freshman Shower Night, 1980

The place: Baker Dormitory

8:30pm

A strange commotion is occurring in the lounge. City of "Most of the drama" are heard and several upperclassmen, horning a fellow upperclassman appear on the scene. Apparently, a member of the FDC has been discovered. A struggle ensues, but it is not context. The parties then scuffle and the group disperses, leaving a short while later, a revealing spectacle and scenes are heard from the dormitory of the Chapel.

9:00pm

More bizarre happenings in Baker House. Regiments of freshmen dressed in black shirts and pants, suddenly converge from all directions to one lounge. In squad of four to six, they total more than sixty in number, and residents from almost every campus can be recognized. Armed with martial sticks, they begin a attack. Four unsuspecting upperclassmen, casually relaxing in the lounge, are the first to become involved. The army attacks, leaving four sodden victims in their wake. The upperclassmen begin to distribute themselves throughout the dorm and their well-organized attack plan goes into effect. Throughout the dorm, unprepared upperclassmen doorstep in an attempt to escape. "Hey, what's going on? This is supposed to be Freshman Shower Night!"

What is going on is a strike by the Freshmen Defense Corps (FDC). Led by current first-year commander-in-chief, Maridotonounced war on, aka John Doe the group hopes to "strike fear into the hearts of the upperclassmen." Organized three years ago, the FDC's purpose is to "provide organization to freshmen, who are traditionally humiliated by prepared upperclassmen.

The core of the FDC consists of about 15 upperclassmen, who serve as organizers and squadron leaders. Junior Joe Smith explained the importance of upperclassmen leaders, "Squad leaders can handle these things, having seen them in years before. They keep things more civil and know where to draw the line." Recruiting for FDC members began at the Freshmen Picnic, and training is scheduled to begin shortly.

The focus of the FDC is on Freshman Shower Night (traditionally the night before the first 8:01 test). The group tries to contact as many interested freshmen as possible for Shower Night training. Although they come from dormitories all over campus, FDC Shower Night activity has been limited to one dorm at a time in the past. Last year, the location was Baker House, but this year's target is a secret. Following Freshmen Shower Night, the majority of the group disperses, leaving a small group of organizers to carry on the activity for the remainder of the year. "There is no excuse to keep all the squads and people around after Shower Night," explained Maridot. "They wouldn't stick around, either!"

10:00pm

"My God, there's a freshman army in black shirts!" Upperclassmen are frantically dodging the attacking freshmen, some even resorting to locking themselves in their rooms for protection. Sounds of water splashing and the FDC slogan, "Half pass-fail," reverberate throughout the dormitory. Occasionally, a single freshman is captured and deposited in the shower, but generally, the upperclassmen are fighting a losing battle.

"Last year, only six freshmen were showered," recalled Maridot. "That's less than 10 percent of the previous year's victims." He considered his statement momentarily, and continued, "We have a lot of terms that sound like war, but all our battles only involve water." He maintained that in the past, they had no injuries in connection with the "battles." The main defense which is used against shower-minded upperclassmen is the motto—a length of surgical tubing seated at one end and filled with water. The high pressure of the water results in a free- flowing jet effect. The tube is wrapped around the body, and the open end is held like a nozzle, to be aimed at the defenseless upperclassmen.

1:00am

The place is beginning to quiet down. Enraptured upperclassmen are walking around in black shirts. The army reassembles in Baker Lounge. Tired, but elated, they exit from the dorm. A successful strike has been completed.

The FDC is not completely dormant for the remainder of the year. Before Freshmen Shower Night training begins, the group conducts R/O tours, and also provides help and advice for freshmen. In addition, they conduct surveys which have assisted the administration in making decisions about new Dining Services policies. The general attitude is to help out freshmen whenever no one else is. "Some people take it more seriously than others," summarized Maridot, "but most people just have a lot of fun!"

The names of FDC leaders have been changed to protect the guilty.

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