

Leaders, from page 1

role playing techniques to teach the students communication skills they will find useful in group projects, club meetings and jobs.

Pauline Zozos, a graduate student in training and development, said the focus on meeting behaviors was beneficial since sometimes people merely go through meetings mechanically instead of getting involved with the discussion.

"Because we approach meetings with a particular agenda, it was good to look at all the subtleties and group dynamics," Zozos said.

The "First-Half Game Plan" for the day's events featured an icebreaker. "Student leaders" broke into groups of seven to come up with ten reasons people want to join organizations. Each group member practiced "being a leader," and each group got to lead the conference for four minutes.

During this time, Stroup emphasized some of the basic areas he said were essential for any group of people to successfully work together.

On the topic of "Creating a Positive Climate," Stroup emphasized motivation factors and how to create a warm, relaxed work environment.

"Motivation is not magic, pep talks or injecting desire into someone," Stroup said. "Motivation is creating a job and a climate that encourages and allows people to perform at their best."

Stroup emphasized basic skills such as recognition, giving feedback, non-verbal skills for meeting leaders and stimulating discussion as basics for successful group work.

Steve Backels of the Student Assistance Center then took the reins to lead the group in "stress-breaking" techniques. Backels said using such information can help clear people's minds, and help them to focus on the goal of the group.

He had the group go on a "60-second vacation," telling them to close their eyes and imagine themselves relaxing in their favorite place.

Stroup said the idea of incentives and assurances are important to having a group work well together. To put this theory to test,



Photo by Elin Marcel

Frank "Josh" Stroup, left, of Harrisburg's Training Store, chats with Karen Simons, right, during the Student Leader Conference, held Jan. 25 in the Capital Union Building.

a group of volunteers formed a panel and ran a fictitious meeting. Each member of the panel took a turn at being the leader, and running the meeting their way.

At the end of the meeting, the audience critiqued the group, offering suggestions or compliments on how the leader had functioned.

Before leaving, participants registered to win a Red Lobster gift certificate by trying to guess the score of the Super Bowl. Ginny Horst, a secretary in Recreation Services, won the contest.

Star Barn, from page 7

pictures of the barn." Currently, over 150 people remain on his mailing list.

At one point, an idea for moving the barn to the Penn State Harrisburg campus was considered, but Patterson said "almost everybody who came to the meeting felt as though it would be better where it was."

The Conservancy's most recent plan suggested purchasing the barn, plus 30 acres surrounding it.

Both the owner and the Conservancy said the project will cost close to \$1 million, and restoration must begin before the barn deteriorates beyond repair.

However, Patterson said restoration of the barn is still possible, though "the whole process is going to take more time than anyone can understand."

According to a 1982 American Studies master's thesis written by Sarah Ryan, a Penn State Harrisburg graduate, the barn is located on the old Motter Farm, owned by John Motter.

Motter was a farmer who made his fortune during the Civil War as a trader in horses and commissary supplies. Motter commissioned master carpenter Daniel Reichert to build the barn in 1872.

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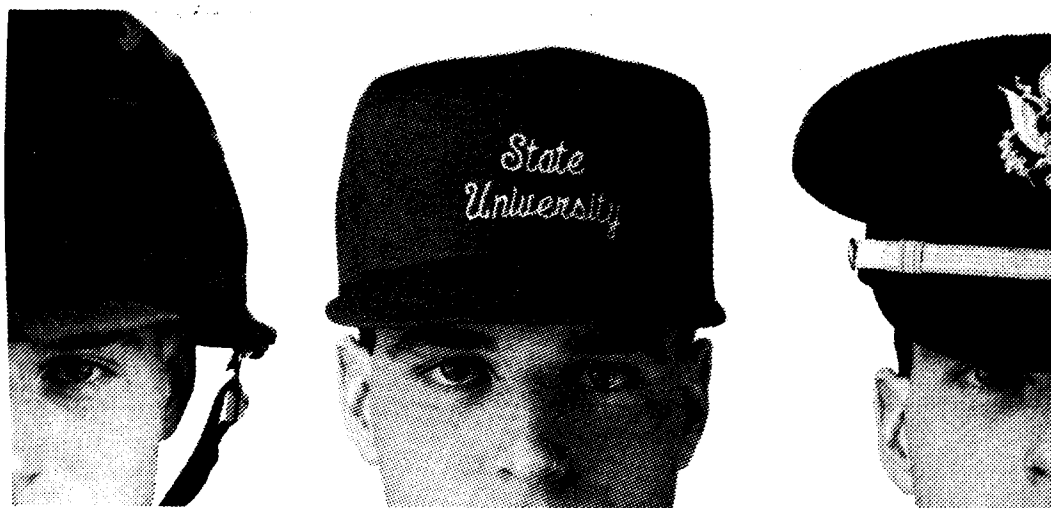
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No experience necessary, everyone
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