

# Together as an Inspiration ?

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From a strictly academic point of view, perhaps the best way to get the most out of today's college generation is to make them feel in.

At least that's what was indicated in one doctoral dissertation prepared by a member of the College Business Administration faculty at The Pennsylvania State University.

What Dr. John W. Slocum wanted to know was whether students felt a greater sense of belonging if they were scheduled for courses as a group and, if so, did this sense of cohesiveness result in higher grades?

And what he learned was this: Students who were assigned to classes as a group performed markedly better than those who found themselves in a given class only by the luck of the draw in scheduling.

"We discovered a distinct relationship between academic achievement and cohesiveness in a group," explains Dr. Slocum, assistant professor of management.

"Not only did the experimental group outperform the non-controlled group, but those in the experimental group wanted to stay together and take additional classes as a unit."

The experiment was conducted at the University of Washington where Dr. Slocum was working toward his doctorate. Forty-two students from the Division of Counseling were randomly selected as the experimental group.

Their class participation and grade scores were matched against three non-experimental groups taking the same courses in personnel management, finance and marketing.

In each instance, the experimental group and the non-experimental group were taught by the same professor using the same

STEIN. (cont. from page 3) ... tactics they were using on Thursday was firing tear gas-like grenades into the crowds and then racing their engines running their cars into the crowds. They smashed one kid pretty bad when they hit him—he couldn't get out of the way in time. So what we did was establish this solidarity thing up here. We lowered the flag to half-mast the first day in respect to James Rector who was killed at Berkley, Manuel Ramos who was killed, a Puerto Rican who was killed by an off-duty cop at a party in Chicago, and for the 14 yr. old kid who was killed in

text, giving the same test and, so far as was possible, delivering the same lecture.

"The students in the experiment were randomly selected from the junior class," says Dr. Slocum. "They weren't officially advised they were part of a study although they must have suspected something because the probability of the same 42 people scheduling three different classes at the same time was remote, if not impossible.

Like wise, the professors instructing the three courses under review were not advised of the study so as not to bias their grading system.

And when the grades in each course were posted, the experimental group scored higher than the non-controlled classes. In personnel management, for example the experimental group had a class average of 2.73 to 2.42 for the non-experimental group. In finance it was the experimental group again. 2.3 to 1.9, while in marketing, the experimental average was 2.5 to 2.1 for the non-experimental.

What was possibly even more significant was the study attitudes and motivation of the experimental group.

In a questionnaire completed by students in both categories, Dr. Slocum learned:

"The experimental group studied as a group and helped each other out as a group. Even

Newark. And the Jocks came, and were here but they didn't give us much trouble. The administration outfoxed us that day when we let them get up on the flagpole and supposedly speak in response to statements and they cut the lock and raised the flag. So the next day we decided to lower the flag again and this time to defend our action. And this time the Jocks were out with our campus security officials.

## WHO ARE THE JOCKS?

They are the fraternity guys, Bill Stansfield from the Basketball team, they were out yelling that we were desecrating the American Flag.. "the boys in Viet Nam are fighting to keep it up"—you know the super-patriots were out. The head of security up here...the Director of York Campus, Mr. Elias; who appears here every-time we have a demonstration—WHY? —why? is what we'd like to know, as well as, what's that undercover agent's name? [to a friend]. ...S-I-double M-E-R-S.

SIMMERS. CIA? (cont. p. 6)

to the point of dividing up the homework, which may not necessarily be what I had in mind.

"The students told us they also found themselves interacting academically to a greater degree. Instead of the normal drift of conversation in a dormitory—sports, dates and the like—they were talking about problems they were having in their finance course or their marketing course. The non-experimental groups had no particular feeling on the subject.

So what might all this mean for education today, Dr. Slocum was asked.

Well a number of schools—Indiana University, Florida State, University of Kansas, Bates college in Maine, to name a few—are assigning students to classes as a group to determine how well the system works on their campuses.

And while he concedes the practical problems of scheduling might well be a mitigating factor, Dr. Slocum maintains:

"There were indications that scheduling students to courses as a group helped them adjust to their campus. If freshmen, say were assigned to courses as a group in their first or second terms, it might be very helpful to them in getting a feel of their campus, a feel of their courses, a feel of what college study is all about. At a large campus today it's just so easy to get lost and lose your identity."

KIRKLEY (cont. from P. 3) the social atmosphere. He would like to build a "complete" social atmosphere here, one in which only the major events would be scheduled—specifically the Homecoming Dance, the Christmas Cranberry Cotillion, Las Vegas Night, and the Prom/Prom-to-Dawn. The remaining majority of events would be planned on a short range program with two weeks notice. This would enable programs to conform to the mood of the campus—what we want when we want it.

"I would like to conclude," Kirkley said, "with a few comments on a word... Humanity. In this world we live in, we seem to have lost our sense of humanity. We are too conscious of external forces, such as rewards, pinions, trends, and fads instead of doing what we feel is right. I hope we (cont. p. 2)

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