

Freshman Orientation

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Mr. Binns also commented, "those studnets complaining about orientation whether it be the way it was run or the contents of it, were the ones not getting involved, and the clincher now is keeping the ones involved interested all year."

The Survival Sessions, held Wednesday afternoon, posed for a good deal of criticism. Dr. Orbin, who was partially in charge of the sessions, stated that the purpose of them was "To try to get freshmen together with sophomores and faculty under informal conditions. We wanted to get freshmen to introduce themselves to others." He believes it "ran smoothly," although next year he hopes to use the gymnasium for the sessions, and perhaps structure its contents more carefully.

The freshmen had a different view of the whole event as expressed by Brenda Caiazzo, "I didn't consider it too helpful. The profs should have offered more study hints. It also could have been cut from two sessions to one."

Patrice Ackerman and Bob Baumann thought, "It needed more organization;" and Nancy Klotsko suggested, "The students should prepare questions to ask while they're in the groups to get some conversation going."

Tim Carr's more positive view stated, "It was a good idea and it helped you get acquainted with different people. I felt I could be more expressive in the small groups."

The students found themselves thrown together with their own country folk during the Hometown Meetings also held Wednesday afternoon. Ron Drum's opinion of the meetings was, "They went well, but do need more planning."

The freer atmosphere of the dance and softball game helped loosen up the anxieties of not only the freshmen but the faculty as well. "It was a good place to meet people," stated Bob Baumann. Tim Carr considered it, "Excellent! The group at the dance was really good. It gave us all a chance to relax."

An Evaluation Committee meeting consisting of all parties involved with the orien-

tation program, is scheduled in the near future. They will then discuss their reactions to the program's success and/or failures, and decide which route to take on the issue next year. According to Mr. Binns, the use of the gymnasium next year should eliminate any problems that arose this year concerning space. He also hopes to use the same basic format in the years to come.

Dr. Orbin suggested that we get into a more rigid program and stick strictly to "orientation" activities. He also thinks "Freshmen should be required to wear nametags, for the benefit of those being acquainted to them."

One problem facing commuters was revealed by Patrice Ackerman, who argued, "There was too long a wait for commuters between registration Thursday morning and the afternoon session."

Sophomore Ron Drum felt, "The class gifts held up the registration lines, and that they could have been distributed the next day." He pointed out the interesting thought that even though the TB shots were being completed before the Survival Sessions, it was a good way for kids in the waiting lines to get to know each other."

Suggestions for change from Nancy Klotsko were, "Possibly revise the survival sessions, play up the clubs more, back the sports more, and have the clubs

give 'Short Spiels' to everyone before the students sign-up." Tim Carr felt the 'sit-down' sessions could have been replaced by a possible tour of the school, while Bob Baumann would have preferred that the sophomores speak more, and there be less repetition in the faculty speeches.

Overall, the views on the program in general appear positive, and according to Mr. Binns, "It's one of the best in the past couple years, the reason being an increase in students, and more co-operation from students and faculty."



Frats :

Alive and Well

(University Park)---While many college campuses are experiencing a big revival in fraternity life, there's no impressive "comeback" being staged at The Pennsylvania State University, home of the country's second largest fraternity system.

But that's because fraternities at Penn State, unlike those at so many institutions during the protest days of a few years ago, were never in deep trouble, says David Stewart, fraternity affairs adviser.

"While many other colleges and universities in the early 1970s were losing half--some all--of their fraternity chapters, Penn State wasn't losing many," explains Stewart. "With our 48 chapters (46 with national affiliation), we have stayed near the top nationally."

The peak year for fraternities at the University was 1966, when there were 56 houses. And "losses" from that figure weren't great, since half of the defunct houses were absorbed through mergers.

Stewart says that some other institutions are reporting fraternity increases of up to 15 percent, an increase that probably will never occur at Penn State, where rolls are up slightly from last year.

"The main reason Penn State's increase isn't that much is the Commonwealth Campus system," Stewart says, pointing out that most freshmen ("ripe for joining fraternities) begin their Penn State education at a Commonwealth Campus, away from the chapters "headquartered" at University Park.

Currently, "around 13 or 14 percent" of the male undergraduates at Penn State belong to a fraternity, Stewart estimates.