

Editorial Opinion

'Lord of the Flies'

Thursday night an intellectual serum was injected into Orientation Week which helped immensely to cure the malady that has caused freshmen orientation pain in past years.

The doctor was the women's orientation committee, with the backing of the dean of women's staff and the able assistance of some 30 members of the faculty.

The cure consisted in the introduction of an educational event into the previously "song- and- cheer-heavy" Orientation program—a discussion of William Golding's though-provoking book, "Lord of the Flies."

For a program which was opposed in several vital quarters and one which lacked the necessary publicity to make it as expansive as it should have been, it was well received by most, including freshmen.

A few questions have arisen, however, since the termination of this year's program. Why didn't the men's orientation committee participate? "Lord of the Flies" is a book which holds interest for both men and women. Although the men's orientation committee decided not to participate in the program this year, we hope that the committee will investigate the apparent merits of the program and participate the next time it is launched.

We wholeheartedly support an intellectual orientation as well as a social orientation. We feel that a school, such as the Pennsylvania State University which accepts only students who have graduated in the top fifth of their high school classes, should and has the responsibility to approve and expand this type of program.

Many possibilities exist for expanding this program and for making it even better. Incoming freshmen could be sent a list of three or four books in various fields. A freshman could then choose that discussion which interested him most.

Or the idea of all freshmen reading one book could be expanded. Several faculty members felt that a great thing would be achieved when an entire class or an entire University had all read one book.

The possibility of sending each freshman a copy of the chosen book during the summer before he comes to the University should be investigated.

The chosen book or books could be made available in the Hetzel Union Building for freshmen coming to the University for counseling. This would eliminate this year's problem of students not being able to find the book in their hometowns. It would also provide an incentive for freshmen to get the book before it is forgotten in the rush of counseling activities.

It was suggested by one faculty member that the same type of discussion program be planned using a movie or play, which could be shown during Orientation Week, instead of or in addition to a book.

We feel that the main objective at this time should be a critical and careful evaluation of this year's experiment and if opinions continue to be optimistic as they have been this week, an earnest effort should be made by the men's and women's orientation committees to participate in and expand the program next year.

We give our utmost support to this innovation and publicly congratulate the women's orientation committee, Paula Poyser, chairman of the event, the dean of women's staff and the faculty members who gave their time to initiate this program which got off to such a great start.

Onward, State!

Football season opens today with Penn State pitted against Navy in Beaver Stadium. For some, there follows a glorious football fall filled with the excitement and emotion of the anxious crowd and tense moments in the game. For others, the season will be distasteful because it detracts from purely "intellectual" activities.

But it's not a complete coup d'etat. There are still classes and artists series programs . . . academic life is not eliminated by football, rather it is complemented.

The main advantage a football game has over these other functions is that it is a rallying point for students, alumni and other friends and supporters of the University.

The spirit of "Dear Old State" becomes alive again in the presence of the people who originally made it possible by attending the University and supporting it financially.

Football provides a diversion for those of us still here who need a break in our studies. It is truly an All-American game that offers fair competition and an exhibition of athletic prowess.

For these reasons, we hail the advent of the football season and wish the best of luck to Head Coach Rip Engle, his assistants and approximately 60 Nittany Lions. They've given hundreds of hours of their time to prepare for today's game. We'll be there to see them win.

FIGHT ON, STATE!

Reciprocity Pays

Hark, ye upperclassmen. You're in line for a great opportunity. In just two days, on Monday, you'll be able to find out the names of all those buildings you've passed on campus.

Monday marks the start of Freshman Customs and inevitably the frosh will be sporting their dinks and namecards. Besides discovering what the freshmen have learned about the University, upperclassmen will have the opportunity to get acquainted with the new additions to the student body.

Customs were designed for these purposes over 100 years ago. Since that time there has been a constant striving to maintain the school spirit which permeates the air during this period.

For the first time this year, frosh were given an extra period to become acquainted with each other. They have been wearing their namecards for the past three days. Several freshmen have commented that the practice gave them a better chance to meet their classmates.

After orientation programs each night, we have seen freshmen all over campus singing Penn State songs and chanting school cheers. Their spirit is invigorating.

Although the frosh will be wearing their dinks and namecards at the football game today, upperclass students will not be allowed to stop them until Monday.

The spirit of the freshman class is high. Spirit is as vital to upperclassmen as to these freshmen who are just beginning to appreciate all of the opportunities which Penn State has to offer.

It is our sincere hope that upperclassmen will do all they can to keep this spirit, which was initiated without prodding from their elders at its present priceless peak.

for the record No Place Like Home

by carol kunkleman

The Off-Campus Problems Workshop at Encampment recommended to the Dean of Women that she provide a trial "open" residence hall.

This experiment would allow men to enter women's rooms for 15 to 30 minutes on Friday and Saturday nights to say good night and/or a visitation period on Sunday afternoon.

To say the least, this prospect is an inviting one. After all, what could be more sublime than a leisurely half hour in a coed's room. Why, it's just like being at home. As a matter of fact, that seems to be the whole idea of the proposal.



The report from the workshop includes the reasoning behind this suggestion: "The University provides an unnatural atmosphere," the report laments. "There can be no small group parties similar to home life. Students, both girls and boys, enjoy cooking meals, having bridge parties, etc. The trend is for big gatherings such as fraternity parties and large dances at the HUB, etc. Students are not satisfied and would enjoy smaller groups. This change would decrease the boredom of many dates."

Are they serious? These students are supposed to be campus leaders, supposedly mature individuals who, in their college career have benefited from being in an academic atmosphere.

Many worthwhile discussions and suggestions have come out of past encampments and certainly from the most recent one. The Undergraduate Student Government will consider these recommendations this fall. I hope they will consider this proposal in its proper perspective.

The group cites the fact that at some women's colleges, girls may entertain men in their living quarters.

"If it were permitted at Penn State," the report continues, "the roommate would, in a sense, be similar to a sister at home." I'm so happy to discover that sisters have been chaperons. I'm sure my parents will be elated to know this fact, as well as my roommate who will be overjoyed at the prospect of having my date

stroll casually into the room at 12:30 a.m.

Pressure from other members of the floor would limit undesirable behavior, and if not, the whole floor would be restricted, the group decided. Ah, the marvels of social pressure.

It is difficult for me to conceive of this proposal seriously, even though it is emphasized that this is a long range plan and only a possible solution to the "problem."

Since when has the University campus taken over the job of providing the security and luxury of home? And was it intended to? These are questions I pose to this workshop committee.

We are in an atmosphere very unlike the one at home. We left home knowing that we would have to adapt ourselves to new and quite different surroundings.

The one good point of this whole proposal seems to be that it places responsibility on the individual which is definitely a quality desired in a mature individual. But what about the other 50 or so women on the floor who would also be restricted if one woman's conduct were not considered "proper." (Here again, how does one define this word?)

Our social life is part of our education. But only part. It is our intellectual growth that ultimately determines to what extent we cultivate our minds and contribute to our society.

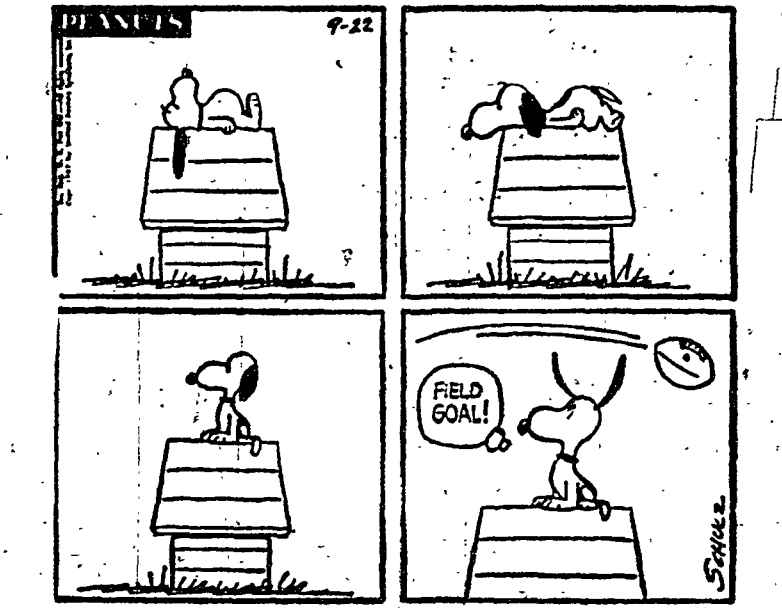
Why not use this idea of providing a "homelike" atmosphere in finding ways to meet for discussions on campus or to learn in the more conducive atmosphere of a small classroom.

We're at The Pennsylvania State University now. The only way to get back home is to leave on the weekend or at vacation or to flunk out.

Registration Highlights: a revised schedule . . . losing a meal ticket . . . having a matric card picture taken . . . donating to the class gift fund . . . dropping all the cards . . . forgetting the bursar's receipt . . . paying a late registration fee . . . scheduling phys ed for Saturday . . . not having an adviser's signature . . .

Football Treats: the Coke man . . . a warm day . . . cheering seniors . . . a good first half . . . quiet frosh . . . a valid matric card . . .

-Prof Wayne



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