

NACURH: 'Well, How About That'

"It is always pleasant to welcome visitors to Penn State. There is special pleasure in welcoming people such as you who are here to exchange ideas on the improvement of residence hall living. I hope that you will find these meetings both stimulating and profitable."

Thursday afternoon, March 21, Eric A. Walker, University president, welcomed the nearly 500 National Association of College and University Residence Halls delegates to the 1968 NACURH national conference.

"We are proud of our dormitory system here. We have come a long way from a generation ago in making the residence halls the best possible place for students to live," Walker said.

And the delegates lived in the newest and largest living area, East Halls. "I can't believe this place," commented a delegate from a small school in New Mexico, "East Halls is twice as big as my whole school."

A delegate from Oklahoma State University, wearing an orange 10-gallon hat bearing the letters OSU, said, "They say this here is the largest single living area in the world. Well, how about that."

"Well, how about that" described everything that went on during the three days of the conference.

Graham B. Blaine Jr., chief of psychiatry at Harvard University, was the keynote speaker. Blaine's speech concerned stress and distress in college.

As psychiatrists understand it, students face two

THE NACURH CONFERENCE—A special report by Dave Nestor, Collegian staff writer.

permanently destructive. Take for instance drunken driving or rebellious pregnancy. Some girls become pregnant merely as rebellion against dependence on their parents.

"Colleges have a responsibility of authority. They must help the student. This is not an easy task, and there must be room for experiment. The student himself often does not know what he wants. An example of this is the situation that occurred at Berkeley a few years ago. The demonstrators asked for two things. They wanted freedom,— they said 'leave us alone' and at the same time they yelled, 'pay attention to us!'"

Consider the Individual

Blaine said that administrators should not lock themselves into penalties. Each case should consider the individual and what is best for that particular person.

Identity formation is "the life cycle and formation of identity, a feeling of being at home within one's self," according to Blaine.

"College is the ideal place to gain identity. A person does not have to make a lasting decision.

gent opinions about right and wrong, and there is confusion about their own ideas and whom to believe. The student also faces greater freedom than he has ever known before. "The student is freed from rules and regulations and for some this is very stressful."

Blaine emphasized that the college does not always know the proper way to handle all of these situations. "Sometimes when we think that we are doing the most for people we are actually standing on their life lines."

The conference also heard an address from David Gottlieb, professor of human development. Gottlieb came to Penn State after having spent three years working with the Job Corps in Washington, D.C.

Gottlieb spoke about the problems facing Negroes and whites in America.

"People do not realize just how poor the poor actually are. Eighty per cent of the people who came to us had not been to see a doctor or dentist in the past 10 years. Twenty-one per cent of them had been asked to leave school for disciplinary problems, many of which were actually medical problems. Imagine trying to sit through a class suffering from a bleeding ulcer."

Gottlieb said that the Job Corps has found that there is no relationship between schooling and the ability to read or write. "People came to us at 17 years old with a fifth grade reading level."

"These people came to the Job Corps because many of them saw it as their last chance to make it into the middle class. Colleges and universities must work with these youngsters right away or there will be real chaos and separation. These people cannot compete in our society because most of them lack any kind of sophistication."

Three things, Gottlieb said, reflect what is happening in the United States today.

"We are living in an era of great sociological change. In our society it is hard to get a foothold because someone is always trying to change you."

"There are no longer any proletariat students. We live, for the most part in an affluent society where students are no longer forced to do hard physical labor to get through school."

Credit for Appalachia Work

"And finally, we live in an age of violence. We can destroy the world very rapidly. There is both international and inter-racial violence. The problem is that people think that it is out there but it is not out there. It is right here."

There are legitimate ways to voice discontent according to Gottlieb. He said that there are programs where we go out into the ghetto and work and that these programs are good, but, "we must also bring these kids to the University."

"College students should also gain credit for working in Appalachia. They could learn as much and probably more there than sitting in a class room for 10 weeks."

"We have got to maintain and intensify inter-racial relations. We should accept black students who do not meet the universities' requirements, and there must be more discussion on the campuses. College students can now make the greatest steps ever in solving these problems."

When Gottlieb concluded his talk, the audience, with the exception of the Southern NACURH delegates, came to their feet and gave him a three-minute standing ovation.

The delegates also participated in presentations by individual schools. Steve Gerson of Penn State led a discussion on medical facilities. The delegates discussed problems that they have or had at their particular schools and what they did about them.

The discussion turned to ambulance services at the University and one girl said, "I think y'all are lucky to have ambulances." Another girl commented that if a person got sick at her school after 12 noon they were in trouble because they would have to wait until nine the next morning for their health center to open.



DAVID GOTTLIEB, speaker at last week's NACURH conference: "Lew Alcindor got more scholarship offers than any National Merit finalist."

Many people found that the facilities at their schools are a great deal better than they had previously realized, and all of the delegates went home with new ideas on how to make their own school better.

Oakland University in Oakland, Michigan, presented a program entitled sex and psychedelics in which they described two workshops that were presented by their school to educate the student body on these problems.

Each of the topics was handled individually and pro and con were presented for each. Oakland University found that there is a great amount of naivete among the student body and that these programs helped to clear up much of this. The delegates from Oakland strongly recommend this program and said that all of them gained immensely from participation in it.

There were a great many presentations such as these going on at the same time. Each delegate had the opportunity of attending whichever one he wanted.

The early evenings were filled with business meetings. In these meetings the business of the association was transacted.

Stoner, Antrim Lead

The meetings were conducted by President Kenneth Stoner from Kansas and Parliamentarian Donald Antrim of Penn State.

After the long days and evenings of meetings the delegates returned to East Halls for entertainment. Thursday night there was a jammy in Findlay, Friday brought the Little German Band and a "Casino Night."

Saturday evening the delegates attended a banquet in the Hetzel Union Building ballroom at which Laurence H. Latman, professor of geomorphology at the University, spoke.

After the banquet, delegates could attend a beach party at the Natatorium or see "Son of the Shiek" at "Nickelodeon Night."

The delegates were, for the most part, highly enthusiastic when they arrived, and even more so when they left three days later.

"I have learned a lot at the conference," said a student from Colorado, "and I hope that I can put it to use when I get back to school."



THE NACURH national business meeting, where students from New England to Hawaii met to discuss residence hall living. Nearly 500 delegates, who lived in PSU's newest and largest East Halls, attended the conference.

types of stress when they enter college. According to Blaine, they are those which come from within and those which come from without.

"Besides the stresses that everyone has, Blaine said, "there are those which are unique to college life."

Psychiatrists have noted the three most prevalent types of stress as being: independence versus dependence, identity formation and sexual formation, which is much more extreme during these years than at any other time of life.

"Students have conflicting ideas about wanting to be independent and a need for dependence much of which is completely unconscious. In some societies," Blaine said, "there is a clear line between childhood and manhood, but in our society there is no such line."

"When a student enters college the alma mater replaces the real mother and the alma mater faces the same problems and is open to the same mistakes as the real mother."

The college student answers these mistakes with rebellion, and according to psychiatrists, rebellion is an extremely important part of becoming mature.

"Rebellion is a way of counteracting feelings of dependence," said Blaine. "If there is no rebellion early there will be more serious rebellion later."

"It is important for many students to rebel because it makes them feel more of a person. It helps to maintain the courage of their convictions."

According to Blaine, rebellion can be either constructive or destructive. "Some rebellion can be

There is room for experimentation. During this time the person absorbs the characteristics of persons he admires, and this too is completely unconscious.

There are two things which, according to Blaine, interfere with identification formation. Disillusionment in or death of an identification figure is one, and intrusiveness, or parents who are unable to give growing children their privacy or a chance to do anything on their own, is the other.

"Identification figures should be easy to find in college. The college should also encourage a moratorium. Students should be encouraged to leave school when that is the thing to do. Students should not be stuck with majors in which they are not interested."

Sexual orientation provides yet another stress that the college student must face. "Students do not know how to deal in a natural way with these problems, and there is no completely legal outlet for these students." Blaine said that there is a great difference of opinion among administrators on how to deal with this problem and that there is a great amount of inconsistency.

Not only must the student work out answers for these stresses, but according to Blaine, there are things which must be developed.

"There is a great demand for originality in college. For the most part students have not been called upon to be creative up until now."

"The college student faces a great shock to his value system: Many students come into college from a very homogeneous society. Here they meet diver-

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B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation Weekend Activities Friday evening-March 29-8:00 P.M. Sabbath Services Speaker: Rabbi Norman Goldberg Saturday-March 30 10:30 A.M.-Sabbath Services 9:00 P.M.-MOVIE-"Our Man Flint" Sunday, March 31 11:30 A.M.-Lox & Bagel Brunch 7:30 P.M.-Welcome Mixer Seder Meal Tickets (April 12 & 13) and Passover Suppers can be purchased at Hillel now.

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SUNDAY WORSHIP Methodist EISENHOWER CHAPEL 11:15 a.m.

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