

Division of Counseling Solves 'Myriad' of Student Problems

By MADELINE MAZURSKY
Collegian Staff Writer

You've had a squabble with your boyfriend. Your grades are playing chutes and ladders, and the dice are against you. You're reading Steppenwolf and you think you share Harry's suicidal characteristics. These and a myriad of major and minor problems are often resolved through the counseling services of the Division of Counseling, available to all students.

According to Dean Jefferson Ashby, the Division of Counseling originated in 1956 as an outgrowth of two separate agencies, the Student Advisory Service and the Division of Intermediate Registration. The merger of the two agencies came about when "The University felt it had a responsibility to provide assistance to the student," Ashby said.

"Not a Panacea"

"We are a resource, not a panacea," Ashby continued. "The student will find people sensitive to a variety of resources." He added that his staff consists predominantly of psychologists.

In addition to counseling services for students with extra-curricular problems, staff members of DOC administer the extensive pre-registration tests. The purpose of the

tests is to "collect a wealth of information about the student to help evaluate his career goal in light of his interests," Ashby explained. He added that these career suggestions "do not by any means compell the student to change his previous plans."

DOC is a unique college in that its students are transitory, Ashby continued. Freshmen can remain in the college up to their sixth term, and three terms is the maximum period for other students. The college specifies no academic program for the student to follow, providing flexibility for students uncertain of their course of study or for students seeking admission in other colleges.

The dean compared the college to a holding company, retaining the student "until his career problems are ironed out."

Favors Dialogue

Ashby said he favors the recent dialogue of University Senators and students within the College of the Liberal Arts, but said that as a result of the rapid student turnover within the Division of Counseling, students "relate differently" to his college.

Student involvement in the planning and administrative procedures of DOC is not sought by the student within the college, he explained. Students view the college as a temporary academic situation

and are uninterested in making long-term commitments to the college, he continued.

Commenting on the reported influx of students from disadvantaged neighborhoods Fall Term Ashby said the students would probably not encounter any particular problems adjusting to the University community.

'Unfortunate Connotations'

"The term 'disadvantaged' is too often a label with unfortunate connotations," Ashby said. "It implies that students will be very much like each other, when in fact any grouping encompasses a wide range of talents, interests, personal differences and problems."

He added that the had formally reminded all the colleges that the assistance and services of DOC are available to ease the transitional problems that a disadvantaged student may encounter.

Ashby joined the University faculty in 1952. He received his bachelor of arts and masters degrees from Southern Illinois University and came to the University to obtain his doctorate in Clinical Psychology.

During his pre-employment position, Ashby held various directorships within DOC. He began as a graduate assistant when the college was in its primary stage as the Division of Intermediate Registration.

Applications Available For Homecoming '69

It's coming, it's coming. Get out the flask and the football tickets. Clean out the fraternity, for the alumni return.

It's Homecoming '69, set for the weekend of Oct. 11 when the Nittany Lions clash with West Virginia.

Larry Wallace, chairman of the event, said last night that applications for Homecoming committees and chairmanships can be submitted now through Monday at the Hetzel Union Building. He also said results will be announced by the end of next week.

"Activities have been planned to emphasize a minimum number of hours and manpower and a maximum amount of spirit and effectiveness," Wallace said. "The fact that Homecoming is early should not mean that Penn Staters will not show their alumni a great welcome back."

'Mr. Penn State' Reflects on 4 Years Jon Fox Looks Back

By MARGE COHEN
Collegian Staff Writer

For the past four years, Penn State and Jon Fox have been synonymous. Be it a Lion football game or a freshman dink or a banner welcoming visitors to Happy Valley or a USG campaign, "Foxy Jon" has always appeared.

Even during the summer, University students saw his face as they watched the national television coverage of the Republican National Convention.

But now, Jon Fox is leaving. He is graduating this term from the school to which he devoted four years of energy and hard work to become recognized as an unofficial "Mr. Penn State." And, the "living legend" simply cannot believe he is about to leave.

"What I possibly have learned academically can be put on the back of a matchbook with a crayon," Fox asserted, "but the experiences and relationships and memories can never all be reported."

"I really don't want to leave," he continued. "I never expected this day would come—I never planned for it."

Activities and Spirit

But the inevitable is happening—prepared or not, Fox is about to depart, leaving behind him a trail of activities and spirit.

For if anyone knows the campus, its history and its opportunities, Fox certainly does. "I have tasted a lot, but how much have I digested?" he wondered, looking back on four years.

One thing Fox always strived for, but did not quite reach, was "making people in Pennsylvania appreciate and respect

the University to the extent that its fame and reputation would be acclaimed nationwide."

"I guess you don't appreciate what is in your own backyard," he said, noting that the "public Jon Fox" was beginning to emerge.

Two Jon Foxes

Public-private? "There really are two," he added with a smile. "Many times I am not Jon Fox the person, but Jon Fox 'Mr. Penn State,'" he continued. "I am sorry that I have not always been taken seriously—a lot of me is what you make me to be, not what I am."

As perhaps the University's strongest advocate of spirit—be it for a winning football team or a more effective and efficient student government—Fox is usually portrayed with megaphone in hand. "That's the visible, vocal me," Fox explained. "The more reserved me just does not come through—and it's hard for students, to envision me really being serious."

Even at the Feb. 24 Old Main sit-in, when Fox went outside the administration building to be greeted by a "hostile" crowd of students, he said they anticipated a "short yell demand."

Sympathetic to Demands

While he was sympathetic to the demands of the students inside the building, he said he was viewed by them as "a member of the Establishment"—"that's not an endearing term nor is it a term that identified me with their desires," he recalled. "But his main disappointment about the whole incident was not only the response he received, but also that "a

person is considered as a particular type."

A lack of communication? Possibly—that's why Fox geared all of his efforts in active involvement toward a more cohesive student body—on the class as well as the entire University spectrum.

By increasing communication, Fox explained, participation can be increased. "Without one, you don't have the other; it must be both," he said. And the merger of the two, results in cooperation, he added.

Involvement Important

Getting people involved is of the utmost importance to Fox, not only for a higher number of students in organizations, but for more students realizing their own personal growth, he explained.

And all the while he said, "we can make Penn State number one in more than football."

Not enough people realize the University's stature among the educational institutions across the country, Fox continued. And, through improved communication, outsiders as well as people within the University community can appreciate just what is here.

For that reason, Fox proposed a special department under the auspices of the Department of Public Information, designed to release weekly accounts of University achievements and happenings.

Would Fox consider remaining at the University in such an office or in the office of Alumni Affairs?

"I really don't want to leave," he said with a foxy smile.

MRC Survey Probes Reaction To Living Areas, Dining Halls

By JOE MEYERS
Collegian Staff Writer

Foster F. Frable, chairman of the Men's Residence Council Food and Housing Committee, has announced that the housing and food survey taken in April was the largest and most successful survey of its type in the history of the University.

The survey was distributed to a cross section of students on April 21. Out of the 2,500 questionnaires distributed, nearly 2,000 were completed and returned. According to Frable, "Close to 2,000 or 10 per cent of the students at the University showed enough interest in the survey to spend between 30 and 60 minutes on the survey and turn it in."

Purpose of Survey

In explaining the purpose of the survey, Frable said, "When discussing student living, government and study area planning, it is forgotten that the nucleus of the living environment is the physical structure. In both immediate and long-range planning it is inconsistent to plan academic, social and recreational activities without considering the facilities in which the activities will take place, from all aspects and areas."

"The design or the rehabilitation of the structure affects the creation of rules norms and day-to-day living and studying patterns," he continued. "Successful floor government, for instance, is influenced by the sense of community or belonging derived from the layout of individual rooms around a functioning communications center—a group lounge for example. This is applicable to both on and off campus housing."

Permanent Study

According to Frable, one of the goals of those who conducted the study is the establishment of a permanent housing study and research workshop for students, staffed by members of the various student governments and students in related academic studies, such as architecture and hotel and food service administration.

These students would continue to study new ways of reducing housing costs, to study new housing ideas and present them to the University and to offer consultation to students on how to improve their housing environment, particularly those students living off-campus.

Questions included in the survey were:

- what is the maximum extra amount on a per term basis you could afford to pay for housing and food services?
- in general, would you prefer high-rise (elevator) type buildings or low rise (walk-up) type buildings for residence halls?
- would you like the opportunity to exercise more initiative in decorating and customizing your room?
- what has caused you or what might cause you, to leave the residence halls?
- do you find the recreation and lounge facilities adequate?
- single item of those offered was the floor snack kitchen area.

—in general, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with food service at Penn State?

Complete Tabulation

Tabulation of all the questions in the survey will not be completed and analyzed until early Fall Term, but several of the questionnaires were completed earlier this week.

Fifty-nine per cent of the students are willing to pay \$30 to \$50 more per term for housing and food services if they would receive a fair return on this sum. Students least willing to pay for additional services were those in Simmons, South and Atherton Halls. Those most willing to pay the extra amount were in North and Nittany Halls.

According to the survey, students prefer low-rise housing to high-rise, but a large percentage have no preference. Students who live in high- or low-rise dorms seem pleased with their present housing.

Access to classroom areas is the primary reason why students choose a particular housing area.

The major factors affecting student choice of a particular housing unit are the site and location and the atmosphere and feeling of the area.

Want Custom Design

Eighty-five per cent of the students desire the opportunity to exercise more initiative in decorating and customizing their rooms. Eighty-two per cent are willing to take the time and effort to do this.

Some of the items students favor and are willing to pay for in housing include private room telephones, separate study bedrooms, increased and specialized food service, new residence hall parking facilities, individual floor snack kitchens, individual room heat control and air conditioning.

Sixty-five per cent of the students selected the individual floor snack kitchen, the separate study bedroom and a private telephone as the items they most desired. The most popular

Lack of Freedom

The survey also found that the primary reasons that students leave, or consider leaving, the residence halls are the social climate and the lack of freedom.

At the end of each questionnaire there was a space for comments and according to Frable, "a large majority of the surveys contained many interesting and informative comments and suggestions. These all were recorded and will be reviewed and studied by students working on this project and the Department of Housing and Food Services. Interviews will be arranged for the remainder of this term and Fall Term for the many students who requested them on their questionnaire."

DOC Polls Parental Attitudes

By REENIE THOMSON
Collegian Staff Writer

Counseling—is it an aid to the students or a comfort to the parents?

The pre- and post-counseling attitudes of parents have been evaluated in a study by the Division of Counseling. A set of questionnaires was sent to a random sampling of parents who attended the Summer 1968 Preregistration Counseling Program for University freshmen.

The questionnaires, according to Daniel J. Peterman coordinator of the study, are to be used to evaluate changes in parents' attitudes toward higher education in general and the University in particular. They also were intended to reveal parents' feelings about the effectiveness of the counseling program itself.

For the past decade, attendance at the preregistration counseling program has been required of all freshmen entering the University, Peterman explained. An integral part of the program requires parent participation in individual and group discussions concerning students' preparation for college and the suitability of available programs of study. Parents also attend lectures to acquaint themselves with the academic and social environment here.

Program's Objective

The objectives of the counseling program, as stated in Peterman's study are to give the parent a frame of reference within which to evaluate student development and to aid the parent in his role as counselor to the student.

The results of the student preregistration testing are presented to the

parent at the same time that the University structure is being explained to him. Hopefully, according to the study, the parent will view the University in terms of his student's adaptability to the structure.

Information about the educational opportunities and demands at Penn State is made available through meetings with the counseling staff, representatives from the Office of the Dean of Students and representatives from the colleges to which the students have been admitted.

Social Environment

Information about the social environment is formally communicated by the staff of the Office of Dean of Students. Information also is available through informal observation of the campus and discussion with students presently attending the University.

"The most important thing, for parents at least, is to convince them that the University really cares about them and their students as individuals," Peterman said. "It's a sort of promise we make that takes four years to pay off."

The questionnaires, according to Peterman, were constructed to see whether parents' expectations and attitudes become more realistic following counseling day.

The first two sections of the pre- and post-counseling questionnaires were identical. These sections indicated parents' levels of concern regarding student capability to adjust and parents' general attitudes toward college. The third section, which was not included in the pre-counseling questionnaire, concerned the reactions of the parents to the counseling program itself.

The results of the study, according to Peterman, indicated parental satisfaction with the program. Most parents came to the counseling session with optimistic feelings regarding their students and with a positive attitude toward the University. The study shows that the counseling effort seems to reinforce these positive views.

After counseling, parents reported to be more comfortable in their role as advisers to their students and more confident in the counseling staff to act in their stead, should difficulties arise during the term.

According to the study, parents see the decision as capable in the area of student-making and in adjusting to the College environment. They see Penn State as a large campus offering many academic and social opportunities.

Complex Interaction

The results also indicate that parents view the students' performance as a complex interaction of ability, motivation and personality development. The parents seem more realistic in their expectations of the students' grade achievements and the meaning of grades.

According to Peterman, a similar study to assess student reaction to the program is planned for this summer. Peterman felt that "the students won't be as kind."

"One thing that we've failed to do with the program is to meet with the students and parents together, to communicate," Peterman said. "We may discover in our study a particular kind of student who needs another type of counseling. But this program is still a year or two away."

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JUNIORS

AVOID THE FALL RUSH— HAVE YOUR PORTRAIT FOR THE 1970 LAVIE TAKEN NEXT WEEK

If you missed having your portrait taken earlier this term or if you will not be on campus next Fall (student teaching, etc.,) have your portrait taken June 2-7. Also anyone 1-2 who wishes to have their portrait taken now should do so at the Penn State Photo Shop, 214 E. College Ave.—rear. 9 a.m. to 12 noon and 1-4 p.m. without appointments.

Men wear white shirt, dark jacket, tie—Women wear Jewel-neck sweater and No Jewelry.

There will be a sitting charge of \$1.85.

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