

How Successful Was UO New Student Week?

The Freshmen Say . . .

Women Were Too Busy And Men Too Confused

Freshmen women are tired. Excited and eager, but tired. The biggest single reason for this is rushing, which followed orientation and registration, ran into first week classes, and led to pledge banquets. Many have not yet had an evening to rest, or study.

Most of the frosh would have been willing to wait until later to rush, some would have preferred it.

There are other reasons for their physical and emotional exhaustion. Many could not obtain test results until late in the week. As a result they registered late, at the same time as the upperclassmen, and when crowds were heaviest. Several had to take language exams as late as Thursday, with a Saturday deadline.

Registration Caused Trouble

The process of registration itself should have been made clearer. Perhaps a huge chart in the S.U. ballroom would have helped to clarify the required steps. Many did not understand the reason for the \$10 dollar general deposit.

Most were enthusiastic about the two talent assemblies, the picnic, and the "Hello Dance", although they felt they were too worn out by the end of the week to really enjoy dancing.

Many thought the nightly dorm meetings were too much on top of a busy day, yet they agreed that they answered many questions.

Now they are looking forward to their first Portland game, which follows the last of the orientation events. And they are wondering just when they will begin going to school.

The whole feeling of frosh women about orientation week might be summed up as too much to do in too little time. But as one girl said, "we were so busy we didn't have a chance to get homesick." That is the only thing that can be said for the overcrowded schedule.

Freshmen men seemed fairly well satisfied with the purpose and general spirit of Orientation week as a whole, although several criticisms as to faulty mechanics were uncovered in interviews by the Emerald.

Perhaps the chief of these was the apparent lack of specific, detailed instructions as to the registration process. "They gave us all these cards", said one freshman, "but we had to figure out for ourselves what to do with them."

Another: "We should have had a meeting right at first telling us exactly what we were going to do and how to do it." One freshman suggested a pamphlet to augment such a meeting, with clear, specific "How to do it" instructions.

Apparently this job was done better by some dorm counselors than by others. Several freshmen said they had little trouble because of help from dorm upperclassmen, or well informed counselors.

ROTC Brings Frosh Gripe

One definite gripe found was the long time which it took to get an ROTC uniform. "I stood in line two hours," said one freshman, "and when they got to me they closed the line."

General smoothness in organization came in for some criticism: "You'd think they had two million students going through, things were so mixed up."—Or: "The pace was too jerky—one day we'd have 17 things to do, and the next day nothing." Another eloquent comment: "It was pretty shaggy, I think—too much crowded into a short time."

The consensus on the McArthur court assemblies seemed favorable, but all apparently favored speeches which were short and to the point. The freshman picnic was "fun" to most.

The fraternity open house tour Sunday seemed to have been approved by those who attended, but again such comments were heard as: "You just got in a house and you had to leave," or "you had no choice as to what houses you wanted to see."

The Counselors Say . . .

Orientation Was Hectic But Things Went Well

From the women counselors' points of view, orientation week was successful, if hectic. The schedule was too full, and still is. Rushing was ill-timed. But Student Affairs kept counselors up to date on coming events.

Registration, at best a tiresome process, was the biggest headache. Neither counselors nor freshmen were informed that a language exam was required. There were mix-ups about health and physical examination schedules. Some faculty advisors failed to explain the group requirements as a two year program. Class hours versus credit hours confused the frosh.

The counselors' own training program, held the week before registration, was received with mixed feelings. All day meetings gave the dorm staffs opportunity to learn more about the administration of University housing, and answered questions about finances.

Dr. Moll's careful explanation of the Sophomore Honors program was invaluable, as no one gained a real idea of the plan from the catalogue. Special training offered by the Counseling Center was discussed, and many had never heard of it before.

Mr. DuShane's summary of the fine points of the University awakened appreciation for the school to match the enthusiasm of new students. Mrs. Wickham's discussion of personality problems was both interesting and helpful. And counselors got acquainted with their fellow workers.

But too little was said about the mechanics of entering women into the dormitories—how to sign them in and what to tell them. And more time should have been spent jointly planning nightly dorm meetings, so that all counselors could have covered the same material. A little discussion of these meetings might have anticipated some questions which were asked repeatedly and at irrelevant times, making it difficult to cover even one topic during an evening meeting. (H. J.)

It Could've Been Worse

Events last week went pretty well, according to most of the counselors in the University's five freshman dormitories—Sherry Ross, Stitzer, Merrick, French and Nestor.

A few things were apt to get fouled up in such a large scale operation, the counselors pointed out, but things could have been a lot worse. One said that "there's been a continual improvement for six years" and this one was the best yet.

Of course, it wasn't all good. Attendance at the dorm meetings and at other functions, assemblies and such, dropped after the first day or so with apparently two of the dorms having the worst time of it. In these two, it turns out, were the freshman athletes and "recently active high school students who seemed to think they're a little above the others and don't have to attend."

One counselor stressed the point that "there should be more emphasis on all freshmen men doing everything."

Most agreed that things could have been "boiled down" without hurting the effectiveness of orientation.

And then there was the confusion on sign-up for classes. Apparently, however, there never will be a completely smooth registration week and the freshman who thought he was in US history and found it was BA 460 seems to be inevitable.

Speakers Bring Complaint

Another specific complaint at three halls concerned the various speakers who traveled from one dorm meeting to another explaining the various activities. As one counselor put it, it appeared that the people who organized orientation week had so much to do that certain events were not well handled. The speakers apparently could be classified here.

Perhaps the most disturbing element, however, was the story of fraternity men in one or more of the vet's dorms, the rumored off-campus parties sponsored by them, and the telephone "contacts." As one counselor put it, "we were just too busy to track these things down" but apparently they did go on in a fairly small scale.

Two counselors even got a word in about women's rushing. One said that freshmen men accepted the fact that women could rush while they couldn't but that many were given a very bad impression of Panhellenic. Another said there had been considerable griping in his unit about girls rushing.

Reasons Differ

Reasons for the overall success of the week differed to some degree but in one thing all counselors agreed: Skull and Dagger, the sophomore men's honorary, did a "swell" job keeping the freshmen well informed.

The student-helping-student idea, in fact, seemed quite popular. One counselor felt that a "happy balance" between student and administrative appearances in assemblies and meetings had been found. Apparently freshmen, both men and women, go for the idea.

The Administration Says . . .

Improved Week Noted, Plan Keyed to Students

Student Affairs administrators think this year's new student week was a great improvement over last year's program.

Donald DuShane, director of student affairs, called the 1952 new student week "a substantial improvement"; Ray Hawk, director of men's affairs, said the program was better than last year; Mrs. Golda Wickham, director of women's affairs, termed it "a vast improvement."

There were many improvements to which Student Affairs and the orientation committee can point to with pride.

New Slant Exhibited

There was a new slant on orientation assemblies: "Cut the speeches, increase the entertainment." The Student Affairs assembly got the point across without resorting to "talkathons." The ASUO assembly allotted a total of 13 minutes to speakers with an hour of good entertainment.

The freshman men's counseling standards have been raised. Counselors in frosh dorms now receive \$900 a year (last year they received only board and room, about \$600) and student affairs can now compete with University departments in securing quality personnel who might otherwise accept jobs as graduate assistants. Acceptance of a man from Purdue and one from Penn State have

Orientation: The Good and Bad

The University of Oregon last week was faced with a big job. The job: To absorb over 1000 freshmen into the Oregon family. They came in cars, on busses, in trains, and by airplane. They came from this state, and from other states.

They had to be tested, advised, housed, entertained, and prepared to begin their college education; all in one short week.

A complicated process, all this. For want of a better word it was called Orientation. How successful was it?

Here is the Emerald's answer. To get all shades of opinion, we interviewed the administration, men and women worm counselors, and most important, the freshmen.

broadened the scope of the counseling program. Both actions by the administration have benefited new students.

Members of the administration are meeting each noon, during the first weeks of school, with men's counselors to hear their problems. The top of the administration apparently wants to know what is going on at the bottom.

The administration held a three-and-a-half day school for dormitory counselors prior to new student week to acquaint them with the problems they would meet.

Some Freshmen Complained

There were gripes.

Some freshmen complained that they were not told that a physical examination was required before registration could be completed. The administration sent out folders with each notice of acceptance stating that a physical was required. A physical examination blank was enclosed.

So freshmen complain that they did not receive adequate instruction on the sophomore honors program. The administration states that this academic program was carefully explained to faculty and counselors so that it could be passed on to students. Enrollment in the program passed expectations.

There were inconsistencies.

Freshman men counselors say that attendance at dorm meetings fell off after the first day. Student Affairs says that attendance was high throughout the week.

And there were mistakes.

Freshmen complained that they were not informed that they must take a language proficiency test if they had taken a language in high school and their registration was delayed while they took the exam late in the week. Student Affairs says that perhaps the instructions were not adequate.

Some new students said their test results were slow in coming, thus delaying registration. The administration says that test results were available the day after they were taken. Tests were given Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Limited facilities caused the three-day spread. The tests could have been given in the Student Union ballroom as well as McArthur court, thus increasing the speed of registration. Many freshmen had to register during the period assigned to old students.

The week was over-crowded. The addition of rushing to the problems of registration, orientation and adjustment was too much. Administrators handling women's affairs were rushed off their feet. Women missed appointments and tests because of rushing commitments. The administration should have postponed rushing.



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