

# Counselors Question Orientation

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Emerald Associate Editor

Dormitory counselors arrived at the University a week before the general student body in order to attend counselor orientation.

The orientation was supposed to inform the counselors of the resources made available to them by the University and to let them know what the housing office expected of them.

Now that the counselors have been working for two weeks, many of them have divided opinions about the value of orientation.

One counselor went so far as to call the whole procedure a "sack of shit."

But others, like Cheryl Taubman, felt that it was a "positive experience."

## Many Topics

The orientation covered many topics from the "philosophy of housing, academic advising, and the Conduct Code" to social programming. All are considered by the housing office to be important aspects of dormitory living.

The housing office philosophy is that a dorm should be more than a place to live. It should provide a student with the opportunity for social and cultural growth.

The dominant theme in the orientation was that the dormitory ideally should provide each student with a "positive experience in group living" and should again be something more than a hotel.

In order to make group living more comfortable and more efficient, certain rules must be followed, according to the Housing Office philosophy, and some of these rules—like visiting and quiet hours—should be decided upon and enforced by the dormitory residents themselves.

## Emphasis Study

But over-riding the philosophy of having the dorm be a place for culture living, it must be a place where the emphasis is on studying.

As Jeff Cook, a second-year counselor said, of all the rules, the only one "I'll be pushy about is quiet hours. After all, that's what students are here

for."

Cook said he felt the Housing Office, which ran counselor orientation, "dwelled too much on the social and cultural aspects of dorm living. A lot of it just repeated what was in the counselor's handbook.

"And at other times," he continued, "it seemed as though they assumed we were sort of simple — when they were showing us how to fill out IBM cards and practice rosters, etc."

But he agreed, "They tried and they came a long way in cutting out the crud from the year before."

Many counselors said that the things most helpful to them were the group discussions by old counselors about problems. Counselors Richard Ireland agreed with him about the value of talking with returning counselors, saying, "They had a realistic idea of what's going on."

Ireland also said that the main purpose behind the "ideal counselor" talked about so much during the orientation was to make "you really think about what you're going to do . . . before. It's a lot better situation than if you just went into it blind."

## Residents More Active

During the last four years, dorm residents have been playing a more active role in governing themselves, although there are some people on campus who feel that the students are still not playing an active enough role in governing themselves.

The reason for this flexibility is the Conduct Code, adopted by the University three years ago. With the adoption of the Code, many of the counselor's old disciplinary privileges have been transferred to the student court system. Today, our counselors are responsible to the courts and any decision of theirs may be challenged by a student through the minor court system.

During the orientation, Larry Ross, Conduct Committee chairman, and Francis Nickerson, associate Dean of Students, spoke

to the group of counselors on how their duties related to the Code and the philosophy of student maturity it operates on.

For instance, should a counselor suspect students of drinking in their rooms, which is against both the dormitory regulations and the state laws, he is still not able to enter the student's room without knocking and announcing himself first.

"Sure," one returning counselor told the group, "this gives them a chance to hide the bottles but you can warn them and tell them that sooner or later they'll get caught."

Some other counselors, like Harrold McKnight, criticized the Orientation because the counselors were expected to sit through two three-hour sessions every day, which he said he felt could be shortened considerably.

He said he also felt that much of the sessions were repetitious and pedantic.

## Placement Service Needs Schedules

Students who filled out University Placement Service forms but did not provide the office with their class schedules are urged to do so immediately in room 246 Susan Campbell. The office needs this information in locating jobs for applicants.

## Committee Action Urged by Duncan

Representative Robert B. Duncan urged Tuesday that the House Judiciary Committee give prompt, favorable report to a bill to prohibit use of interstate transit facilities by those who intend to incite or participate in riots or other civil disturbances.

Duncan wrote Committee Chairman, Rep. Emanuel Celler, that "in view of the violence which continues to erupt in our cities, the need for enactment of separate legislation is, I believe, apparent."

Such a provision was included in the House-passed omnibus civil rights bill that later died in the Senate. Duncan noted, in concluding, "I hope your Committee will take positive action."

## Peters to Speak On Lighting

"Architectural Lighting: Is It a Guessing Game" will be the topic of a lecture at 8 p.m. tonight in 106 Lawrence.

The speaker will be Richard Peters of the department of architecture in the College of Environmental Design at the University of California, Berkeley.

The program is sponsored by the Oregon School of Architecture and Allied Arts.

Although most of the counselors agreed that some form of orientation is necessary and that they received a lot of helpful information from the sessions, many took umbrage at the way they were treated.

McKnight said that much "of what was given was given on the premise that we weren't actually infantile but they didn't credit us with much intelligence."

Various activities—skit nights, sit-down dinners, and banquets were connected with the orientation in order to give the counselors a chance to get acquainted with each other. Some people liked them and others violently disliked them—especially the fact that they have to give a "sit-down" dinner themselves before they could give one in the dormitory.

And in fact, this attitude could sum up opinion toward the orientation as a whole — for someone who disliked every part violently, there was someone who said the specific activity was helpful.

The disagreements and dissatisfactions are present all the time — about anything the dormitory system does, and the people in charge are trying to change things for what they hope is the better. But there is still a large group on campus who do not think things are changing fast enough.

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## Comp Placement Tests Scheduled

Students waived from Writing 121, because they scored 650 or higher on the College Board English Composition Test may take a test for possible waiving of Writing 122 and 123.

The test will be given to eligible students by appointment at the University Counseling Center in Susan Campbell Hall during the week of October 10 through October 14.

Students may call the Center at ext. 1361 for an appointment to take the test any time during that week. Results of the test will be available from the Composition Department in Prince Lucien Campbell Hall.

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