

# BSU presents activities for new black students

This week, incoming and returning University black students are participating in a series of programs sponsored by the Black Student Union.

Termed the Black Student Orientation, the series was designed "to provide black students with the information and advice which will help them prosper," according to Anthony Leonard, BSU treasurer.

Black students are attending this program in addition to the University-sponsored orientation activities.

The Black Orientation is being conducted largely by BSU members and is part of the group's effort to "provide the supportive services—economic, social, cultural academic and political—which are necessary for the progress of black students at Penn State," Leonard said.

## Special Attention

The black orientation concentrates on giving black freshmen special attention concerning their individual problems. For instance, persons in different colleges are given instruction that would help them in their special field. Usually another black student, who has been in that field, oversees the instruction.

"Black people are different than white people," one black freshman explained, "and while it (the black orientation) is not the most organized thing, you just have black people getting together and helping black people."

Another black student said, in this respect, the black orientation is not much different from what he had experienced in high school, with black people feeling very close to one another and helping each other out. Many students said the program made them feel very much at home.

## Response Good

"The response has been very good—the student advisers made the program because they themselves established it through interaction with the new students, helping develop a sense of rapport, and beginning to establish a sense of community," Ervin Bullock, program director, said.

The Black Student Orientation began Sunday with the arrival of new students. On that day, a general meeting of black students was held for the purposes of introducing blacks to one another. Black orientation booklets were passed out, and other general information was disseminated to the attending students, according to Bullock.

Bullock said the meeting helped to put the University academic problems in the proper perspective.

The black orientation booklets included poetry, rhetoric on historical and social aspects of blacks and the importance of technology to blacks, list of black faculty, suggested courses for black students, suggested readings and schedules of orientation activities.

## Monday's Activities

Monday's orientation activities included area residence hall meetings held, according to BSU representatives, for "interaction between student advisers and freshmen to put their personal, social and academic problems in the proper frame of personal experience."

Tuesday, the black students heard speakers, including James Morris, adviser to the Black Student Union at Malcolm X High School in Philadelphia, and Michelle Nichols of the Educational Self-Help program.

The speakers emphasized the shortcomings of institutionalized education, Bullock said. They also talked to the students about returning to their communities to serve as leaders with the help of skills gained in college.

Not all of the BSU orientation activities were strictly academic or sociologically oriented, however. The week's events also included frequent parties, dancing and discussion groups.

## Impressed by Activities

Many of the black freshmen and transfer students interviewed at the BSU-sponsored splash party at the Natatorium Wednesday night, were very impressed by the recreational activities provided, saying that they contributed to a strong sense of unity among the black students, as well as helping everyone get to know one another.

Developing this sense of unity, according to Bullock, is "essential to the black student because he represents such a meager portion of the campus populace. It is most important for us to function efficiently in the community so that in the future we can help each other with our problems, whether they be personal, social, or academic."

This week, the remainder of the Black Student Orientation program will feature workshops dealing with subjects relevant to black students, such as draft counseling and the problem of "developing an effective student representative organization on campus" for blacks.

## Reentry Groups

song, dance and poetry and a film entitled "No Vietnamese Ever Called Me Nigger," will be shown today in the Forum.

The black orientation activities will wrap up formally with a dance Saturday night for the black freshmen and transfer students.

Bullock pointed out that the program this year was the first of its type at the University. He added that, to the best of his knowledge, "the extensiveness of the program is unprecedented."

He said, "we hope that this can be a model for similar programs at other universities because black students have special needs and special problems."

The response of blacks to the activities was "very good," Bullock said, adding that a majority of the blacks on campus attended.—RN