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 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 this, in that 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 the BSU members 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 purpose 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 technocracy 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.