



GR-R-REAT

"I'm nervous," members of the Class of '79, on Campus for freshman orientation, readily admit.

"Mizzou's so big. There's the Red Campus, where the Columns are, and there's the White Campus, where the buildings are gray. But what about all these other buildings? How will I ever find my way around?" says one worried freshman-to-be.

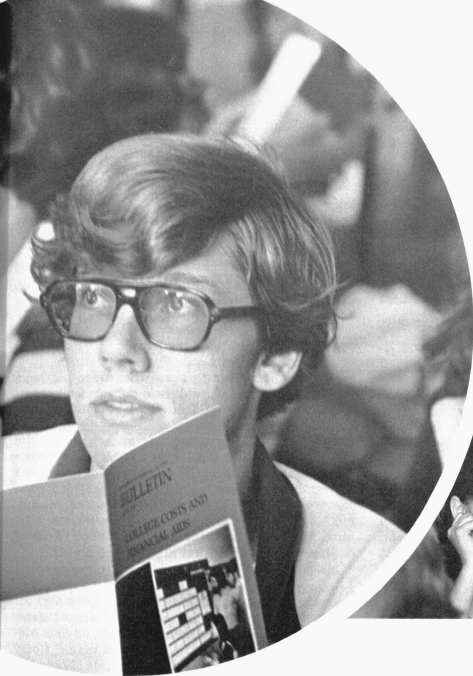
"Sure, I'm scared," says Chris Hawken from St. Louis. "I guess it's because I'm leaving my friends. I'll never even see the people I went to high school with again. I don't like leaving my girlfriend—she's going to be a senior."

Bill Lemp, also from St. Louis, agrees, "It's hard to

make new friends and the *right* friends."

Hidden behind the newspaper-size schedule of courses, a female voice wails, "There are thousands of things to take. How am I gonna figure out what to do?"

The freshman orientation program, Summer Welcome '75, helps new students overcome these feelings of nervousness, anxiety and fright. More than 3,000 new freshmen came to Campus for one of the 17 two-day orientation programs this summer. About 2,000 parents of freshmen also came and went through a special parents' orientation designed to introduce them to the University and alleviate their



o Have You Here

By Anne Baber

anxieties about leaving their offspring to the collegiate environment.

Orientation is run by the Center for Student Life, but the people who have the most contact with freshmen and parents are not administrators or professors, but student orientation leaders and student academic advisors, who have coped successfully with being freshmen only a few years ago.

With toothpaste-ad smiles and unflagging enthusiasm, courtesy and warmth, the students greet, guide and give good advice.

More than 350 students applied for the 32 leader jobs. The leaders were selected to represent every

school and college on Campus. A few are rising sophomores; others are grad students. The group includes black students and international students and is half male and half female. All are enrolled in a special three-hour psychology course that teaches them "to know themselves and to relate to others." Before orientation starts, the leaders have an intensive two-week training period. They take Campus tours, memorize Mizzou history, learn about each school and college, practice through role playing how to meet people and get to know them quickly, work out skits to entertain the freshmen, and even decorate the dorms with huge posters of tigers growl-

ing, "Gr-r-reat to have you here."

As one freshman and her parents arrive at the dorm, they are greeted by Dave Miller, a psychology major who will be a sophomore this year. He smiles and says, "Welcome to Mizzou." They smile in return and visibly relax. After they are settled in dorm rooms and unpack, they go to the cafeteria for coffee and a sweet roll.

The freshmen compare high schools, gossip, trade information and mis-information. "Is the food always this good?" wonders a male taking a second roll. "They don't even have a soccer team," groans somebody down the table. "Here's what the book says about alcohol," says somebody else, beginning to read. "I heard they try to flunk you out in English," one male says, "So I'm taking it this summer at home."

"I'm looking forward to FREEDOM," says a male. "I'm looking forward to GIRLS," says another male. "Mizzou is a notorious party school," he confides. "It even made *Playboy*. This is the best four years of your life. I hear the women are desperate—maybe I'd better say more forward. They might even ask a guy for a date."

"I'm looking forward to FREEDOM," a girl is saying at another table. "I'm looking forward to BOYS," says another. "There are twice as many guys as girls

know I'll never find all my classes. . . . I just know I'll be late." Julie gives some practical advice, "After you get your class schedule, walk through it—before classes start."

It's a Campus myth that Arts & Science students do not get good advising. In fact, A&S students get expert advice from well-trained, friendly A&S student advisors.

"Students are better advisors than professors for you," one professor tells the freshmen. "I can't tell you which ones of my colleagues are boring."

In the group advising session, the student advisors impress the freshmen and their parents, who comment afterward about the advisors' obvious detailed knowledge and their honesty.

It's almost suppertime. Students hear about the Career Information Center, meet again with their group orientation leader, eat supper, see one of the A&S student advisors in a smaller group, look at slide shows and movies about the Greek System, Marching Mizzou and women's programs. In the late evening, the orientation leaders put on a show. Then the freshmen spend their first night in the dorms.

After breakfast, each freshman meets individually with an A&S student advisor or one of the three full-time A&S academic advisors—they're good too.

Betsy Garrett, an interdisciplinary degree graduate who will enter med school this fall, advises Melinda Miller, who hasn't decided on a major. Betsy spends from 8:30 to 9:20 helping Melinda choose her classes. The A&S Student Council and the student academic advisors have compiled a book that describes each course open to freshmen. The information is very detailed and includes the names of the texts and the kinds of tests or research papers required. At the end of the session, Betsy checks over the proposed classes to see that Melinda won't have too many heavy reading classes or too many papers to write.

Melinda is finished with registration by 9:55. She hardly had to stand in lines at all, and she got friendly, careful, and amazingly individualized treatment.

"I was so nervous about what I was going to take," Melinda says as she gets ready to leave Campus. "But now I feel really good about my classes and everything. Betsy really knows what she's talking about. I know I got good advice. And the student orientation leaders were so nice. I'm really looking forward to school starting. I'm not nervous about it any more. I'm excited." □

A & S freshmen get individual, friendly and careful advice about choosing their classes.

here. I hear the guys are desperate. You can even have a couple of different dates in the same evening!"

They're fun to eavesdrop on, this Class of '79.

They break up into small groups of about 10 and meet their orientation leader, who will stay with them the remainder of the two days.

Julie Renken leads one group. A rising sophomore, she is majoring in agronomy. "That's crops and soils," she explains. She takes the group on a quick tour of Campus, walking backwards and talking all the way. Her spiel is a combination of history, information and personal comment. "I like the Union to study. It's got nice, big chairs. I hate the library, but, of course, it's a very good library." One girl says, "I