

From high school to university in

The Freshman Introduction Seminars could be the start of a major program which would the best of senior students to act as leaders. They require the total if you know something the freshmen should know, let improve if they do not hear from their leaders?

People come to university for many reasons.

Some come for intellectual stimulation; some come for the social life. Some want a degree, because after all, you've gotta eat, man; some, usually not the same ones, want an education. Some come because they want to; some are pushed into it by over-ambitious parents.

And some haven't yet quite figured out why they've come.

Providing some kind of introduction to the university for all these different kinds of people is a big job. One of the more successful ways of doing this is FOS. FOS stands for Freshman Orientation Seminars, held on this campus during the summer to help acquaint incoming freshmen with university life.

The project was spearheaded by Glenn Sinclair, the present co-ordinator of student activities, about two years ago. "The idea was batted around for quite awhile," he said, "because we were bugged about FIW".

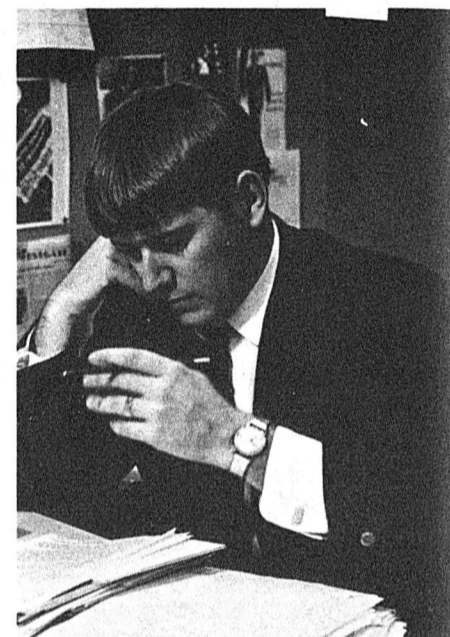
Sinclair obtained the support of



Rick Dewar, last year's med rep on students' council, and things began



to happen. One seminar was held in the summer of '66. By that time,



RICK DEWAR, CEC PRETTY, AND GLENN SINCLAIR (LEFT TO RIGHT)

... the seminar's guiding lights

Where

Personality cult, rapid expansion may mean trouble for the future

Now that the Freshman Orientation Seminars are off to a running start, where are they headed?

FOS could be headed for trouble in the nature of a personality cult. The combination of Sinclair-Dewar-Pretty has had a catalytic effect on all seminars and this may not be easy to duplicate.

Two factors bear this out. The first is that response to FOS was significantly greater from schools on which the three descended en masse. When just one or even two went, the reaction was much less.

The other factor is that, on a given seminar evening, if one of the three directors was not present, something seemed to be lacking. This situation was reported to me independently by several people. Naturally the directors did not plan things that way, but that's the way it happened.

The second problem is that, finances allowing, FOS may expand too much too quickly. This coming summer, the directors hope to run 10 seminars, and try to reach as many students as they can. The big hang-up here is that FOS may become simply another run-them-through-the-mill administrative job.

Expansion of the program may be

in line, but this necessarily means increased administrative tasks, costs, impersonalization and the turning over of the reins on the part of the three directors. What effect these things will have on FOS, if and when they are implemented, are reasonably obvious and far from ideal.

Yet we have to consider this thing from the directors' angle, too. To each of the delegates, FOS was a unique and possibly important experience. But the directors go through it again and again. It is virtually impossible for them to maintain the feeling of spontaneity; there is no way they can achieve, every time, the pitch of involvement that makes or breaks the seminar.

Thus it may be necessary, soon, for them to start recruiting their successors. If, as I have mentioned, they fail to pass on whatever it is that made this summer's seminars so successful, then the handwriting's on the wall, as far as FOS is concerned.

It's not, of course, that they haven't any likely candidates. Acting as a liaison between the directors and the students were a number of upperclassman and graduate "leaders". It would be from their ranks, and the ranks of this year's more enthusiastic FOSers that the future

directors and leaders could be chosen. This remains to be seen, however.

Right now FOS is concentrating on its winter publicity campaign and organizing next summer's seminars. The directors foresee financial difficulties, as well as other problems.

In closing, I can only say that FOS is something that cannot really be explained. It, like most things of value, must be experienced. I don't think anyone can question the effects it's had on its members, however. It's been a good effect, without a doubt.

It offers the individual an ideal opportunity to expand himself and to learn, not so much how to become a part of the university, because that is something only he can do himself, but how important it is to become part of the community.

Like most things of this nature, you get out of it only what you're willing to put into it. Yet, if some of the bigger problems now confronting FOS can be licked, it will indeed prove worth the effort, because the seminar provides a needed "in" for freshmen, no matter what their specific aims are.

It's always nice to have one foot in the door.

the directorship had expanded to three, including Cec Pretty, this year's theatre director and driving force behind most campus bands. A hard core of eight people met regularly to organize the first seminar, and like all first things, there was as much wrong as there was right with it.

"We were not that happy with the first seminar," said Sinclair. "It was a little impersonal, a little too structured." Cec Pretty agreed it had not been flexible enough: "It was much more rigid than this year's seminars. The supervisors wanted everyone involved all the time."

Nevertheless, everyone was very much affected by that first seminar. "It was a fantastic emotional experience," Pretty said.

During the summer of 1967 some major changes were introduced into the format of FOS. The students were told "The seminar is what you want to make of it."

The directors decided to stress informality so that everyone could get

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to know each other. They also worked on developing a philosophy behind FOS so the effects of the seminar would be more lasting.

Amid various hassles with council, the university and the government over finances, the team of Sinclair, Dewar and Pretty started manning the field at various high schools to interest prospective recruits for FOS. About sixty students responded and three seminars aver-