

V-3 lectures — 'The truth about university life'

By MARJORIE BELL

Varsity Guest Weekend, Feb. 15-17, was a \$3,000 cacophony of sounds, sights and activities.

Amidst the whirlwind of teas, displays, dances, plays and social activities there was one centre of serious concrete thought — V3 — labelled by its instigators "The Truth about University Life."

Held Friday in the SUB seminar room, V3 was kicked off by representatives of fraternity, athletic, students' union, religious and faculty aspects of U of A.

The panel consisted of Rev. Father Pendergast, associate professor of economics and university Catholic chaplain; Ken Porter, chairman of the Academic Grievance Committee; Don McKenzie, assistant co-ordinator of activities; Richard Hewko, of the Golden Key Society; students' union vice-president Judy Lees; Interfraternity council president John Rouse; and Murray Sigler editor of the year-book as moderator of the panel.

GAIN KNOWLEDGE

Father Pendergast told the 40 high school and university students that university is a place for gaining knowledge. A place for formulating the basis of value judgments.

"There are various reasons why people come to university. Many come because they don't know what else to do while others come so they can make more money, and some so they can contribute to society," he said.

Porter said, "The problem of the multi-versity is there is a conflict of disciplines. Some study the liberal arts to gain an understanding of world problems while others come for specific training, as doctors, engineers and such.

"You'll find in university the problem of dull professors, but here we're trying to do something about it. Involvement becomes deeper in such matters at university because you're paying your way."

IMPROVE UNION

He said the Academic Grievance Committee and the Academic Relations Committee are examples of what is being done to improve the students' situation.

McKenzie said, "It gets pretty impersonal on campus. It's difficult to relate to people. You get the feeling nobody cares what happens to you. The union is a great way to make friends.

"The university administration doesn't care what happens to you to a great extent," he said.

Asked whether students away from home have difficulty adjust-

ing to university, Porter said, "If you find the trauma of university life too great to bear there are psychiatric services in the form of student counselling. All health services are free."

A member of the Students for a Democratic University remarked, "Yes, all except for contraceptives."

Asked how much truth there was in the rumours of an extremely liberal attitude among U of A students, Hewko said, "There is a large amount of apathy on campus. However although students may be politically apathetic they are not otherwise."

PROTESTED

The comment brought a barrage of protest from SUB members.

Rouse told the lecture, "A fraternity is an organization of people from all walks of life."

Asked, "Is there racial prejudice in the fraternities?" he answered such prejudice was specifically forbidden by their constitutions.

"Are there any niggers in your fraternity?" an SDU member wanted to know.

"We have a Malaysian in our fraternity," Rouse replied.

"Is he your showcase nigger?" asked another SDU member, Teri Turner.

"A Malaysian?" inquired Rouse somewhat incredulously.

One student wanted to know, "Is there any way to prepare for the transition from high school to university?"

SEMINARS

Father Pendergast mentioned orientation seminars, in which academic and social problems are discussed.

An SDU graduate student in political science said, "The problem is not one of disorientation but of non-preparation. The fault is with the high schools, which don't prepare students to think creatively."

The political science grad student said the major problem is not getting around the situation but to confront it. "The goal of the SDU is to confront the system," he said.

A high school student, Brenda Gordon, 17, said, "The lecture got



V3 PANEL AT VARSITY GUEST WEEKEND LECTURES
... intelligent speakers, dedicated rabble-rousers and garbage mouths

a little out of hand and defeated its own purpose. When you're coming to hear about university life you don't want to hear radicals arguing about the establishment."

Of the SDU accusation that the panel was stuffed she said, "Of course, that's what you need to get the kind of information we require—not radicals."

Anna Groeneveld, 16, said, "There wasn't too much question-answering, but it was a real eye-opener. I didn't realize the campus was split into two groups. The panel was a good one, and I was glad to see a professor on it."

She said she failed to see how there could be a juxtaposition of power and learning.

Ella Flemke, also 17, said, "I felt right at home; there's a group of radicals there too."

Tom Kofin, president of the Jasper High School students' union said the panel was well-chosen and the idea of V3 was good but he left because the SDU destroyed the purpose of it.

"I just couldn't understand what the radicals were trying to prove," he said. Perhaps it was a good thing V3 wasn't completely non-controversial. It showed us everything isn't smooth at university."

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