Freshmen take dormitory tours, see both rooms and lifestyles

By Gordon Haff
Editor's note: Gordon Haff is spending R/O Week wandering about the campus Tuesday, as he comments on what a typical freshman finds when he checks into a dormitory.

A freshman leaves the R/O with his luggage on a variety of pamphlets, books, and sheets of paper. He heads for his temporary dormitory assignment. If he is lucky, he knows where it is from earlier visits. Otherwise, this freshman, whose arms are getting more and more tired by the minute, starts wandering in ever-widening circles in search of his goal. He finally encounters an upperclassman, who tells him he has been heading in the wrong direction for the last five minutes.

The new student arrives at his destination only to be met with a multitude of confusing signs, whose instructions often seem to conflict. He gets a yellow form to fill out from the house desk and copies the format from a card taped to the R/O desk.

After the freshman has settled into his room, he decides to get a tour of his temporary assignment. Several upperclassmen are lounging around the R/O desk waiting to impart their knowledge on him. There had been a meeting the night before for the guides and other R/O workers. The house president announced DormCo's policy — namely, that other dormitories should not be "bad-mouthed" and that on Friday nights and Saturday, freshmen are to be encouraged to visit the fraternities. He emphasized how important it was that the frass have a good road, especially in view of the overcrowding.

On the tour, the freshman is shown the various facilities: the recreation rooms, pinball machines, the different sized rooms. However, the tour guides also try to convey the atmosphere of the place and encourage the freshmen to ask questions about anything, not just about the dormitory facilities. The visitor is told not to be overly concerned about the physical plant, since in the long run people are more important than facilities.

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