



## Off to college . . . a whole new world

When the New Student Orientation Program ends today, nearly one-third of the entering freshman will have visited the campus, finalized their class schedules, talked with student hosts and headed for home reassured about entering the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

A week ago, of the nearly 2,000 students and parents who had participated in and evaluated the orientation program, only nine said it was a waste of time.

Dr. Peter Wirtz, student activities coordinator and orientation director, is so convinced of the program's value that he said he is ready to recommend that it be required for all entering students.

The day-long orientation program began with general introductions and answers to questions about campus living units, recreation, activities, social life, what classes are like, definitions of terms, coed visitation and how to get football tickets.

Visiting students then were divided into groups for campus tours led by orientation hosts. All the groups visited the University Health Center for hearing tests and toured the Undergraduate Library. But University hosts also tried to find out what special places the visitors wanted to see. And they tried to be candid in answering the visitors' questions, that ranged from "where do you keep your bike in the winter?" to advice on how to change roommates.

University students who were orientation hosts included: Clyde Alschwede, Sam Brower, Sriyani Candappa, Kay Giles, Debra Logan, Terri Anne Malicke, Barbara Phillips and Beth Popken.

Other hosts were: Patricia Schultz, Gary Simpson, Shirley Wallen, Mark Wendland, Rick Windle and Terry Wightman.

Jonette Beaver and Ann Pohlmeier were student coordinators for the orientation program.

Program evaluations by the visitors consistently cited "friendliness of the guides" as a major asset of the orientation sessions.

But one student admitted he was still confused about whether he could bring a boa constrictor to the dorm.

While new students toured the campus and got acquainted with the University hosts, visiting parents met with college deans.

After lunch at the Cather-Pound cafeteria, new students met with faculty advisers to finalize their fall schedules. On their evaluation forms, most students said meeting with an adviser was especially helpful and reassuring.

In the afternoon, John Winkworth of the University Counseling Center, led parents in small group discussions of common concerns and satisfactions they felt about sending children to college.

According to Wirtz, parents consistently stressed that they loved their children and always would be ready to help them if needed.

Students and parents then met in a final wrap-up session designed to "make the students look forward to coming back," Wirtz said.

But at least one mother wanted to be sure her son would appreciate being at home, too.

"I'm just going to be sure that I always have plenty of apple pie ready when he comes home," she said.



Orientation host Rick Windle, top left, asks his tour group what part of campus they would like to visit. A new student's hearing is tested, top right, at the University Health Center. Facial expressions of visiting students, center, reflect apprehensions about going to college. A mother's face, bottom left, tells a story, too. Bottom right, Jack Goebel, College of Business Administration, advises a new student about his fall class schedule.