

File C.E.P.
PROPOSAL: EXPERIMENTAL COMMUNITY

This is to propose an Experimental Community at SJU-CSB. Concepts have been developed from many similar set-ups throughout the country, among them Inner College at Macalester, Crisis Colony at Augsburg, Paracollege at St. Olaf, and the Living-Learning Center at the University of Minnesota. The following proposal is a compromise between total structure and unlimited freedom, but many of its elements are unprecedented and would be unique for St. John's.

Scope: The plinthisal ideas are not complex. The Experimental Community would involve coed living on campus with each floor determining its own four-credit "course" as a political unit. Faculty residents would share in the community with equal status.

Execution: All interested in participating would apply in some convenient manner. Before school officially begins in the fall, members of the Experimental Community would go through an orientation period designed to provide opportunities for meditation, questioning, discussion, personal awareness, social interaction, and adjustment. The purpose of this period would be to help students find out who they are, what they seek in life, and what role college should play in their plans.

Floors would be composed of applicants picked at random, hopefully of greatly divergent ideas and attitudes. Having the course as a common denominator, group members would be forced to interact and define themselves relative to the whole. Cohesiveness or a sort of "community" may or may not develop. The groups would continually evaluate and analyze themselves, and with their course as a catalyst,

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