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1984 Edition

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EDITORS' COMMENTS

This issue of the **Journal** is respectfully submitted to the alumni of the Indiana University master's program in student personnel. The articles contained within cover a range of student services and include original research by students currently enrolled in the program. The articles are the product of both class requirements and independent efforts. Significant revisions were often necessary and the cooperation of the authors in making these revisions was greatly appreciated. We thank and salute their efforts.

We would be remiss if we did not take the time to extend our heartfelt thanks to the faculty. Drs. Philip Chamberlain, Nancy Evans, George Kuh and John Schuh continue to uphold the tradition of quality student affairs preparation at Indiana University, both collectively and individually. Special thanks go to Dr. John Schuh who, despite an extremely busy semester, found the time to provide guidance and advice to the editors.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the various offices across campus which have provided support to the **Journal**. Specifically, the Offices of Student Activities and Residence Life provided funds for the publication of the Newsletter and operating costs, and postage for the **Journal** mailing. The Alumni office and the IU Foundation have been very cooperative in providing names and addresses of alumni, answering questions and handling the bookkeeping involved in alumni contributions.

We would also like to point out two special sections of this edition of the **Journal**. On both the first and last pages you will find tear-out forms. The front page is a mailing form for the most recent publications available from the American College Personnel Association. This represents the **Journal's** first efforts in the area of advertising. This revenue has provided us the opportunity to publish more articles in the increased page space. The back page is an information sheet which we request you fill out and return to us as soon as possible. This information will be used in an effort to better coordinate the "network" of the IU personnel program. Please take the time to fill this out.

Finally, comments about this edition and suggestions for future editions of the **Journal** are welcome. We hope you will enjoy this issue of the **Journal of the Indiana University Student Personnel Association**.

Susan Buffington
Diane Ledger
David Stewart

ENVIRONMENTALLY-INFLUENCED BEHAVIOR IN RESIDENCE HALLS

Barry Brumer

The influences of territoriality, crowding, and architectural design on students' behavior in residence halls are examined. Several solutions are offered to counteract the negative aspects of these factors.

Several factors have an effect on students' behavior and on the level of students' satisfaction with their lives in residence halls. The relative importance of the opportunity to study and sleep and the opportunity to form friendships and other relationships will depend upon the student's reasons for wanting to live in a residence hall. More to the point, the room in which a student lives might be considered the most significant aspect of that student's life in the residence hall, because the boundaries of the room determine the student's "home." The amount of control that the individual has over the environment of the room and of the surrounding areas is a primary factor in attaining satisfaction with the residence hall. In particular, as Walden, Nelson, and Smith (1981) related:

Satisfaction in a situation depends upon obtaining a balance between an ideal level of desired interaction, the value of privacy, and the actual amount of interaction with others, achieved privacy. When one has more interaction with others than wanted, a feeling of crowding is experienced. (p. 205)

The purpose of this paper is to present an overview of some environmental factors which potentially influence the behavior and satisfaction of students in residence halls. Specifically, aspects of territoriality, crowding, and architectural design will be addressed. Problems which are created by these factors will be discussed, and solutions to these problems will be suggested.

Territoriality

Almost all animal species are instinctively guided to establish and to protect their own territories, and homo sapiens are no exception. According to Schroeder (1978), it is reasonable to assume that many typical problems in residence halls, such as damages, excessive noise, and disruptive group activities, may be the result of students' inability to manipulate their physical environment to make it more responsive to territorial needs. Mercer and Benjamin (1980) contended that territorial behavior is most fully developed in adult males, and that males tend to establish larger private territories than do females. Mandel, Baron, and Fisher (1980), however, asserted that "a dormitory room is more territorial in meaning for females than for males" (p. 313). Additionally, Mercer and Benjamin claimed that the function of private territory can be seen as a more aggressive social statement for females than for males. Assuming, however, that males are more