GOODMAN AT HANSZEN

Inauthenticity Forced On Youth

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"The young person of today is brought up in the atmosphere of
fantastic inauthenticity. Young people do not want to
accept the phony and spurious culture of our society, but they
have no traditional values to fall back upon."

The speaker was Paul Goodman. A social critic, author,
dramatist, poet, and psychologist, Mr. Goodman is exem-
plary of a modern thinker with "Renaissance versatility."

Goodman was a guest at Hanszen College last
Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, delivering speeches and
chatting with students and profes-
sors in his ca-
pacity as the key
figure in Hanszen's Spring Symposium.

Think Factory

Goodman is currently serving as a fellow at the Institute for Pol-
icy Studies in Washington, D.C. (an organization which he refers
to as "a think factory"). Living in New York, commuting to
Washington, the
writer is an outspoken a-

Paul Goodman
Education Critic

He was particularly critical of the
current denial of childhood,
which sends children through a
processing system beginning in
their pre-school years. Young
people have their lives so chan-
eled out for them that their
creativity is destroyed.

Goodman took this multi-lat-
eral approach to build up prem-
ises for his focal question: how
are young people attempting to
"get out of it," to reaffirm
themselves in society.

He spoke of the remarkable
resurgence of an existentialist
principle known as "commit-
ment," and he contrasted this to
"dedication."

Dedication On Tap

The writer claims that the
youth of today have no values
that would cause them to work
for anything with dedication.
"But you can give your heart
and soul to something; a young
person can come alive if he
commits himself totally. Our
long-standing values don't mean
much to youth, but they feel
that they must be practical and,
above all, adopt the 'win or
die' attitude."

New Values

Goodman then reaffirmed his
own faith in the capabilities of
Youth: "Out of these pro-
cesses, new values in every area
must somehow emerge. I be-
lieve that the end-result of these
new values will be the recon-
struction of a more authentic
society. One result of the cur-
rent flux in youth movements,
that being democracy, has al-
ready made itself apparent.
Other goals puzzle me."

"But I think a well-recon-
structed society can come out of
it all. This generation will re-
make the world!"

In the course of his three day
sojourn at Hanszen, the know-
ledgeable Goodman was drawn
to conversation on a number of
diverse topics. Some of his com-
ments were:

Specialists With Heart

On specialization in the uni-
erstities: "A broad liberal ed-
ucation at college seems abso-
lutely spurious. I don't think
it better for a de-emphasis of
specialization. I'd be perfectly
happy if the whole world con-
sisted of specialists, as long as
they were humane about it."

Down With Grades

On the university situation:
"The university should be com-
posed of people studying that
which they are interested in,
with no mandatory courses. The
university should only be for
the academic type, one desiring
to go into teaching or some aca-
demic field.

"I favor a system of on-the-
job apprentice ships for other
people planning to go into pro-
essions. I also believe in a pol-
icy of no grading whatsoever."

On freedom of speech: "If
anyone were to come to me and
ask my support for their free
speech movement, I would im-
mediately offer it without re-
questing any further details.
Because I am a writer, censor-
ship presents a direct threat to
me. I realize that freedom of
speech is the most important
single element in a democracy."