

Travel office will dispense info (and tickets too)

By KEN CORBETT

The new travel office is now in operation. Its office is located in room 125 in the SRC wing of the SUB.

Despite the relatively late opening of the office, the new travel officer, Gideon Mersereau, expects that the office will be able



Photo by Gary Smith
Gideon Mersereau

to make an important contribution to student travel.

The new office will function much the same way as any other travel bureau, except that it is designed primarily as a service for the university community, i.e., students, faculty, and staff.

In addition to this, the office will dispense information on many aspects of travel, such as transportation, youth hostels or places worth seeing. To ensure accurate and up to date information, the office will maintain regular contacts with other travel organizations.

Until it is able to justify itself as a viable enterprise, the office will be operating on a trial basis. Presently it is working in close co-operation with the J.D. Allingham travel agency.

Allingham's now allots the travel office 2 percent of the value of its ticket sales; if the volume of sales increases in the future, this figure can be re-negotiated. One percent goes to the SRC and Mersereau receives the other percent as his commission.

To ensure that the travel office does transact a sufficiently large volume of business, Mersereau

plans a campus-wide advertisement program. With this program, he will attempt to inform the university community of all the possible ways the office can benefit them, and how they can utilize it to their fullest extent.

Informational letters will be sent out to faculty and student organizations. Posters will be displayed throughout the campus. Advertisements and announcements will be placed with the campus media. Mersereau is also planning personal visits to the various organizations on campus.

Mersereau explained that the travel office was a student organization tailored to meet the demands and requirements of the university public. The primary goal of the travel office would not be to make profits, but to render services to the university public. It will operate as long as it remains economically viable.

The travel office will attempt to compete with services of other companies, including independent charter organizations. It will also deal with the hassles and inconveniences of student travel. For instance, said Mersereau, a

student would be able to book his passage and pick up his ticket right here on campus in a very short time without having to do business with travel agencies downtown.

Mersereau cited one example of how the travel office could especially benefit the university community: students always have a great amount of difficulty in arranging their trip home at Christmas, due to the heavy

holiday traffic. For instance, all flights to Montreal were booked from Dec. 21 on, as of the middle of October. In order to avoid problems in returning home at Christmas, students should consult the travel office for help, said Mersereau.

The travel office, room 125 in the SUB, is open every weekday from 2 to 5 p.m.

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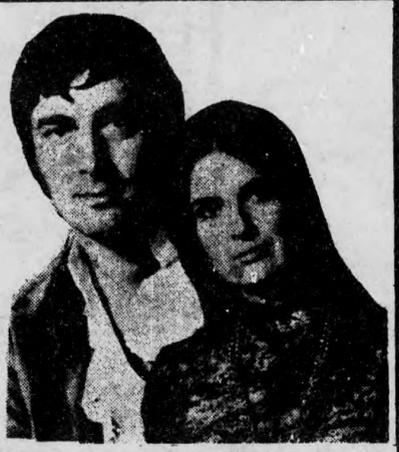
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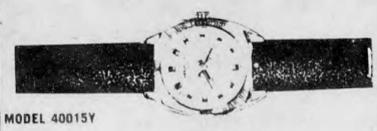
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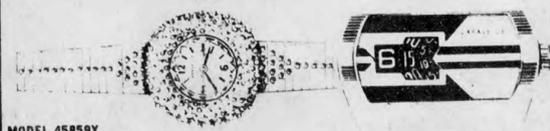


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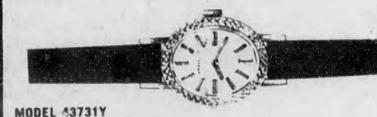
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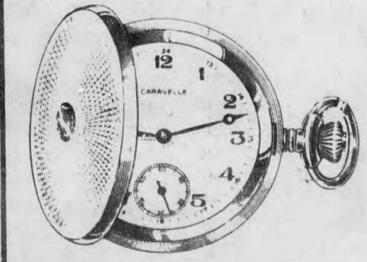
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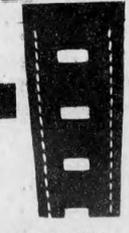
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