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A COMMUNE THAT SAYS SOMETHING DIFFERENT

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One or more persons from the above fields, and others, are needed on a part-time or full-time basis to take part in a new commune project.

Many modern day communes have been started for economical reasons or because the participants wished to "Drop Out". The commune project you are now reading about is being founded on certain specific guiding principles, some of which are as follows:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Individual Rights * Participating Democracy * Freedom From Religion * Individual Mental Development * Self-Awareness * Contribution and Distribution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Different Approach to Teaching and Raising Children * Continuing Adult Education * Maximum Self-Reliance from Existing Social System * Full-time, Part-time and Associate Membership
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The commune will be located on a tract of land, with access to the northern lakes, approximately two hours drive from Toronto.

Anyone with any skills or abilities interested in participating in this project should contact 921-6526 or write.

"Commune" 76 Scollard Street, Tor.

PHPWA complains

Mentally ill unfairly treated

By HONEY FISHER
Social discrimination and mental illness were topics recently discussed by the Psychiatric Hospital Patients' Welfare Association (PHPWA). The PHPWA is a national charitable organization. Its headquarters are in Toronto.

The non-political association was founded in 1969 by G. Tori Salter, presently the executive director of PHPWA.

Salter, a freelance writer, has written for several well-known journals and has since gained nationwide attention for her crusade on behalf of the mentally ill.

PHPWA is dedicated to promoting the welfare of the mentally disabled and is demanding an end to the discrimination between the quality of care and treatment of these people and the physically disabled.

According to the group four times as much money is spent on the care of the hospitalized physically ill than on the mentally ill, and more money is spent on the care of jailed criminals than the hospitalized mentally sick. Considering the fact that one out of six Canadians will spend some part of their lives in a mental institution or clinic, this present discrimination is outmoded, unjust, and un-Canadian, the organization states.

The Association is concerned about the loneliness of people in psychiatric hospitals who lack family and friends in the community. Many of these patients never have any visitors because their families feel it is a stigma to have someone in the family in a mental institution.

Although most of the PHPWA members are not medical professionals, they act as volunteers to help the disabled to iron out their difficulties.

The organization is also urging a more objective basis for hospital committal, before the person is deprived of his freedom. According to the Mental Health Act, citizens can be confined to a psychiatric facility against their will, from the decision of merely one doctor, who may be lacking in psychiatric training.

Another subjective basis for this procedure is the judgment of a policeman in arresting a citizen. Any citizen they judge mentally disabled can be involuntarily committed to a psychiatric institution. There, he will be detained for observation and examination if the police are satisfied it's necessary.

Committal to a mental hospital can cause possible loss of one's job, property rights, and reputation the organization says. Very few cases of involuntarily committed patients who make an appeal to the review board are actually discharged from the institution the Association states.

PHPWA feels there is a strong need for legal aid services in institutions and has urged the government to set up a duty counsel of lawyers to visit public psychiatric hospitals in Ontario

on a regular basis.

In the early part of 1973, the provincial government gave PHPWA its approval and acceptance of the legal aid plan and the formation of a duty counsel. But since this time, the government seems to have backed down on its promises and is hesitant to give aid, Salter said.

Salter said there has been a continuous passing of the buck and considers the government's attitude contemptuous.

Many in the medical profession believe that some experimental procedures carried on in the hospitals must be continued if medical science is to push ahead. But PHPWA is of the opinion that experimental operations like psychosurgery are crimes against humanity.

Donald Weitz, key speaker at the association's meeting, spoke of the "oppressive" treatment of mental patients in the institutions.

Weitz, himself a former mental patient over thirty years ago, and now a psychologist, has literally seen "both sides", and spoke of the many terrible

experiences that happen to patients.

He said he has seen patients actually mutilated from experimental psychosurgery. This operation involves destroying tiny portions of brain tissue in the hope of changing the behaviour patterns and emotional make-up of mentally disabled persons who do not respond to other forms of treatment. The ability of the person to think and feel is reduced and resulting brain damage is irreversible.

Both Weitz and Salter mentioned cases of patients who, after the operation, had lost touch with reality and became mumbling idiots, "vegetables". Weitz also said indiscriminate use of drugs in psychiatric treatment results in patients living in what he called "chemical straitjackets".

The association asks for action and participation. The support could come largely from students and young people, still the "uncontaminated ones" in society, Salter said. She urged anyone interested in adding support to the cause to phone 461-8547.

East African Airways rife with dope

LONDON (CUP-ANS) — A London court has been told that East African Airways is rife with dope smugglers.

A drug squad detective told a judge at the Old Bailey that many people involved with the airline are involved with transporting Kenyan bhang hash into Britain. Police have eight people awaiting trial on charges connected with smuggling seven suitcases of hash.

English customs men seized more

than nine tons of marijuana and arrested more than 500 people last year. More than 2,000 people were arrested for pushing soft drugs. Because of the arrests and seizures, the price of an ounce of weed has risen dramatically. Seizures of both marijuana and hashish have also increased. Police reports list Pakistan, Jamaica, Morocco, Nigeria, Lebanon, Afghanistan, India and Kenya as countries importing most of the dope to England.

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