

Halifax Interaction holds open-house

Social change fundamental

by Larry Grossman
 Halifax Interaction has marked the near completion of two years of operation by holding an open house and announcing the publication of a new monthly newsletter. Pat Hanley, spokesman for the organization, stated that "both the newsletter and the open house are attempts to develop a better community understanding and response to Interaction."

Interaction came about as a result of a merger between the Med-Aid Clinic and the Drug Crisis Centre in the fall of 1971. It consists of a co-ordinator in charge of the overall operation of the service, a nurse in charge of the Med-Aid Clinic as well as a Treatment, Drug Crisis and Community Outreach staff. All

three groups work closely together in providing a unified approach towards helping people.

According to a recent Interaction bulletin, "the program utilizes a total person total approach technique. This type of innovative service attempts to assist many people (particularly young people) with a variety of problems. Fundamental to such a program is a commitment to positive social change through community involvement and support."

Hanley stated that "a training program for the staff resulted in this new direction for Interaction." He went on to emphasize that "the new direction includes a greater

sensitivity to community needs in understanding young people."

As a result of this new approach, Hanley hopes that "people will feel more comfortable in coming into the centre and discussing their observations and problems. This includes parents who might question the need for an innovative alternative service or a free medical service."

Hanley also emphasized the fact that "Interaction is trying to change its image. He hopes that people will see that it is more than a Drug Crisis Centre and that the organization is trying to go beyond the problem of drug abuse. He pointed to attempts at treating medical problems, solving in-

formational problems and the attempt to aid community groups in the understanding of the whole spectrum of adolescent problems as documentation of this new approach.

An additional change in Interaction's approach involves communication to the community. Hanley stated that "Interaction is almost two years old and is now more capable of feeding back their experiences with community problems." He pointed to the new monthly newsletter as well as a document presented to the Medical Society of Nova Scotia as proof of the new communication attempt.

The document was directed at the prescription of addictive drugs by the medical community and recommendations of ways to alleviate the problem. It has subsequently been published in the C.M.A. Medical Journal.

The first issue of the newsletter has come out and includes articles on speed and solvent sniffing as well as a report on the current availability of "street drugs."

As far as funding goes, Hanley stated that "Interaction is presently being evaluated by the Non-Medical Use of Drugs Commission. This evaluation was requested by Interaction and the provincial government and will determine the extent of provincial government funding for the centre." The present funding runs out at the end of

March.

Hanley added that "Interaction would have to apply for Federal and private grants because the expected provincial funding alone, would not be sufficient to continue the program in its present form."

Hanley stated that "a staff reduction is possible for financial reasons as well in an attempt to streamline the operation as needs and community conditions change." However, he was quick to point out that this would not necessarily mean a reduction in the program. Hanley explained that the recent decrease in drug crisis situations (i.e. freakouts, overdoses) has meant that the staff can spend more time on the street rather than in the building. This streetwork is an attempt to help first-hand with the problems of young people.

Hanley extends a special invitation for Dal students to drop in and discuss their ideas, problems and experiences with the staff. The centre is located behind the Pathology Laboratory and can be reached by entering the VG parking lot off South Street. The hours are Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. for counselling, information and medical treatment. In addition, Med-Aid is open one evening a week (Wednesday or Thursday) at which time a doctor is present. Drug Crisis is open seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 2 a.m. with one staff member on until 7 a.m. to handle emergencies.

School of Grad Studies formed

by Dan O'Connor

The President's Committee on the Structure and re-organization of Graduate Studies brought out its final report on January 26. Its Chairman was F. R. Hayes and J. G. Aldous and M. M. Ross were the other members.

The main recommendation was that the Faculty of Graduate Studies become the School of Graduate Studies. The committee pointed out that the Dean does not have the usual power regarding finances, hiring and firing. The Faculty cannot exercise normal rights and privileges because its members come from other faculties which have their own priorities. The aim of the new organization is a "fruitful working relationship... between the whole and the parts" that will ensure the present separate initiatives and encourage comprehensive planning.

The departments of grad studies would merge with their undergrad or professional equivalents. Students would enroll through the new School for grad work. The School itself would consist of the Dean, the Graduate Council and staff for secretarial and registarial purposes.

The Grad Council is to be responsible directly to the Senate. It would consist of thirteen University and School

administrative officers, eight elected faculty reps and two student reps. The Council would regulate matters related to graduate work of common concern to the entire university, assure cohesive planning of submissions to outside agencies which involve grad work, stipulate the conditions for new grad student awards and assess and review new programmes of graduate studies.

Within each faculty offering grad work there would be a Graduate and Research Planning Committee. These would deal with internal grad and research matters and make recommendations on common

matters to the Graduate Council. Each Committee would have the Dean and Secretary of the School and a Chairman, Secretary and members as determined by the particular Faculty. Hopefully there would be student members.

If the reorganization takes place, the new School would deal with the Dean's budget and definition of a research degree vis-a-vis a professional degree. It would also deal with the status of non-research degrees such as the M.B.A., M.L.S., M.S.W. and M. Ed. The President's Committee felt that they should be administered by the Faculty of Arts and Science.

Sociology Course Union Meeting

Topic: Student unions and organizations


Time: Saturday, March 24, 1:00 p.m.

Place: Room 115, Weldon Law Building

Speakers: Prof. Don Grady — professor of sociology, Dalhousie
 Prof. Larry Fredericks — professor of sociology, Acadia University

Refreshments will be served.

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AROUND HALIFAX

Friday, March 16

The Jim Lea Jazz Combo, Grawood Lounge. Admission \$1.00

Saturday, March 17

Citizen Kane 7 p.m.; The Magnificent Andersons, 9 p.m.; The Trial 10:30. Rebecca Cohn Auditorium. Non members \$1.00, members 50 cents.

Monday, March 19

Un Grand Film Ordinaire, 8 p.m. NFB Theatre, 1572 Barrington St.

Friday, March 23

Smackwater Grawood Lounge Admission \$1.00

compliments of:
O'BRIEN DRUG MART
 6199 Coburg Rd.

Gazette staff meetings
 Mondays 12:30
 Room 334 SUB