

Insight's people

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they will tell you what to do with it. Lawrence will handle it for you, it will be analysed, the report is sent to the doctor, the doctor sends the report to Lawrence, he contacts you. Simple.

Speaker services consumed much of the Insight people's time at the start of this year, it included speaking to all types of clubs and groups about INSIGHT and drugs. Some addressees were the Legion, and school assemblies. It was in part a public-relations instrument for INSIGHT as well as a requested function or service.

Project Impetus is a wide category including briefly, arts and crafts workshops and use of the INSIGHT building for many community purposes e.g. as a meeting place for new organizations such as the community newspaper (to come out in early February). This category also features educational TV production. INSIGHT has video tape equipment and plans to use it for programming on Channel 10 in the mornings.

The subject of Drug Education is dealt with later in the article, part II. It involves a practical non-judgemental approach to the problem.

INSIGHT is staffed by 4 full-time people and 5 volunteers. The latter are Jim Lawrence, (coordinator), Patti Larman, Jon Oliver and Lil Lawrence, (Jim's wife) and the secretary.

On observing them it is apparent that they are suited at least in appearance for the job. Jim Lawrence is a very interesting guy, a smooth a communicator as this reporter has interviewed. His eyes widen

slightly when speaking of things he wants emphasized adding to his general animated manner in conversation. His hair is long, but not too long to talk with a public servant. His facial features are fine and seem to fit his personality, friendly and articulate, but he makes a rather tricky interview. Right now he is working on a M.Eng., first year.

Patti Larman is a tall girl, a possessor of a very friendly face. Her brown hair runs long both sides of it, her eyes concentrate on what you say through wire glasses. Constantly attired in jeans and jean jackets (as is Lawrence) she is casual and natural as any college student and is young enough to be a typical one.

Jon Oliver is a pretty freaky looking guy, but that is not meant in a critical way. His face is friendly also, and seems intelligent as a good listener should seem. He also listens carefully and is very helpful, he is a grad in economics, but does not really fit the image of the "college grad" with his long hair, beard and casual clothes. These people were chosen from about 40 applicants last September by a board of selectors, some from the INSIGHT board of directors and others from prominent (?) people in like services (guidance etc.) in Fredericton.

INSIGHT has been in existence for a few years, and although it has usually provided a useful crisis centre, it has been quite controversial and justifiably so. According to Jim Lawrence it had "little focus or direction", it could not become a solid cooperating unit as it might have, it possessed a

high staff turnover probably due to the competitive spirit of INSIGHT staffers. A thing probably needed to get into such an organization at that time, that and some amount of influence, maybe even pull(!) in the community. The organization has clashed with public services e.g. Elm City, and aroused distrust in other official services by administering an alleged overdose of valium. Its members have made at times attitudes known about soft drugs that have aroused public indignation (however good or bad a sign that may be) and have made speeches and "surveys" all over the province, some reacted to favourably and others not (by the public and officials). Other allegations have been made against INSIGHT, some inviting slandersuits but with some truth in them.

Under the new staff and structure of INSIGHT (now incorporated) such happenings have not yet come about.

The service is supported until March 31, 72, under a \$21,000 grant from the Federal Government and \$2500 dollars from the Provincial boys (Dept. of Youth).

INSIGHT INC. also offers a transient accommodation system utilizing six or seven one night at a time only. The system is used in winter and summer regardless.

A community newspaper is due to come out, worked on to a large extent by INSIGHT INC. workers, although it is stressed that it is not an INSIGHT paper as such.

The service is due to be evaluated as a worthwhile project around the time when the government grants run out. If

it be found useful it will of course receive more money, if it doesn't end of INSIGHT INC., as it is now anyway.

The rest of the article is in form of an interview conducted around 6 weeks ago, when INSIGHT was still largely in the embryonic or planning stage.

Lawrence has labelled his organization "a radical structure with a conservative face", in earlier conversations he spoke of a central aspect of the youth scene today that is very important, an attitude or way of thinking that he describes as a "reticence" or "apathy". I asked him about this and what has caused it. LAWRENCE: I have no idea, I know from teaching high school the last few years I have noticed a distinct turnabout among the students in attitude.

Once the school was very primary, you would go there and spend 5 hours a day there, and, like, it was a concentrated

effort. Now, the school has become a sort of secondary social institution, to a lot of them. Even some of the so-called "serious" students even at the university. Whereby, the university becomes just a means of existence rather than an end unto itself like it used to be. Like, people used to go and register for a bachelor of arts and work toward the end-right? But now people justify their existence at the University by saying "there is nothing better I could be doing now so I'll live this existence. You see what I mean? I try not to call this an apathy, I try not to use negative terms like that because I probably feel that way myself. But there again, that's become younger now. 14, 15 and 16, I think it's a combination of things, all the evils, television, drugs, those are also the good things too. That's in their minds maybe not mine.

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