

Presently working out staff problems

York Student Clinic remains temporarily closed

By ROB BARLOW

Three weeks ago I was assigned to do an informative article on the running of the York Student Clinic, so I wandered up to its second floor location in the Vanier Residence, intending to observe its methods of operation. Unfortunately, because of internal discord, the Student Clinic is now temporarily closed. No one at either the CYSF (its financial supporters) or at the clinic itself is

such important, human concerns. The administration and Psychological Services agreed to support the clinic's concept, realizing the need for a place where people could go when in trouble, and the CYSF allotted two thousand dollars for its operation. But staff members have not been able to sort out their differences, and so far the clinic has not been very successful. Apparently the staff have

negative aspects of drug use. It has been suggested that some staff members took their responsibilities far too casually, seemingly indifferent to the possibility that they could do harm to any overly insecure person whom they saw. It also appears that some allowed their own hang-ups and prejudices to interfere with their counseling. Most psychologists attribute excessive use of drugs to deeper, emotional stress problems, such as depression, loneliness, feelings of alienation, and confusion and doubts about life itself. Obviously one has to be cautious when dealing with such vitally important aspects of human existence.

Several meetings have been held to provide members the opportunity to settle their differences and determine the directions the clinic should go. The clinic is now searching for two experienced individuals who will be able to work together in running the clinic on a full-time basis. As in the past, the clinic will operate twenty-four hours a day once it has been re-opened.

Karen Hood of the CYSF hopes that the new managers will be able to get the volunteer staff of about forty working together effectively and consistently, but she admits the difficulty of trying to find the right people for the job. Outside professionals have been asked to contribute their advice.

Once the clinic has been re-opened, it will still take some time before its credibility can be established. Many individuals, for instance, are often too afraid and embarrassed to seek help.

Of course, it would be marvelous if man could suddenly free himself, and talk openly about such things as sex and drugs. Birth control information should be more easily obtainable, and not just from clinics, particularly considering the environmental crisis in terms of excessive population.

The problems the clinic expects to deal with, and even the internal conflicts it is now facing, indicate the degree of

madness our society is in. To quote Henry Miller, "our whole way of life is rooted in mutual slaughter. Never has there been a world so avid for security, and never has life been more insecure. No one seems to believe in the power of love, the only dependable power. No one believes in his neighbour, or in himself, let alone a supreme being. Fear, envy, suspicion are rampant everywhere. Ergo, fuck your brains out while there is still time!"

A lot of people are fucking their brains out these days. Love is a commercial commodity. You can see it in the catalogues, Playboy-Cosmopolitan. The North American syndrome — infantile, schizophrenic insecurity.

As the poet Kenneth Rexroth said of our age, "men and women torture each other to death in the bedroom, just as dying dinosaurs gnawed each other as they copulated in the chilling marshes." Don't trust anyone with your real emotions (if you've got any); real emotions are to be ridiculed. Love and sexual attraction are one and the

same. Exploit, try to be recognized, see if you can overcome your loneliness. But is free love really love?

D.H. Lawrence wrote that "my great religion is a belief in the blood, the flesh, as being wiser than the intellect. We can go wrong in our minds. But what our blood feels and believes and says is always true." There are very few people around today capable of comprehending this truth. Feelings and emotions are being psycho-analyzed to death; sensitivity is being swept away by pragmatism. People today are actually afraid of love, of passion, of introspection. They don't want to leave themselves vulnerable; they don't trust anyone, not even themselves.

A lot of people are madly trying to get all they can out of life, without bothering to live. Numbing themselves with drugs; demanding explanations; refusing to be aware of the brilliance of their existence. And that's why a clinic is desperately needed, and why it's essential that the clinic have a qualified, experienced staff.




sure of when it will re-open. The clinic is undergoing structural changes, and although everyone would like to see it opened as soon as possible, no one wants to sacrifice efficiency for the sake of haste.

The clinic was formed to provide service in giving out birth control and abortion information, providing drug crisis intervention, and dealing with other human distress situations. The very word "clinic" is indicative of the paranoia which runs through all levels of our society about

disagreed with one another as to the proper ways to deal with cases. When abortion information was requested, for example, some sought to find out the background to the woman's situation and to speak to her about female sexuality, amid the accusations of women's liberation. It has also been confirmed that a couple of girls were advised to get married, rather than being informed about abortion procedures.

Criticisms have also been directed at the clinic's inability to deal competently with the

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