

CAMR sponsors friendship

Citizen Advocacy, an organization sponsored by the Canadian Association for the Mentally Retarded, sets its objective at giving friendship to those who cannot begin a relationship themselves.

The group, which began in February, works to recruit volunteers to make friends, on a one to one basis, with a mentally or physically handicapped person.

The set up has been described as similar to that of the Big Brothers Association, however, it plays more than one role in aiding the 'proteges'. For instance it gives a mentally retarded person a chance to get out and participate in normal activities instead of having to spend most of their time with other mentally handicapped people. It gives them an opportunity to do something they are unable to do on their own.

The volunteer and the protege are matched by Citizen Advocacy, in relation to interests, the amount of time the volunteer has to spend and personality types.

The organization suggests no more than once a week as a suitable amount of time to spend with a protege in the beginning. It is necessary that a genuine relationship be built up first, not allowing the handicapped person to become dependent upon their friend.

Therefore the best idea is to begin with a small amount of time together, and work

from there.

Citizen Advocacy may also place two people with one protege if necessary, to relieve the time element from each volunteer.

Once a friendship has been started, the role of the office is to solve any problems which might arise. If the organization itself cannot be of any help, they acquire the services of professional social workers and psychiatrists to assist them.

Optional meetings are held to enable volunteers to exchange ideas and successes. These, however, do not have to be attended: the volunteer's main commitment is to the protege.

The organization does request, however, some communication with the volunteer, to enable them to know how the relationship is developing, so that another friend may be found if the friendship ceases. Another reason is to observe how well the relatively new program actually works in order to advise other provinces interested in setting up a similar organization.

Anyone wishing to volunteer their time may contact the Citizen Advocacy office, 123 York Street, or by calling 454-9437 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. and 454-4004 or 472-7519 during the evening.



Photo by Ken De Freitas

During her tour of the campus on Saturday, Mimi Stanfield, daughter of Opposition Leader Robert Stanfield, was greeted by SRC President Roy Neale. She was in Fredrickton with her parents in conjunction with Stanfield's maritime campaign.

Rap Room serves students

By MARY-LEE GALLANT

The Rap Room on College Hill is perhaps one of the most ready and valuable services extended to students.

It can easily be said that the Rap Room is a place to talk. A place to go if you feel alone or if any kind of a problem arises. The most common patrons of the Rap Room are the people who drink excessively and don't quite know why.

Less common are drug addicts who have had a rough trip and don't have a way out. Others who come to the Rap Room are students who feel

that University and life itself are meaningless.

Rap Room workers are often able to put the person in an easier frame of mind and sometimes set problems in their perspective. There are no set procedures for any one problem. The staff are willing and available to just sit and talk out any bugs that prey on unsuspecting students. Or if you're lonely the workers would be glad to shorten the hours by general conversation.

In the words of staff worker Barb Amos, "The Rap Room is a place to come and rap."

But this service, given freely, has become harder to maintain as the list of volunteers has grown smaller. It is the hope of the staff that more students take on an extra activity and work a few hours a week at the Rap Room.

At present they are working with a staff of 53 volunteers, who work a three hour shift each week. Yet there is still not enough help to keep up the full 24 hour service. "The problem hours seem to be from 12:30 A.M. to 8:30 A.M.," said Barb, "and the present workers feel that valuable service can be given if there is someone present at all times."

The stress is on the necessity to be on hand if a person needs someone to talk to.

This staff of volunteers is not without its referral staff. There are qualified people they can turn to for professional advice on certain problems. Contacts are held with Insight counsellors on the campus, the Deans of the residences and if a problem arises that is out of the depth of both counsellors and Deans then the Mental Health Association can be called.

So the Rap Room is well able to deal with minor or major problems.

The Rap Room runs on a budget backed by the SRC and there are no money worries. Facilities for emergency stays are supplied, whereby a person who is depressed and does not want to be alone can stay overnight. However Miss Amos stresses that these facilities are for emergency use only.

"We'd like to see more students willing to come in for a few hours a week to help out, and to extend an open invitation to anyone and everyone to come in and talk," commented John Corbett, one of the volunteers.

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By BOB LANK

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Residen

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During the sur... the assistance of... the UNB Alumni... rector, the provis... ive compiled a li... 500 names and a... former residents... world. In August,



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