

Viewpoint Project '70, Savage real and honest

by Sid Stephen

Robert Savage is a big man with a deep voice. When he says that "we are in the midst of perhaps the greatest danger humanity has ever faced," people listen and believe.

Mr. Savage is the producer of CHED's Project '70, the program which "shakes the shroud of apathy surrounding the drug problem here in Edmonton," and after listening to several segments of the program this week, I couldn't believe Project '70 or Robert Savage. I thought I could smell commercialism, I thought I detected crass sensationalism in treating a subject that should be treated seriously.

So I was in my usual cynical frame of mind Thursday night when I went to CHED to see Mr. Savage at work.

The program is largely made up of tapes which Mr. Savage has collected over the past three years, during which time he has

been involved in a number of programs on drug use in Canada and the U.S.A. "Studio guests" are present, and phone calls from listeners are referred to these people, or else cued to one of the many tapes.

Sensationalism? Jim McLaughlin, CHED news editor, said, "When we ask a class of kids in an Edmonton junior high school if over 50 per cent of the school uses "drugs," and they answer "yes," that's sensational, all right." Mr. McLaughlin feels that the anonymity of radio lets the kids open up. "We could tell when we were being put on," he said. "All the rest of the kids would laugh."

Mr. Savage said he was aware of the possibility that Project '70 might turn on people who previously had had no experience with the drug. But he felt that most kids already had some information about drugs, and a lot of that was wrong. "About 60 per cent of the interviews used

were gathered here, right in Edmonton," said Mr. McLaughlin.

In the studio, the "live" portion of the show went on the air. The callers ranged from confirmed heads who wanted to know the difference between using acid and "straight" drugs like alcohol, to a nine-year-old who was afraid of a pusher "forcing" him to take LSD.

After the show was finished, I asked Mr. Savage why he was doing the type of work he was. He looked me right in the eye and said, "I took the first assignment in this field for money. But now I've started something, and it's about 60-40 between money and altruism, if you like."

My final impression was of a man who liked his job and was good at it. I still question the effectiveness of Project '70, and wonder if it's doing more harm than good. But Robert Savage came across as real, concerned and involved. And honest.

St. Jean affiliation

The Arts Faculty Council recommended Tuesday, after a lengthy semantic debate, that College St. Jean be affiliated with the U of A.

The recommendation will go back to the General Faculty Council's Academic Development Committee to be incorporated into that committee's report.

The council managed to talk in complete circles for the benefit of the few students who attended this first open meeting of the Arts Faculty Council.

The 300 member council, of which only 30 showed up, took a divided stand on the GFC's recommendations that first-year compulsory courses be abolished.

They agreed that the first-year physical education courses should discontinue, but disagreed on the proposal to drop first-year English courses. After many lengthy arguments had been tossed back and forth, the council passed a motion to discontinue first-year

phys ed courses, but not English courses.

The faculty of phys ed is planning to institute lab courses to replace the present system. The arts faculty will accept for credit one junior level phys ed course.

Also accepted was a motion to allow Commercial Art 32 and Performing Arts 32 as acceptable matriculation courses for admittance into a B.F.A. program.

Graduate rep leaves GFC

Paul Tietzen has resigned his position as grad student representative to the General Faculty Council committee on academic planning and development as of last Wednesday.

Mr. Tietzen said he had no quarrel with the committee, and they had dealt "very fairly" with him.

"I have served on the committee for one-and-a-half years," he said when asked why he had resigned, "and other than College St. Jean I don't feel that I've dealt with anything that was relevant to academic affairs."

He said he decided earlier in the year to leave the committee as soon as "the College St. Jean thing was cleared up."

He also cited the difficulty of maintaining his position with the committee considering academic and other commitments.

High school visitations start Tuesday

Tuesday a students' union sponsored program of high school visitations will start at Harry Ainlay Composite High School.

The program is being run by the Inter-fraternity Council and the Panhellenic Society, and has mobilized about 60 members of men's and women's fraternities to conduct the seminars.

They will visit most city high

schools in the next three weeks to hold noon-time seminars to discuss university life. Seminar subjects include:

- How to get information about university
- Conduct a general discussion on those aspects of life affecting students
- Promote Varsity Guest Weekend.

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