

Alternative Lifestyle symposium

"True communication should lead to harmony"

By GREG MARTIN
"Choose life and the style will naturally follow" was the message delivered at the Alternative Lifestyle Days conference held at York two weeks ago.

The topics of communal living, alternative education, and communications were represented by guest speakers George Emery, of Sunrise Ranch in Loveland, Colorado, George Bullied of Twin Valleys in Wardsville, Ont., and Lee Martin from Indiana University Northwest. Lectures were also delivered outside the format, on topics ranging from athletics to political geography.

"Most communication leads to a

state of criticism, disharmony, and disintegration, whereas true communication should lead to a state of harmony, integration, and agreement," Lee Martin told the audience at a special "alternative Bearpit" opening the conference.

George Emery talked about communal living, stressing that it was "not an end in itself, but a valuable tool or means to the end which ultimately is the restoration of the earth to its rightful place in the cosmos."

George Bullied, director and founder of Twin Valleys School, an accredited high school and college in the form of a geodesic dome community of 130 people, said, "I teach

my students to learn how to *live*, and continue an effect or by-product of that is learning how to make a living."

formal A.L.S.D. conference, was devoted to communal living.

One speaker commented that York's residences were set up as a communal experience, although an honest reflection would indicate that it hasn't been based on an attitude of family and sharing.

Mention was continually made of the "York community", not as a vast bureaucracy or system in which one has to fight for everything one gets, but as an organism consisting of integrated parts that work together for the good of the whole.

A movie of Twin Valleys was shown to about 100 students that evening. "At Twin Valleys," Bullied reported, "everyone is a teacher and a student. There are no strict roles of definition, but an expression of each person's unique differentiation of life."

It has been estimated that 85 per cent of communal living set-ups have failed, and that of the 15 per cent that have survived, 95 per cent have been founded and operated upon a spiritual basis. Twin Valleys belongs to that group.

The next evening, aspects of



Lee Martin and George Emery listen as Radio York's Bill Eggertson introduces the Alternative Lifestyles conference.

communication media were explored. Skits depicting distortions that can occur through radio, newspaper, film, and television, were acted out by students who thought they were there to listen to a lecture.

"Words are chief creative tools whereby we can create," reflected communications expert Lee Martin. "Our experience of the world around us is shaped by our language."

Educo lecture

Geoff Tisch, founder of the Educo School in British Columbia, will speak about his school today at 1 p.m. in S174 Ross.

On Friday, George Emery delivered his promised lecture on sex, "that which Masters and Johnson, and The Sensous Man and Woman don't even know".

"If you know who you are," he said, "then you know what to do, how to do it, with whom, and more importantly, why you're doing it."

The conference, sponsored by the McLaughlin student council and McLaughlin dean George Tatham, was the first of its kind in Canada, and was summed up by its organizer as "a successful attempt to draw together an integrated and cohesive faculty of people who are interested in an alternative to apathy and isolation".

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