

You've got something ... I want

by Saxby Philips

"Transplant that organ — don't bury it" "Give an organ to someone you love."

Every year in Canada, thousands of people die needlessly. The reasons are many: heart disease, cancer, automobile accidents, kidney disease, *ad infinitum*.

Yet most of us go on as always, ignorant of the one small gesture each of us could make — a move that could play a significant role in controlling these deaths.

The gesture? Pledging of internal organs for use in transplant operations (the pledge coming into effect at the time of your death.)

Sounds macabre you say? Well, according to the Kidney Foundation of Canada, one of the many sponsoring agencies of the organ donor program, a

donated organ successfully transplanted is literally 'the gift of life'. The Foundation adds that advances in medical science have made the replacement of a large number of human organs possible.

Since 1954 for example, thousands of kidney transplants have taken place and progress is quickly being made in techniques used in the transplantation of the liver, heart, pancreas, cornea, bone, and other tissue.

If you're worried about the ethics of organ donation it might help to know that under the Human Tissue Act, drawn up to govern such things, organs must be removed within an hour after death if they are to be used, otherwise tissue deterioration would severely affect the ability of the organ to function properly.

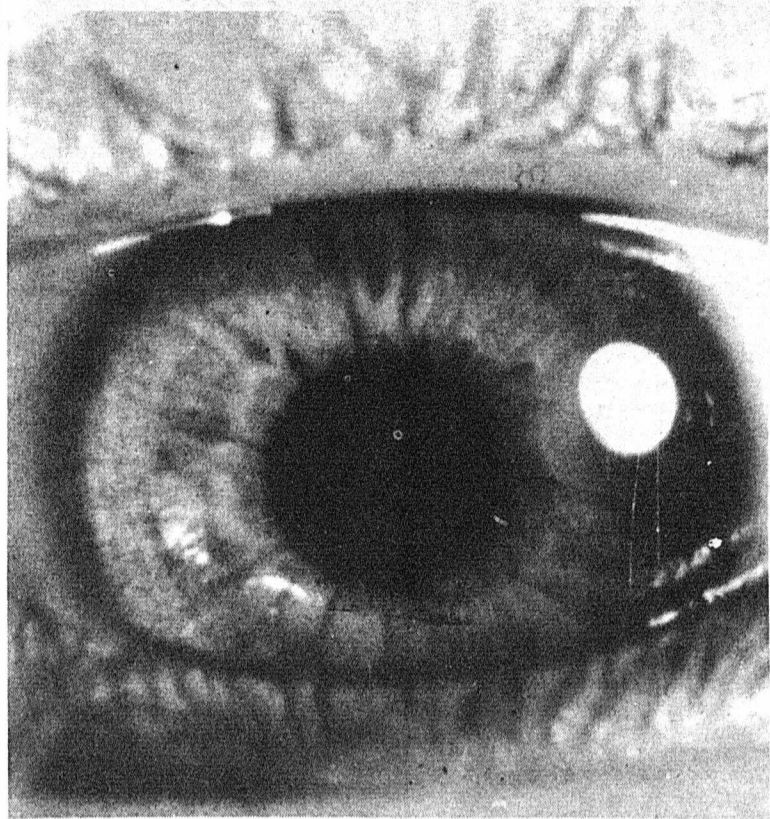
It's also nice to know that

organ donation does not interfere with customary burial and funeral arrangements. As well, most moral and religious leaders favor organ donation as 'expressions of the highest humanitarian ideas'.

To become a donor, merely note your pledge on a donor card available from the Kidney Foundation, and carry it in your wallet or purse at all times. The donor card, which must be signed by a witness, is all that is required. Should you change your mind about the whole business, all you need do is tear the card up.

How simple can it be?

If this sounds like the plan for you or if you have further questions about the organ donor program, contact the friendly people at the Kidney Foundation: 439-1301 or 429-4370.



It's road's end for these kids

by Bob Laidler

The Youth Development Centre (YDC) in northeast Edmonton is the end of the line for most of the youths there. Although each individual's story is different, the pattern is generally the same.

Before an adolescent is sent to YDC he or she has usually been convicted a number of times for such varied offences as stealing cars, breaking and entering, and drug use, or may be habitually running away from home. If the record is extensive enough, a judge could make the individual a ward of the state under the Juvenile Delinquent Act.

At this stage the young offender can be sent directly to YDC, but usually goes through a series of community and/or institutional placements before arriving there.

Members of the university Circle K Club have been doing volunteer work there for the past six months.

YDC has four open units within its main building, three for males and one for females. Each unit has about 17 adolescents in it. In addition to this, there is a reception unit within the main building, where new arrivees stay for about a two week period of evaluation; plus an Intensive Care Unit, which is separate from the main building.

The average age for boys at the centre is 13 to 15 and for girls it is 13 to 17, the latter reflecting the two years grace that the provincial government allows girls before they are considered adults (now being challenged in Alberta law courts).

Kikino Hall is the intensive care unit. A teenager is sent there if he or she needs more individualized attention than would be given in the other wards. There are about 19 "students" in the unit and about a third as many staff. Kikino's residents, like those in the other units, are evaluated on a level system. The higher the level, the more freedoms an individual is allowed, such as taking part in sports activities or going home for visits.

Dan (not his real name) is one of the native kids in the unit. Small and well built with short hair and a small tattoo on his arm, he comes across as a tough kid, exemplifying the stereotype juvenile delinquent. Paradoxically, Dan is one of the most congenial kids in Kikino. In the course of an hour he gave

me a tour of the unit, displayed his mastery at card tricks, and willingly talked about himself and life in Kikino Hall.

I found most of the kids were eager to reveal their past offenses to me. Sheila (not her real name), a 16 year old, had been running away from home constantly for 2 years and had thumbed across the country three times before coming to YDC. Like Dan, she was very receptive, bringing us coffee and encouraging us to sing with her in the coffee house that the staff set up in the dining room that night.

On the whole the unit is run smoothly but it is not without its problems. If for any reason a kid needs to be isolated from the rest, he may be sent to the "Quiet Room". The Quiet Room is a small bare room with a mattress on the floor, a covered light in the centre of the ceiling, and two small, shatter-proof windows, one in the door and one looking to the outside. A student will only be put in the Quiet Room as a last resort and the duration of his or her stay is usually one or two days.

For the most part, the staff have good rapport with the students. Most staff members are social workers and councillors in their twenties. The biggest beef they have seems to be against the government. Working with juvenile delinquents isn't easy and there is little monetary incentive offered. A top paid councillor with over five years experience makes only about \$1000 per month and there is

usually no overtime pay. Rather, overtime hours are compensated for by taking that time off work at certain periods, which may leave the unit supervisors short of staff.

Another complaint is that The Alberta government discriminates between sexes, making the age of majority 16 for boys and 18 for girls. A few of Kikino's staff expressed their doubts to me about the logic behind this policy, which is unique to Canada. They felt that boys should be given those extra two years as well. It adds up to a lot of frustration for the staff, and this is reflected in the fairly high staff turnover at the centre.

A volunteer, on the other hand, is free from these problems and feels very welcome by both the staff and students. There is a definite need for more volunteers at the centre, as they play an important role in the juvenile's rehabilitation. On campus, YDC volunteers are coordinated through the Circle K Club, but anyone interested can also phone YDC directly at 476-1331 and talk to Gail Melanson, the volunteer coordinator.

Volunteers are especially welcome over the summer for various sports activities and camping trips.

Circle K Club will be continuing projects over the summer months. For information about the club phone Ken (432-4326) or Sibéal (433-1939).

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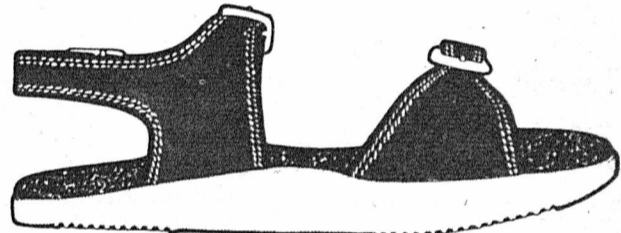
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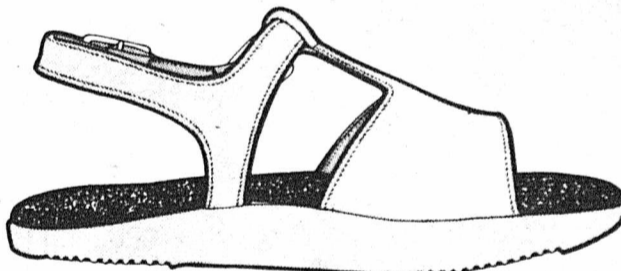
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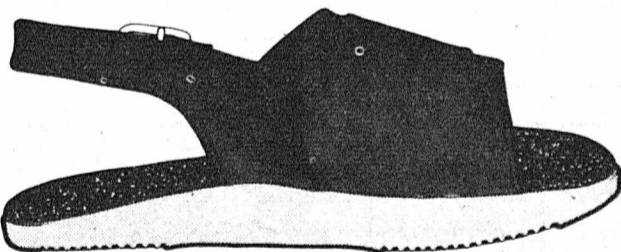
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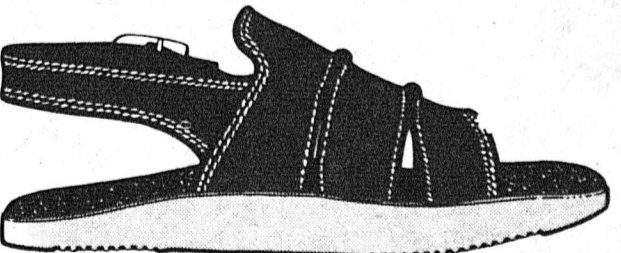
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