

Teens Get to Work

The efforts of McQuaid's senior class president and Mercy High's student government president have helped make possible The Center, a counseling, information and referral agency for Monroe County teenagers.

"The thing I get most satisfaction from," says Eileen Rhodes of Mercy, "is when somebody calls up with a problem and I refer them to the informal counseling here — and they actually come in."

Paul Swift of McQuaid also is president of Rochester's Teen League, one of The Center's parent organizations, and he thinks of it as more than a crisis agency.

"A better, more valid image of The Center," says Paul, "would be that it's not just for problems, because it does have educational resources. You don't have to be pregnant to want to know about pregnancy testing."

The Center, at 293 Alexander St., opened in March after more than a year of preparation by its 19-year-old director, Peter Essley, and local lawyer Martin Weingarten. Essley, a 1970 graduate of Brighton High School, says he decided not to go to college because he had "other things of interest to pursue, like helping the community."

Essley sees The Center not as a place to solve all the problems of high school students, but as "some place where a kid can comfortably come and get lined up with professional help."

Many referrals are made to Rochester's Family Services division. "We can provide contact with the kids," says Essley, "and they provide professional services."

The Center emphasizes the value of professional services in areas such as social work, psychiatry, legal assistance, and medical and drug counseling.

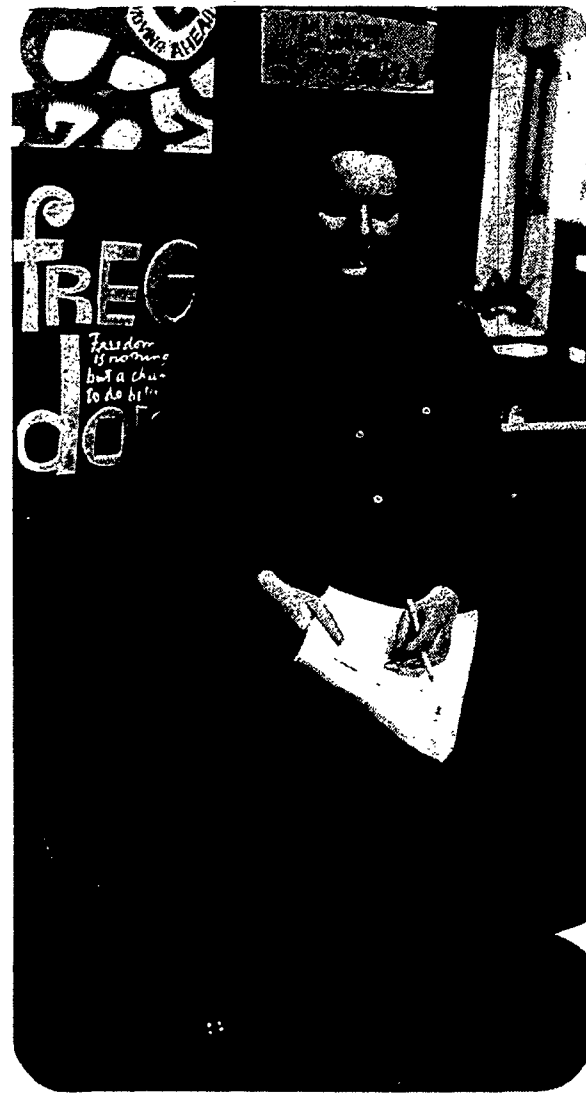
"Our counseling functions to facilitate communication between people who need help, the teenagers, and professionals involved in quality programs," explains Stephen Joffe, coordinator of counseling. A graduate of Hamilton College, Joffe was the first president of Teen League in 1965-66.

"We are aware of our own limitations," explains Joffe, "so we try to create a consciousness of the volunteer worker's own inadequacies" in dealing with other people's personal problems. Because The Center does not take on more than it can handle, says Joffe, "professionals like us."

Volunteers have converted the former real estate building into a multi-purpose center for high school students. In addition to a phone room and administrative offices for both The Center and Teen League, a library, a conference room and a rap room are open to all.

Things are constantly going on. While Essley was talking to one visitor, he also was trying to arrange transportation back to Rochester from Syracuse for a girl who had run away from a group home in the city.

And in the middle of the conversation, a boy named Doug walked in, proudly announcing that he had landed a job. Doug first came to The Center, he said, on his way down from an acid trip after being suspended from school. He thinks he never will use drugs again, thanks to the help he got through The Center.



EILEEN RHODES



PAUL SWIFT

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Bus Trip To D'Youville

The newly formed Rochester chapter of the D'Youville College Parents Association announces a bus trip Friday, May 5, to D'Youville College in Buffalo for area high school juniors and seniors.

Buses will leave the Columbus Civic Center, 50 Chestnut, at 9 a.m. and return at approximately 5.

In addition to participating in outdoor festival activities which annually mark the change over in classes and student officers, visitors will have an opportunity to meet with college personnel, tour the campus, and have lunch, free of charge.

Interested students should contact Howard Meath, president of the Parents Association, at 473-5444.

Children Urge Conservation

About 220 third and fourth graders at Sacred Heart School celebrated Conservation Day last Friday by parading around their 10th ward neighborhood with banners proclaiming the environmental clean-up cause.

A group of seventh graders took a bicycle trip to Cobbs Hill, to turn words into action.

The younger children also wrote letters to Mayor Stephen May asking for a city recycling pickup service, especially for elderly householders.

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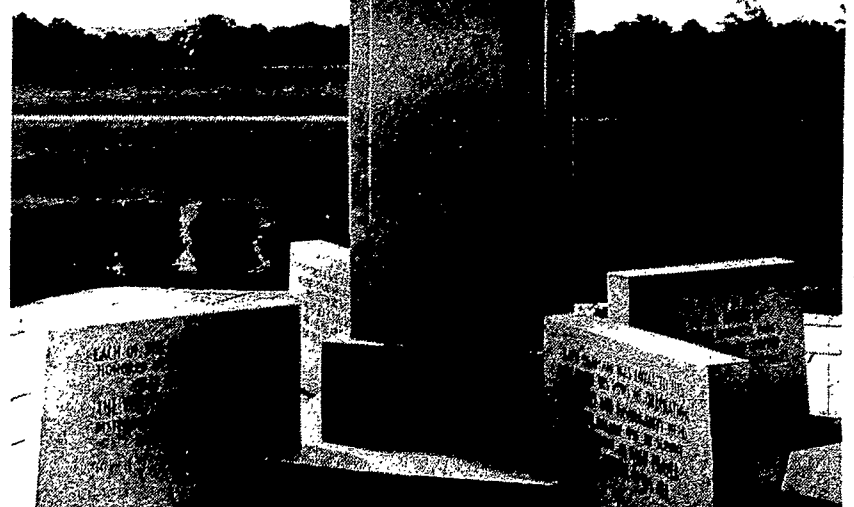
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FOUR CHAPLAINS MEMORIAL

Shown above is a typical section of White Haven, featuring a memorial to Four Chaplains who gave their lives so others might be saved. These devoted men were of three different faiths: Roman Catholic - Hebrew - and Protestant.

WHITE HAVEN
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