

THE
Link
NEWS OF THE CORPS

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INTERNS MAN A WALK-IN CENTER

Located in the recreation area of Trinity Methodist Church, 265 Washington Street, is the Walk-In Counseling Center directed by the the Atlanta Youth Council. The Center is a new project which is dedicated to serving the immediate personal problems of the 13-21 year age group. Three Atlanta Urban Corps interns are managing the program.

In an interview with Loyd Sanders, intern from Morehouse College, it was learned that Sanders, Bill Patterson (Univ. of Indiana), and Jo Ingle (Georgia College at Milledgeville) spend some seventy hours per week counseling young people whose problems range from general feelings of dejection and lack of personal value drug addiction and illegitimate pregnancies.

As the problems of the Center's clientele vary in degrees of urgency and acuteness, Loyd, Bill and Jo have learned through sessions of debriefing that each must be handled quite separately. The interns are fully aware of their own limitations in the field of counseling although all three are upper-level psychology majors at their respective colleges. Therefore, the Center relies heavily on the relationship it has established with various social service agencies which are prepared to offer professional assistance in the treatment of more severe cases of adolescent problems.

Loyd praised Georgia State College's willingness to donate professional time at a moment's notice. Hours of psychological testing and the like are administered by Georgia State professionals who can be at the Center within five minutes after having been contacted. Great assistance has come too from Mr. John Cox, director of the Atlanta Youth Council, Mr. Lewis Dinkins, assistant to Mr. Cox, Mrs. Yvonne Bingham, counselor from Atlanta University, and Mr. David Weddinton, director of the Walk-In Center.

Of concern to Sanders and to the other two interns is the location of the Walk-In Center. Trinity Methodist is located under the shadow of City Hall itself, and though the Center is grateful to have the comfortable space in the Church, it seems that the Walk-In program might be far more effective were it located in the area of the

city were young people live and feel most natural. As Loyd pointed out, "Who is going to just 'Walk in' to 265 Washington Street and bare their souls?" Sanders feels that the Center might more effectively be located in the Capitol Homes area.

For the present, however, the Center is operating with as much effectiveness as these three interns can foster. A campaign is on to publicize the program so that young people can learn where they can come for personal counseling and professional help. Loyd, Bill and Jo man the Center from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. six days per week. They find that most young people respond to the Center's program in the evening and thus have geared their working hours to meet the needs of the people whom they serve. If the Walk-In Center proves successful in its initial operation it is hoped that an expansion program will result in branch offices out in the areas of the city where counseling for adolescents is so desperately needed.

At the Walk-In Counseling Center are three Urban Corps interns who are applying their experience and educational training to a real need of the city, who are realizing their limitations and finding ways to supplement their own service capacities, and who are creatively planning for a more effective program. Theirs is a job of responsibility and relevancy.

ATLANTA URBAN CORPS REPRESENTED IN NEW YORK

In a five day trip to the national office of the Urban Corps in New York City, Sam Williams, director of the Atlanta Urban Corps, learned of the operations of other Urban Corps throughout the nation and represented our Atlanta program reporting on its progress, its problems and successes. At the meeting were directors from eight different Urban Corps and representatives from six other cities which at present do not have Urban Corps but are considering establishing the Urban Corps program.

After hearing reports from the directors of Urban Corps in cities such as New York, Boston, Dayton, Detroit, and San Francisco, Sam concludes that the Atlanta program is unique in its emphasis on the educational aspect of the intern experience. Only in Syracuse, N. Y. does there exist a like effort to involve an educationally sound learning experience for Urban Corps interns. In that city's Urban Corps program fairly successful attempts have been made to develop

academic course-credit for Urban Corps internship experience. Generally, however, Urban Corps in cities other than Atlanta are basically programs for summer employment with very little emphasis placed on educational relevancy or student administration.

FALL URBAN CORPS PROGRAM BEING PLANNED

Under the direction of Dave Whelan, the Placement and Development branch of the Urban Corps is in the process of planning its continuing program. City and agency supervisors have expressed great satisfaction with the work that Urban Corps interns have accomplished this summer and are anxious to employ more students throughout the year.

Students may continue their involvement with the Urban Corps in any of several ways. The program always welcomes volunteers, those community minded students who will be able to find time during the school year to devote a partial work week to city problem areas. For those students who qualify for College Work-Study funds, the Urban Corps will be able to find both full-time and part-time jobs. There also may be funds available for a limited number of students who need to work during the school year but who are not eligible for C.W.S.P. funding. Another way by which students will be able to work with the Urban Corps program beyond its summer 1969 schedule is through college accreditation of the Urban Corps internship program. Several colleges have already agreed to offer course credit in the form of special courses, sociology, independent study and the like to their students who work during the school term with the Urban Corps. Two major Atlanta schools will give credit for Urban Corps internships and/or related courses which will be transferable to the other colleges. There will be those students who will want to take a quarter off from regular course work and devote an entire three months to Urban Corps work.

Just as students are urged to continue their involvement with the Urban Corps continued program so institutions are urged to involve their faculty members and staff as advisors and consultants to both Urban Corps students and employing agencies.

Dave indicates that if enough Urban Corps staff is available this fall there will be provisions made to establish an office of community projects. This office will aid individual students and student groups in finding community projects or the in-training equipment for already existing projects which students might sponsor or assist.

The expansion plans of the Urban Corps are still quite flexible and any comments or suggestions from students, faculty, and others interested in the program are welcomed. Applications for fall participation will be made available in the near future.

INTERNS ATTEND HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION HEARING

Representing the Urban Corps at the Hunger and Malnutrition Hearing July 11 and 12 were interns Ralph Martin and Charlie Brown. Charlie described the hearing in terms of its attempts to bring to the attention of Fulton County officials the inadequacies of the county's surplus food program.

At present the Food Warehouse is open to the public between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. As Charlie pointed out, it is during these hours that the people who are dependent on surplus food for existence need to be on the job. The food program has only one distribution point which often makes it very difficult for people who live in the large metropolis of Atlanta to get to the warehouse. When asked if there might be other points of distribution made available and more appropriate hours scheduled, officials of the program admitted that the feasibility of such planning had never been discussed.

At the hearing it was learned, too, that the food program makes no attempt to meet the special diet problems of its customers. Referred to by the officials as "recipients," a term which to Charlie connotes degradation, the people who depend on surplus food usually are people who are sick or undernourished in the first place. Several cases were heard of people who have received strict medical orders for special diets, eg. sodium diets for heart patients, whole milk requirements for cancer patients, and who have been unable to meet these diets because of their dependency on a food surplus program which is deaf to their needs. Charlie notes that there is no interaction at all between Grady Hospital and the Food Warehouse which could alleviate this situation.

Another disturbing fact is that the Warehouse makes food pick-up available only once per month. Food issues weigh 130 pounds for an average welfare family thus making transportation necessary. Charlie has recognized the fact that taxicabs cost approximately \$3.50 for an average trip to the warehouse, and for each package an additional \$.75 is charged. For a family dependent on surplus food, such money just for the transportation of that food seems outrageous to this intern.

The Hunger and Malnutrition Hearing was sponsored by the Health, Education and Welfare Department and chaired by Mr. Maynard Jackson. Personal testimony was given by people who know the effects of hunger in Atlanta. Panels discussed the problems and directed their comments to Fulton County officials. It is hoped that from the uncovering of such inadequacies as those of the Commodity Foods program some relief will be found for the hungry people of our city.