This issue of Counterpoint takes a look at some of the social services in the East Lansing area available for a number of mental and physical problems. The Listening Ear, Catholic Social Services, Ingham County Mental Health Clinic, the Free Clinic and the Drug Education Center are explored. Other agencies not covered in this issue also serve the area. Some of their telephone numbers are listed on page 3.
Volunteers keep DEC doors, phones open

By Jeff Gursell

The phone rings. The line is light flashes. A blue-jeaned woman jumps, startled from a dreamy, late night conversation, and the receiver.

"Hi, Drug Education Center."

Long pause. She frowns. Untroubled. A faint, insect-like voice can be heard factually over the phone.

"What did he take?...I said, what did he take?"

The woman is Cindy, one of several dozen young people who volunteer their time to keep the phones and door of the East Lansing Drug Education Center open around the clock.

Confidential

She begins filling out a confidential form as the voice at the other end rambles on. Reasons for the call and the type of drug involved are noted, nothing is said of names. In an average month, over 1,000 of these forms will be filled out for callers with problems ranging from a problem pregnancy or drug overdose to a legal problem.

Another volunteer and some visitors gather in the doorway. Covering the receiver with her hand, Cindy turns to the group.

"A Quaalude OD."

(Methaqualone, or Quaaludes, is a powerful depressant. It is considered more dangerous in some ways, than heroin.)

"Well, what are his vital signs?...His vital signs, breathing, pulse."

By the phone. The adrenalin seems away as she returns to her soggy lounge chair. Sigh.

Volunteer's mood

Now is one of the few times when the light, enthusiastic mood about the volunteers may be missing. "In spite of all the training I've gone through," one volunteer said, "I still occasionally wonder if I've done anyone more good."

The training program takes three weeks - almost 30 hours to complete. Now, the original program two and a half years ago, consisting of reading a 12-page pamphlet, has since been elaborated.

Doctors, lawyers and psychologists help train the volunteers to deal with their own and others' emotions, to handle drug overdose problems and legal drug problems.

Personal experience

Nearly all of the volunteers and the small paid staff have had personal experience with drugs in the past. This background, they feel, helps them deal with drug problems more personally than the stark institutions they rebel against.

There is never a suggestion at the 405 Grove St. house that using drugs is immoral.

Still, DEC volunteers don't hesitate to say the use of certain drugs is dangerous. In doing so, they try to help drug users distinguish between using drugs for what they call the Life Culture and the Death Culture. The Life Culture seeks to use drugs for "mind expanding" experiences, while the Death culture seeks to withdraw from life through heavy drug use.

The center grew out of the efforts of several young people using drugs, who saw a need for a place that would handle drug problems frankly, without a commitment to stopping drug usage by scaring tactics and moralizing.

"About three years ago, I realized some of my friends were dying because of their cocaine," Randy Buschman, co-director and co-founder of the DEC said. "There was no trusted place they could turn for help without moralizing speeches."

As a result of his and others' efforts, the center was established, funded by three sources. The Tri-County Community Mental Health Board supplies the state funded money, the East Lansing City Council contracts with the DEC to provide services and about $10,000 in donations from private sources make up the DEC's yearly operating budget.

"On a budget of around $83,000 we provide services you couldn't touch with a $110,000 professional program," Buschman said, "because we use volunteer help."

The free medical clinic on the second floor at 405 Grove St. is open on Monday and Thursday nights and absorbs most of the budget for medical supplies and salaries for the doctors.

Saved lives

Buschman said he is sure many lives have been saved by DE volunteers helping inexperienced trippers or those who have taken an overdose.

Not all the people the DEC reaches out to and helps appeal over the telephone. Some walk into the DEC or are brought by friends worried about a bad trip.

"When we deal with a bad tripper who walks in off the street," volunteer Zery sized, "we basically try to talk him out of a bad trip into a good one."

In the home-like atmosphere of the DEC, the drug user is isolated from things that may frighten his sensitized mind. The voices he hears are quiet and reassuring.

If his problem is too serious for the volunteer to handle, the person is taken to one of the local hospitals.

The house seems to be a center for expressing the ideology that institutions and old ways are useless.

Kitchen laboratory

The walls carry a barrage of posters announcing the need for abortion reform, radical politics, new religions.

In the kitchen - converted to technical lab instructions for using the coffee percolator and blood test equipment are taped side by side. The happy face drawn near a technical chart seems to mock the traditional concept of centers, agencies and institutions.

And in the midst of a hodge podge of bulletin board papers, a note calls out for an alternative.

"Does anyone know where my book is?" it queries. "It's called Tranquility Without Pills."
Clinic offers free health care, especially diagnostic services

by Ellen Grzech

A staff member at the Free Health Clinic, 405 Grove St., talks with a patient. The health clinic, affiliated with the Drug Education Center, provides a number of diagnostic services.

There's a 'bank' that doesn't want to make a profit off you!

It's called a credit union.

Unlike all other financial institutions, credit unions are member-owned, non-profit cooperative banks.

When you belong, you get loans quickly and at modest cost. Yet your savings earn more. That's because you and the other members own the whole thing! There aren't any stockholders to profit from your financial need.

If you work on campus — including students — start banking where you're a member, not a customer.

Your MSU Employees Credit Union invites you to join. We're located across Harrison Rd. from Spartan Village at 600 E. Crescent. Phone 353-2280 for more information.

IT'S WHERE YOU BELONG
Funds don't appear and legal aid center fades slowly out of business

by Craig Gehring

The phone isn't answered too much anymore and the tiny cubbyhole of an office isn't staffed on a regular basis now.

The barely year-old Human Rights Center, in the midst of a financial crisis, may be on the verge of dying.

The center, founded last November by the Human Rights Party to dispense free legal aid to the community, can't afford to pay its monthly rent and phone bill, which run to $80.

Zolton Ferency, associate professor of criminal justice and a founder of the center, has been picking up part of the tab, but won't be able to do that indefinitely.

"We've got to get some financial help or we won't be able to stay in business," Ferency says. He also has provided most of the counseling which requires an attorney.

Ferency, no cheap lawyer himself - charging $50 an hour to his paying clients - has taken most of the burden of the legal work. Figuring his cost at a rock-bottom, bargain basement price of $30 an hour, Ferency estimates he has provided some $400 in free legal service.

An advocate of "jidi-care" (a legal form of medicine), Ferency doesn't think that a lack of money should mean that a person with a legal problem should not get some help.

The center does not give aid to those with an attorney and refers individuals with problems to existing agencies already handling them. Drug related problems are turned over to the Drug Education Center, women's problems to the Women's Center and draft-related questions to the Draft Counseling Center.

The center serves mainly as a counseling service, giving what Ferency calls "peace of mind to those hounded with legal hang-ups." While on occasion it provides the court attorney for a client, the center usually just talks over the procedural problems with the individual.

"We tell them what their rights are, how much a legal action will cost and how long it will take," Ferency says. "Quite often when an individual knows what to do, he will be willing to tackle it himself."

While the center comes up against the gamut of legal problems, landlord-tenant hassles are the most common. "Tenants are at a tremendous disadvantage," Ferency relates. "They generally don't know what is in the lease they have signed and don't realize the problems they are getting into.

"Without mentioning any names, these guys (landlords) always have lawyers they can call up in a minute for advice," he says, ticking off a list of local landlords.

Ferency says the center helps tenants fight some landlords who use illegal practices, such as invalid eviction notices.

"We tell them what the landlord can and cannot do and tell them what recourse of action they can take," he relates. "Sometimes is is just a matter of calling a landlord's bluff."

Ferency points out that when a landlord discovers a tenant has been given legal advice he often backs down, realizing he can't follow through on his claims.

Family relationship problems rank number two in the number of cases. The center provided legal assistance to three women who wanted to obtain their own divorces. The savings amounted to some $500 in legal fees in each case.

The center also handles employment relations problems, including job discrimination situations and criminal cases.

Ferency sees the center as providing a valuable community service and says the center has helped individuals obtain their legal rights.

What happens now?

The center will become a 24-hour answering service and Ferency is hopeful it can find free space in the University.

"An ideal situation would be to have a storefront location where we could get people coming right off the street," he says.

However, the center is not undertaking any fundraising at the present time nor has it investigated the availability of office space on campus in anticipation of the change to a 24-hour answering service.

But if the center can't afford an answering service and is unable to attract enough lawyer and non-lawyer volunteers, it will have to close up shop.

"If we can't provide service the way we should, then we'll have to give up," Ferency app.

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Counterpoint

Counterpoint is a biweekly supplement to the Michigan State News published by students of Michigan State University. Editorial offices are in 341 Student Services Bldg. Editors are Andrea Austin and Sylvia Smith. Columns on women, minorities and press criticism are features of each Counterpoint. Persons wishing to contribute to future issues should contact the State News.

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Adoption:

The Social Services counselor problem pregnancy

by Nancy Jablonski

The agency, a nonprofit counseling service funded through Community Chest, employs 11 full-time certified counselors who deal with problems of family and child welfare counseling. In addition, the agency maintains a 24-hour open line, staffed by volunteers, for persons seeking counseling help.

When Carolyn visited Catholic Social Services, she was introduced to one of two counselors at the agency who deal exclusively with problem pregnancy cases. The counselor scheduled a "get acquainted" session with Carolyn and talked over the alternatives she could take.

"They didn't tell me one route would be better than another," she said, "and they certainly didn't try to talk me out of an abortion if that was my choice — religious affiliation never entered the picture. They tried to present clear-cut alternatives to that step."

Carolyn admitted that her first sessions with the counselors were "anything but smooth."

"I thought that my decision to have the child would make things a lot easier, but the choice seemed more complicated after I thought I had finally decided on what to do," she explained. "There were endless question my initial choice."

After three months of counseling at the agency, Carolyn "brushed the feeling ready to face the final step — telling her parents. They had not been in over a year, and her family had expected her to return for a family reunion on the Fourth of July. But on July 2, a telephone conversation swayed her decision to attend the reunion. Carolyn's mother called to share local gossip about a childhood friend who had just delivered a "child without benefit of a wedding band," as her mother phrased it.

"Mother ranted and raved about the girl's morality for 20 minutes, then told me how proud she was of her daughter, because they would never place her in a defensive role like that."

That comment, Carolyn said, forced her to stay in East Lansing. She does not plan to return home until after the baby is born. Carolyn is now 8-months pregnant and expects her baby by mid December — without support from boyfriend or family.

She is still visiting the agency, and plans to continue counseling and counseling staff after her baby is born. She is still trying to decide whether she will keep the baby or place it up for adoption — a choice she alone can make.

"Every day I think I've made all the decisions. I'm not sure of what's happened to me this last 8 months," she said.

"Then I brush the feeling ready to face the final step — telling her parents. They had not been in over a year, and her family had expected her to return for a family reunion on the Fourth of July. But on July 2, a telephone conversation swayed her decision to attend the reunion. Carolyn's mother called to share local gossip about a childhood friend who had just delivered a "child without benefit of a wedding band," as her mother phrased it.

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Editor's note: Although Carolyn is a student and all the circumstances surrounding her pregnancy are real, reporter Nancy Jablonski supplied a fictitious name, status, home state and major to protect the woman's anonymity.

"I told him nothing serious, just two missed (menstrual) periods," said. "I started to laugh about how absurd it seemed - me, missing two periods - but he never even cracked a smile."

When questioned, Carolyn estimated that she had forgotten to take her pill one night about seven weeks before her visit to the health center.

At that point, Carolyn said, the "wheels of medical bureaucracy" begin to spin full circle.

The physician urged her to have a urine analysis performed — for a $2.50 fee in the health center lab — to determine if she was indeed pregnant.

When the results proved negative, a second test two weeks later.

"I'm a bit small slice of bad luck can twist your entire perspective on life," she said softly, recalling a cloudy April day when a routine visit to renew a birth control prescription turned into a nightmare.

I had an appointment with my doctor at the (University) health center and almost missed it," she recalled. "It was so gloomy outside that I hated to leave my apartment to walk over. When I finally left his office two hours later, I almost wished that I had never kept the appointment."

Carolyn had been taking birth control pills for 11 months when she went in to discuss the prescription with her doctor and have it renewed. After preliminary questions, he asked her if she had noticed any complications while taking the contraceptive.

"All he could offer were regular checkups to keep an eye on my health and the progress of the fetus," she explained. "I wasn't quite ready to accept myself yet, much less someone else depending on me for life. At the time, his concern seemed ludicrous."

Faced with the reality of an unplanned and unwanted child, Carolyn weighed the available alternatives: to carry the fetus to full term and decide between keeping it or placing it up for adoption; and abortion.

Abortion, she decided, was out of the question. She called her boyfriend for the first time since the pregnancy was confirmed to tell him just that.

"He told me that he thought the baby could only see helping me if I was willing to help myself," she explained, "and helping to him meant an abortion."

"I felt that I could do better without that kind of help, and when I finally said goodbye, I knew what he'd be the last statement. I haven't heard from him since."

The first days after the conversation with her boyfriend were "real bummer," Carolyn recalled.

"I started rationalizing that maybe an abortion would be the best solution, but I just could not reconcile myself to killing just life inside of me. I needed someone to talk to — and really fast. My tolerance was wearing pretty ragged about then," she said.

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Through the MSU Counseling Center, Carolyn learned of a special program where she could receive pregnancy counseling.

Included in the list were the Women's Center, Drug Education Center and Listening Ear in East Lansing and the Catholic Social Services agency in Lansing. She decided to call the Catholic agency, she said, because the Catholic Church's antiabortion position closely paralleled her own views on the issue.

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"Every day I think I've made all the decisions. I'm not sure of what's happened to me this last 8 months," she said.
You've got a friend: Listening Ear

Kevin Burke, Listening Ear volunteer, listens to a problem a caller has. The Ear receives almost 2,000 calls each month—an average of one every 15 or 20 minutes.

by Sylvia Smith

The volunteers at the Listening Ear provide a crisis intervention center for Lansing area residents—a phone number to call and a person to talk to when no one else is there or can help.

When you're down and troubled
And you need some loving care
"We operate on a crisis theory model," explained coordinator Becky Hollingsworth. "If the normal way the caller copes with things isn't working, we try to help him. We help him sort out what is going on and what he's feeling."

Volunteers at the Ear are emphatic in explaining the function of the telephone crisis intervention center.

And nothing, nothing is going right
Close your eyes and think of me
"It's a crisis. It's not an on-going thing," Rita, one of the 110-member staff, said. "Our purpose is to intervene in a crisis so they (the callers) regain their functioning power in a shorter period of time and at the same coping level as they would without us," Becky added.

And soon I will be there
To lighten up even your darkest night
The Ear is a referral service, a helping hand at a trying time. But some people are not cognizant of what the Listening Ear is not.

"Our counseling does not involve giving advice," Becky said. "Oh, if a 14-year-old girl called in about VD, we'd tell her what to look for and what she should do about it, but in terms of making decisions like 'should I break up with my boyfriend' or 'should I drop out of school,' callers have to do it themselves.

You just call out my name
And you know wherever I am
"We can't do therapy," she said.

The Listening Ear operates on the assumption that at some point in everyone's lives he faces a situation that—for the moment—leaves him unable to cope with his emotions and problems.

I'll come running to see you now
Winter, spring, summer or fall
Ear volunteers believe that at that time people in trouble should be able to receive some kind of support to help them recognize the difficulty, their feelings about it and the alternatives open for its resolution.

All you have to do is call
And I'll be there
"A really important thing working here is not to get pulled under," Vic, a volunteer who joined the Ear staff this fall, said. "It's not very helpful for us to get angry or depressed too."

We act as a backboard," he explained.

You've got a friend,
If the sky above you
The Listening Ear is a three-year-old operation functioning on a $6,000 yearly budget, most of which is received through donations. The East Lansing City Council contracts with the Ear to offer a crisis intervention service and provides them with $2,700 each year.

Genes dark and full of clouds
And that old world wind begins to blow
Most of the agency's costs are the rent on a second-floor set of offices at 547 S. Grand River Ave. and telephone bills. Although there are a number of professionals on the Ear staff, none is paid for the four hours of volunteer service each is expected to give every week.

Keep your head together
And call my name out loud
A big white board in the Ear's inner office lists the five shifts and two or three counselors assigned for each time period. Because more calls come in the midnight to 8 a.m. shift, the Ear tries to have three staff members ready to answer the phones on that shift.

And usually there is one man and one woman per shift in case a caller expresses a preference.

Soon you'll hear me knocking
At your door
You just call out my name
Ear volunteers are trained to react to and help with almost any kind of situational or immediate emotional problem a person can experience. Each fall and spring, the Ear solicits new applicants, screens them and selects about 60 to undergo an intensive 70-hour training program.

And you know wherever I am
I'll come running to see you
During their training, volunteers are lectured on suicide, loneliness, depression, problem pregnancy (although there are 10 staff members trained specifically for problem pregnancy counseling), drugs and adolescence.

In addition, they are taught listening skills—the ability to look behind the caller's words and extract the emotions or motivations causing the anxiety, depression or other emotional crisis.

Winter, spring, summer or fall
All you have to do is call
"Every person gives a double message. We focus on listening to both parts of the message—the content and the feelings involved," Betsy said. "There are some clues to hearing the second message. We listen to the voice tone and the non-verbal behavior and then reflect that to the person so that he realizes it's OK to have those feelings and it's OK to talk about them."

And I'll be there,
And it's good to know that you've got a friend?
Betsy said the Ear also trains its staff members in clarifying skills.

"We try to help the person sort out what's going on without being judgemental," she said.

Sometimes a caller will ask the volunteer what he or she would do in similar circumstances. The Ear staff is instructed to explain to the person that it's immaterial what someone else might choose to do—that what is important is the caller's decision.

When people can be so cold
They'll hurt you, and desert you
"A person might want us to become responsible for the way he's feeling," Vic said. "It can be a flashy cop as a person saying 'give me one good reason why I shouldn't...'

(continued on page 7)
Mental health care covers community

By Andrea Austin

The padded wall and straightjacket have succumbed. Mental health care often associated with the men in white with nets coming to take people out of those dark ages into the light of advanced government thinking and community action. Social laboratories and home - town rap groups are part of comprehensive care.

The Ingham County health program is a shining reflection of the new ideal. Lansing - tri county people with mental problems used to be shipped off to the state home in Kalamazoo, a number of miles from home, breaking significant ties. Eugene W. Friesen, director of the Ingham Medical Hospital Community Mental Health Center, said.

Others were packed into psychiatric wards. Length of professional care ranged 30 days. Clients remained on waiting lists for six months to a year.

The revolution started with the Community Mental Health Centers Act of 1963. Legislation required that a community psychiatric care unit be developed within a maximum of 200,000 people. Because Clinton, Eaton and Ingham counties are numbered about 375,000, they were divided into two catchment areas: one, serving Clinton and Ingham counties and the second, Eaton and south of Lansing and is located at Ingham Medical Hospital. Currently, the goal of tricounty mental health care is to make hospitalization unnecessary, Friesen said. It strives to preserve most of a patient's accustomed environment. Programs are designed to provide self-help and focus on crisis intervention.

(continued from page 8)

women

(continued from page 8) graceful, good housewives and all-round assets to their husbands. If you look closely, you'll notice that the women in the number 1, 2, 5 and 6 positions fit this description. What have they got in their own right? Are they on the list because of something that they have done or because of the men they married?

I'm not implying that all of the women who ranked should not have. I am saying that some of them did not do so by themselves. But then, it was women who decided the winners after deciding the values. It is the values that ranked these women that must change.

De Rose said community support has been instrumental in creating the network of those extremes of hospital bed and outpatient care for mentally ill persons. With the tricounty governments and residents behind the mental health board, programs have been created to meet people's needs rather than placing patients to cope with existing treatments for psychiatric problems.

"We have a top-notch volunteer program," DeRose said. "It demonstrates ways the community can really be involved."

Community input is mandatory under mental health law, though details are left up to each center. "We have 22 different assignments," DeRose said. "They are not just paper shuffling."

One all has to do for psychiatric help is call either the inpatient's name suggested on a ability to pay basis, though most funds come from state, local government. Patients are encouraged to come to the center particularly important for callers to strive to help people handle their own problems.

Friesen said, "We are more adept at handling crisis, they need us less.

"If they can handle their problems, they can function with renewed confidence," DeRose said.

"I feel there is real merit that the psychiatrist is a consultant to the system," Friesen continued. "He helps the patient develop strategies to cope with stress.

Mental therapy varies from short-term crisis intervention to group therapy to cooking groups.

Group therapy is essentially a social laboratory, Friesen said, for relatively safe exploration of self and others in realistic situations.

Patients who are at the Kalamazoo home and return to the tri county area may stay at the Ingham center's half-way house prior to reentering society. Patients there live under supervision of the mental health center in a setting in which people normally relate.

Efforts to provide decentralized mental health care go far beyond the two major centers in the three counties. In establishing programs to serve residents from preschool age to geriatric age, the mental health board brings comprehensive care to residents practically in their neighborhoods.

Programs, staffed to serve all, do the work.

press

(continued from page 8)

No matter how hard publishers and presidents might work at presenting "balanced views" in their respective papers, their first objective is to show an annual profit. Therefore, reporters are not assigned to cover certain meetings, editors "cut" stories, no matter what the consequence, interpretive columns are not printed and important stories lack depth and perspective. Time, and news space is reduced so that overhead costs are stabilized.

To summarize, the State Journal and WJIM-TV - and their counterparts everywhere - manipulate public opinion for two reasons: politics and profits.

In speaking before a high school class 11 years ago about the newspapers which employed me, I began with a cautioning remark:

"Remember, the Sun Newspapers are owned by one man - his name is Silverman - and he is in the newspaper business to make money. I work for him."

To conclude, then, I don't have any complaints about the media's coverage of my actions and those of the council generally. I merely have a strong sense of the reality of the situation now that I am the subject of the interview, rather than the one asking the questions.

The biggest single problem callers express is loneliness or depression. Closely following is anxiety or hassles with school, work or personal relationships.

However, many calls request referrals - where to obtain legal advice, or draft wills. Infrequency the Ear staff member might answer the phone expecting a caller with a problem. There will be a problem at the other end, but it will be in the form of "Mr. does a pumkin pie" or "what's the Jewish word for candlewick."

I'll come running to see you again Winter, spring, summer or fall.

In addition to telephone counseling and referral services, the Ear offer an anonymous drug analysis program. The Ear will take the responsibility for having any drug analyzed for content and then explaining the function of the drug. The service, like all the Ear's services, is free.

All you have to do is call and I'll be there. You're a friend.

The ten staff members who are specifically trained to counsel problems will make appointments for women to come in to the Ear for office help.

Problem pregnancy counseling is the only long-range counseling the Ear volunteers perform. We've emphasized the role of the Listening Ear is not to develop counseling centers. If counseling is required, the Ear will refer the person to a therapist or mental health clinic.

*Courtesy of Screen Gems - Columbia Music, Inc. Words and music by Carole King
Women’s liberation: does it use blacks?

Considered blacks. Women were unworthy of respect because they were tough, capable, independent and immediate. White women insist upon the “women” label as a sign of their rejection of softness, helplessness and modesty. These are the characteristics which served to secure their bondage to men.

Another point is the fact of the relationship of black men and women toward each other. Black men have never had anyone to let out their frustrations on but black women. For years black women have accepted this as one of their unpleasant duties. By doing this, they never really became the “true slave” that the white women see in their own history. The black woman did the housework and reared children, often alone, but she did that and maintained a job at the same time; a place the black man could not get or where his pride would not let him accept.

She had no one to fall back on: no males, no white, no lady, no nothing. Out of all this comes the black woman.

With more black pride and independence, the black man is broadening his scope in the variety of female choices of which the white woman is part.

The reason black women are angry is war continues to shoot them up; a good portion of the men are talking black but living and sleeping white, so the black woman complains because she is eliminated from the contest and ends up unable to get her man. Also this thing doesn’t work vice versa — there aren’t any white men responding in the same manner.

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We must change our value system

Achievement is a powerful word. It denotes a possible strid or long, bitter struggle to an eventual goal. We are all caught up in achievement of one sort or another, pushing to satisfy that certain need present in the back of our mind.

When little children are asked what they’d like to be when they grow up, their answers are pretty much the same. They say, “I’m going to be a doctor.” or “I want to be a teacher.” Regardless of gender, all children want to be something when they get older. Achieving that goal proves to be hard part. It is obvious that achievement and motivation play large roles in our everyday lives. In fact, we look up to and model those people who do achieve their goals.

(continued on page 7)

Media’s objectives—politics, profit

In the past year, I have been interviewed dozens of times, either for publication or for a class assignment. I’ve never hesitated answering the many queries about my objectives as a councilman or about my political philosophy. But in my last interview, which took place last week, I received a question which made me pause and carefully think through my position. That question was:“What is your opinion of the media coverage of the city council since you were elected?”

A “gut reaction” would have been to complain about how the State Journal and WJMU-TV have created the impression that George Grifiths and I were representing only student interests in the council and that our goal was to make life miserable for the “permanent residents” of East Lansing. I doubt if George and I will ever shake our reputation during the course of our four-year terms, although a lawsuit in the East Lansing Towne Courant on Nov. 8 might help change the opinions of a few people in the city’s homeowner population.

I refused to give voice to my “gut reaction” last week because most of my life between 1957 and 1970 was spent on newspapers. The one great lesson I learned in those years was that the press (print and electronic) is not objective; in fact, I learned that it cannot be objective. As long as the press exists, I can never believe that it will not let George Grifiths or George Colburn enjoy a favorable reputation with their readers.

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George Colburn is a first-term member of the East Lansing City Council.