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The University of Dayton Opens Drug Information Center

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DAYTON, Ohio, February 23, 1971 --- The University of Dayton today opened its Drug Information Center on the main campus to help UD students who have a potential drug problem. The Center, conceived by Mike D'Arcy, who was recently elected Student Government President for the 1971-72 school year, will be housed in room 307 of the Kennedy Union and will be operated by students on a 24-hour basis.

The Center is under the jurisdiction of the Dean of Students office.

In approving the Center and its concept, Reverend Raymond A. Roesch, S.M., University President, pointed out that it is an information center and not an effort to provide professional services. He noted that people with a drug problem will be urged to seek professional help. He said, too, that the University does not condone the use of drugs, but through the Center recognizes that there can be a problem.

His statement:

"The Drug Information Center which opened on the campus of the University of Dayton is evidence of the recognition of a problem and a sincere effort by faculty, staff and student members of the University community to address it in a realistic and practical way. The University cannot and does not condone violation of civil and moral law; nor can it condone the grave dangers to physical and mental health that are risked in the abuse of drugs.

"In approving the establishment of the Drug Information Center at the University of Dayton, I am hopeful that it will in fact provide assistance to those individuals who have a potential problem and who are least likely to seek the help they need from professional sources. Other colleges and universities have met with considerable success in making similar efforts to confront this urgent problem. I heartily endorse the kind of effort being made to provide the Center and commend those whose initiative and concern have made it a reality."

The Information Center proposal, approved by the University Administration, notes that the University currently has the Health Center and Psychological Services as two areas of professional assistance for potential drug users. The proposal, the report states, is for a third kind of service; one which is especially designed to assist those individuals who are least likely to seek the help they need from professional sources.

The proposal continues that DIG (the center is known as Dayton Information Group) is not concerned with drugs per se, but with the students, and that there are many other medical, legal and counseling agencies concerned with drug use and abuse. DIG, it says, has the official attitude to regard students who take drugs as people who have a potential problem.

The four purposes, according to the report, are: (1) To provide companionship and support for anyone who experiences traumatic effects induced by drugs; (2) To refer students with drug problems to appropriate health and counseling agencies; (3) To maintain a file of accurate information on health and legal aspects of drug abuse which will be available to interested individuals; and (4) To arrange for scientific analysis of suspected dangerously contaminated drugs.

It was noted by D'Arcy that not only other universities and colleges have seen a need for this type of approach but boards of education and the armed services are providing help of some nature to people who come in contact with drugs.

Students and professionals served on the advisory committee which planned and developed the proposal. They are D'Arcy, Dr. John Dirckx, M.D., Director, University of Dayton Health Center; Dr. B. Lawrence Fox, Ph.D., UD Department of Chemistry; Miss Margaret Holland, Dean of Students; Dr. Charles Scheidler, Clinical Psychologist, UD; Jack Meagher, UD alumnus and Dayton attorney; and students, Joe Hayburn, Ron Irving, and Mike Pomponio.