

Switchboard Offers Help To People With Hang-Ups

Switchboard is an organization which deals with drug problems, draft counseling, job referrals, problem pregnancy, and "rap" sessions. Many people associate Switchboard only with drugs and drug problems; however, the personnel are willing to give of their time and counseling to anyone who has any type of problem.

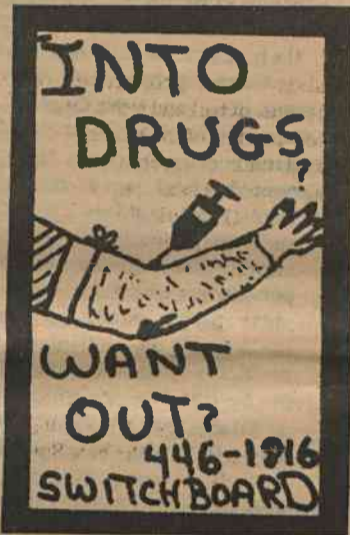
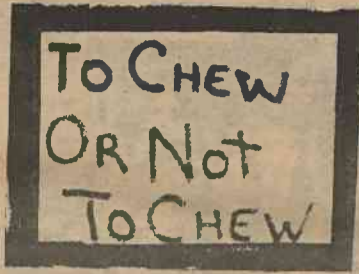
Switchboard has only had its headquarters for two months, after receiving its six month trial run lease from the Junior Chamber of Commerce. The present location of Switchboard is 415 Lexington Street. The telephone numbers are 6-1816 and 6-1817. These two lines are open twelve hours a day on week days and twenty-four hours a day on week-ends to anyone who has a problem and would like to discuss it.

The personnel of Switchboard are President-Eddie Baysden, Vice President-Bill Ezzell, Secretary-Gloria Boyd, Treasurer-Richard Brandt. These people also received help from Bert, Dan, and Phyllis Gurganus and many others who choose

to devote their time to such a worthy cause.

The personnel of Switchboard received training in first aid, psychological, medical and legal aspects of drug use and abuse; dissemination of information and counseling requirements, as well as telephone discipline and personal aid for specific drug problems. Training was given with the help of local medical and legal professionals, as well as experienced personnel from Chapel Hill. Dr. Ray Brackett, teacher of psychology at Wesleyan College, devoted his time to the psychological aspects of Switchboard. Training was administered through the facilities of the Red Cross.

The primary motivation of Switchboard is to establish a service which will give to our community the help which is sorely needed. The greatest part of the work of Switchboard will indeed be shouldered by young people. It is becoming a productive force within the community.



BRIAN LAMM, former RMSH graduate, is music director for "Spoon River", fall production-Tank Theatre.

Tank Theatre To Present E. L. Master's 'Spoon River'

When Edgar Lee Masters (1869-1950) wrote "Spoon River Anthology" in 1915, it immediately became the most controversial volume in American Literature. "Spoon River Anthology" contains two hundred and forty-four miniature unsentimentalized autobiographies of the thwarted souls-drunkards, skinflints secret saints and private lechers, dreamers and idealists-he had known in his boyhood towns of Petersburg and Lewistown, Illinois, on the Spoon River.

Masters was repelled by the meanness and hypocrisy of small-town life as he had known it, but he could not forget what he had seen and hard. His training as a lawyer helped him

to look closely into the lives of these villagers he partly remembered, partly invented. The epitaph form which he uses in revealing their secrets permits the dead men and women to comment ironically on the words or symbols carved on their gravestones.

Although it was written over fifty years ago, it is timeless because it is based on human nature, exploitation and corruption.

Now, in Rocky Mount, Tank Theatre presents "Spoon River Anthology", directed by William A. Rawls. The production dates are November 3-6, and November 10-13. Admission is \$1.50 for all seats. Plan to come and enjoy.

'The Ra Expeditions': Book Review

(a new book by Thor Heyerdahl)

Like "Kon-Tiki", the Ra Expeditions were undertaken to prove a point. Heyerdahl's purpose was to show that representatives of an ancient Mediterranean civilization could have reached South America by boat. Heyerdahl explains that the boat was made of reeds, not because the Egyptians only knew reed boats, but because only reed boats are known in both Egypt and America. If civilization was introduced into Central America from the Mediterranean, but the idea of wooden ships was not, then the sea link was probably the reed boat.

The Ra Expeditions were not successful at first. Ra 1'st venture failed because of its construction. It was left to drift helplessly for long periods of time and made it impossible for it to travel anywhere except America. But Heyerdahl did not give up. The Ra 2 Expeditions were successful.

But what does the experiment prove? Thor Heyerdahl is modest. "I still don't know," he writes. "I have no theory but that a reed boat is a seaworthy and the Atlantic is a conveyor..."

Even though Thor Heyerdahl's book is translated from Norwegian to English by Patricia Crampton, none of his magic of phrase has been lost. The translation renders faithfully the laconic playing-down of real danger and hard work which comes almost naturally to Norwegians. To set in the reader's mind the reality of such an adventurous voyage, the superb color illustrations are planted throughout the book.

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