

BIG BROTHERS- COULD YOU DO IT!!

Big Brothers is a professionally administered agency that uses volunteer men in regular friendship assignments with fatherless boys on a one-to-one basis. This agency's chief purpose is to help these boys develop their character and personality so that they can become responsible and productive men. The ONE MAN - ONE BOY principle of understanding and friendship has been the basis of the achievement of the goals of Big Brothers of P.E.I.

How then does the process of applying to be a big brother or a little brother function and how is the matching of a man and a boy carried out?

Little brother applications must come from the mother or legal guardian only. Criteria for application are simply that the boy be between 6 and 16 and that the father must not be in the home. After receiving the application, a caseworker interviews the mother and

the little brother to determine their interests and background and also their needs and expectations concerning their involvement with a bit brother. Following this, the little brother would be matched with a big brother. Often, however, the little brother will have to wait up to one year before an appropriate big brother is available.

After receiving a bit brother application, several steps are followed. First, letters of reference are sent to persons familiar with the applicant. Second, an extensive interview is arranged with the applicant to ascertain his reasons for involvement, his expectations of the match, his social involvements and interests, and his personal background. If the appointed caseworker feels that the applicant would make an adequate big brother, then the process of matching begins.

The staff will review all little brother applications

to find the most suitable and compatible boy possible for the Big Brother. The Screening and Matching committee, a sub-committee of the Board of Directors, reviews our recommendations on the match in making the final decision. Once finalized by the committee, the Big Brother is provided with a review of his chosen little brother. If this is acceptable to the big brother, the same procedure is duplicated for the little brother and mother. If all three parties are in agreement, then a date and time is arranged for all to meet one another. At this point a new match has begun.

The caseworker assigned will follow up on the match at least once a month to resolve any problems that may arise and in addition to ensure that all parties are reaping the benefits from this most important relationship.

In terms of time commitments, the big brother is expected to allot minimally 3-4 hours a week to spend

with his little brother. Furthermore, we advise that the relationship continue for at least a year. The activities which the big brother and little brother engage in are of their own choosing; our only role in this matter is to provide suggestions if called upon.

After reading this article you may feel that being a big brother is "one heck of a lot of work". On the contrary, according to reports from our people, enjoyment and fun more accurately characterize this relationship. At the moment we have 39 matches in operation with an additional 25 boys in need of a big brother. Since the need is clearly there, we would urge all you "closet big brothers" to think about volunteering a few hours of your time. You will be giving the greatest gift - friendship.

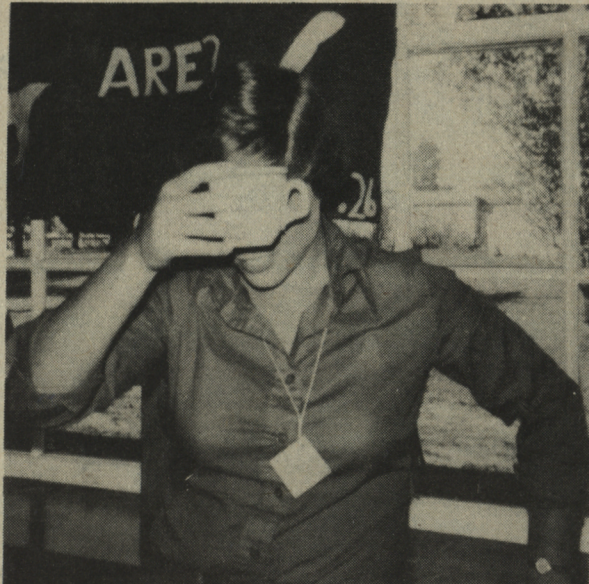
Stay tuned for next week's article which will concern itself with Bowl for Millions our number one fund-raising drive.



ONE

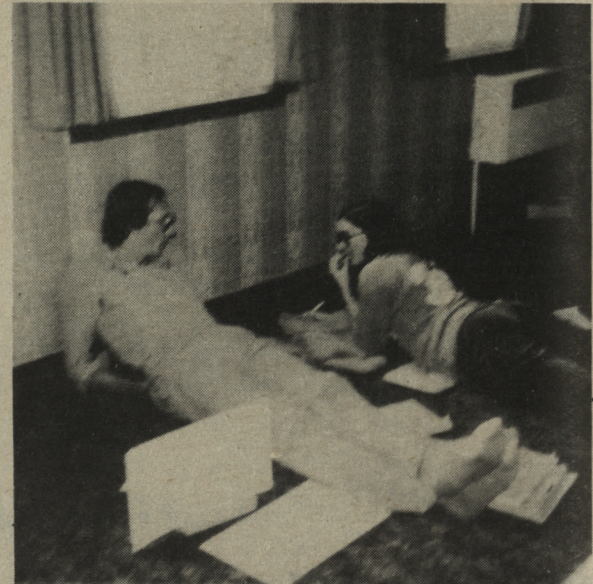
The pictures on this page are pictures from the last A.C.T. weekend. As you can see, there are three of them. In picture number 1 we see Kent Osborne. And yes, he is wearing a mask. When asked to describe the weekend, he smiled and said that it was definitely "a good time...a worthwhile good time."

In the second picture, behind the cup, is Judy Gallant; Judy had this to say about A.C.T.: "It's a great chance for people to get together and talk about what's important in their lives." Along the same lines she said, ".....you meet a lot of



TWO

new friends at A.C.T." Then she said, "But the funny thing is, that most people won't go without a friend in the first place, because they don't know what they're getting in to and they feel better if they've got someone with them who doesn't know either." Judy was right; quite a few people do think like that. The reasoning is understandable but incorrect. By the end of an A.C.T. Weekend, you've got friends coming out of your ears. For instance, Judy is now (at least I like to think) a friend of mine. Before A.C.T. I didn't know who Judy was.



THREE

Judy also added, in closing, that she thought the A.C.T. Weekend was, above all, "worthwhile". Now where did I hear that before?

From picture number 3, I was able to find Al Ward to talk with. Al told me that it was on an A.C.T. Weekend that he first discovered "Christians could think". I agreed because it was on an A.C.T. Weekend that I made the same discovery. Al also said that it was on an A.C.T. Weekend that he first realized God wasn't alien to his life. From the way he said it, you could tell that this

realization had done something for him. Al finished off with this: "At A.C.T., you can relax and relate to other people, with God." I thought that was a pretty good quote, so I decided I'd use it to finish this piece. But I almost forgot - earlier on, Judy told me to be sure to mention that the Weekend is fun. That's right. Consider it said, Judy.

The A.C.T. Weekend begins next Friday night, Feb. 2. It ends Sunday afternoon, Feb. 4. Next week there will be a desk in the Library so that you can sign up to come if you want to. Paul Moore.