



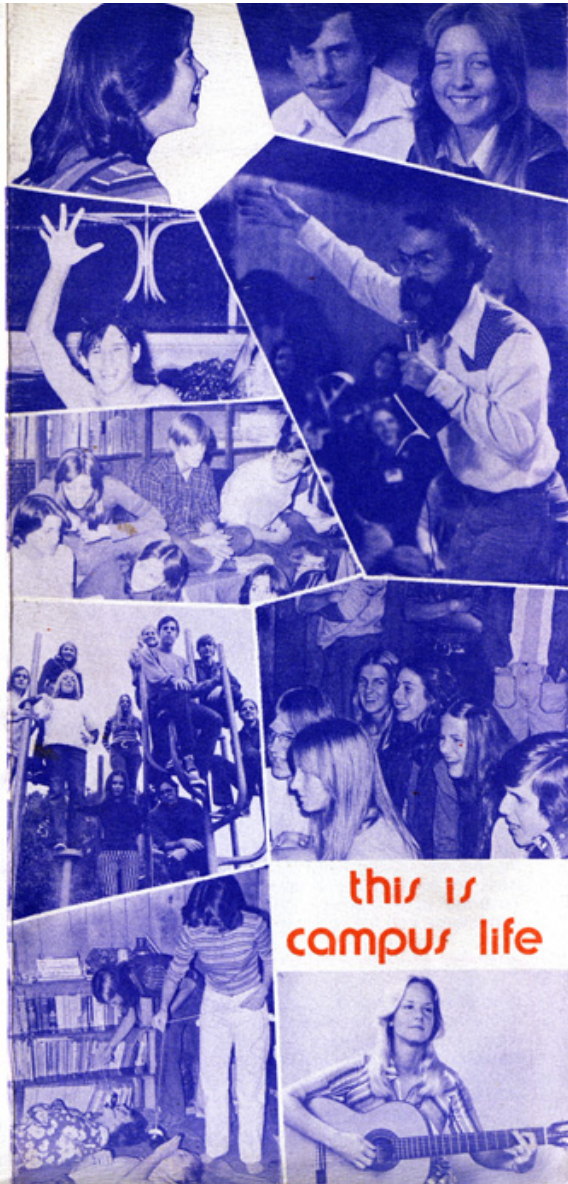
Campus Life is a non-profit, non-denominational organization under the auspices of Youth for Christ International. Financial support comes basically from concerned individuals in the community. A Board of Directors determines *Campus Life* policy and directs its fiscal affairs. Its members are capable leaders in the business and professional world. Full-time staff personnel are men and women from the community who have seen the need to work with high school students. Their training includes at least a bachelor's degree. They have spent hours on the campuses with kids feeling the heartbeat of today's adolescents. They are experts in their field.

More information about *Campus Life* is available by writing to:

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this is
campus life



**REACHING
OUT
THROUGH
RELATIONSHIPS**

the relationship gap



Vance Packard, the noted social analyst, has stated that the United States has become a nation of strangers. People have become more and more isolated from one another. Communication breakdown has brought isolated pockets of humanity that never really know, never really experience, never really relate. Nowhere is this breakdown more apparent than in the teen generation.

Feeling that the past is too irrelevant and the future too uncertain, young people today are caught in the vacuum of the present. They have formed their own subculture, shutting out the "establishment," their parents, school officials, and anyone over thirty. The outward symptoms of drugs, sex and general reckless behavior signal an inner restlessness and uncertainty that seems to rumble just below the surface.



These are symptoms of a basic need — the need for warm, personal relationships. Young people need a finely tuned adult ear, a wise and respected adult voice, to help them as they construct a functional value system. All persons need others, but at no point in life is the need more crucial than during the experimental years of adolescence.

Campus Life is an attempt to bridge the gap, an attempt to cut into the very heart of to-

building relationships



Campus Life is pro teen. It accepts young people for what they are, wherever they are. It looks for common ground with them in order to help them understand themselves, their world and their Creator.

Through many years of experimentation and experience the people of *Campus Life* have learned the art of effective person-to-person communication. They have discovered that truth is best shared when a man's life is laid out openly to exemplify what he says. Words are most effective when they have been pre-faced by persuasive action. Through such a two-pronged approach, *Campus Life* in Northern Virginia is touching many hundreds of high school students from different racial and cultural backgrounds.

Meaningful relationships — the kind that easily convey vital truths — are not quickly built. They call for the patient establishing of mutual confidence and trust, for intelligent and loving honesty, for the uncovering of a common ground on which shared experience and interest can lead to mutual growth.

bridging the gap

Several times a month, *Campus Life* meets in various homes around the community. These are informal meetings where up to several hundred kids from a given high school will get together for fun, music, movies, nonsense, and just plain having a good time. The meeting usually tries to zero in on a basic pressure point in life (drugs, sex, cheating, parents) that can be "tossed out for discussion." The leader then attempts to show that the basic truths of Christianity can be related to these contemporary problem areas.

The young person is under no pressure. He is free to reject, to question, or to accept what he hears. He finds his leader readily available for counsel and help. If he is among the serious inquirers, he can join a smaller group, "Insight," under the same leadership, for a deeper examination of the Christian faith and its implications.



relationships in action



The *Campus Life* leader invests a great deal of time in finding this common ground. With the high school crowd, he goes to their athletic events and school functions. He meets them over pizza, or a coke. He listens to their music, their talk. He initiates contacts and conversations that demonstrate his genuine desire to know and to be known.

On a typical day, one might find the *Campus Life* leader helping kids paint a school sign, lounging at a play practice, shooting baskets in the school gym, or talking with a kid over a coke. He moves naturally. These are the materials from whom which he builds the bridge, the steps he must take to win a hearing.

The *Campus Life* leader understands that all of this comprises a natural give-and-take process. While he is giving personal concern and understanding, he is learning the mind of young people — their hatreds, their loves, their hopes, their hang-ups. Only as he does this can he convey to them what he passionately desires to share — the wonder and the beauty of Jesus Christ.

