

Campus. Connection

Mount Saint Vincent University

January 15, 1990

Youth in Transition: filling a gap for adolescents

Adolescents who have experienced family violence can now get help through a project administered by the Mount's Institute for the Study of Women. Youth in Transition provides group therapy for young people ages 10 to 16, whose mothers have been in transition houses. Initiated by the Institute and Bryony House and funded by Canada Health and Welfare, the three-year, \$400,000 project is the first of its kind in Canada and provides a service not otherwise available in Nova Scotia.

Project director and associate director of the Institute, Dr. Deborah Poff, is also a former Bryony House program committee member and chair. She explains that Youth in Transition fills a critical need. "For some time, child care counsellors at Bryony House have been feeling terribly frustrated; they've identified problems that adolescents are having, but there hasn't really been a place to refer them because there's a long waiting list for existing social services."

Dr. Poff notes, "It was a happy circumstance that I happened to be involved in Bryony House because the suggestion was made that perhaps the Institute, as a research facility, could seek government funding for a project that would address the problem."

The project, she says, fulfils two important goals. "It is in keeping with the Institute's commitment to social action research, and it helps a community agency that doesn't have the resources to offer this kind of service itself."

Names of mothers and adolescents are provided by Bryony House, and project staff have placed ads and public service announcements with local news-



Dorothy West (left), former secretary to the president, recently retired after 21 years as a Mount employee. At a reception in her honor, held at the Mount just before Christmas, she was presented with a bouquet of 21 roses by Mount president Dr. Naomi Hersom, and treated to a poetry presentation by Marie Kelly and Frances Cody.

papers and radio stations in order to reach more people. "Since the project got underway in September we've been establishing contacts with community and social service agencies in the metro area," says Martha McGinn, project co-ordinator.

She stresses that participation is voluntary. "The mother's permission is necessary. But the child must

Continued on page 4

ON THE MOVE ON THE MOVE ON THE MOVE ON THE

Dr. Eileen LeBlanc, home economics department faculty member, recently had a manuscript published in the internationally-recognized Journal of Food Science. The article is entitled "Separation of cod (Gadus morhua) fillet proteins by electrophoresis and HPLC after various frozen storage treatments". Chromatograms from the article will be reprinted in an upcoming issue of Recorder, a monthly Belgian journal abstract review.

* * *

Paul Reyno, director of physical plant, was recognized recently at a dinner honoring past presidents of the Nova Scotia Atlantic District Purchasing Association, held at the Dalhousie University Faculty Club. Reyno, a member of the association since 1983, served as its president for the 1985-86 term. Guest speaker for the occasion was Larry Jacobs, district manager of Proctor & Gamble in Toronto. The association is dedicated to the professional development of those in the purchasing field.

* * *

Dr. Joyce Kennedy, acting director of The Centre for Continuing Education, addressed the Faith and Order Commission of the Halifax-Dartmouth Council of Churches recently, on The Ecumenical Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women 1988-1989.

Dr. Kennedy and Reverend Alph Bell, from Corrections Canada in Moncton, also made a pres-

entation recently to the Council of the Institute of Pastoral Training on Pastoral Response to Sexual Abuse of Children".

* * *

Prof. Carole Hartzman, modern languages department, represented the Mount at the observance of International Human Rights Day, December 10 — the 41st anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the 20th anniversary of the Nova Scotia Human Rights Act. The program began with the raising of the United Nations flag at Province House, then proceeded to the World Trade and Convention Centre, where remarks were offered by: Dr. Donald Curren, chairperson of the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission; Dr. Bridglal Pachai, executive director of the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission; Premier John Buchanan; the Honourable Tom McInnis, minister in charge of the administration of the Nova Scotia Human Rights Act; and others.

* * *

Mount president Dr. Naomi Hersom was recently given an "I Care Award", co-sponsored by 96 CHNS Radio and Neima Brothers Jewellery, Dartmouth. The award is presented "for caring about the betterment of the community and helping 96 CHNS keep Nova Scotians informed."

Who's Where; not quite ...

A listing of department and office moves in the January 2 issue of Campus Connection gave incorrect locations for two offices, which are corrected as follows:

- **Business administration department:** Jeff Young, Seton Annex Room 2
- **Nancy Rowell Jackman Chair in Women's Studies:** Dr. Krishna Ahooja-Patel, Seton Academic Centre Room 540

Deadline reminder to potential May grads

Anyone planning to graduate in May 1990 must file an "Intention to Graduate" form with the registrar's office. The forms are available from the registrar's office, Rosaria Centre, where they must be returned no later than Thursday, Feb. 1.

Visiting privileges extended in Mount residences

For a trial period now until April, male visitors will be allowed in previously restricted lounges and private rooms in Mount residences. Visiting hours will be in effect Friday and Saturday from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m., and on Sunday from 2 to 7 p.m., in all residences except Vincent Hall (which isn't university property). Alternate accommodations were offered to students who didn't wish to participate in visitation. Regular visitation for both female and male visitors, in designated residence lounges, will continue as usual.

The trial is being implemented on the recommendation of the Student Affairs Committee which was set up to look at all the considerations of a male visitation policy. The Committee is made up of the Dean of Student Affairs and representatives of stu-

dent services, student council and faculty.

Guests must be signed in and out, and guest books will be checked by security. As always, no liquor is permitted in residence. Any infractions of the guidelines will be dealt with in the same way as infractions to other residence rules. The university and student union will make arrangements for the extra security measures necessary during the visitation hours.

Mount president Dr. Naomi Hersom comments, "I am satisfied that the careful way the Dean has prepared for this experiment will protect our students while at the same time making it possible for them to choose the type of residence life that they prefer."

OF INTEREST OF INTEREST OF INTEREST OF INTERE

As a result of a bequest of the late Judge Louis Dubinsky, the Mount library has purchased the 20-volume second edition of the Oxford English Dictionary for its reference shelves. The choice of a dictionary is particularly appropriate considering Judge Dubinsky's fascination with words and their meaning. The library has donated its first edition, consisting of 17 volumes, to the University of the West Indies in Kingston, Jamaica, whose library was severely damaged by Hurricane Gilbert in September.

* * *

Dr. Krishna Ahooja-Patel, newly-appointed to the Mount's Nancy Rowell Jackman Chair in Women's Studies, is guest speaker at Dalhousie University's Women's Studies Seminar, Thursday, Feb. 1. Dr. Ahooja-Patel will speak on The Difference in Development: The Sex Gender Question. The Seminar takes place from 4:30 to 6 p.m., in the Multidisciplinary Centre, 1444 Seymour Street. Everyone is invited.

* * *

The Campus Ministry Office is presenting a video of the film, Monsieur Vincent, on Tuesday, Jan. 30, in honor of Caritas Day. The award-winning French

film, made in the 1940s, is a portrayal of Saint Vincent de Paul, for whom the Mount is named. The video will be shown 3-5 p.m. in the Don MacNeil Room, Rosaria Centre. Everyone is welcome.



The Seton Cantata Choir

invites you to audition for the 1990 season.

The Choir, sponsored by the Mount's Centre for Continuing Education, is a mixed adult group of amateur singers interested in a wide variety of sacred and secular music, ranging from classical to rock. This year the choir is under the direction of Ray Grant.

Auditions and rehearsals take place Wednesday evenings, 7:30-9:30. For more information call the Centre for Continuing Education at ext. 243.

Youth continued from page 1

also want to participate."

McGinn explains that there are two main aspects to the project: therapy and research. "The therapy component, which begins in early 1990, consists of weekly counselling sessions held over six months at Veith House in Halifax. Groups are divided according to sex and age." Participants of the same age and sex are grouped together, and each group is led by a female and male therapist. "They feel more comfortable not being around people their own age of the opposite sex when dealing with sensitive emotional issues," explains McGinn. "At the same time, adolescents need positive adult role models of both sexes, which is part of the rationale for both co-therapists."

Joan Newman and Patrick Mabey are co-therapists for the groups. "It is essential that young people feel this is a safe place to come," says Mabey. "so the first thing we do is build their trust and confidence. Remember, they've experienced family violence and often don't trust adults." He explains that once

the "stage is set for trust", the therapists encourage participants to communicate their fears, anger and frustration — not only through talking, but through drawing, story-telling, acting out, and creating videos on the theme of family violence. "The language and the relating of their experience often comes out of the doing, not the other way around."

Mabey notes that the therapy is aimed at "short-circuiting problems before they happen," explaining that if adolescents don't deal with the emotional turmoil in a positive way, it sometimes comes out in less desirable ways, including inflicting violence on themselves and others, and submission to violence. "Certainly, there are other people they can turn to: guidance counsellors, social workers, etc. But by the time these people see them, their behaviour may have become a problem."

Of the research component, Martha McGinn comments, "The groups will be given pre- and post-session tests, administered by Dr. Rosemarie Sampson of the Mount's psychology department. The tests will measure how the attitudes and behavior of specific peer groups of the same sex and age change after six months of therapy."

Ongoing documentation, along with test results, will be published in a final report which will cap the three-year project. "We want this project to serve as a model for similar projects. We want to share our findings with other transition houses," says McGinn.

She notes that the project is a good example of co-operation between the Mount and a social service agency. "The Institute administers the project, including the research, and Bryony House provides an on-going consultative role."



Members of the Mount community
and their families are invited to a

Skating Party

2 - 3 p.m.

Sunday, January 28, 1990

Dalhousie Arena

South Street, Halifax

Admission is free, with Mount student I.D.
or free with tickets available from the

**Athletics / Recreation Office,
Rosaria Centre**

Sponsored by the Athletics / Recreation Office.

Campus Connection is published bi-weekly during the academic year by the Public Relations Office, Mount Saint Vincent University, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3M 2J6. Copy should be submitted to Room 231, Evaristus Hall, no later than 10 days before the Monday of publication. Editor: Charmaine Gaudet, 443-4450, ext. 339.