

the Connection



Mount Saint Vincent University, Halifax, Nova Scotia



December 9, 1985



Season's Greetings

Caritas Day Trophy Plus Beggar's Banquet Coming Up

A PRESIDENT'S TROPHY will be presented to a Mount group (or individual) who best represents the spirit of Caritas Day (January 29) and, according to Dr. Carol Hill, a BEGGAR'S BANQUET will be held for all the Mount community at noon, January 28, with proceeds going to the Metro Food Bank.

The Student Affairs Committee, chaired by Hill, was given the task to encourage and co-ordinate events for Caritas Day last year by Senate.

Caritas Day was approved as the university's "founding day" and one which would provide the Mount community the opportunity to contribute either "collectively" or "individually" to the greater civic good through acts of service.

— Discussion —

Hill said Chef Rene had come up with a number of ideas as did committee members and after full discussion it was agreed that a Beggar's Banquet would be held on Tuesday, January 28, the day before Caritas Day.

Those attending would contribute \$3 each and the amount collected, after expenses, would be turned over to the Metro Food Bank now working out of a Spryfield warehouse.

Committee member Sister Lorraine d'Entremont said the food bank had been organized more than a year ago by "a group of concerned citizens" who were already engaged in work related to the needy. Various churches, grocery outlets, food brokers, and schools were sending produce to the food bank which had a distribution network throughout the greater metro area.

"I know our contribution would be well received and I hope everyone at the Mount will attend the noon-time function," she said.

— Point System —

With regard to the President's Trophy, Hill said, a point system had been devised and those projects which showed participation by faculty, students and staff "will be rated highly." However, points would also be given for creativity and the amount of hours invested in a project.

She said tasks which could not

Student Retreat In January

The Chaplaincy Office, Student Services, is planning the fifth annual Student Retreat for January.

This year's weekend (Friday evening to Sunday noon), to be held January 10-12, will focus on the central themes of "God's love for us," "who Jesus is for us" and "choices we make in our experience of these realities." There will be time for private reflection, group sharing and an opportunity for individual consultation with team members.

The retreat, for students only, will be held at an off-campus location and transportation will be arranged if necessary.

For registration, contact Sister Lorraine d'Entremont as soon as possible (registration is limited).

involve large groups of people would also be recognized.

A preliminary survey of various non-profit agencies in the community — Adsum House, Collins House, Hope Cottage, Metro Food Bank, Ward Five Community Centre, St. George's Anglican Church and Brunswick St. United Church (soup kitchens) had indicated they would be happy to have assistance on Caritas Day.

Other possible contacts could be made through the Senior Citizens Information Centre, various senior citizens nursing homes, and some of the local hospitals.

"That will be up to the participants," said Hill.

The plan is to have the PRESIDENT'S TROPHY presented at noon on Thursday, January 30, at the opening of the Mount's Twelfth Annual University Community Art, Craft, Baking, Hobby and Talent Show.

Anyone with suggestions, ideas, or questions or who wants to participate should contact the Student Services Office where forms are available.

Fibre Exhibit At Gallery

A contemporary fibre exhibition Fibre/Art/Fusion, opens at the Art Gallery on December 12 and continues until January 7.

Organized by the Oakville Galleries, this nationally travelling juried exhibition is in celebration of Ontario's bicentennial year.

The many examples of outstanding works of art in fibre evidence a unique evolution in the interaction between art and craft and demonstrate the breadth of artistic conception and expression in such media as handmade paper, woven and wrapped materials, quilted fabrics, wicker, photographs on cloth, fur and cardboard.

Artist Dawn MacNutt, whose textile sculpture "Kindred Spirits" was shown at the Mount last year and which has since been on exhibit in Lausanne, Switzerland, will open the exhibit with a talk: A Consideration of Today's Fusion of Fibre and Art Around the World, on Thursday, December 12 at 8 p.m.

In the Upstairs Gallery Peter Murphy's Photogravures will continue to be on display until January 7.



Janice Flynn, student in the Child Study program, is one of the lucky ones chosen by Drs. Ahmos Rolider (L) and Ron VanHouten to take part in their new project for parents of developmentally delayed children.

Unique Mount Program to Help Parents of Problem Children

A small number of the Mount's students in the Child Study, Psychology and Education programs will be chosen to take part in a Developmentally Delayed Children's Teaching project which is being spearheaded by Drs. Ron VanHouten and Ahmos Rolider.

The project, which begins on January 7 and continues until April 8, will enable parents of problem children to learn how to teach these youngsters language, social skills, co-operative play, how to select the best way to motivate the child, how to teach self-help skills and how to reduce severe problem behaviours.

VanHouten and Rolider had looked into the need for such a project in this area and discovered that there was little to offer parents who require training in order to help their children. "And, without parents, this type of program can't be carried out," VanHouten explains.

Many developmentally delayed children suffer from limited speech, poor social skills and often exhibit self-abusive behavior or severe aggression. Up to now, parents have had to deal with this with little or no outside help.

The Mount's project, the first in the Maritimes, will rectify this and also provide Mount students with a training ground in the subject which, Rolider says, is probably the most updated in the world.

VanHouten is pleased that the

students are really keen to participate. "They will be investing from 16 to 20 hours a week in the project, and this requires some dedication, even though they will be getting credits for the work done."

One of the things he likes about Mount students, VanHouten says, is their eagerness to become involved in the community.

No one seems short on enthusiasm, as Rolider will be undertaking his role in the project in addition to his normal teaching load.

An international expert in the treatment of developmentally delayed children, Rolider is at the Mount as a visiting professor on behalf of the Canada/Israel Foundation for Academic Exchange.

He and VanHouten have known each other for a number of years and their areas of expertise mesh well as VanHouten also specializes in developmental disabilities. Both have been asked to give workshops in

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Join the majority.
Be a non-smoker

Mount Biologist Researching Brain Function

To a biologist, house flies have one great advantage — they are cheap and easy to breed.

Dr. Amalie Frohlich, of the Mount's Biology Department, is engaged in research that requires large numbers of these household pests. She is studying the eye of the domestic housefly in order to unravel the highly complex system that determines the connections between nerves — the synapses. These connections form a major part of the brain and follow rigid rules. "It's rather like assembling a TV set," Frohlich explains. "You can have all the necessary components but if they're not connected according to the proper wiring plan, the set doesn't work."

Frohlich chose the visual system of the common housefly for her research because the individual neurons are easily identifiable. She has already done some preliminary work on the sequence of events by which some of the neurons establish contact in the first optic neuropile (the area in the brain where the photoreceptors end and pass messages on to the next set of cells carrying visual information deeper into the brain.)

Now that she has established her own laboratory at the Mount, she is continuing this line of research.

Synapses formations are in two parts, says Frohlich. First there is the quantitative regulation — how many connections are made between two sets of cells, how large are they and how are they regulated?

Then there is the qualitative regulation — which neurons make the connections and how are they able to 'recognize' one another?

"There are lots of different types of synapses," Frohlich explains, "but they are able to come together in a specific order to make the right connections."

The short term goal of her research therefore is to discover the regulation of synaptic population size and the regulation of the composition and distribution of visual neurons both in the developing and the adult fly.

In the long term her research will contribute to the understanding of one of the major determinants of brain function — the pattern of connectivity between nerve cells.

Frohlich arrived in Canada from her native Germany, six years ago and had been on the faculty of the Psychology Department at Dalhousie University for most of that time, before coming to the Mount last June.



Dr. Amalie Frohlich poses in front of a huge cartoon-type poster which she designed and drew herself to illustrate the research she is carrying out on the eye of the domestic house fly.

Mount Public Relations Program Compares Well With Others

When four Mount students travelled to Detroit last month as the sole representatives of Canadian public relations students at a Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) conference, they learned that the Mount's program is competitive with those of American universities.

Third-year public relations student Kathleen Hacey said, "One of our main aims was to see if we were up to calibre with the American students and we found our program is certainly up to par. Our program curriculum encompasses everything offered by those in the United States."

Co-presidents of the Mount's student Public Relations Society Lisa Courtney and Joyce Van Zeumeren, Secretary Patricia Darrah, and member Kathleen Hacey all attended the conference, "Life in the Fast Lane," as well as sessions of the simultaneous American Public Relations conference for practitioners.

Joyce Van Zeumeren said, "We found the interaction with the professionals at their conference really beneficial. Something they repeatedly stressed for students was studying business courses. They said you have to understand concepts like return on investment before you can represent a company."

Van Zeumeren also noted attendance at the professional conference was overwhelming. Reaching 1,400 members of the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA), the attendance equalled the total

membership of the Canadian Public Relations Society (CPRS).

Among the professionals met by Mount students were Scott Cutlip and Allen Centre, authors of texts used in the Mount's PR program. Smiling, Van Zeumeren said, "And Scott Cutlip even told Patricia Darrah what a good program we have at the Mount."

Attendance at the student conference totalled 432 Americans representing approximately 190 PRSSA chapters in universities and colleges across the U.S. Enrolment at each institution ranges from 300 to 500 students.

Yet in terms of enrolment, Van Zeumeren said the Mount's program was also competitive. "In our student society at the Mount, we have 175 members, about half of the total public relations student enrolment of approximately 330. The major difference with our program isn't our size but our age. The fact that we have only five graduating classes shows how new we are."

"Also, the Mount is sort of isolated from other groups of public relations students, and for that reason we'd like to set up a student chapter of a professional society," he said.

"I think the benefits are endless. We can network with other Canadian students and professionals."

"The Mount should play a leading role because we're the only Canadian university offering a public relations degree program and it would be appropriate if the initiative originated from here," he said.



Share Your Christmas

Staff members at the Mount's Art Gallery have decided to donate Christmas gifts to Hope Cottage, rather than exchange gifts between themselves this year.

It's an idea that seems to be catching on as more and more people feel they should share what they have with others less fortunate.

If any other individuals or departments feel like donating such items as toothpaste, toothbrushes, disposable razors, soap, combs and men's warm winter clothing to Hope Cottage, there is a depot in Room 439, Seton Academic Centre.

Other organizations that would be glad of your donations are Adsum House, Collins House and the Metro Food Bank.

Profile



You only have to talk with the Mount's Conference Officer, Frances Cody, for a few minutes to realize she means it when she says, "My life revolves around my job."

Her eyes light up, and the enthusiasm is very evident as she describes this many-faceted position, which, she says, "evolved out of necessity."

Cody has been at the Mount for 12 years, starting as secretary to Brenda Halton, who was chair of the Secretarial Department (as it was known in those days.) Then she became secretary to Michael Merrigan, Executive Assistant to the President, "and that job," she explains, "led to the development of the Conference Office."

Anything that takes place in a physical space on campus is the business of the Conference Office. This includes summer school, receptions, Discovery Tours, government events, political conventions, seminars, the Mount Playhouse, banquets and even weddings.

It's a year-round operation and Cody is on call even when she's officially off duty. "But it's delightful,"

she says. "It's so people-oriented and varied."

What helps to make the job so satisfying is Cody's attitude towards Michael Merrigan. "I've got the greatest person in the world to work for," she maintains, "and I'm secure in the knowledge that I can use my own initiative."

In the five years since the Conference Office was established Cody has done a lot of streamlining. "We have as good a system of room bookings as any you could find," she says, "although it took me some time to convince people that having all the arrangements for bookings, including catering, audio-visual equipment and so on, under our jurisdiction, would make things easier. As it is now, you only have to deal with one person in our office who co-ordinates everything."

Bookings clerk Valerie Leonard, the only other full-time person in the office, handles the bulk of these bookings (which have recently been computerized), but a number of students are hired in the summer to help with the extra work load.

Cody is national president of the Canadian Conference Officers' Association.

"One of the most exciting things we're into now," she says, "is the work we're doing with government in the tourism industry." She points out that people are unaware of the large contribution that university conference offices make to the tourism industry. "In 1984," she says, "universities in Atlantic Canada supplied 220,000 bed nights and every one of them generated money in the community."

Cody's other extra-curricular activities include being a member of the Halifax Board of Trade Tourism Committee and the Halifax City Sell Committee. For relaxation she loves to sing and play the guitar. She's one of the 50-member folk choir of St. Theresa's Church which sang as part of the Mass choir for the Papal visit to Halifax, and will be singing with them in Scotia Square during the Christmas season.

believe that male part-time and non-unionized workers have some special immunity.

She lapsed deep into the realm of the ludicrous with the statement "... a woman working as a secretary can be paid half as much as a man sweeping floors ..." True as this is, by law she will earn the same as her male secretarial counterpart. Her interpretation of the law also means that a male lab technician will not earn half as much as the female doctor leading the research team. Does this mean that men are not being treated fairly?

Ms. Ring also suffers the

(continued on page 8)

Hard to Eradicate Society's Negative Attitudes to Women

There is a deeply rooted misogyny in our society that will be difficult to eradicate, according to Dr. Maryann Ayim, a recent guest lecturer in the Women's Studies lecture series, whose topic was Pornography and Sexism: A Thread in the Web.

This misogyny is reflected in social attitudes, in family violence, in economic oppression, in linguistic patterns and, of course, in the prevalence of pornography, both soft and hard core.

Much of this stems from sexual stereotyping, Ayim says, where not only the general public, but also highly educated people including clinical psychologists believe that "good" women should be very dependent, unambitious, dislike math and science, be submissive and quiet and not competitive.

"Good" men on the other hand, were seen as very independent, ambitious, liking math and science, very aggressive and competitive, she says.

As recently as 1978, university students were still describing women and men in these "ideal" terms.

One American philosopher had even gone so far as to state that pornography was not demeaning to women because it did not depict the real world. He was quoted as saying that pornography was a vision of the way things *ought* to be! "The prospect for eliminating misogyny from our society is bleak if this is the case," Ayim remarks wryly.

No pornography could qualify as merely innocent fun, Ayim says. "Soft

core pornography is not innocent, not even the centrefolds in Playboy magazine. It has to be taken in the general context of our society, together with all the other areas in which violence against women occurs."

It is sometimes hard to "pin down" soft porn under Canada's obscenity laws, Ayim admits, and so a recent trend has been to treat it as sexual or racial discrimination rather than as obscene material.

This has often made it easier to ban pornographic material, where it might be difficult to prove it is obscene.

An example of this was the banning at the United States border of the video game "Custer's Last Stand," where the object was to rape an Indian woman, guarded by several Indian braves who had to be "shot" before the woman could be reached. This was not allowed into Canada on the basis of racial discrimination.

Canada's criminal code fails to discriminate between the *depiction* of pornography and the *endorsement* of it, Ayim says. This put "Custer's Last Stand" in the same category as the NFB film "Not a Love Story" which is strongly anti-pornography, but which depicts pornographic scenes in order to make its point.

Ayim, who is on the Faculty of Education at University of Western Ontario, says pornography nets billions of dollars every year in North America alone, "and the people who make these profits are not going to give them up lightly." Twenty-five cents out of each one of these billions (continued on page 8)

ATTENTION ALL STUDENTS, STAFF, FACULTY AND ALUMNAE AND/OR PARTNERS OR "SIGNIFICANT OTHERS"

Plan now to enter your hobby/craft/talent or whatever you do in the 12th Annual University Community Art, Craft, Hobby, Baking and Talent Show. This year there will be a special section for COLLECTIONS. If you have a collection of any size or shape, from the traditional to the eclectic consider entering all or part of it in the show. All entries will be accepted between January 20-24. Up to five items per person will be accepted in the other categories. Everyone who enters is eligible to win the prize in the POTTERY LOTTERY.

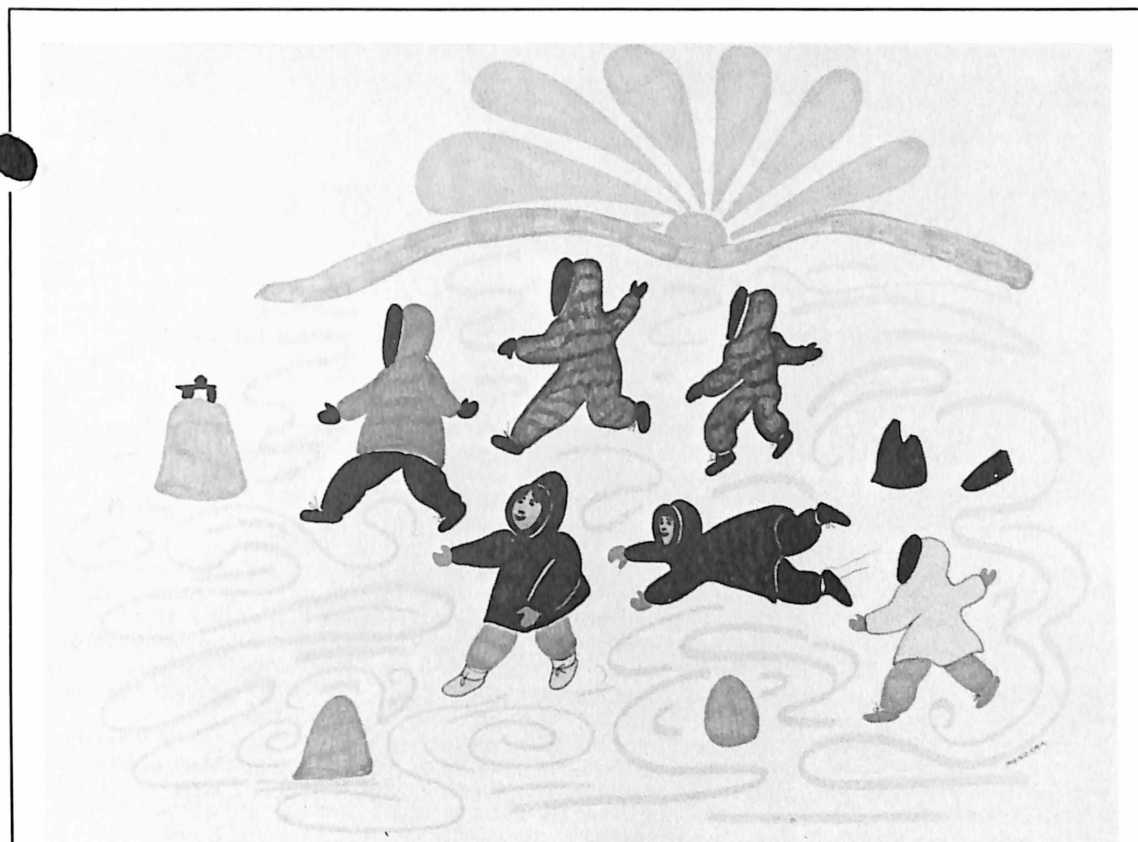
Opening: Marc Neima, student and director/producer of *A Chorus Line*, Thursday, 30 January at 12:15 p.m.

12:30- Preview scene from *A Chorus Line*. *A Chorus Line* is a celebration of the unsung heroes of American Theatre — the chorus dancers. *A Chorus Line* will be produced by the Mount's Speech and Drama Department in February/86.

The University Community Show runs from 30 Jan. - 9 Feb.

FREE ENTERTAINMENT AND FOOD!

For further information contact the art gallery.



Drawing, Agnes Nanogak, 1979, From the Mount Saint Vincent University Permanent Collection

May the joy of children at play
inspire your Christmas season.

L. Margaret Fulton

Besancon Experience Invaluable To Mount's Students of French

Besancon, France. Located in the eastern area of the country, it lies about one half-hour's drive from the Swiss border. A picturesque city with a population of about 116,000 people, it's home for about five Mount students every year.

"When I arrived in Besancon last fall," stated third year public relations student Shari Gallant, "My French was so bad my roommates had to teach me how to say the days of the week. But by the following June, I was speaking fluently and writing university papers in French."

Gallant's one of 80 Mount students who have attended the University of Besancon since the study-abroad program was introduced in 1970. Established by French Professors Pierre Gerin and Catherine Rubinger, the program was originally available to arts degree students majoring in

French, but now applies to any student who can fit the five French credits into a degree program.

— Ten Months —

"Study abroad provides an excellent opportunity to learn the French language," said Professor Rubinger. "It's simple arithmetic: an average student studying one French course at the Mount might spend about six hours a week on the language. Multiplied by the number of weeks in the course, it adds up to about one full week of studying French. But when the students go to Besancon, they are immersed for almost 10 months. And their comprehension of the language improves tremendously.

But there's more to study abroad than just learning the language.

At the Mount one focusses on the words in the language, but when a

student lives in France, language assumes its natural perspective as a means of communication.

"The students live the experience, they don't just learn about it in books," said Rubinger.

According to Beth Rice, a French major who studied in Besancon last year, living the experience does prove challenging. "The biggest challenge was learning about the culture: people's attitudes and how they live. Many Canadians have this idea that the French people are really open and friendly, but we found it very difficult to get close to them. But you have to realize it isn't your home and people have different cultures, so you put your best foot forward and your whole heart into learning."

Catherine Rubinger agreed, stating, "The experience depends on the student. There are difficulties and it's entirely up to the student to make the effort.

"France has thousands of foreign students a year and classes are full of (continued on page 8)

Social Science Federation to Broadcast Clips

As part of its public awareness activities, the Social Science Federation of Canada will be producing "Did you know that . . . ?," a program of two-minute radio clips on the social sciences, to be broadcast daily by satellite over Canadian radio stations in January.

The clips will take the form of interviews with researchers working out of Canadian universities and related institutions, or Canadians working abroad. Interviews have already begun, with interviewers Mildred MacDonald and Marie-Josée Dancoste.

Although Ottawa based, the program will not be Ottawa oriented, and the intention is to cover all social science disciplines and all regions, in both French and English.

Any social scientists travelling to Ottawa, who could make themselves available for an interview, should contact Michelle Albagli, Co-ordinator, "Did you know that . . . ?," Social Science Federation of Canada, 151 Slater Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5H3, (613) 238-6112.

Training Awards Program For Mature Women

The Soroptimist Foundations of Soroptimist International of the Americas, offer a Training Awards Program to promote upward mobility in mature women.

Aimed at assisting women in their efforts toward training and entry — or re-entry — into the labor market, awards range up to \$5,000.

Candidates are preferably heads of households, completing undergraduate degrees or entering vocational/technical training.

The Soroptimist Foundations were established in 1958 for "charitable, scientific, literary or educational purposes, all for the public welfare," comprised of more than 35,000 members in 1,200 clubs around the world.

Anyone interested in applying should contact the Financial Aid Office, Student Services.

IMMEDIATELY, as the deadline for applications to reach the local representative is December 15.

In Memoriam

Sympathy is extended to Susan Tanner, Admissions Officer, on the recent death of her mother Mrs. Ann Penney.

THE PEACE BEAT

by Pat Copeland

Halifax has a wonderful new "peace" resource in Dr. Barbara Roberts, who has just moved here from out west.

Roberts, whose background and experience are in women's studies, peace activities and as a peace historian and writer, firmly believes that our violent world has its roots in male attitudes towards women. "It's not generally realized," she said, "that most North American women are, at some time in their lives, victims of violence. It's a statistically normal experience. The most common form of direct physical violence in North America is against women."

It's only been within the past decade, according to Roberts, that violence has been extensively studied, discussed and researched. But, even so, violence against women has often been overlooked.

"I think men are buying false power (over women)," she says, "Because they are not allowed power over their own lives — and so they are also victims."

Basically, Roberts believes, the way to a peaceful world is through education. There is nothing intrinsically violent about men, she says, but they have been educated to take certain attitudes.

"What we could have is programs in all our schools to teach children co-operative skills," she suggests. "It's been proven that children who are taught to co-operate with each other are better in every way . . . better pupils, more caring, more expressive. Our teachers should be trained to use co-operative learning methods in their classes."

Another route to a more peaceful world is through empowerment workshops. "They're invaluable in helping us to appreciate the incredible gifts we have — we need to re-make ourselves and our world."

This planet's present crisis also has its positive side, says Roberts. "The Chinese character for 'crisis' means both danger and opportunity. We can learn from the successes of the civil rights movement and the independence movement in India."

"The most important thing is for citizens to develop strong co-operative skills and gain lots of information on the success of non-violent action. In that way all people become a real force to be reckoned with — both women and men."



Paella is a delicious Spanish dish which includes such delicacies as shrimp, saffroned rice, sea food, chicken and vegetables. It was one of many offered at the recent Fiesta sponsored by the Modern Languages Department. L to R: Yvonne Adriaanse, Alexandra Fraser, Elvira Sagrario Fraser, Marie Paz Ulloa, Isabel Ulloa and Theresa McNeil.



Mount President E. Margaret Fulton presented Jubilee posters to Louise Poulin, president of the Association for Women's Residential Facilities (left) and Sister Virginia Turner, executive director of AdSum House, recently, as a memento of the university's 60 years as a degree-granting institution.



A luncheon, given as a tribute to Mount alumnae in the fields of law and accounting, was hosted by President E. Margaret Fulton at Vinnie's Pub on November 19. Among those attending were (L to R): Halifax lawyers Katherine MacDonald, Thelma Costello and Provincial Family Court judge Elizabeth Roscoe

Women — The Missing Innovators

Is "inventor" a male word? The classic images — if you close your eyes and try to picture an inventor — are almost certain to be male: Thomas Edison, Frederick Banting, Alexander Graham Bell. Most people find it impossible to name even one woman inventor.

And yet, women inventors do exist and their contribution has been important, if often overlooked. Professor Fred Amran, of the University of Minnesota, has spent several years poring over old patent records at the United States patent office and has uncovered a number of important devices invented by women.

— The History of Women Inventors —

The very first patent issued to a resident of North America was British Patent No. 401, issued to Thomas Masters of Pennsylvania in 1715. This patent is entitled "A new invention found out by Sybilla, his wife, for cleaning and curing the Indian corn growing in the several colonies in America." Thomas Masters built a mill incorporating his wife's invention while she, as typical of successful inventors, proceeded to innovate further.

Amran pointed out that through the years, women inventors have continued to make a significant, though often unrecognized contribution to society in a variety of fields. It turns out that the inventor of the famous cotton gin was not Eli Whitney, but his landlady, Catherine L. Goelin.

Later, women were able to profit from their inventions: Martha Coston invented a flare that earned her \$20,000 during the American Civil War, a huge sum of money at the time.

More recently, Mary Ollides Weaver, along with several colleagues, received the 1977 National Inventor of the Year Award in the United States for a starch-graft polymer known as "Super Slurper."

In 1977, Barbara S. Askins was the first woman to win the title in her own right, for a method of obtaining clear pictures from old or faint negatives.

— Special Problems and Barriers to Overcome —

Overall, the percentage of female patentees is very small. Among current U.S. patents, about 1.7 per cent have a woman's name attached. In Canada, the proportion may be even lower: in the period from 1980 to 1984 the percentage was only 1.1 per cent.

However, one study found that the profits received by women patentees were, on average, higher than for men.

There were doubtless a number of different factors which account for these low numbers, including a lack of

financial resources, time, and technical and business expertise. Because women inventors are "invisible," many women (and men) view inventing as a masculine activity at which women have little chance for success.

Although, in fact, many patented inventions are not highly technical, women may not regard devices or tools which they develop as truly inventive, because they are not technical in nature.

An additional reason for the small proportion of women patentees is that the majority of patents are issued to "corporate" inventors; and until very recently the pool of potential female corporate inventors — technical women in industry or in research organizations — has been miniscule.

In the Waterloo, Ontario Innovation Centre's experience, women constitute about 5 per cent of independent inventors. Other organizations dealing with independent inventors report similar percentages.

— Women Inventors and the Innovation Centre —

Overall, women using the Innovation Centre's Inventor's Assistance Program are similar to their male counterparts. They are firm believers in the importance of their idea, concerned about secrecy, and anxious to proceed quickly. Their inventions usually are solutions to problems they face day to day, at home or work. The major barrier mentioned by both men and women is the lack of financial resources.

However, there are some differences as well. A partial review of the Innovation Centre's in-house database on inventors (40 inventions bearing the name of at least one woman, out of a total of 825 inventions logged in a recent two-year period) showed:

- A majority (67.5 per cent) of women's inventions were in the field "personal/household" while only 18 per cent of all inventions were so classified.
- Women were less likely than men to want to "do it all themselves."
- Women were more likely to learn about the Innovation Centre through friends and relatives or articles in the media and less likely to obtain referrals through government sources, lawyers or business associates.
- Women's inventions appeared less likely to receive poor or excellent rating and more likely to receive an "average" score.
- Women spend less money than men on their inventions.

The ideas submitted to the Innovation Centre by women range

from novel toothbrushes to fermenters; from bicycle trailers to baby bottles. Some are patented, most are not. The inventors are also a diverse group, representing all ages, most provinces and a variety of professions.

Mary Ann White, a chemistry professor at Dalhousie University in Halifax, is the inventor of a novel class of heat storage chemicals with which the Innovation Centre is currently undertaking additional development work. At 31, Dr. White exemplifies a new generation of young women inventors. She combines a demanding career in a technical and traditionally male dominated field, physical chemistry, with the more conventional female roles of wife and mother. As do many women in non-traditional occupations, Dr. White reports that she was strongly influenced in her desire to invent by her dentist father, a "frustrated inventor who loved gadgets." With two older brothers, she was treated as a third son.

Patricia Marreto is a Toronto-based housewife. Like most successful inventors, she has a number of other good ideas. Together with her sister, she invented the "Mufflemitt," an arm warmer which incorporates fold up mittens and a scarf. She sold almost 10,000 of these, in kit form, at the 1984 Canadian National Exhibition. At present, Marreto is looking for a Canadian licensee to manufacture the "Mufflemitt," and a number of other ideas.

Primary obstacles she mentions are the lack of time to pursue her ideas and the high cost of obtaining patent protection in Canada and the U.S.A.

Mary Jane Curtis of Toronto, is a jig saw puzzle fan. Years ago she designed and had built a game board for her own use. Two years ago, at the urging of a friend, she submitted her idea to the Innovation Centre, which judged the board attractive and novel and recommended that Curtis proceed with a patent search and market study.

However, Curtis now reports that limited personal finances have precluded further development work. She has found new product development to be time-consuming and expensive and suggests that additional government assistance, including seminars and counselling, be made available.

— The Task Ahead —

Individuals and small companies have been responsible for over two thirds of the inventions developed in the last century. Inasmuch as Canada's competitive position in the world is dependent on continued technological innovation, it is crucial to try to nourish and encourage these creative individualists.

Yet, when one looks at the numbers, it is obvious that 50 per cent of the population is scarcely represented. As the Science Council of Canada recently pointed out, developing this resource is not a token goodwill gesture to women, it is essential to our economic survival. We should ensure that young girls and women are given the necessary skills and, above all, the self confidence necessary to succeed as inventors.

Women are the missing innovators. Let's put them back in the picture. (from *The Innovation Showcase*)

Editor's Note: Do you have an invention on the drawing board? The Innovation Showcase is the licensing bulletin and newsletter of the Innovation Centre, 156 Columbia Street West, Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3L3. Or contact the Research and Special Projects Office on campus.

REMINDER TO FACULTY MEMBERS/ ADMINISTRATORS

Lists of those to receive copies of the Mount's jubilee poster must be submitted to the Public Relations Office before December 12.

Christmas Gift

Atlantic Day Appointment Calendars, with a drawing of the Mount's Evaristus Hall inside and metro university crests on the cover, are on sale at the public relations office, for \$5 each.

This is a joint effort on the part of Mount Saint Vincent, Saint Mary's and Dalhousie universities plus the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design and the Atlantic School of Theology.

The product of editor Anastacia Stergiadis, the calendar sells for about \$10 in retail outlets throughout Atlantic Canada.

The pen and ink drawings contained are representative of the works of 14 Maritime artists, the majority women, and depict various scenes of Halifax featuring the interiors of a number of popular restaurants, unique shops and other places of interest including the waterfront.

The calendar also includes theatre seating plans, parking lots and other visitor information.

WOMEN (from page 4)

of dollars comes from "kiddy porn" where children are sexually exploited, she says.

Ayim feels that individual efforts to ban pornography would not be strong enough to have much effect and therefore it may become necessary for systemic action to be taken by governments in the form of censorship.

While she personally abhors censorship, Ayim says it may be the only measure that can work in the case of pornography. "Women as a class are victims of sex discrimination, and because of this I don't see that censorship of pornography need be considered a violation of human rights and freedoms. After all, we are not allowed to libel other people, we are not allowed to disseminate hate literature, so why can't discrimination against women in the form of pornography be controlled?"

Soft porn in particular, could be treated in this way, because research has shown that 90 per cent of it is sold to heterosexual men, and 10 per cent to homosexual men. Women are plainly being discriminated against in these circumstances, she says.

Apart from pornography, women face other forms of discrimination. "Half of all the working women in Canada are either in clerical or service jobs" Ayim says. "Whereas men have a very wide range of jobs to choose from." Also, women earn only 59 per cent as much as men in similar jobs.

Battered women are another category who appear to be victims of society's misogynic attitudes. It has been conservatively estimated that in Ontario one out of every 10 women was battered at some time in her life, but this figure could possibly be as high as three out of 10.

Reasons given by men for battering their wives include, "I didn't like her choice of friends," — "I didn't like her opinions," — "I wanted her to give up her job," or "I wanted my supper on the table."

In rare cases of husband battering, men often see themselves as being "assaulted" if their supper is not ready on time! But wife battering always includes some type of physical violence, from black eyes and broken ribs, to being pushed around.

Our speech patterns also reveal society's underlying misogyny, Ayim points out. There are 10 times as many words referring to women in derogatory terms as there are for men.

"We've always been told that women do most of the talking," she says, "but studies show this is not the case. In mixed company, women often remain in the background, simply agreeing or nodding and smiling, while the men take the lead. Perhaps any interruption by a woman is looked upon as being 'too much talking' and that's how the myth arose," she suggests.



A successful auction of old furniture that had been stored away on campus during the past eight years took place in the Multi-purpose Room last month when \$1,200 was raised to buy new furniture. Art Landry (R) was auctioneer while Marie Kelly, Physical Plant Coordinator (centre) organized the event.

Books/Records for AdSum House

Anyone with books or records to donate for the annual AdSum House book/record sale, to be held in March, can leave them with Sister Phyllis Giroux, at the Mount Saint Vincent Motherhouse or at AdSum House, on Brunswick Street.

All proceeds go to AdSum House, which is an emergency shelter for women. Interested in helping out in other ways? Contact AdSum House, 2421 Brunswick Street, Halifax, N.S. B3K 2Z4.



BESANCON (from page 5)

English-speaking people, so the Mount students must make a special effort to meet people outside the university circle," she said.

"Also, France's teaching system is very different from that in Canada. The attitude in France is that the student is there to learn and the teacher is just one resource of many. It isn't a teacher-centred situation," she said.

"The teacher is not expected to be available to help students and most classes are impersonal lectures. So students who want to be taught should stay here. Students who want to learn how to learn or learn through a different teaching style can handle going to France."

Was the trip worthwhile to the students?

Both Shari Gallant and Beth Rice said they want to go back to France after finishing their degrees. "Not only do you learn the language, but you can also travel," said Gallant, who travelled to all the European countries, with the exception of Scandinavia.

Rice added, "You never fully appreciate your own country until you travel to another."

The Besancon program operates from September to mid-June for each year at an estimated cost of \$5000 per student, including fees for tuition, residence and miscellaneous expenses.

Any students interested in studying next year in Besancon and who missed the November 28 meeting should contact Catherine Rubinger in Seton 325 as soon as possible.

UNIQUE (from page 2)

Canada and the United States on the subject and much of their research has already been published.

During the 14-week period of the project, parents will bring their children for two 2-hour sessions a week to the Mount while one session a week will be held in the child's home.

Enrolment will be limited to 10 families and children must be between the ages of three and 12.

VanHouten says he received tremendous support for the project from Mount President E. Margaret Fulton. "She was extremely interested in the idea and gave us all the backing we needed." Other faculty members, too, were very supportive and their help has been invaluable.

Parents interested in participating in the program are being asked to contact the Mount's Psychology Department at 443-4450, extension 347. There is a \$90 fee which will be used to cover the cost of materials.

LETTER (from page 4)

embarrassing symptoms of stereotypical imagery. Despite all feminist cries for eliminating stereotypes, she uses the woman as the secretary, women as the shoppers and buyers, women as the sole organizers of home and child care. She presents these as acceptable facts, yet if a male speaker had used these terms I believe he would have been berated by a Mount Saint Vincent audience.

If she is so certain that women, the "... powerhouse behind the nation..." endowed with the super-human ability... "to handle 10 million things at once..." could solve all of our labour problems, I would be extremely happy if she would form an all-woman task force to set things straight instead of just talking about it.

One last point: if Ms. Ring sincerely believes that women are the only ones capable of handling a multitude of problems at once, I would invite her to watch a male stock broker who is undergoing divorce and child custody proceedings deal on a trading floor (sorry about the stereotype).

(signed) Terry Parker

the connection

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