

the connection

Mount Saint Vincent University, Halifax, Nova Scotia



Nobel Prize Winner to Speak

Dr. Gerhard Herzberg, Canadian Nobel Prize winner for chemistry in 1971, will be at Mount Saint Vincent University on Monday, March 15.

He will talk to students and faculty at 11:00 a.m., in Seton Auditorium D on "The Relationship Between Theory and Experiment" and will give a public lecture at 8:00 p.m. in Auditoriums A & D, entitled "Space Between the Stars".

Dr. Herzberg won the prize for his work in spectroscopy, the science of identifying molecules by the light they emit or — to put it more precisely — for "his contribution to the knowledge of electronic structure and geometry of molecules, particularly free radicals."

The German-born physicist, chemist and astronomer emigrated to Canada in 1935 to take a position at the University of Saskatchewan, and later became a Canadian citizen.

In 1945 he went to the United States but returned to Canada three years later to join the National Research Council where he has been working ever since, long past retirement age.

At 77 he still puts in a full day's work in the same office that he has occupied for more than 30 years. Described as a "very affable, generous person and excellent company" Herzberg has given his name to petitions, movements and projects for the liberation of unjustly detained scientists, and is a strong advocate of nuclear disarmament.

After his retirement from administra-

Her and His

Sexism in language has become such a sensitive topic in recent years that many of us are at a loss to know how to express our thoughts without sounding like male/female chauvinist piglets.

A handy little book called "Her and His: Language of Equal Value" has been published by the Nova Scotia Confederation of University Faculty Associations Status of Women Committee, and is invaluable if you're in the business of using words (and who isn't, on this campus?)

For instance, the English language doesn't have a singular personal pronoun that refers to both male and female in such sentences as, "Each student should do... own work."

What do you do? If you fill in the blank with "his", you're in trouble. If you fill in the blank with "her", you're overreacting!

According to the book, what was good enough for Dickens, Jane Austen and George Eliot should be good enough for us. You simply use the word "their". It may cause grammarians to grimace, but it

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tive functions, the NRC created a new title for him — Distinguished Research Scientist — and he works at the council's Herzberg Institute of Astrophysics where he still makes discoveries in the spectroscopy laboratory that he founded with the late Alexander Douglas.

Dr. Herzberg is a prolific author; an honorary member of numerous scientific societies around the world; and holds honorary degrees from universities in Canada, England, Ireland, India, Germany and Sweden.

His lectures are part of the Distinguished Visiting Lectureship in the Sciences series established at the Mount by C.I.L. Incorporated in 1981

alumnae update



Beverley Laidlaw leads a double life.

Beverley Laidlaw, who is at present taking a Spanish course with Assistant Professor Carole Hartzman at the Mount, is leading a double life — one in Canada and the other in Colombia!

"I've started to feel so much at home in Colombia," she says, "that I really don't see anything unusual about it any more."

Beverley has spent the past five years teaching the children of missionary families in Colombia and now feels that it's a real home away from home.

For the first three years she taught at a school for missionaries' children in Cartagena which, she remembers, "was very hot". Then she was transferred to the Alta Vista School in Medellin which is higher up in the mountains and has a beautiful climate.

Teaching in Colombia presents some challenges, and it's been an unusual way to start a teaching career. In Cartagena, Beverley was the only teacher for about 20 children of all different ages, from Grade Seven up. "You learn fast under those conditions," she says, "especially when you have no resources like libraries and have to depend on old text books sent from Canada."

Things are a little easier at Medellin, where there are two other teachers (Beverley shares a house with one of them) but even so it's sometimes hard to make sure that the children are keeping up with the Canadian curriculum without all the advantages that Canadian schools have to offer.

Medellin is a very modern city of about 2-1/2 million people. "But," says Bever-

ley, "under the veneer of civilization you're very much aware that Colombia is a third-world country."

Education for Colombian children within the cities is not too bad, but in the rural areas things are desperate. "Very often there is one teacher for 60 children in a one-room school with absolutely no facilities. The kids even have to take their own chairs."

The school where Beverley teaches is

owned by the Fellowship of Evangelical Baptist Churches of Canada, and there are seven families living at the Mission.

The Spanish course she is taking at the Mount should prove invaluable, even though she already speaks a little of the language. "But I find I have difficulty with the grammar."

Beverley's Canadian home is with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Elwin Laidlaw, in Dartmouth.

Ministers to Meet

The Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC) will sponsor a major conference in the late spring on post-secondary education issues in the 1980's. The conference will review trends in development of provincial post-secondary education systems and will discuss issues affecting development over the next decade.

Themes to be addressed will be access to higher education, relation between education and working-life, governance, financing, and redeployment of resources.

At their last meeting, the ministers dis-

cussed renegotiating of financing arrangements with the federal government; the implications for education of federal Employment and Immigration proposals for manpower training; a request to the Secretary of State for a meeting on a new student assistance plan for implementation in September 1982; a review of CMEC objectives and operation; and a proposal from the Secretary of State for long-term agreements on bilingualism in education. The ministers agreed to standards for the portability across Canada of provincial teacher certificates.

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Women and Pensions

"Women's Work — Passport to Poverty?" will be the theme for a one day workshop on pensions to be held at Mount Saint Vincent University on Saturday, March 27.

Co-sponsored by an ad hoc committee of Nova Scotia women's groups and the Mount's Centre for Continuing Education, the program is designed for women of all ages from every walk of life who wish to be better informed about pension issues.

A retirement income system that provides dignity in retirement for all Canadians is one of the most pressing social issues in the 1980's and the need to reform the present system has become a matter of urgency.

Dr. Mairi Macdonald, Director of the Centre for Continuing Education says: "This is a very timely workshop, coming as it does with the hearings of the Nova Scotia Commission on Pension Reform. The issues are of the utmost importance."

Keynote speaker at the workshop will be Louise Delude of Ottawa, author of the Canadian Advisory Council's research document "Pension Reform with Women in Mind".

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solves the problem.

The booklet, which has been compiled by Wendy R. Katz, is full of useful information for avoiding sexist language. Author Katz points out, "where language is concerned, faculty, non-academic staff and administrators at a number of universities have conceded to the women's movement small but significant changes" but, of course, there's always room for improvement.

For information on this useful publication contact NSCUFA/CAPUNE, 1529 Dresden Row, Suite 7, Halifax, N.S. B3J 2K3.

New Computer Lab

Mount Saint Vincent University's new Computer Laboratory will be officially opened by President E. Margaret Fulton on March 17.

The facilities in the new lab include a VAX 11/750 computer, a terminal room, a computer lab containing GIGI colour graphics terminals and other video-display and hard-copy terminals.

"We had to have the best, because we are training women, and unless we provide them with the best equipment we relegate them to second class positions," Dr. Fulton says.

President Fulton believes that too few people are expert in the use of computers and says that "a mystique has been created which frightens people off. We would like to see this mystique broken down and that is why computer literacy courses are so important."

The Mount's program in Computer Studies emphasizes practical computer applications in the students' primary area of interest. Many major employers who have commented on the program agree that the Minor in Computer studies gives graduates entering any sector of the work force an advantage in obtaining interesting and rewarding careers.

Guided tours of the Computer Laboratory can be arranged during Open Week, March 15-18 by calling the Mathematics Department.

Student Leadership

"Leadership in the Eighties" will be the theme of a conference sponsored by the Mount's Student Council, on Saturday, March 13. Sessions will include "Robert's Rules of Order", "Special Needs of International Students", "Belonging to a Group", "The R.A. Job", "Alcohol Awareness" and "How to Act Like a Professional", among many others. Presenters are from the Mount, Saint Mary's University, Dalhousie University.

Any student in a leadership position, or contemplating being in one, should register for this conference. Contact the Student Union Office before March 11. Registration fee is \$5.00 for non-meal plan students; \$2.00 with meal plan.



**CANADA'S
ENERGY IS
MINDPOWER**

Notes and Votes

Opening March 19, two new exhibits will be shown at the Art Gallery: *Sybil Andrews, Printmaker*, from Campbell River, B.C., courtesy of the Glenbow Museum; and *All Fired Up*, innovative teapots, cups and saucers by Nova Scotia ceramic artists.

Dalhousie University and the Association of Atlantic Universities are co-hosting the annual conference of the Association of Canadian University Information Bureaus, Atlantic Region on March 11 and 12.

The theme will be Co-operation in Information — EPF and Beyond — and the

conference will attempt to develop an Atlantic approach to informing our publics of the situation currently facing the region's post-secondary institutions (for example, the implications of possible changes to established programs financing) and their role, value and benefit to the region.

Mount Public Relations Director Dulcie Conrad will be attending, together with Pat Copeland and Ruth Jeppesen from her department.

There are a number of items (gloves, mittens, hats, sweater, etc.) in the "lost and found" department at the Library's circulation desk. Please check there if you are missing any of these items.

Congratulations are in order to the new executive of the Student Council recently elected at the Mount.

Although it was somewhat disappointing that only one position on Council was contested, just the same we extend good wishes to President Alice MacKichan; Executive Vice-President, Leighton Wills; Academic Vice-President, Leslie Aitken; External Vice-President, Leslie Macdonald; Senate representatives Kerry Moorehead and Elizabeth Henderson; Part-Time Senate representative, Shirley Baker; Home Economics, Catherine MacDonald; Residence, Susan Tracy; Non-Resident Students, Heather Boutier.

Father Bruce Ritter will be speaking in Halifax at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 17, at St. Agnes Parish Hall, 6903 Mumford Road. This talk is co-sponsored by the Most Reverend James M. Hayes, Archbishop of Halifax.

Father Ritter, a Franciscan priest, is the founder and president of Covenant House, an international child care agency, and of its well-known crisis centre "Under 21", in Times Square, New York.

Homeless, runaway and sexually-exploited youth can come to Under 21 for help on a round-the-clock, no-questions-asked basis. Food; shelter; social, health, legal and vocational services are offered to the more than 12,000 adolescents who come to its door each year.

Two information sessions will be held for Student Assistants for 1982-83. Anyone interested should attend one, on Monday, March 8 at 4:00 p.m. in Rosaria 115; or on Thursday, March 11 at 12:00 noon in Rosaria 110.

Residence applications for Summer School are now available at the Housing Office.

Referendum

Students' financial support of Project One: Futures For Women will be the subject of a referendum to be held at the Mount March 15, 16 and 17.

Nelda Dalziel, chairman of the Referendum Committee, is busy setting up all the administrative details and says her committee members are planning to contact every student both on and off campus.

An open forum will be held on Wednesday, March 10 at noon, in Seton Academic Centre, to inform students about Project One and tell them why their support is needed.

Visits to classrooms are being arranged with Mount President, Dr. E. Margaret Fulton and Project One Chairman Mrs. Ruth Goldbloom, who will be able to answer questions and tell students what progress has already been made with the current fund-raising campaign.

Voting will take place on the evenings of March 15 and 16, and all day on March 17, with ballot boxes placed at strategic spots on campus. Pamphlets will be distributed and information published in the student newspaper, The Picaro. Students are urged to avail themselves of all the data on Project One so that they can make an informed decision at the time of the referendum.

**OPEN WEEK
March 15-18, 1982
Make our Visitors
Feel at Home**

Those Little Plastic Cards

When Peter Ustinov tells us on television "Don't leave home without it", he's probably preaching to the converted, for most of us already carry some form of credit card with us at all times.

The fact that little plastic cards are fast replacing the use of paper money is well known, but what is not so well documented is the use made of credit cards and how we perceive them.

There have been relatively few published studies which have addressed themselves to credit card use behaviour and studies related to Canada are virtually non-existent.

In an effort to provide some insights into the characteristics and attitudes of Nova Scotian credit card holders, Dr. Erdener Kaynak, Chairman of the Mount's Business Administration Department, has carried out a special study involving 200 households in the Spryfield area of Halifax. This study area is very cosmopolitan in nature, with households of diverse socio-economic and cultural backgrounds, and therefore considered to be a fair cross section of the Nova Scotian population.

Results of the research show that card users are predominately female (69.8 per cent), more than two thirds of them are under the age of 40, with most being younger than 30 years of age.

Income distribution of card holders was even and the most widely-mentioned occupations were administrative position and housewife.

A large number of respondents (70.7 per cent) own some type of credit card or cards, the most common being Visa and the second most important being a retail store credit card such as Simpsons or Sears. Next in popularity are Mastercharge and gasoline company cards.

A majority of the respondents (37 per cent) pay up to 20 per cent of their total purchase by credit cards; another 25 per cent use their cards for other purposes such as a means of identification.

The difference in distribution of credit cards between male and female is small for the most common types of credit card. More women report possession of department store cards and Mastercharge. More men own gasoline company credit cards, Canadian Tire and Visa cards. American Express, Diner's Club and Carte Blanche are almost exclusively held by men.

Nearly everyone questioned believes in the usefulness of credit cards and say they are more convenient than cash or a cheque. They also realize that they encourage impulse buying, tempt consumers to buy articles they may not really need and also increase the total consumer debt.

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