

the connection



Mount Saint Vincent University, Halifax, Nova Scotia

Sixty Years Of Memories . . .

by Ruth Jeppesen

Evaristus Hall is quite an imposing structure. But according to Sister Francis d'Assisi (president of the Mount from 1954 to 1965), it started out to be more than twice its present size.

When Mount Saint Vincent College was accepted in the National Conference of Canadian Universities in 1949, it had no independent buildings—the college shared residence and other facilities with the Sisters of Charity convent. By that time, though, plans for a new building were well underway and the cornerstone of Evaristus Hall was laid that same year, Sister d'Assisi said.

Contractors originally drew up three sets of blueprints for the new building, each with the same basic requirements but having different prices depending on the width of corridors, etc. Sister d'Assisi said, "they said to allow one dollar for each cubic foot of space".

The committee responsible decided on the least expensive of the plans and sent the blueprints off to Mother Evaristus, then in New York, for final approval. "She wired back that all was satisfactory, except the committee must cut the building to half the proposed size!"

Not to be discouraged completely, Sister d'Assisi said, the committee

went to work and lowered each of the ceilings by one foot, took one floor off the library, took out the laundry . . . and made enough adjustments to bring the final plans down to a size which was even less than half of the original proposal!

During these years of ever-increasing enrolment and demands on space, it is easy to wish that Evaristus Hall was twice its size. But it is also easy to understand that the kind of frugality and determination that Sister d'Assisi talked about is the "backbone" of this institution which has grown from a small academy for novices and young girls to the university of today.

Another bit of Mount history associated with Evaristus Hall is the little known fact that the existing building was planned to be erected on land now occupied by Saint Mary's University.

Almost 40 years ago, when plans were being discussed for the new building, the Sisters felt it should be located in the inner city so more students and others could have easier access to it.

"Rockingham in those days was far removed. There was no Clayton Park or other subdivisions which really didn't get underway until the late 50's and during the 60's."

An agreement was made between the Sisters of Charity and the Archdiocese to purchase some of the land acquired in south end Halifax. Architect's plans were drawn up to build what turned out to be Evaristus Hall on that land. But the day before the sod-turning ceremony, there was a change of plan and the Sisters were forced to look over a number of possible sites on their own property at Rockingham.

Saint Joseph's Hill was finally selected and Evaristus Hall was built. Fortunately, it was well under construction when fire wiped out the Mount's main building in early 1951. By the fall, students and the sisters moved in and the rest is history.



Sister Patricia Mullins, Dean of Humanities and Sciences (left), Allan Shaw, President of L.E. Shaw Limited and Dr. Pauline Jones, Academic Vice-President, met for an informal chat during a recent work education symposium hosted by the Co-operative Education Department at the Mount.

230 Attend Work Symposium

A recent work education in-service hosted by the Mount's Department of Co-operative Education brought in more than four times the number of participants expected.

A joint project of the Provincial Department of Labour and Manpower, the Department of Education, the Mount's Co-operative Education Department and the Nova Scotia Teachers Union, the symposium attracted teachers from secondary, vocational and technical schools in the area, the teachers college, members of school boards, principals, government representatives, the YWCA and other agencies.

The purpose of the symposium was to develop an awareness of work education in Nova Scotia and Canada; to share successful ideas and practical programs; to identify the needs of teachers involved in work education and to explore ways of including a co-op education component in vocational and technical training.

"The real merit of the day," says Ivan Blake, director of the Mount's Department of Co-operative Education "was the fact that people

who had been toiling in the vineyards of work study programs for years had a chance to meet others in the same work. They were able to exchange information and ideas and the message was delivered that the province is really interested in what they are doing."

LaJune Naud from the provincial department of education and Kathie Swenson of the Nova Scotia Department of Labour and Manpower, co-chairs for the occasion, set the scene for the symposium early. From then on, discussions and workshops

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Training Program

MARCH 20 IS THE DEADLINE for anyone interested in applying for the Medical Transcription Training Program at the Victoria General Hospital.

After successful completion of the three-month course (April-July) students may be offered a full-time clerical position at the hospital. Further information and civil service application forms can be obtained from the Canada Employment Centre on campus, or from Student Services, Rosaria Centre.

The
Mount
1925/1985

Alumnae Update

With the school year rapidly drawing to a close, the alumnae association is finding plenty of outlets for its activities here on campus. Most recently, the association was involved in the preparations for International Women's Week sponsoring a special Coffee House as part of the festivities.

Performers included alumna Cheryl Gaudet and the combined efforts of the popular local group, Clearing By Noon, aided by Gaudet and Patricia Lerner.

In connection with the university's Open Campus Days, another outlet was found for alumnae talent in a Coffee House sponsored by the Admissions Office. Alumnus Danny McKinnon (some will remember him as Judas in the 1982 Mount production of *Godspell*) teamed up on this occasion with Cheryl Gaudet for a special musical treat for the many newcomers to our campus.

The regular meetings of the Harbour Folk Society, sponsored by the alumnae association, continue to draw standing room only crowds, and organizers look forward to another sell-out crowd at their April meeting. The Harbour Folk group encourages participation in the "open mike" portion of these evenings, so anyone with musical talent to share, a folk tale to tell, or a dance to do, should show up at Vinnie's Pub on Harbour Folk Night, and let the hostess/host know she/he is interested in performing.

Preparations for Convocation Week are well underway, according to senior class presidents, Nancy Moar and Valerie Eddy. Over the past few months, they have been meeting with Alumnae Officer, Dilly MacFarlane to go over plans for alumnae involvement in Grad Week '85.

This year, the association will again be sponsoring its traditional "Planters Punch" following the tree planting ceremony in addition to hosting a grand reception for all graduates and their guests following the Baccalaureate Mass.

Association president, Debbie Pottie Matheson is looking for volunteers to assist in decorating for the grad ball on Saturday, May 4.

"The grad ball is such a wonderful time of celebration for our graduating class," says Matheson, "and the alumnae are delighted to participate by providing all the decorating and by offering a formal toast to the newest of our alumnae at the grad ball".

Anyone interested in taking part is urged to contact the alumnae office at local 136. "It'll bring back a lot of happy memories, I guarantee it", says Matheson.



This happy band of Mount choir members gathered for a reunion recently in the Don McNeil Room, where it was singalong time with a vengeance! The group has fond memories of many of the musicals put on by the Mount in past years.

Old Photos Form Exhibit

More than 100 photographs of people, places and activities taken between 1870 and 1920 are included in the exhibit An Atlantic Album at the Mount Art Gallery which continues until April 7.

This unique visual commentary on some of the social history of the period was taken from centres across the Atlantic Region who participated in the highly successful touring exhibition *The Past in Focus—A Community Album Before 1920*, when people contributed photographs from their own family albums and

scrapbooks to illustrate their world as it was then.

Mary Sparling, director of the Mount Art Gallery says in her foreword to the brochure accompanying the exhibition, "Little did anyone imagine the riches that would emerge once the initial plan was expanded to give equal emphasis to the photographic heritage from participating centres . . . A flood of exciting imagery poured in."

An Atlantic Album, she says, is the inevitable child of that project and the result of an extraordinary collaborative effort. It is jointly organized by the National Film Board, Atlantic Studio and the Mount Art Gallery. As a result of the enterprise a fully illustrated book with essays by Scott Robson and Shelagh Mackenzie is being produced by Nimbus Publishing Limited.

The exhibit was officially opened on Friday, March 15 at 8:30 p.m. by Gus Wedderburn, President, Black Cultural Society of Nova Scotia. The Mount's contribution to the exhibit consists of photos taken by Nova Scotia's black community.

Handwoven and embroidered garments made by the Inuit women of Pangnirtung, on the east coast of Baffin Island, are also on display in Art Gallery until April 7.

Women's Work from Pangnirtung shows how a small group of women have adapted their skills of making caribou or sealskin clothes for their families, to fashion out of cloth traditional garments which feature stunning embroidered depictions of Inuit life. Included also are handwoven woolen garments and tapestries.

This group of Inuit women gather together in a tiny house which they call Misuvik—"the place where we sew"—not much bigger than the igloos of old where the original traditional Inuit clothing was made.

Awarded To Woman For First Time

The Jules and Gabrielle Léger Fellowship has been awarded to a woman for the first time, this year. Dr. Janet Ajzenstat, of Hamilton, Ontario has won the award, given by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council for research and writing on the role and function of the Crown and Governor General in a parliamentary democracy.

Dr. Ajzenstat will study the views of two French-Canadian political writers, Pierre Bédard and Étienne Parent, on the British 'monarchic' system of government established in the Canadas in the 19th century. In addition to increasing understanding of the foundations of Canada's political institutions, she hopes to illuminate current debates about the constitution, conditions for stable parliamentary government, and the place of the cabinet. She argues that the monarchic system was meant to guard against the rise of a one-party government and ensure a continuing political opposition in Canada.

Dr. Ajzenstat graduated from the University of Toronto in 1959 with a B.A. in art and archaeology. She was awarded an M.A. in political science by McMaster University in 1972 and a PhD in political economy by Toronto in 1979. She has published several major articles on Canadian political developments of the 19th century and recently held an SSHRC research grant and a postdoctoral fellowship for a study of the political thought of Lord Durham. Dr. Ajzenstat is currently lecturing part-time at McMaster on Canadian politics.

The fellowship has a value of \$20,000, plus up to \$5,000 for research and travel expenses.

Money Donated

The grand piano donated to the Mount by the late Mary Dee Girroir, will be back at its place in Rosaria Centre by the end of this month, according to Dr. Piano, where extensive work is being done to bring it back into topnotch condition.

The Mount community can feel proud that money has been donated from many of the university's organizations to put this magnificent instrument back into shape. Michael Merrigan's office (Executive Assistant to the President) is looking after the main part of the cost (\$4,200) but the following have donated extra money: that was needed to complete the Mount Playhouse, \$500; alumnae association, \$500; faculty association, \$200; student council, \$200; staff association, \$100 and Jean Hartley, a personal contribution of \$50.

Don't Re-Invent Feminist Wheel Students Told By Campagnolo

It's two steps forward and one step back for Canadian women and in time of economic affluence "we prosper" but in times of recession "we lose ground", the Honorable Iona Campagnolo told a Dalhousie University audience recently.

Her address, entitled the Heirs of Margaret Newcombe (Dal's first woman graduate 100 years ago), was part of the university's stepped up promotion of women during the year. It was also Dal's contribution honoring International Women's Day.

Campagnolo said her mentor had been the late Senator Therese Casgrain (honorary Mount alumna '77) who also helped the Honorable Monique Begin (honorary Mount alumna '82) develop her feminist thinking.

During the 40's Casgrain campaigned actively for Quebec women to vote and led the fight to have the first family allowance cheques made out to mothers in Quebec (just as they were in other provinces). She had also been president of the New Democratic Party in Quebec and national president of the Voice of Women.

Women, said Campagnolo, until recent times had to seek achievement alone.

When Newcombe graduated 100 years ago the Dalhousie Gazette recorded "uproarious cheering" for the prizes won by "lady" students and women were sufficiently novel to inspire gallantry among men students, she said.

—Heavy Price—

But gallantry and chivalry then and now carried a heavy price tag for while the student newspaper pronounced the admittance of females to Dartmouth College as "sensible", the same paper habitually ridiculed women, particularly in sciences or mathematics, she said.

"The male editor and staff declared that girls simply do not think as well as young men," she said.

Campagnolo pointed out that more than 60 years ago (when the Mount was seeking full degree granting status) Rebecca West said "The woman who does not realize that by reason of her sex, she lives in a beleaguered city, is a fool who deserves to lose all the privileges that have been won for her by her more robustly minded sisters . . . this is not to say that feminism need be

shrill or hysterical . . . but one must be vigilant."

Yesterday was no place for women, said Campagnolo.

"Each generation should not have to re-fight the battles won by the women who went before, there can be no plateaus, no resting places, no easy outs, no irresponsibility. Newcombe's heirs, both male and female, must actively continue to seek the goals of responsible equality, not only for themselves but for the good of the whole society," she said.

—Leave Off—

She hoped the young women in her audience would not have to reinvent the "feminist wheel" and that they would pick up from where her generation would leave off.

In her view, however, women's progress would always be in a state of flux until "we revised the history of mankind to include us."

During conversation with Patrick Watson, Campagnolo questioned his television encounters with women of history who were either "Queens or courtesans rather than aspiring and inspiring women history should reveal to us". Watson's reply, she said indicated that human history only spoke of women as "saints, queens or prostitutes."

Campagnolo said it was time serious women academics challenged "with more vigor" the prejudiced history of women. "Feminine historic scholarship is of necessity, revisionist in nature, since until very recent years it has been the almost exclusive purview of males who quite naturally reflect their biases within the body of their work," she said.

—Rethink History—

Campagnolo said it wasn't just a simple matter of adding the missing dimension since that wouldn't make any sense—the process, she said, "requires us to rethink our entire relationship to history and the whole process of our contribution through time."

Offering some suggestions, the former federal cabinet minister and now national liberal party president, said democracy for Athenian women during the beginnings of western civilization meant "concubinage, confinement and slavery".

During the years of chivalry, she said, women had to weave rules for self protection in Aquitaine's "courts of love" to ensure that they and their

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Give Us Your Views

The main objective of the Connection is to keep our faculty, students and staff informed and to present an external face to the media, government and other universities. It has evolved in the four years it has been issued. Now we need to know if it is meeting its objective internally and if it's worth continuing.

	Yes	No
1. Do you read it regularly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Do the opinion pieces reflect the university?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Have you ever participated in an event because you read about it in the Connection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Does it reflect the university you know?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Should it carry more details regarding board, senate and other important committee meetings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Should it carry reprinted (from other universities) research news, opinion pieces and other stories?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Does the Connection help to give the Mount an "image"?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Could the (human/financial) resources necessary to produce the Connection be put to better use? Any suggestions?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please tick off and return to Room 215, Evaristus, through campus mail.

On The Move

Pat Conrad, lecturer in the Gerontology Department, has recently given presentations to the Nova Scotia Senior Citizens' Commission on homemaker training; and with Valerie White, Nova Scotia Senior Citizens' Secretariat, at Emmanuel Anglican Church on "Aging: Growing Older and Better". She was also a group leader at a planning workshop sponsored by the Halifax Seniors' Council at Veith House.

Dr. Carol Hill, Director of Student Services and Counselling, has been asked by the Dartmouth Teachers' Centre to participate in a seminar on "Women in Administration". Dr. Hill will explain the concept of mentoring as a tool to effective change.

Women's Studies Assistant Professor Deborah Poff will be presenting a paper on "Reproductive Technology and Ethics" at the Society for Science and Technology meeting to be held in Twente, Netherlands and a paper on "Feminist Epistemology" at the National Women Studies Association meeting in Seattle, Washington. Poff will also give presentations at the upcoming meetings of the Canadian Women Studies Association (Montreal), the Canadian Society for Women in Philosophy (Vancouver) and the Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women (Saskatoon).

Dulcie Conrad, Director of Public

Relations has just held workshops in public relations management including the establishment of marketing strategies for the YWCA's summer programs. She has also been invited to present a workshop on "how to promote effectively" for members of Beta Sigma Phi who will be meeting in annual session at the World Trade Centre March 23.

Academic Vice-President, Dr. Pauline Jones, was a panelist at a conference on Public Universities in Cities: Challenges and Opportunities in Canada and the United States, held in Tampa, Florida on March 13, 14 and 15.

Deans Clark And Mullins Reappointed

Sister Patricia Mullins has been reappointed to a three-year term as the Mount's Dean of Humanities and Sciences beginning July 1, 1985.

Dr. Susan Clark, Dean of Human and Professional Development has been reappointed for a four-year term beginning July 1, 1985.

Dr. Clark has also been granted a leave of absence from January 1986 to June 1986.

The recommendations were made to the board of governors by the Committee to Evaluate the Deans, chaired by academic vice-president Dr. Pauline Jones.

Board members were told that there would be "competitions" for the positions when the appointments

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Profile



Irma Rankin

Erma Rankin's philosophy of life is, "Have an open mind, never say you can't, and never say you don't know—you can always find out!"

As the Mount's Payroll Officer she knows, at least by name, everyone at the Mount. "Everyone's pay is important," she says, "and although some people might think it's a dull job, I find it exciting dealing with people and the confidentiality of the job is a big responsibility."

She came to the university 10 years ago—to the business office for the first couple of years, then switching to the payroll office as a "one-person show". She says that's the way it was until about four years ago when she started getting some help.

"I love the Mount because it's unique" she says and feels that it has an important role to play in consciousness-raising, especially where male students are concerned. "It would be wonderful," she feels, "if our male students would join the women's causes. After all, if a cause is just, it doesn't matter whether you're male or female."

Rankin enjoys young people. "I learn from them," she says, "and you're out of touch if you don't listen to them."

Her own young people, son Bob, an ATV news reporter; daughter Melissa (who was a student here and used to work in the Conference Office prior to marriage) and grandson Ryan Christopher, obviously play an important role in her life. "The hope of the world lies with the young," she says. "I always think of Bismarck's advice to them—work, work, work—but I think it should be combined with the way Eastern civilizations value the wisdom and experience of older people. Our society could benefit a lot from their accomplishments."

Life should be a collection of experiences, "as many pleasant ones as possible," Rankin believes. And living up to her own goals, admits, "there isn't much that I haven't tried."

She knits, sews, sketches, takes

photographs, makes jewellery and loves to do flower arrangements. "I have books and books on Japanese flower arrangements," she says. She gardens and talks to the roses ("it helps!") and reads everything. She's also a classical music lover, a symphony-goer and has a real interest in theatre.

When she went to Dalhousie University, where she took an arts course, she was frustrated because there was no drama department there in those days. "Now both Dal and the Mount have drama departments," she says, "and I think that's wonderful." Instead of taking drama she got a diploma from the Maritime Academy of Music.

For many years she was involved with a number of voluntary organizations but dropped out of them when, she says, "my life took a different course. I also felt that I had worked hard at volunteer work for a long time, and got to the point where I felt someone else could do it."

She acquired a taste for travel in the days when her husband was regional manager for Air Canada and has made visits to Florida, Bermuda and most recently to London for the latest theatre trip from the Mount.

"I hope the unique quality of the Mount remains," she says. "The advancement of women must continue."

When asked what she wants to do when she retires she answered, "Everything I haven't tried yet! But there probably won't be enough time to do it all!"

Supports CRTC Decision

Minister of State for Youth, the Honourable Andr  e Champagne, has expressed her support for the decision taken by the CRTC to postpone licensing hearings on a youth specialty service.

Coast-to-coast public hearings will be held this month, according to a news release by the commission's chairman, Andr  e Bureau. He said the CRTC recognized that young people want to voice their views on the program content of the proposed service because of the numerous requests he had received to delay the hearing.

"Working with the Canadian Council on Children and Youth, the Children's Broadcast Institute, and other youth-serving organizations, we will encourage young people to come forward with their ideas and concerns about the state of youth broadcasting," said the Minister upon hearing the news.

"From the discussions I have had with young Canadians, I know that they will welcome this invitation to have input into the CRTC process.

Canadian Women's Mailing List

Networking is one of those words being used a lot lately. One of the forms this has taken in the past couple of years is the formation of the Web Women's Information Exchange Society in Richmond, British Columbia.

A non-profit society providing information services to women, this group has started the Canadian Women's Mailing List (CWML) with a start-up grant from the Secretary of State Women's Program.

Now after approximately one year of building the list, it is hoped that it will soon be of a size suitable for use. The aim of the CWML is to "facilitate communication between feminist organizations and allow these organizations to reach out to women they might otherwise be unable to contact. In this way, Web can build and expand a broad base of support for issues or interests of concern to women across Canada."

When an individual or an organization is registered with the mailing list, various areas of interest must be indicated. The list will then

be sold at cost to women's organizations or individuals who wish to mail something within that interest area.

A group wishing to buy the mailing list must submit a copy of the item to be mailed so Web hopes to ensure that literature sent is of interest to women and not exploitive.

A donation of \$3.50 or more will help pay costs of processing a registration form, which can be obtained from Web Women's Information Exchange, 9280 Arvida Drive, Richmond, B.C. V7A 3P4 (telephone 604-272-5335).

The Mount has its own women's network mailing list (some 3,000) compiled from those who contributed to the Mount's \$1 campaign with representation from every province and territory in Canada.

Money Available

For the past few years, IMASCO Limited has been offering a scholarship program as a tribute to the International Year of the Disabled. The program, administered by the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, offers five scholarships annually, at a value of \$1,500 each, and is designed to provide financial assistance to women disabled students who wish to pursue university studies at the undergraduate level on a full-time basis.

A bursary of \$600 will be awarded for the 1985-86 academic year, by the Halifax branch of the Canadian Federation of University Women, to a woman 30 years of age or over who has been out of school for at least five years. Selection will be based on need, motivation and possible contribution to society.

For information on these and other scholarships and bursaries available, students should contact the Financial Aid Office, Student Services, Rosaria Centre.



Interuniversity
Services Inc.

Wednesday, March 20 will be "a day devoted to the use of microcomputers in education" with Kay Desborough of the Microcomputer Information Centre available in the Board Room, Rosaria Centre to discuss and demonstrate computer applications within the education environment.

She will be there from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and again from 2 to 5 p.m.

Emphasis will be on authoring languages to assist with courseware

development, test generation software, computer-assisted learning programs and evaluation of courseware.

At 3 p.m., a panel chaired by Dr. Normal Uhl, of the Education Department, will present ideas associated with learning through the use of CAL (computer-assisted learning).

Anyone planning to attend the panel discussion should call the Microcomputer Information Centre at 424-8893.

Social History Symposium

A symposium on Social History and Photography is being held by the Mount Art Gallery on March 22 and 23.

A first for the Mount, the symposium will examine the uses of historical photography for educational purposes.

A number of specialists in the field will talk on the subject from several perspectives. Sandra Gwyn, author of the recently published and widely acclaimed book *The Private Capital, Ambition and Love in the Age of Macdonald and Laurier* will give a talk on Photography and Historical Detective Work on Friday, March 22 at 8 p.m. A reception will follow with an opportunity to view the exhibition *An Atlantic Album: Photography from 1870-1920* which runs concurrently with the symposium.

On Saturday, March 23 starting at 10 a.m., Lilly Koltun, Public Archives of Canada, talks about Reading the Unwritten Record: How to Dissect Photographs as Primary Research Sources for History. Dr. Ken Dewar, of the Mount's History Department will follow with Why Look at This Stuff? What Problems do Photographs Present to the Conventionally Trained Historian?

In the afternoon, Dr. Patrick O'Neill of the Mount's Drama Department, will discuss the British Library's Canadian Photo Collection and its Implication, followed by Scott Robson of the Nova Scotia Museum who will give a talk entitled Now Hold It—People and Portrait Photography.

The symposium is free of charge to all those interested and the public is invited to bring along their own albums and scrapbooks.

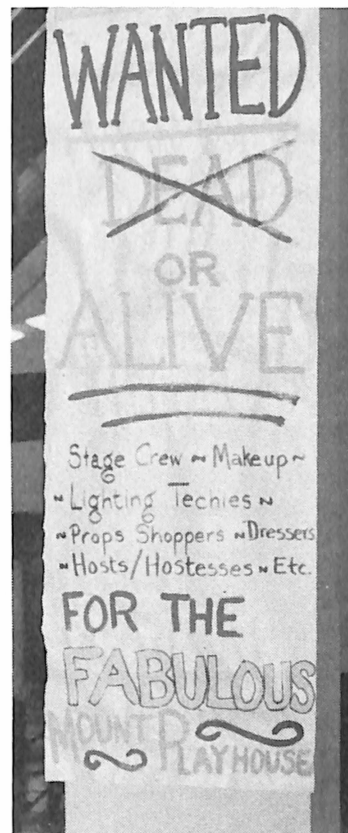
A light lunch will be available for a modest price on Saturday.

Festival Of Music

Over the past six years, Scotia Festival of Music has attracted hundreds of musicians, music educators and others interested in gaining insight into the creative music-making process. This year's festival, to be held May 26 through June 9 at the Dalhousie Arts Centre in Halifax, will include a six-concert Festival Highlight subscription series, more than 20 master classes by guest artists/faculty, five Young Artist concerts, lectures, demonstrations and open rehearsals.

Tickets are now on sale for the Festival Highlight series, at the Dalhousie Box Office (424-2298).

Those interested in participating in Scotia Festival of Music should contact the Scotia Chamber Players, 1541 Barrington Street, Suite 317, Halifax (429-9467).



Letter To The Editor

On March 19th and 20th Mount students will cast their ballots to elect new Student Council officers. I am running for president and would like to let students know where I stand on certain issues which affect them.

Housing has long been a concern of university students. The vacancy rate in Halifax is only .01 per cent with no sign of improving. As president, I would encourage students to work together to find solutions to this problem. One alternative is off-campus, co-operative housing for both female and male students. I would strongly recommend that council examine the feasibility of more off-campus student housing.

The status of part-time and mature students is something else that I would take a serious look at if elected president. Part-time and mature students make up almost half of this school's population yet most events are geared toward the 17-23 year old full-time group. As president, I would encourage council to take a look at the role it plays in the lives of all students, not just those who are full-time.

I also feel that council could do more to communicate with students. I have experience in the field of communications, having been both co-editor and editor of the Student Union Handbook. I have also written for the Picaro and taken courses in public relations which deal with communications.

The Mount is a unique school with

Auditions

The Mount Playhouse will be holding auditions at Room 345, Seton Academic Centre on Wednesday, March 20 from 7-9 p.m.; Thursday, March 21 from 7-9 p.m.; Friday, March 22 from 4-6 p.m.; Saturday, March 23 from 2-5 p.m. and Sunday, March 24 from 2-4 p.m. All are welcome.

its own unique problems. The student president should be someone with new ideas and experience. I have been treasurer and president of Assisi Hall Residence Council and I sit on the Leadership Conference Committee, the Awards Banquet Committee, the Professional Development Committee of the Public Relations Society and I am a founding member of the Co-op Society. In addition to my on-campus experience I have worked three workterms with Parks Canada and IBM Canada Ltd.

I will work hard as president. I would like you to vote for me and give me the chance to implement the changes which I feel are necessary to help make council more effective. On March 19 and 20, vote OSGOOD.

Thank you
Robyn Osgood

Thank you very much for helping us make The Celebration of the Healthy Woman such a great success. Your assistance and suggestions at meetings and the great public relations effort put forward and organized by the PR office for us certainly got the people out to the Mount.

We believe we had over 1,000 women here that day.

Sincerely,
Pat DeMont,
Chairperson

What's Going On?

The University of Winnipeg and Collegiate Division are planning the first University of Winnipeg Homecoming Weekend, October 18-20, for any alumni, family and friends. Information and registration forms are available from Eileen Burrows, Director of Alumni Affairs, University of Winnipeg, 515 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 2E9.

The Fifth Annual Conference on Teaching and Learning in Higher Education will be held at the University of Ottawa, June 16-19. Advanced registration will close May 11. Contact Patrick Babin, 621 King Edward Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario K1N 6N5.

Anyone interested in receiving a copy of the **Journal of Comparative Study of Civilizations**, to be published this month by the Canadian Society for the Comparative Study of Civilizations, should send \$10 to the society c/o Dr. Erwin Waschig, Managing Editor, 150 Bloor Street West, Toronto, Ontario M5S 2X9.

The Mount Saint Vincent University Education Society will hold a conference on "Current Trends in Education, March 22 and 23. Speakers will discuss such issues as child abuse, drugs, computers in education, curriculum development and the hearing impaired.

Open to the public at a cost of \$15 (\$10 for Mount Education students). Information can be obtained from the Education Society or by calling Greg Golden, 429-8074 (evenings).

The University Without Walls International Council invites submissions of papers related to new concepts in higher education to be considered for publication in the journal **Innovative Higher Education**. Content should be of interest to the international community.

Submissions should be sent to Dr. Erwin Waschig, Editor, University Without Walls International Council, c/o Canadian School of Management, Suite 715, 150 Bloor Street West, Toronto, Ontario M5S 2X9.

Anyone interested in the profession of occupational therapy is invited to Education Night, 7-9 p.m. Thursday, March 28 at the School of Occupational Therapy, Forrest Building, Dalhousie University. Sponsored by the faculty and student society of the school. Further information can be obtained by calling 424-3809.

Opinion

by Diane Gauvin Samoiloff,
student

Housing is a vital concern to everyone. For Halifax students it is more than a concern; it is a crisis. And for single-parent students, the crisis becomes desperate.

Housing is quickly becoming a greater barrier to higher education for single-parent students than economic resources. This situation is of particular interest to the Mount community in view of the fact that 84 per cent of single-parent families in Nova Scotia are headed by women, and that the Mount makes a continuing commitment to women in higher education.

Single parents who attend the Mount cannot tap into student housing, thus forcing them to seek accommodation in the open Halifax housing market and the obstacles are numerous.

The first and most obvious is the lack of money to pay market rents. The single-parent student's income is usually dependent on savings, or social allowance, or student aid, or a combination of these.

For a single parent with one child, the maximum shelter allowance currently available is \$408/month (including utilities). The average rent for a two-bedroom apartment as of October is \$470/month (without utilities). If a single-parent student's income is based solely on social allowance, the average rent constitutes 73 per cent of this income. If this same student's income was a combination of both social allowance and student aid (assuming a maximum yearly loan of \$3,570, and a bursary of \$1,700), the proportion would be slightly better. A two-bedroom's rent would constitute 47 per cent of income, while a one-bedroom 40 per cent.

—Steady Rate Increase—

It is important, when considering current rentals, to keep in mind that there has been a steady rate increase of 6.3 per cent in Halifax rents, while social allowance and student aid remains the same. So in essence, with time, the single-parent student is paying an ever-increasing proportion of income on rent.

The second obstacle, is the discriminatory attitude which considers the woman single parent as a poor financial risk. The woman who was once part of a marriage often has no credit record of her own. Landlords, (and in some instances, non-profit housing authorities as well), often assume that single mothers won't pay the rent, or that children will destroy the apartment, or that the family will vanish in the middle of the night. Though this attitude is directed at women single

parents in general, it becomes quite lethal when combined with discrimination against "welfare mothers" and students.

The third obstacle is the disturbing prevalence of discrimination against children in the rental market and the increase in "adults only" buildings. One child only is still placeable, but two or more children are now just about impossible to have accepted into rental accommodation.

The fourth obstacle is more insidious. Landlords may be unwilling to rent to a single mother because they feel single-parent families are "unstable". Households headed by women do undergo changes, which sometimes could include an increase or decrease in family members, or even complete reformation. These changes should not be viewed as a form of instability, but rather as a part of the dynamics of change in response to development in the life cycle.

—Issues Of Morality—

Issues of morality become linked with the prevalent view of instability. This becomes manifested in the reluctance to improve provisions, including housing, for single-parent families, for fear that the institution of marriage would be eroded.

The fifth obstacle, which is the compounding factor in the housing crisis faced by single-parent students, is the extremely low vacancy rate in Halifax. The city's vacancy rate in October was 0.4 per cent; around the Mount and in the North end it was 0.2 per cent, in the South end 0.1 per cent, in the Spryfield area 0.3 per cent, in Halifax County 0.4 per cent, and in Dartmouth 0.8 per cent. The few vacancies available took Mount students further afield, increasing transportation costs.

Single-parent students who found suitable accommodation in this market were lucky. It is unrealistic to continue banking on individual luck, in hoping that single-parent students and their children will be adequately housed while attending the Mount.

More often than not, single-parent students end up in grossly inadequate shelter arrangements involving a combination of the following factors: having to travel lengthy distances to the university; "doubling up"; cramped and/or substandard housing; over-priced housing and no security of tenure.

A few "inconvenienced" students may not be reason enough to prompt the Mount to review its long-range planning, but the underlying trend as evidenced by the increasing presence of single-parent students on campus should.

Women heading families are getting younger and older; women experience more frequent changes in

family and marital status than in the past; their chances are greater for living alone or being independent from relations or marital arrangements, whether or not they have children. There is a further spread of the responsibility for children in the lowest income groups.

Even with improved job opportunities, the income position of women heading families has hardly improved; in fact, it has kept behind in pace from the inflation rate.

Nearly half of single-parent families headed by women live below the Statistics Canada low-income cut-off. The frequency of low income for single mothers is more pronounced in the Maritimes than in the rest of Canada, and was highest for single mothers in the 15-24 and 25-34 year age groups. More than one in every three relies on social assistance at one point or another. For the single parent who seeks to work, the income derived from a minimum wage makes it harder to support a family with a pay cheque than with a welfare cheque.

The poorest of the poor are now single-parent women who are responsible for raising children alone. The only road to economic self-sufficiency involves paid work which provides a higher level of earnings.

For women who seek to break out of the system of poverty and economic dependence, re-training and furthering their education is often their only solution.

The Mount plays a very important role for these women. As an institution of higher learning which focuses on the needs for higher education of women in general, it is a natural place to turn to. As a university, the Mount has a distinctively high number of part-time students and the average age of students is getting older.

Although many women who attend university have fairly stable housing arrangements, two sets of single-parent students are particularly vulnerable to facing a desperate housing crisis and as a consequence, can abandon the notion of furthering their education.

The first set are single-parent students from outside Halifax. These students often have to move to the city from rural areas or smaller towns which cannot provide them with the educational opportunities they seek. This set of Mount students are the ones who most often turn in panic to housing agencies. Last September, Collins House, Access Housing and the Neighbourhood Housing Association all had to respond to queries from Mount students needing accommodation. This panic was not necessarily brought on by being ill-prepared, but because of an

unsuccessful search for housing. Even Collins House could not provide emergency accommodation.

What happens to these students?

They usually double up; camp out with their children in friends' or relatives' homes, begin classes and hope to find accommodation within reasonable time.

The second set are single parents whose loss of income, because of the switch to full-time study, would put them in a position where they could no longer afford their present housing. A move back to school could also result in a move to cheaper accommodation.

—Another Hazard—

Single-parent students who rent, face another very real hazard to their education: having to move before the semesters are over.

One such student, Peggy Thoyer, must move by April 1st. As a single-parent woman with one child and limited income, her search is very difficult. Keeping up with a full-time course load and fast-approaching exams, parenting, and what should be a full-time search for housing will be impossible.

Unless she is lucky, something will have to give. Whatever the outcome of her situation, the added stress will take its toll.

What single-parent students at the campus need badly is an alternative to the market which won't accommodate them.

Housing for single-parent students would ideally take into account particular locational and physical factors as well as security and income.

The Mount certainly has a role to play in this issue. Since housing is quickly becoming a great barrier to continuing education to a growing number of women who are solely responsible for children, I find it a crying shame that an institution whose mission is to promote women in higher education has a child care facility whose cost is prohibitive, and a lack of accessible housing resources.

Single-parent students are an "invisible" population on campus. They have little time to participate in most student forums and activities. Their needs on campus have not been expressed much by them in the past, but now is the time to examine these needs. The changing social, economic and housing conditions need attention in view of the growing presence of single-parent students on campus.

Editor's note: If anyone can help in any way with an offer of either temporary or permanent accommodation or to discuss this important issue, please call Diane Gauvin Samoiloff at 479-1863. The Connection will keep you updated.

Image Is Wrong

"Ultimately, the most effective way to reach the government is to get public opinion on your side,"

according to investigative journalist John Sawatsky. "And if the academic community can get the public on its side, it's going to be in pretty good shape."

Sawatsky, who has done investigative work in national security, is now studying lobbying. Through his research, he's discovered that the public can have a major influence on groups.

"Right now I think the public has this image that professors only loll around the office all day and collect a paycheck. This is the wrong image for the majority of academics."

To rectify the situation, Sawatsky suggests the academic community sell itself.

"This has never been so critical as it is now in the middle of the 1980's," explains Sawatsky. "Ten to fifteen years ago, our society was quite wealthy compared to what it is now. There was a larger pie to go around and government was throwing money at all kinds of places. At that time academics had the freedom to do as they wanted. Now people are questioning where tax dollars are going, and universities must fight for portions of a shrinking pie."

A professor himself, Sawatsky is now teaching journalism at the University of Regina, School of Journalism and Communication. *From Lakehead University Agora*

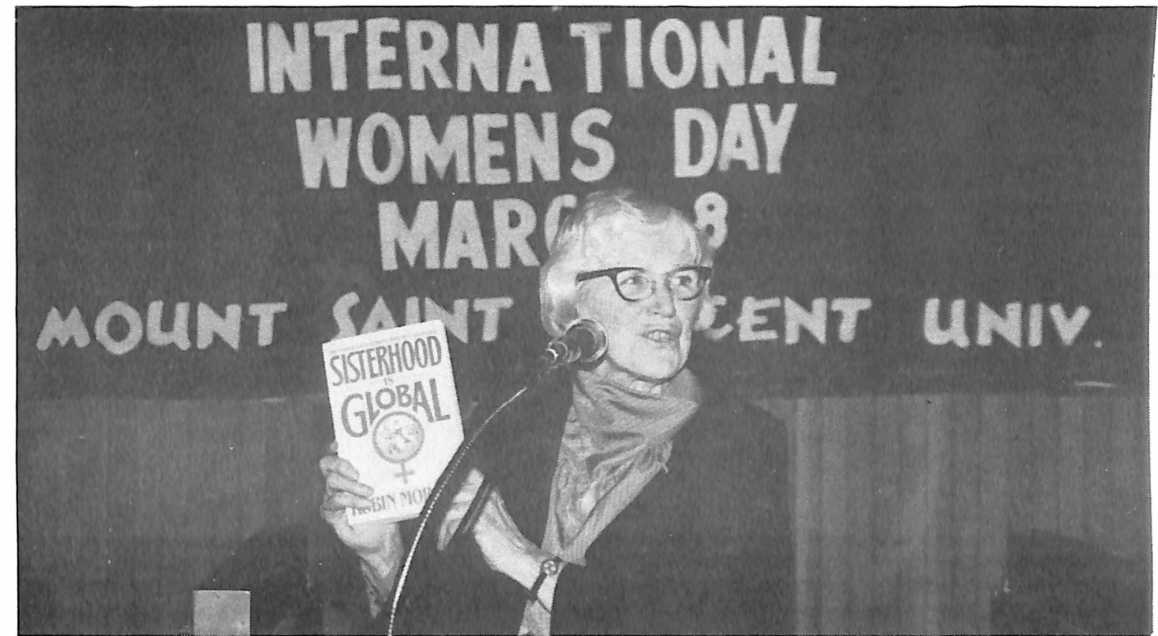
Campaign

Concerned with the impact of provincial cuts on university quality, Quebec's academics have embarked on a \$200,000 campaign "to publicize the treatment (the province's) universities are receiving, as well as to invite all Quebecers to join with them in voicing concern for the future of Quebec".

The campaign will involve a tour of all Quebec university towns; advertising; publication of a brochure that outlines the universities' contributions to the province and details the magnitude of cuts imposed on the university sector; and distribution of posters and buttons.

The English slogan for the campaign is "Heads in Mind!"—to emphasize that Quebec's future depends on its human resources and that "money spent on the universities is nothing less than a sound investment in Quebec's growth and progress". For further information contact Les Professeurs des Universités Québécoises, 2715 Ch. Côte-Sté-Catherine, Montreal, H3T 1B6.

Notes from AUCC



Dr. Muriel Duckworth was the main speaker at the Mount's International Women's Day Rally on March 8. She gave her audience an inspiring and poignant overview of the history of the women's movement, giving examples of feminists in the past who had campaigned for women's rights. Dr. Duckworth, who was awarded the Order of Canada in 1983 for her endeavours in this field, holds a number of honorary degrees from Canadian universities, including the Mount.

Reconceptualizing God

When you see a poster advertising a feminist theologian speaking on reconceptualizing God, you automatically think her idea is that God is a woman, right? Wrong!

The lack of men attending Elizabeth Dodson Gray's recent lecture *Shine, Shimmer and Dance: Reconceptualizing God*, at Mount Saint Vincent University is evidence that people expected her to affirm the female gender of God. In fact she told the small group of mostly women that her image of God was not as a human at all.

"It is clear to me that the creator of 93 billion galaxies did not have genitals," Gray said. "To call God male is idolatry." Later, when she discussed the option of God as a woman, she said it would be just as idolatrous to think of God as a woman.

Gray began her lecture with a historical look at why God is currently imaged as male and how this concept is problematic in today's society. As a second option she discussed the possibility that God is a woman, and how simplistic an approach it would be. A third option, and the one which Gray believes is more truthful and easier to justify, was then presented.

The feminist theologian from Harvard Divinity School outlined the course of history as having been documented from the man's point of view. "Within the social constructs of society from a male point of view, it follows that the sacred is in his own image," she said.

Throughout history, God has been seen as an authority figure, first as king and later as father. The first image of God as king fell from use

several centuries ago when the divine right of kings was discredited and kings became mere mortals.

"The right wing religious thinkers like Gerry Falwell uphold traditional family values that keep the father as lord and master: My home is my castle, women are in their place in the kitchen, the children are quiet and in their place, and homosexuals are stuffed back into the closet where they belong," she said, showing a drawing of the scenario done by her husband of more than 25 years, and an episcopal priest.

Irony of Male God

Gray says the image of God as father is headed for the same fate. She asked how the hundreds of thousands of children who have suffered physical and sexual abuse at the hands of their fathers could possibly respect and love a God imaged as a father figure. She used statistics from Judith Herman's *Father/Daughter Incest* and other evidence to display the irony that the worst offenders of the abuse are fathers who are seen as pillars of the church and community.

Gray said it was no better a solution to imagine that God was a woman. The one good thing about doing that, she said, would be in helping people shatter the long held image of God as a benevolent white man. "All this time men have imaged God as male to help them feel good about themselves," she said, adding that it would be silly for women to image God as female for all the same wrong reasons.

As the image she has of God, Gray chooses to believe in a non-human

entity, one which has the power to hold everything together from atoms on up. Everything relates to everything else in the systems of nature, she said. "God is a web" is one of the two favourite ways she had of describing the creator—"a web which ties everything together like rubber bands and makes everything work."

A second way she has of conceptualizing God is as a pulse. "Everything in the universe is a rhythm. Rhythm and resonance order that universe," she said. The pulses of the universe, the rhythms of God form a process of creativity which never stops, she said.

Gray said that by thinking of God "in this way, it is also easier to deal with our own mortality". She said we no longer have to get hung up on the notion that God would take care of us, but that "we are part of a much larger system," and that in that system "our mortality is part of the rhythm."

As a web or a pulse, "God is nonverbal." Gray said, "The communication of Moses with God at the burning bush needn't have been verbal. The bush itself is communicating the message that every bush is a burning bush, the ground we stand on is holy ground, and all of it the creation of God."

If God is nonverbal, Gray said "our best communication with God would be to understand and appreciate the intrinsic beauty of nature and how it is ordered." She used the rainbow as an example. God gave the rainbow to all living things, not only to humans, for fear that they

(Continued on page 8)

SYMPOSIUM from page 1

followed for the remainder of the day on subjects ranging from selling work experience to employers, to the importance of monitoring student performance, and work experience in adult education.

Allan Shaw, President of L.E. Shaw Limited and chairman of the Voluntary Planning Board, Department of Development, Government of Nova Scotia, was lunch time speaker. He pointed out the desperate need in education today for "co-ordination, co-operation, consolidation and simplification."

Shaw said a much closer liaison was needed between educators and employers and a better evaluation of graduates was necessary.

"Career counselling must be provided by professionals intimately connected with the work place on a full-time basis," he said.

Nova Scotia could turn out a skilled work force and as virtually all new jobs were created by small business, "schools and universities should work together with entrepreneurs," he said.

Ivan Blake says the provincial government was keen to see co-operative education grow, "and the Mount wants to service that need in whatever way we can, either with credit or non-credit programs, in-service workshops or resource material."

Blake says he sees co-op education as becoming a very big area and "we want to be a resource and training centre for co-op at every level."

An evaluation of the work education in-service is being carried out by students in Dr. Bill Hunter's education class.

DON'T RE-INVENT

from page 3

children survived their spouses' absences on long campaigns and crusades and inevitably early widowhood.

Historians should also look to the years of the Renaissance (a period of magnificent flowering in arts and sciences) as those of persecution for women often burned at the stake and resulting "in the grisly deaths of nine million women over more than three centuries."

Campagnolo said women's history is "so veiled and misted, yet here and there a truth shines out", like the nameless 14th century woman who wrote: "The trouble with women is men, the trouble with men is, that women are not the trouble with men."

Mature and part-time students are invited to the next CAPUS meeting on Wednesday, March 20 at 12:15 p.m., Room 442 Seton. Tea and coffee provided. Bring your own lunch.

Prizes Offered

The Atlantic Chapter of the Canadian Micrographic Society is offering prizes to two students in the Office Administration Department who have a background in records management. The prizes will be awarded to the students based on the merits of a paper to be written on a topic related to micrographics.

The first place winner will receive a cheque for \$300 and have her paper published in *Micronotes* (a CMS publication) and receive a one year membership in the society. The second place winner will receive a cheque for \$200.

All entries must be in by the end of April, 1985. When the contest has concluded, the executive of the Atlantic Chapter will evaluate the effectiveness of the program and a decision will be made whether to continue the program and/or extend the contest to other universities in Nova Scotia.

For further information call Catherine MacLean at extension 274.

Single Parent Families' Needs Seen As Critical In Canada

The redefinition of the family with all its complexities was the "most critical" problem facing Canadians today, according to Honorable Iona Campagnolo in Halifax recently.

Today, she said, 38 per cent of Canadian families were "single-parent families" and in this "new world" there were new questions demanding answers.

Because of long-held traditional attitudes, there were many children across the country "being raised in poverty, with poor housing, barest nutrition, little human caring and diminished educational access", she said.

Campagnolo said women had to fight the "feminization of poverty."

The single mother (and occasional father), living on welfare or unemployment insurance, she said, were not a rare family any longer.

"We much encourage a new and caring ethic in this society; one that includes the atypical home and care for those family members who are battered and abused. It means we must respond positively to those so-called 'issues of concern to women' that are not in fact women's issues at all, but issues of concern to civilized society."

Women had to continue the battle for proper pensions and a dignified and respected place for those whose only sin was "to have grown old," she said.

Traditional institutions (like universities) were "less and less" likely to make room for women to explore or express their spiritual dimension therefore "we must develop systems that will allow us to do so in security and confidence," she said.

Are there special ethics to be developed among and for women? she asked.

"Yes, women have ethics, women are spiritual, women are responsible, women have integrity, yet, I repeat, when was the last time you honestly heard those words uttered in relationship to women?"

Campagnolo, who knows something about being a single mother, said

women should not allow themselves to be intimidated by those who cry out for a return to a yesterday that never existed for them.

"We must never capitulate to the startling statistics that show our sex steadily growing poorer. Women cannot allow the myriad blunt and subtle persuasions of our age to deter us from our goal, however painful the progress may become," she said.

And what is it that women want? Women want what every civilized human being wants—fairness, respect, equality! she said.

Anne's Author

"A girl does not—or, at least, should not—go to a university merely to shine as a clever student, take honors, get through and then do something very brilliant. No, she goes—or should go—to prepare herself for living, not alone in the finite but in the infinite. She goes to have her mind broadened and her powers of observation cultivated. She goes to study her own race in all the bewildering complexities of its being. In short, she goes to find out the best, easiest and most effective way of living the life that God and nature planned out for her to live."—From *A Girl's Place at Dalhousie College*, by student Lucy Maud Montgomery, in the Halifax Herald, April 29, 1896. (Dal News)

DEANS from page 3

came up again.

The following faculty were also approved for tenure: Dr. Leslie Brown, Asst. Prof. Barbara Casey, Dr. Nanciellen Davis, Dr. David Furrow, Asst. Prof. Mary Lyon, Dr. Armand Morel, Dr. Margaret O'Brien, Dr. Barbara Rao, Asst. Prof. Judy Scrimger and Asst. Prof. Jon White.

Two-year contract renewals have been granted to Dr. Susan Drain, Dr. Frances Early, Dr. Frank Bennett, Asst. Prof. James Macaulay, Lecturer Musetta Thwaites, Asst. Prof. Rod Tilley, Lecturer Pat Conrad, Dr. Margaret Ellison, Dr. M. Goosens-Conlon, Lecturer Deborah Morris, Lecturer Shirley Potter, Dr. Barbara Hodkin, Dr. Robert Lake, Lecturer Ron Pearson, Asst. Prof. Marie Riley and Dr. Norman Okihiro.

One-year contracts were extended to Mount Instructors JoAnne Hurst, Colette MacDonald and Catherine MacLean.

Sister Geraldine Anthony, PhD. and Dr. Hugh Wallace have been extended one-year contracts subject to the outcome of position reviews.

GOD from page 7

wouldn't get the message of its beauty without words.

She said "we are stuck on the concept that words are needed to communicate with God".

A member of the audience suggested that "just being is a prayer," and Gray agreed.

Gray finished her lecture with an observation of the dance-like beauty of the rhythms of nature, leaving a traditional religious song open to a whole new set of interpretations. "I am the Lord of the dance of life," a student of Gray's reworded the chorus to excise a masculine image, and dwell on the rhythm of the dance.

Elizabeth Dodson Gray was educated at Smith College and Yale Divinity School. She is the author of *Green Paradise Lost* and *Patriarchy as a Conceptual Trap*.

the connection

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