

Campus Connection

Mount Saint Vincent University

February 12, 1990

Week of reflection planned by metro universities and colleges

In response to the December tragedy at Montreal's Ecole Polytechnique, the Mount is joining other metro universities and colleges for a week of observation and discussion on society's reaction to violence against women.

During the week, entitled "Looking Back, Looking Forward: Women and Men Reflect", members of seven institutions will examine the social issues facing women and men in and out of the work or study place.

A public discussion will be held Monday, Feb. 12, 7:30 p.m., in the Regency Room of the Lord Nelson Hotel. A poem dedicated to the Montreal victims, written and read by Halifax poet Maxine Tynes, will precede the discussion. Speakers include Claudette MacKay-Lassonde, P.Eng., a director of Northern Telecom and founder of Women in Science and Engineering (WISE), who will talk about Women in Engineering: a Working Relationship; Judy Hughes, field officer with the Transition House of Nova Scotia, on Violence in our Everyday Lives; Blye Frank, Acadia University sociology professor, on The Creation of Masculinity; and Barbara Harris, Dalhousie University's Status of Women co-ordinator, on Is Access Enough? Women and Universities.

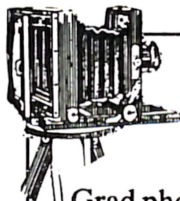
Dr. Krishna Ahooja-Patel, the Mount's Nancy Rowell Jackman Chair in Women's Studies, will moderate the discussion, and provide a summation. "I would like to show a connection between violence within the family and violence within the nation, as well as violence on an international level. I think

these three levels of violence form a pyramid," comments Dr. Ahooja-Patel.

An informal discussion, led by Claudette MacKay-Lassonde, is also planned for Feb. 12 at 4 p.m. in the T-Room of the Technical University of Nova Scotia. Everyone is welcome.

For the rest of the week, individual universities/colleges will be organizing events on their own campuses. The prime objective of the week is to encourage both women and men to discuss the effects of violence against women and how our society views and acts on this problem.

The Atlantic School of Theology, Dalhousie University, the Nova Scotia Technical University of Nova Scotia, the University of Kings College and the Mount will participate in the week's activities.



Grads!

Grad photos will be taken February 5-16, at the Student Union Office, Rosaria Centre. Sittings, with photographer Bruce Berry, are \$10 and are scheduled from 1-9 p.m., Monday to Thursday and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday.

Acclaimed photographer and artist focus of new exhibitions

Sam Tata, internationally-acclaimed Canadian photographer, will be at the Mount Art Gallery to celebrate the opening of The Tata Era, a national exhibition representing five decades of his work.

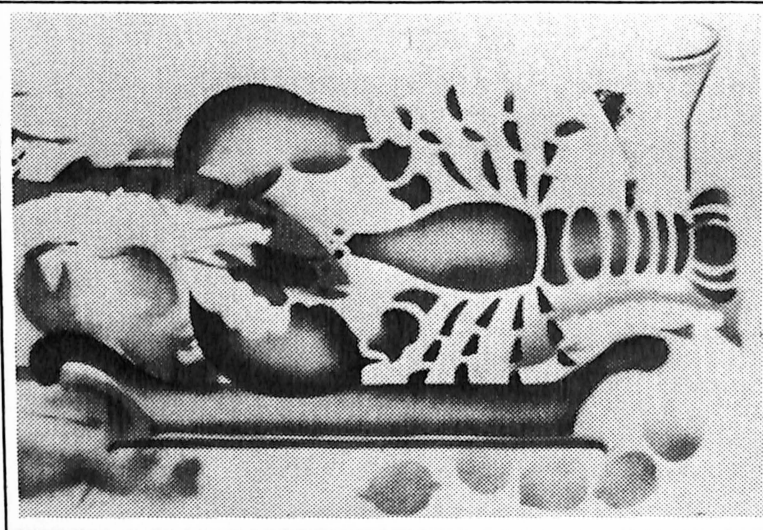
The exhibition, organized by the Canadian Museum of Contemporary Photography, is in the downstairs gallery from Friday, Feb. 23 to Sunday, March 25. Tata will be on hand for the opening Sunday, Feb. 25 at 2 p.m., and he will give a talk on his work at 3 p.m.

Four main bodies of work are highlighted: Shanghai, India, Photojournalism, and Portraits. In 1949 he was in Shanghai, the city of his birth, photographing daily life as Mao Tse Tung's troops entered the city. His photographs of India, the land of his forefathers, capture the many moods of an enormous, exotic land of contrasts. He has worked on assignments for numerous magazines, including Time and National Geographic, documenting people, events and places around the world. His ongoing series of portraits offers soulful insights into prominent artists and writers. The exhibition also includes work representing Tata's major interest since arriving in Montreal in 1956 — portraits of Canada's cultural minorities.

Still Lives, an exhibition of paintings by Halifax artist Gerald Ferguson,

will show concurrently with The Tata Era, in the downstairs gallery. Funded by the Exhibitions Program of the Canada Council, the exhibition highlights work from the past year. These recent paintings mimic familiar still life themes such as folk art stencil designs, as well as fruit painted in the manner of Cezanne and forms from Picasso's early Cubist style.

Gerald Ferguson will be on hand for the opening on Feb. 25, and will talk about his work, Friday, March 16 (not March 2 as reported in the Art Gallery Calendar) at 8 p.m. at the Art Gallery.



Still Life (1989), by Halifax painter Gerald Ferguson, illustrates the artist's technique of spraying acrylic paint through stencils to mimic folk art.

It's the second annual Beat the Blues Barbeque

The athletics/recreation office has a sure-fire way to chase away the mid-winter blahs: the second annual Beat the Blues Barbeque. It's happening Wednesday, Feb. 21 at Vinnie's Pub, with sittings at 12 noon to 1 p.m. and 1-2 p.m. Don your summer duds for even more fun.

Tickets are \$3.50, and are available from the athletics/recreation office, Rosaria Centre, or at the door.

Dr. Allan Neilsen's monograph urges critical thinking

In his recent monograph, Critical Thinking and Reading: Empowering Learners to Think and Act, Mount education department faculty member Dr. Allan Neilsen stresses the importance of giving students a more active role in learning.

The present public education system, he says, is based on a mechanistic world view which assumes that reality is objective and that knowledge is comprised of isolated facts and skills. This view, Dr. Neilsen argues, has given rise to educational practices which provide students with "intellectual hand-outs", rather than encouraging them to actively participate in the learning process.

He writes:

"...when students have little active involvement in the creation of concepts and principles, they often lack the intimate understanding needed to apply or adapt previously acquired 'knowledge' to a wide range of new circumstances."

He advocates an organic view of learning that stresses a reliance on personal experience, arguing

that if students accept that their perceptions of the world are rooted in their own experience, and are valid, they will have the confidence to look within themselves for understanding and meaning. Teachers are then collaborators, helping students to identify and learn how to solve problems that are of interest — beginning with things that students know, then moving on to new subjects, new tasks and new situations.

Dr. Neilsen attempts to foster critical thinking through a learner-centered approach in his courses at the Mount. He is also involved in in-service and field work aimed at fostering critical thinking in teachers.

Critical Thinking and Reading: Empowering Learners to Think and Act is published by the National Council of Teachers of English, and is available from the ERIC Clearinghouse on Reading and Communication Skills, Smith Research Centre, Indiana University, 2805 E. 10th Street, Bloomington, Indiana 47408.

Copies are also available in the Mount Library.

New continuing education program takes holistic view

A new non-credit program offered through the Mount's Centre for Continuing Education combines two current concepts in order to provide a better understanding of managing our resources.

Sustainable Development and Holistic Management is offered Tuesday evenings, 6:30-9:30, Feb. 27 - April 10. Based on the holistic premise that in natural systems the whole is greater than the sum of the parts, the program will examine the inter-relationship among people, resources and the ecological environment. In the process, the program will explore how we can responsibly manage our natural resources for long-term sustainability.

Instructor Kathryn Graves studied environmental/financial assessment at the Centre for Holistic Resource Management in Albuquerque, New

Mexico. "A holistic management approach strives for the balance, health and productivity of all resources — human, financial and environmental," she notes.

A holistic approach, she explains, starts by defining goals, which must consider practical production needs and the resources available. Next comes a management plan, designed with enough built-in flexibility to be altered when circumstances change over time. The bottom line, she says, is, "where do you want the land to be in 100 years?"

Graves maintains that holism offers the only truly effective and comprehensive approach to sustainable development. "We've already lost so much of the sustainability of our land because we haven't

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Host Family Association a mutual affair



(Foreground:) Dr. Naomi Hersom (left) and her aunt Margaret Smith (centre) are a host family to Malawi couple Chris Nsaliwa (second from left), a student in the Mount's Master of Arts in Home Economics Education, and Anthony Nsaliwa (second from right), a student in the Mount's Bachelor of Science program. Their son Tayangana joins them for the Host Family Association's sixth annual square dance and potluck supper.

Following a buffet of international dishes, about 200 international students and hosts 'do-si-doed' their partners at the Host Family Association's sixth annual square dance and potluck supper held recently in the Multi-Purpose Room, Rosaria Centre.

"I like meeting other people, both students and hosts, at these events," says Gladys Dongo of Zimbabwe, a second year student in the Mount's Masters of Home Economics in Nutrition program. "You relax from school work and when you go back to your books you are fresh."

Established in 1982, the Host Family Association (HFA) encourages friendships and the exchange of cultural experiences by linking international students attending one of the universities in the area

with local residences.

"As a university, we care about the students. This extends to the quality of life for students on and off campus," says Mount president Dr. Naomi Hersom, herself a host. She notes that through the HFA, "we have some way of reaching out to them in genuine caring ways."

The duties of a host are simple: to offer friendship and support by helping an international student adjust to Canadian life and the Halifax community. In exchange, hosts broaden their knowledge and understanding of other countries and cultures.

Judy McArthur is a second year student in the

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Dr. Carl Braun, president-elect of the International Reading Association and Professor Emeritus of the University of Calgary, will give a public lecture at the Mount on Friday evening, February 16, at 8 p.m. in the Seton Academic Centre, Auditorium B. Dr. Braun will speak on Literacy and Learning for the 90s: A Canadian Perspective, focusing on changes in literacy education, the "grass roots" nature of these changes, and current concerns regarding policies and practices in assessment and mainstreaming.

Dr. Braun, a much-published author on the subject of reading and language arts, has to his credit several books, including First Steps to Reading, Teaching the Language Arts, and Strategies for Less Able Readers and Writers. He is also a widely respected teacher, and the recipient of numerous teaching awards.

Dr. Braun will be the first Canadian president of the International Reading Association. The 90,000-member professional organization is dedicated to the advancement of literacy and literacy education around the world.

The lecture is co-sponsored by the Mount's Centre for Reading and Language Education, the

Nova Scotia Reading Association, and the Nova Scotia Reading Specialists Association.

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The Mount's Centre for Continuing Education, in co-operation with the Atlantic Provinces Life and Health Insurance Information Committee, is offering a series of evening seminars on retirement planning. "The Pension Panic", scheduled for Tuesdays, Feb. 13, 20 and 27, 7-9:30 p.m., is aimed at helping people to identify their financial, social and personal needs, and to incorporate these needs realistically into a retirement plan.

The first part of each session is devoted to financial concerns, including pensions, registered retirement savings plans, tax considerations and wills, while the second concerns the joys and stresses of retirement, managing leisure time, and adjusting to a new role in the home and society.

Registration is \$45 per person, \$75 per couple. For more information or registration call The Centre for Continuing Education, ext. 327.

A Note of Thanks

"Actions speak louder than words," but as I am unable to speak physically with each of you, words will have to suffice.

During an illness one tends to turn to family and close friends for support and comfort, and it is not surprising that help is available from this quarter. What has really amazed and comforted me during the past months was the love and support that I received from all of you at the Mount.

To all who took the time to write, phone, visit, send cards, flowers and gifts too numerous to mention, I want to, firstly, thank you from the bottom of my heart, and secondly, tell you how inadequate words are to convey how much comfort and inspiration your thoughtfulness has given me.

Bill Morris

How program continued from page 3

focused on the long-term, larger picture; we haven't focused on setting goals."

She notes that Sustainable Development and Holistic Management is aimed at "people in the community, people building citizens' groups. An effective development program must begin with the people closest to the land because they know the land best."

Kathryn Graves also has a Bachelor of Home Economics from the Mount, and provides training in resource management to private and not-for-profit agencies.

For more information on the program contact The Centre for Continuing Education, ext. 243.

Mount business students and Volkswagen Canada team up

Last semester students in Mount business administration faculty Helen Mallette's advertising class were asked by Volkswagen Canada, Maritime Region, to prepare a marketing survey and design an advertising campaign geared to Maritime customers and lifestyle.

The class, divided into five groups, conducted surveys in Halifax, Dartmouth, Truro, Bridgewater and Kentville. The Bridgewater group, consisting of Sally Anderson, Alf Blanchard, Alison Cameron

and Alan Havill, was judged the winner, and has been asked to repeat its presentation to Volkswagen management at the company's regional office in Dartmouth.

"It was extremely difficult to choose the winning group because the presentations were all so good," comments Mallette, adding that Volkswagen Canada was pleasantly surprised. "They didn't think undergraduates could do such a professional job."

Host Family continued from page 4

Mount's Tourism and Hospitality Management degree program. A full-time student and a single parent, she is also a host to an international student. "I like to travel, but because I'm tied down now with other responsibilities, I enjoy interacting with people from other cultures."

Coralita Shadrach of Antigua, a second year student in the Mount's Master of Home Economics Education program, was eager to join the HFA this year. "I did not have a host family last year," she says, "but I have a friend here who had one and I was really excited about the types of activities they were involved with."

The annual square dance is just one of the special events organized by the HFA. Most of the year, however, hosts and their students enjoy arranging their own activities when mutually convenient. Over the holiday season, Judy McArthur and her student attended a tree-lighting ceremony, went Christmas shopping and had a tree-trimming party.

Sally Little, a member of the HFA advisory board, who is also responsible for matching hosts and students, says that many international students enjoy simply spending time at the home of their guests, watching television, cooking, and just chatting. "Those students who have left husbands and

children behind really seem to enjoy spending time with families who have children of similar ages," she says. "They laugh at their differences and similarities."

Anyone can volunteer as a host, regardless of age, marital status or country of birth. The only requirement is a willingness to participate. Joining the HFA is an opportunity to make new friends and develop new interests, and a mutually rewarding experience.

Dr. Hersom and her aunt, Margaret Smith, are hosts to Chris and Tony Nsaliwa and their three sons, from Malawi. "It's very enriching to be in touch with people from a different culture with different experiences," says Dr. Hersom. "One is humbled."

Coralita Shadrach adds that the HFA acts as a support group for students. "It's good to have somebody you can rely on if you fall into difficulties. It gives you a feeling of family."

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