# McGill News

**Fall 1977**

The *News* salutes McGill's 65,000 alumni. In our feature articles and Focus profiles, we introduce ten graduates living in Canada and the United States.

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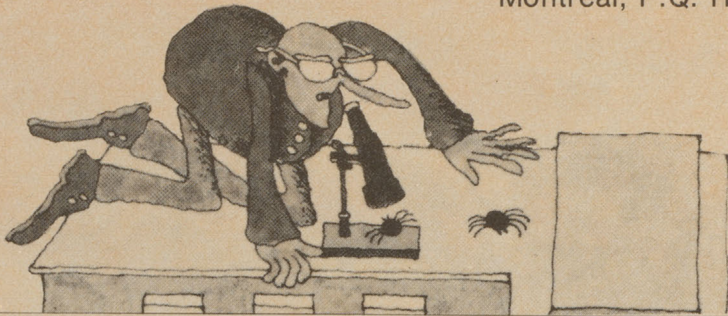

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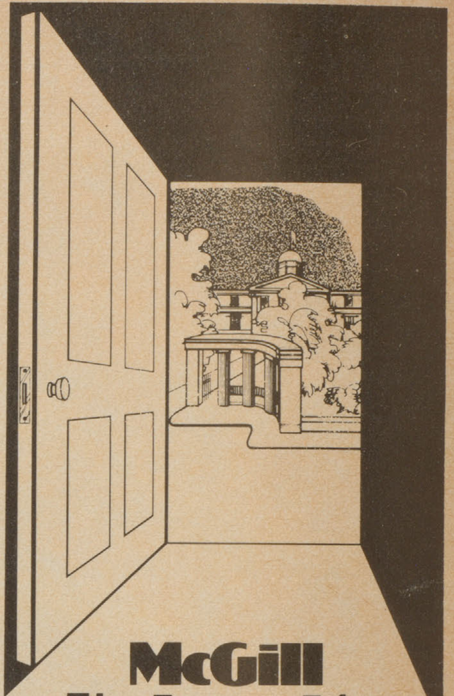

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# Notebook

In this issue the *News* salutes McGill's 65,000 alumni. In our feature articles and Focus profiles, we introduce ten graduates living in Canada and the United States. Though their ages, backgrounds, and professions vary, they have one thing in common: all studied at McGill and the experience has had an impact on their lives. Because of its content, this issue is being sent to all alumni, rather than to the usual 35,000 recipients — McGill graduate, parent, and associate donors and members of the three most recent graduating classes. We hope you enjoy it.

*Dr. Victoria Lees, incoming editor of the* McGill News *and the* McGill News Bulletin.

Readers may be interested to learn that the Washington-based Council for the Advancement and Support of Education honoured the *News* in its 1977 recognition program for alumni publishing. The magazine was named one of North America's top ten alumni journals, ranking alongside publications from universities like Brown, Harvard, Notre Dame, and Pennsylvania. It also won four awards for photography and graphic design.

For me this recognition was a particularly gratifying way to end my tenure with the Graduates' Society. After more than four and a half years as editor of the *News,* I have resigned to pursue a career in freelance writing and photography. Editing the magazine has been challenging, enlightening, frustrating, satisfying — in short, an educational experience I would not have missed. What I have enjoyed most is sharing in the diversity and excitement of university life and receiving response from readers — even letters that begin "Dear Sir."

It is a pleasure for me to announce that my successor, chosen from over 100 applicants, is Dr. Victoria Lees. Readers will already be familiar with her work. As a freelancer over the past year for the *News* and its biannual newspaper supplement, the *News Bulletin,* she has written several small articles as well as two major ones: "Theatre at McGill: A Tragicomedy" and "Marriage Medieval-Style," which appeared in the Spring 1977 issue of the magazine.

Lees has journalism in her blood. Her older brother Gene is a jazz critic in Los Angeles; her younger brother David is a freelance writer in Toronto. It took Lees, 33, longer to enter the field because, in addition to raising three children, she has earned three degrees in English literature: a bachelor's from the University of California at Berkeley in 1966 (she completed her first three undergraduate years at Queen's University, Kingston); a master's from King's College, London; and a doctorate from McGill last June. With her academic background, editorial instincts — and remarkable energy — Lees should raise the Graduates' Society publications to new heights. *L.A.*

# What the Martlet hears

**A Critical Juncture for McGill**
Last May discussions on Quebec's proposed Charter of the French Language (Bill 1) took on an increasingly urgent tone and typewriters clacked late into the night as individuals and institutions drafted briefs for public hearings on the controversial legislation. It was not easy to meet the deadline imposed by the Parti Québécois (PQ) government. Bill 1 had been tabled in the National Assembly on April 27, and a nineteen-member parliamentary commission was scheduled to begin hearings on June 7. Nonetheless, more than 260 briefs arrived in Quebec City on time.

One of those was submitted by McGill. It was written by Principal Dr. Robert Bell in collaboration with members of a newly formed advisory committee on McGill in Quebec (known by its acronym COMIQ), which includes staff and governors. A general statement supported by three detailed appendices, the university brief made clear that McGill supported the PQ's desire to bolster the French language and culture in Quebec. What it strenuously objected to were the coercive measures Bill 1 embodied. It contended that, by limiting access to Quebec's English schools and overriding the provincial Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms enacted in 1975, the proposed legislation posed a grave threat to minority groups and their institutions, including McGill.

On June 30 the principal and five other members of COMIQ travelled to Quebec City for an oral presentation and defence of McGill's brief. They made little headway. The ninety-minute hearing bogged down in an inconclusive argument over statistics. Cultural Development Minister Dr. Camille Laurin, the chief architect of Bill 1, challenged the brief's provincial school enrolment projections and other data that had been prepared by Carleton University demographer John de Vries. But the McGill spokesmen stuck to their guns and later submitted a written response to the commission clarifying and corroborating their statistics.

At least the university got a hearing, however unsatisfying. More than 200 other individuals or groups never had the chance to air their views. On July 8, fearing prolonged filibustering by the opposition, the PQ cut short the hearings, scrapped Bill 1, and replaced it with a new bill, 101.

Bill 101 differed little from its predecessor. It retained amendments that had made Bill 1 compatible with the Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms, softened certain business francization requirements, and permitted Inuits and Crees freedom of choice in language of education, but it failed to ease schooling regulations further. In August numerous changes were introduced. One major concession: medical and social services were made exempt from the francization programs imposed on private and corporate businesses. But that was not enough to endear the proposed legislation to its critics. On August 2, as public debate raged on, Bill 101 was approved in principle, and on August 26 it was passed in the National Assembly by a vote of 54-32.

The law has little direct bearing on McGill's day-to-day operations, as the university administration has emphasized in statements to the media and in letters sent to graduates outside Quebec. "McGill's basic identity," Bell has reiterated publicly, "is that of an English-language university." Nonetheless, the university is fully cognisant of the law's potential impact and is keeping a close watch on enrolment and staff turnover.

So far there has been no significant change. McGill had at least 120 more applications this year than last, although it granted fewer acceptances because of applicants' failure to meet the university's academic standards. At press time, though not all the figures had been tabulated, the Admissions Office estimated that overall full-time enrolment was down by 579 from last year's 16,387. There appeared to be an increase in the number of CEGEP graduates applying from Quebec — Quebecers constitute about 81 per cent of enrolment — and a small decrease in the number of students applying from outside the province.

In the next few years undergraduate enrolment is expected to dip at universities across Canada because of the country's declining birth rate since the 1960s. At McGill the trend may well be exacerbated by Quebec's language legislation. The new law obliges immigrants to send their children to French schools. Access to English schools is limited to children who are already enrolled or have siblings who are already enrolled; children whose mother or father was domiciled in Quebec at the time of the legislation's adoption and attended English elementary school outside Quebec; and children whose mother or father attended English elementary school in Quebec. Cree and Inuit children can be educated in their own language and in English. Temporary residents in the province may send their children to English schools for three years with an option for one three-year renewal under special circumstances.

According to projections outlined in McGill's brief, these factors may combine to reduce Quebec's English-school population — from which the university draws 60 per cent of its freshmen — to less than half its present size by 1986. The uncertain political climate in the province, furthermore, may deter both undergraduate and graduate students living outside Quebec — and within — from applying to the university.

On the other hand, the language legislation may precipitate an increase in applications from francophone Quebecers who wish to perfect a second language but are now barred from English primary and secondary schools. The Faculties of Agriculture, Management, and Music, as well as the School of Nursing, are the most powerful drawing cards for francophones. But other Faculties and Schools have begun to attract greater numbers, and francophone Quebecers now constitute close to 16 per cent of McGill's full-time student enrolment.

The McGill administration, perhaps remembering the short-lived but disruptive "*McGill Français*" movement of the late sixties, is taking a cautious approach on the issue. "If we have a major increase in French-speaking students at McGill," Bell said at an Alma Mater Fund dinner in mid-September, "they will be coming because it is an English-language institution.... If they come because they want to come, then I say as always, let them be welcome. If they come to us because

they are directed by some restrictive law, or if they *don't* come to us because they are directed by some restrictive law, then of course I'm against it."

Future staff recruitment may be subject to the same vicissitudes as enrolment. Traditionally, the university has drawn faculty from all over the world. Even the political uncertainty that Quebec has faced for years has not had a radical effect on staff composition. But francization programs in business and restrictions on children's schooling may make some potential candidates balk at coming to the province. So may the French-language tests that all professionals — including university faculty members who practise medicine, dentistry, law, or other professions part time — must pass within three years in order to obtain their licences. "There has been no flood of resignations," according to Bell, "but things tend to happen rather slowly on the university scene." McGill may begin to feel the repercussions in the not-too-distant future.

Another major area of concern is financing. Private fund raising has certainly not been adversely affected by recent events in Quebec. Indeed, last year the Alma Mater Fund raised a record $1 million from graduates and individual and corporate friends of the university. As important as it is to ensuring McGill a competitive edge, however, private giving accounts for only 3 per cent of the university's operating budget. Annual grants from the provincial government account for 80 per cent. There has been no indication of any immediate change in government policy. But a smaller student body would result in a lower subsidy, and it might not be possible for the university to lower its operating costs accordingly.

Clearly McGill is at a critical juncture in its hundred-and-fifty-six-year history. Even if Bill 101 were ruled unconstitutional by the Supreme Court of Canada, the francization of Quebec, as Law Professor Irwin Cotler puts it, "is inevitable and irreversible." The university appears to be taking the bull by the horns. Because students must have a working knowledge of French if they intend to remain in Quebec, efforts are being stepped up to provide wider access to functional French courses on the campus. The Law Faculty and Macdonald College have recently introduced specialized courses for staff, and enrolment in the overall staff program at McGill is up 25 per cent. There are 154 participants, ranging from technicians to deans. Collaboration with French universities also continues to expand.

In late September a bimonthly interdisciplinary seminar series began on multiculturalism and multiethnicity in Canada, with several McGill and outside speakers addressing themselves to facets of the Quebec situation. In mid-October, moreover, eighteen of the twenty faculty, administration, and non-academic staff members who sit on the university Planning Commission attended a retreat in the Eastern Townships to examine the changing role of the university and make plans for the future. Says Sue Boville, an *ex-officio* member of the Planning Commission: "McGill has been forced to take positive steps ... rather than reacting to events after they happen, as it often did in the past."

Many in the university community would like to see McGill retain its traditional tripartite role as a provincial, national, and international university. Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau offered some encouraging words when he was on the campus during McGill Open House in late September. "International understanding begins at the educational level," he said, lauding McGill for "welcoming people and ideas from everywhere."

The Quebec government may not be as magnanimous. Just three days after Trudeau's address, Premier René Lévesque made an off-the-cuff but public comment about McGill during a televised exchange with anglophone parents in his riding. He complained that at a time of acute shortage of dentists in Quebec, too many McGill dental graduates leave the province, and concluded that the migratory trend must reflect a high enrolment of American and other foreign students in the Faculty of Dentistry. "I've got nothing against the maintenance of a great university like McGill...," he said, "as long as it doesn't ... become the great Montreal university for cheap higher education for people from outside."

Dr. Eigil Pedersen, McGill's academic vice-principal, later refuted the premier's statistics and conclusions. He pointed out that the rate of outgoing dental graduates — many of whom seek graduate education unavailable in Quebec — has averaged 25 per cent in recent years, not 54 per cent as Lévesque contended. He also noted that of 166 students currently enrolled in the dental program, only seventeen are non-Quebecers (twelve Canadian and five foreign students). Pedersen added that the Quebec government fixes fee structures, not McGill. "It is not that McGill accepts a lot of people from all over the world in order to rob the Quebec taxpayer," he said. "What happens is that we have an international reputation built over a long period of time. We have many applicants from all over the world, very few of whom we admit."

*A three-day-old American kestrel bred at the Raptor Research Centre, Macdonald College.*

Where the PQ government stands officially on higher education should become clearer by the end of 1978, when a study group (the Commission d'étude sur les universités) under Laurin and Education Minister Jacques-Yvan Morin is scheduled to complete its investigation. There may be difficult years ahead for McGill. "The most threatening thing," says Bell, "is the deterioration of the non-francophone community in Quebec." Showing an initiative they often lacked in the past, Quebec anglophones — led in many instances by McGill alumni or staff — have begun to rally and chart a positive course. On their success rests the future of McGill. □

### Birds of a Feather

The Raptor Research Centre at Macdonald College is looking for mice, dead or alive. "In order to have an all-round diet for the kestrels and the larger birds, we could use more mice," explains David Bird, the curator of the centre and a PhD student in wildlife biology. "But

mice are very expensive — fifteen cents apiece — and hard to get." To supplement its regular supply of chicks and rats, the centre could use up to four hundred mice a week. It could also use a few other things that are considerably more expensive and even harder to get.

The centre, founded in 1972, is quartered in two converted poultry barns on the Macdonald campus at Ste. Anne de Bellevue. Its goal, according to Bird, is "to promote conservation of birds of prey through a multi-faceted program of public education, rehabilitation of sick and injured birds, and research." More than 350 raptors are in residence, including kestrels, hawks, owls, eagles, and peregrine falcons. But they have not been kidnapped from nests in the wild. Most have been given by overstocked zoos or bred in captivity. A few — like a one-eyed screech owl named Pirate — are permanently disabled, incapable of surviving on their own. "I really don't like to see birds of prey caged," says the curator. "I'd much prefer to see them flying free. But if the birds are available, why not make good use of them? That's what we try to do."

Educating the public is one way in which the centre makes good use of the birds — and in 1975 its education program won a White Owl Conservation Award from Imperial Tobacco Limited. Except during raptor breeding in the spring, visitors are welcome to tour the centre and read the posters and leaflets on hand. They are made aware of the importance of raptors to ecological balance and of the dangers that threaten their survival. Farmers trap the birds and hunters shoot them. Construction encroaches continuously on their feeding and breeding grounds. Environmental pollutants that have infiltrated the food chain at a lower level seep into the birds' bloodstream and cause reproductive failures ranging from thin-shelled eggs to sterility.

Combatting ignorance about raptors is a slow process, however. Birds suffering from gunshot wounds are still brought to the centre for medical attention, although in smaller numbers than in the past. Sick or injured birds that have some hope of recovery receive the benefit of up-to-date avian medical techniques. X-rays can be taken, antibiotics administered, or steel pins inserted to bring broken bone ends together. To ease bumblefoot, a swelling of the ball of the foot, radiation therapy can be given. Sometimes, of course, the best remedy for an ailing bird is simply a rest in a cardboard box in David Bird's kitchen. After successful treatment, those capable of surviving in the wild are released.

It is research, however, rather than rehabilitation, that is the focus of the centre's activities. Along with a few postgraduate students in wildlife, renewable resources, and other related fields, researchers include five faculty members who are interested in raptors and take time out from their primary research activities to give the centre whatever help they can. Funded in part by the World Wildlife Fund and the Quebec Ministry of Education, they have conducted studies on everything from artificial insemination to the physiological effects of pesticides.

Much of their research has concentrated on the American kestrel. The centre has accomplished the major feat of developing a breeding colony of over 300 of these birds. Explains the curator: "We want to have this species so well known that when you do any kind of experimentation, you will be able to find out what differences you have caused in your research."

The researchers have published over a dozen reports in the past two years. But the centre is one of the few raptor research facilities in North America, and much remains to be investigated. "I think the potential here is enormous," says Bird. "In northern Quebec, for instance, there are huge osprey populations that we could use to do studies on migration and to repopulate areas where the birds have declined terribly. We still have a peregrine falcon population in Ungava, and I'd love to get the money to go up there or send a graduate student to study the ecology of those birds. We could do all sorts of management projects, such as breed the birds here and send them up to bolster the population in the north."

Every year, however, the centre has to turn down applications from graduate students wishing to carry out just that type of research. Of necessity. There are no full-time faculty members to teach or advise them. Dr. Paul Laguë, a professor in the animal science department who spends part of his time in raptor research, believes that the centre badly needs a full-time director. David Bird — who might well be a prospective candidate when he completes his doctorate next spring — agrees. 'We're held back enormously by the fact that we don't have a director."

What prevents such an appointment, and indeed what jeopardizes the whole future of the centre, is a chronic lack of funds. In addition to giving the centre rent-free facilities, the university provided a fifteen-thousand-dollar grant in 1974. Private contributions trickle in from as far away as Ireland, and the Ayerst drug company donates rats to feed the birds. But money must be sought every year from the provincial government, the World Wildlife Fund, and other sources. The centre's current operating budget is a marginal $15,000. Improved and expanded research facilities would necessitate an additional $35,000 a year.

An infusion of funds and the appointment of a director are the best things that David Bird can imagine happening to the Raptor Research Centre. For the moment, however, a weekly delivery of four hundred fresh-frozen mice would keep the residents happy. □

## The Students' Society Revived

To those who were paying attention, the Students' Society elections last spring must have seemed like nothing short of a miracle. By the early 1970s the Society's problems had become so numerous, so monumental, so complex that even campus optimists began to doubt that any power on earth could solve them. In fact, dismay was tinged with relief when, in late 1975, the student executive resigned and asked the university Senate to suspend the Society's constitution and approve an interim structure until long-overdue constitutional reforms could be made.

For almost a year three committees under Senate's purview tried to revive the Society and keep the University Centre running. But they, too, ran into serious difficulties. The Interim Policy Committee (IPC), which was responsible for formulating Society policy, and the Interim Management Committee (IMC), which was responsible for implementing that policy and taking charge of day-to-day administrative affairs, feuded over jurisdictional authority. In the late summer of 1976, the IMC, chaired by Dean of Students Dr. Saeed Mirza, resigned. To make matters worse, the Committee to Restructure the Students' Society was divided and delayed in presenting proposed constitutional changes.

The Society seemed at its lowest ebb when Senate stepped in. Students returning to the campus in September of 1976 were startled to see Sam Kingdon, director of the university's Office of Physical Resources, in the Society's front office. He had arrived on one week's notice from Senate to become acting executive director. Both the IPC and the IMC had been suspended, and Kingdon had been given clear instructions to administer a trusteeship. "While I certainly wanted input from the students," he recalls, "it wasn't a democratic situation."

The *McGill Daily* newspaper and several student clubs and societies were appalled by what they saw as a direct move by the McGill administration to take over the Students' Society. But Kingdon was undaunted by the suspicion which greeted his arrival. To him the job was a new challenge and a refreshing chance to work in an area of the university in which he had not been involved previously. "There were any number of administrative problems," he says. "The [University Centre] building had gone downhill and working conditions were unbelievable. In some years the student executive had been out of control and had created bad situations for the Society's staff."

Kingdon was also quick to note the existence of a credibility gap between the Students' Society and Faculty and School societies such as the Arts and Science Undergraduate Society. "There wasn't one campus undergraduate society that didn't think that the

Students' Society was superfluous," he points out.

The Film Society, Players' Club, Women's Union, Radio McGill, *Old McGill*, and *McGill Daily* were painfully aware of this problem, too, and wanted to do something about it. At least partly to protect their own interests, they were anxious to keep the Society intact. Representatives from these groups voiced their feelings at information meetings that Kingdon held regularly in the University Centre. They suggested increasing student representation on the Advisory Policy Committee set up by Senate to assist Kingdon. (Only one of the committee's four members, Roger Robillard, the former chairman of the IPC, was a student.) But Kingdon was reluctant to add more students. He didn't want "a long-winded debate" about every problem he faced. After a few weeks, however, he reconsidered and agreed to allow five student observers to attend committee meetings on a first-come, first-served basis. Ironically, only one meeting ever attracted that many.

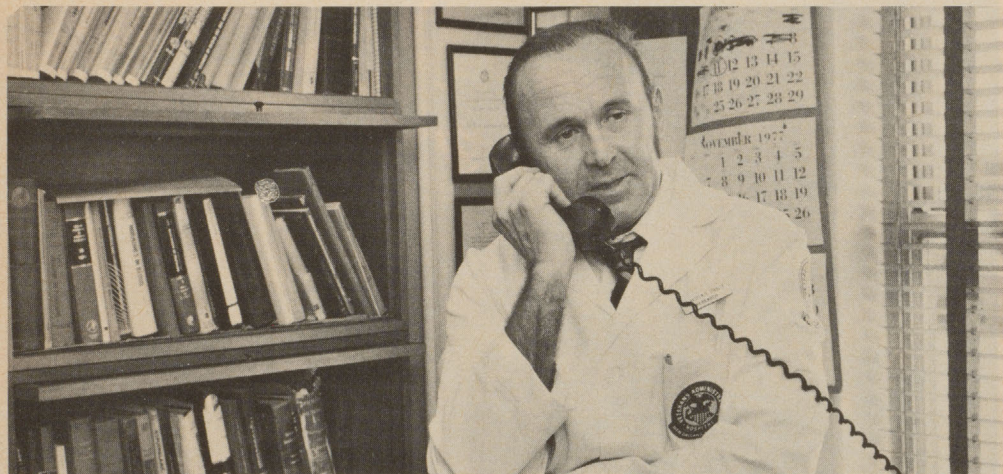
In the meantime, there had been a slight upswing in Society affairs. The cafeteria had reopened after several months' shutdown, and notices had appeared in the *Daily* asking for nominations for student representatives to Senate, Senate committees, and the Board of Governors. A constitutional referendum was called for mid-November. Students were to accept one of two reports issued in September by minority and majority factions of the Committee to Restructure the Students' Society (CRSS), or reject both and force a return to the drawing board. If adopted, the Minority Report or the Majority Report would form the basis of a new constitution for the Society. In a *Daily* article, Arts student Terry Reed, then president of the Film Society, commented that "the differences in the two constitutions reflect the Minority Report's concern for student autonomy from the university versus the Majority Report's fear of possible student government breakdown in the face of declining student interest and involvement."

About 20 per cent of the student body turned out for the low-key balloting. The Majority Report, which proposed closer links for the Society with the university, carried the day. Senate sanction came in early March. Most Faculties held elections at the end of March and in early April. Of twenty-three Students' Council, Senate, and Board of Governors positions up for grabs, sixteen went uncontested. In a new constitutional procedure that is already proving controversial, the Students' Council itself then elected five councillors to the Society's executive committee. (In the past, executives were elected by the student body at the polls.) Reed became president.

At the same time, a search began for a permanent executive director. Ron Lerman, who had been campus coordinator at the Girls Cottage School in St. Bruno, Quebec, was hired. He took office on August 1 and Sam Kingdon returned to the Office of Physical Resources — with praise ringing in his ears. In a letter from the Students' Council to Senate, he was commended for the "energy, integrity, and dedication which... earned him the respect of the very students who originally had balked at the mere idea of a trusteeship."

The Society's troubles are by no means over, though, as President Reed is well aware. "I see myself as a coordinator and sifter of student demands," he says. "I have to be more responsive than my predecessors, and I have to create a student presence to respond to." His priorities include polishing the Society's tarnished image by "being ethically pristine" and encouraging optimal use of the University Centre.

The Students' Society has won another chance to tackle its problems. Can it pull through this time? □



*McGill has long maintained a reputation as a world leader in endocrinology. Fittingly enough, Dr. Andrew Schally, a co-winner of the 1977 Nobel Prize for physiology or medicine, began his pioneering endocrinological research as a doctoral student at the Allan Memorial Institute.*

## McGill's Nobelman

On October 13 Dr. Andrew Schally received what must have been the happiest phone call of his professional career. On the line was a member of the Nobel Prize committee in Stockholm, officially informing the fifty-year-old scientist that he had been named one of three winners of the coveted Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine. Schally, on staff at Tulane University and the Veterans Administration Hospital in New Orleans, shared half of the hundred-and-forty-five-thousand-dollar award with Dr. Roger Guillemin, 53, a scientist at the Salk Institute in La Jolla, California. The other half went to Dr. Rosalyn Yalow, a fifty-six-year-old nuclear physicist turned medical researcher at the Veterans Administration Hospital in the Bronx, New York. The three were honoured for their roles in helping unravel the mysteries of the endocrine system, which regulates a variety of bodily functions, from growth to sexual activity.

While not unexpected in medical circles, the announcement of Schally's award brought special notice and pleasure at McGill: the Polish-born researcher is the first McGill graduate to be so honoured. (One-time McGill faculty members Dr. Ernest Rutherford and Dr. Frederick Soddy won Nobel Prizes in chemistry.) Schally earned both his BSc and his PhD degrees at McGill, in 1955 and 1957 respectively. Indeed, it was during his doctoral studies in biochemistry at the Allan Memorial Institute that Schally began his investigations into endocrinology. He produced a dissertation on brain hormones under the tutelage of Dr. Murray Saffran, then an assistant professor of psychiatry at McGill, now professor and chairman of biochemistry at the Medical College of Ohio in Toledo. Saffran, a McGill graduate himself, remembers his former student as "single-minded about science and very dedicated. He worked hard and got lots done."

Together Saffran and Schally performed a series of important endocrinological experiments. For over a century scientists had known that hormones secreted by the tiny pituitary gland at the base of the brain regulate the secretion of hormones from the ovaries, testes, thyroid, and other endocrine glands. What Saffran and Schally demonstrated was that the pituitary itself was controlled by hormones released from the hypothalamus, a part of the brain above the pituitary gland. They were able to isolate the first of the hypothalamic "releasing hormones" — the corticotropic releasing factor or CRF as Saffran called it — and in 1955 published their findings in the *Canadian Journal of Biochemistry and Physiology*.

After completing his doctorate, Schally joined the faculty of Baylor University's College of Medicine in Houston, Texas. There he continued his research in collaboration with

another one-time Montrealer who was destined to be his Nobel Prize co-winner, French-born Roger Guillemin, a University of Montreal PhD graduate in experimental medicine and surgery. Schally left Baylor for Tulane in 1962; Guillemin joined the Salk Institute in 1970. It was as leaders of separate and often hotly competing research teams, therefore, that they discovered just how the hypothalamus controls the pituitary gland. Using animal brains, both succeeded in isolating, identifying, and synthesizing three hypothalamic releasing hormones.

In so doing, Schally and Guillemin not only solved a major puzzle in endocrinology, but also pointed to dramatic new ways of controlling the endocrine system when it goes awry. Doctors are beginning to use synthetic versions of the hypothalamic releasing hormones to diagnose certain glandular disorders and to treat problems like infertility. Researchers may some day find brain hormones that influence behaviour as well. Certainly Schally's and Guillemin's research is an important step towards understanding how the brain, through its hypothalamic hormones, affects both physical and mental well-being. As a Nobel Prize committee member summed it up: "It's a link between body and soul." □

**The Bookshelf**

Herewith some of the latest literary offerings from McGill alumni and faculty.

Constance Beresford-Howe — *A Population of One.* Toronto: Macmillan Co. of Canada Ltd., 1977. In this humorous novel, Dr. Constance Beresford-Howe, BA'45, MA'46, an instructor in the English department at Ryerson Polytechnical Institute in Toronto, recounts the story of a lonely young woman's first year of teaching at a Montreal college and of her search for a man.

Howard Eisenberg — *Inner Spaces: Parapsychological Explorations of the Mind.* Don Mills: Musson Book Co., 1977. Howard Eisenberg, BSc'67, MSc'71, MD'72, medical doctor and practising psychic, examines the development of parapsychology and the scientific controversy regarding its validity. He speculates on topics ranging from poltergeists to reincarnation.

Jennifer Harper — *City Work at Country Prices: The Portrait Photographs of Duncan Donovan.* Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1977. Montreal freelance photographer Jennifer Harper, BA'67, produced this album of fifty-four portraits by Ontario small-town photographer Duncan Donovan (1857-1933) after laboriously cleaning, cataloguing, and printing 3,500 original glass plates.

Peter Hoffman — *The History of the German Resistance 1933-1945,* trans. from the German by Richard Barry. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 1976. Dr. Peter Hoffman, a McGill professor of history, traces the German underground's activities, which culminated in an unsuccessful attempt to assassinate Nazi leaders on July 20, 1944.

Wilder Penfield — *No Man Alone: A Neurosurgeon's Life.* Toronto: Little, Brown and Co., 1977. The late Dr. Wilder Penfield, for twenty-seven years a neurology and neurosurgery professor at McGill, chronicles his life from 1904, when at the age of thirteen he resolved to win a Rhodes Scholarship, to 1934, when a private dream became a public reality with the establishment of the Montreal Neurological Institute.

Leo Stern et al. — *Intensive Care of the Newborn.* New York: Masson Publishing USA Inc., 1976. Dr. Leo Stern, BSc'51, professor and chairman of pediatrics at Brown University, Providence, R.I., has coedited twenty-four papers written by internationally known researchers and clinicians on recent developments in neonatal intensive care. □

*Taken circa 1903, this photograph by Duncan Donovan is reproduced in* City Work at Country Prices *by Jennifer Harper, BA'67. The little girl portrayed is now an elderly woman. She still remembers the portrait session as long and tedious; hence her look of impatience as she fusses with her hair.*

**Regulated Industries under Study**

"A Centre for the Study of Regulated Industries has been established at McGill," announced a university press release in late July.

"The broad objective of the centre is to improve understanding of regulated industries in Canada. These include industries involved in transportation, telecommunications, and energy whose major administrative decisions are reviewed by governmental bodies. The centre will provide a locale for research and teaching ... in this area."

It was a long-awaited announcement. The interdisciplinary centre — the first of its kind in Canada — had been three years in the planning stages and the subject of a heated campus debate. It all began in the spring of 1974 when the Management Faculty presented a proposal for the centre to Bell Canada, Canadian Pacific, and Northern Electric (now Northern Telecom). The three companies, all subject to government regulation themselves, had earlier expressed their willingness to fund a worthwhile project at the university. They were so enthusiastic about the proposal that they sent the first instalment of what was to be a grant of $700,000 to the McGill Development Program. But there was a snag: the plans for the centre and the terms of the corporate grant had not yet been approved by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research or other appropriate academic bodies. McGill found itself in the uncomfortable position of looking a gift horse in the mouth.

More than a year after the initial corporate donation, the student newspaper, the *McGill Daily*, charged that academic channels had been bypassed deliberately and that the centre would be, in effect, a consulting service to the management of the sponsoring companies rather than a source of independent academic research. The *Daily* allegations and subsequent strongly voiced concern within the Faculty of Arts triggered a controversy that one indignant professor called "McGill's Watergate." The result: a rigorous scrutiny of the proposal and a thorough airing of a university Senate report on research policy prepared by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research.

"What happened was that some people felt, honestly but misguidedly, I think, that the kind of centre being proposed was incompatible with the kind of sponsorship," says Dr. Stanley Shapiro, dean of the Management Faculty. "As far as I'm concerned, there were no grounds for concern about the centre's academic purity at any stage." Nonetheless, the proposal was rewritten by a group which included representatives from the economics and political science departments and the Management, Law, and Graduate Studies and Research Faculties.

The new draft eliminated the earlier provision for a periodic review of the centre by the corporate sponsors. Instead it proposed that an advisory committee, including company and government representatives as well as faculty, be convened at least once a year for informal discussions and that the sponsors be permitted to review the budget at that time to ensure that funds were spent as designated, in much the same manner that the Canada Council oversees its research grants. It was made very clear that there could be no strings attached to the seven-hundred-thousand-dollar, five-year grant.

The university approved the revised proposal. So did the corporations. "Throughout the delays, the sponsors exercised great patience," says Shapiro. All that remained was to find a director for the centre. After an extensive search, a McGill economics professor, Dr. Christopher Green, was appointed to the post. Now the centre is being smoothly absorbed into the academic mainstream. "We're not a data file, a consulting agency, or a professional school turning out regulators," Green explains. "Our goal is to promote scholarship and teaching in the field of regulation."

To do that the centre is coordinating four graduate courses offered through the economics and political science departments and the Management and Law Faculties. Students may specialize in the study of regulated industries within existing degree programs. Among their instructors this year is Dr. Almarin Phillips, dean of public administration at the Wharton School of Finance and Commerce in Philadelphia. The first in a planned series of "in-residence" academic visitors, Phillips has been on the campus periodically this fall and will be here full time next semester. As well as teaching, he will lead an interdisciplinary seminar that may become a seedbed of ideas for faculty and student research. Says Green: "Right now we'll just have to wait and see how much interest the centre generates among students." In light of government regulation's increasing importance to the Canadian economy, it should generate a great deal. □

## Scholarships: A New Look

In 1975 the University Scholarships Committee (USC) decided to take a long, hard look at McGill's scholarship program. In a report issued this fall, it proposed a complete overhaul, declaring the program outdated and inadequate. With recent approval from the university Senate, the USC has already begun to implement a four-year plan to improve the situation. Its goals: to bring scholarships at McGill into line with the cost of living and with financial incentives offered by other Canadian universities, and to shift the emphasis from financial need to academic excellence in making the awards. Explains Dr. Eric Adler, associate dean of the Engineering Faculty and USC chairman: "Our aim is to attract the best possible students to McGill."

The plum of the revamped program, which will be instituted next fall, will be four annual undergraduate entrance scholarships of $5,000 each, renewable for up to three years. To be eligible for these awards, candidates must be Canadian citizens or landed immigrants who have shown superior academic ability, responsible citizenship, and community involvement. They can be enrolled in any Faculty and need not be out of pocket to qualify.

The scholarships are named after the Montreal industrialist and McGill governor whose bequest of more than $1 million made them possible: Greville Smith. Notes Ross Brougham, chairman of the Martlet Foundation, which is administering the funds: "We felt we would serve his wishes very well if we could keep attracting and encouraging outstanding students.... We could have had more scholarships of less value, but this is something quite special." Arlene Gaunt, the Graduates' Society representative on the USC and a member of the joint USC-Martlet Foundation Greville Smith committee, agrees. "There will be only four Greville Smith scholars from across Canada. They're going to have to be solid gold." The USC hopes that one day the scholarships will be as well known as Oxford University's Rhodes Scholarships.

The USC has also increased the value of many existing scholarships and introduced several new ones along with the Greville Smith. Entrance scholarships, which now bear the names of university benefactors James McGill and J.W. McConnell, have been upped from $100 to $500 each. One hundred and fifty of these merit awards, renewable for three years, will be given annually. The traditional in-course University Scholarships of $100 will be phased out by 1981.

In addition, twelve renewable annual scholarships, valued at $2,500 apiece, have been established. Therefore, by 1981, there could be as many as sixteen concurrent Greville Smith Scholarships of $5,000, forty-eight scholarships of $2,500, and up to 600 awards of $500 to supplement the hundreds of named scholarships already in existence.

The money for the increased and new scholarships has come mostly from redistribution of the $850,000 in university scholarship and bursary accounts. The number of small awards has been reduced and bursary funds freed for scholarships. Says Adler: "We are making sure that students have availed themselves of all possible government aid before assessing the amount of financial assistance accorded to them. We only started this last fall."

Gaunt admits that there has been some criticism of the generous size of new scholarships like the Greville Smith. But, she says, it has been voiced by "people my age who went to school when things cost a lot less.... All the demographic studies indicate that we're facing a decrease in enrolment. I don't think that four scholarships — or even twenty — are going to reverse that. But we're hoping that we can stem the tide a little." □

# Letters

### Thanks!

As a longtime reader of the *McGill News*, I would like to congratulate you on the excellent quality of your recent issues. The Spring 1977 issue was particularly outstanding: a series of timely and well-written articles, beautifully illustrated, and complemented by thoroughly readable layout and your usual meticulous attention to details such as proofreading.

It must be no easy task in an alumni journal to balance the need to publicize and support the work and needs of the university with topics and writing that will appeal to the more general reader — and to do it all on what is doubtless a shoestring budget. Thanks!

George E. Flower, BA'40
Dean, Faculty of Education

### The Pen and the Sword

It is said that the pen is mightier than the sword. In the hands of the authors of McGill's brief on the Charter of the French Language in Quebec, the pen is truly destructive — to the university.

This brief, reprinted in the *McGill News Bulletin* in June, is the poorest piece of composition I have read from a university of such stature. And I am no English major; in fact, I barely passed first-year college English. Compelling arguments for something as important as the perpetuation of the goals of McGill University require a command of the English language. It is a paradox, indeed, that a plea for preserving education in English be made by such a poorly composed brief.

The inferences are obvious; the remedy — obtain a speech writer.

I follow with interest the activities at McGill.

R. Garratt Richardson, MD'68
Seattle, Wash.

### Another Point of View

The article "Farewell to Silence" in the Spring 1977 issue of the *McGill News* was one of the worst examples of one-sided and inaccurate reportage that I have seen. The issues in the oralist/manualist controversy in deaf education are numerous and complex, but Carol Stairs has managed to obscure or misrepresent

most of the major ones in her coverage of the School of Human Communication Disorders. I shall highlight the article's inaccuracies and present refutations based on excellent research.

1. Manual education is totally devoted to signing and finger-spelling. There is no manual program in North America that does not teach speech and speech reading, with auditory amplification. In fact, they are not even called "manual" programs. Since they employ all possible media for language learning and use, they are called "Total Communication" programs. Oral programs, on the other hand, rely only on amplification, speech, and speech reading.

2. Oral educators have always had to fight against rabid manualists to maintain a foothold in deaf education. Until recently in the United States, manual education of any kind was forbidden (in some states, illegal) in most schools for the deaf. In Canada there are still almost no schools for the deaf that utilize any form of sign language as a medium of instruction. Canada is still far behind the United States in recognizing the right of deaf children to learn sign language — the only form of language they can acquire as a true native language.

3. Manualists do not want to allow the deaf child to fit into the larger hearing community. To the contrary, a prelingually deaf child raised and taught totally orally cannot and does not fit into the hearing world, no matter how "oral" he is, because, very simply, he cannot hear spoken language. All the hearing amplification in Dr. Daniel Ling's arsenal cannot change that. At best, what oral education produces is a sad and bizarre copy of a hearing child. Parents and teachers may trick themselves into thinking that the deaf child is normal and fits in, but sooner or later the child himself comes to the realization that he is not a hearing person, that other people treat him differently, that he is indeed different, and that he does not really belong. Furthermore, because the child does not know sign language, he is cut off from the deaf community. A Total Communication program at least ensures that the deaf child belongs to some community (the deaf community is a very strong social force for most deaf persons in North America) and at best gives him something of both worlds — deaf and hearing.

4. All deaf children can benefit from Dr. Ling's program. A careful study of the audiograms of the deaf children in Dr. Ling's program would show that he accepts (and succeeds with) only those children with residual hearing in certain frequencies (the speech range: 500-2500 Hz). Children who are totally deaf or who have no residual hearing in the speech range (that is to say, most deaf children), cannot benefit.

5. Being able to enunciate and decode certain words equals knowing the language. As any linguist will tell you, speech and language are not equivalent, and the knowledge of some vocabulary is not the same as knowing the language. A parrot that "speaks" does not know English. The core of a language is grammar — rules of sentence formation or syntax and word-formation or morphology. The fact that a deaf child can figure out and parrot individual English words does not mean that he knows English. Furthermore, given the complexity of the grammar of English or of any other language, and given the very small number of linguistic cues available to deaf

children, it is impossible for them to learn English in any normal way via speech reading and auditory amplification. English must be taught to them laboriously, over many years, as though it were a foreign language. And even with a great deal of training in English, most prelingually deaf children end up with badly broken English; indeed, orally trained deaf children usually do worse than manually educated ones in English skills such as reading and writing. This is not suprising, because at least the manually educated child has a first language — American Sign Language — on which to build second-language — English — skills.

Veda (Elman) Charrow, BA'67
(PhD'74, Stanford University)
Center for Applied Linguistics
Arlington, Va.

*Carol Stairs replies:* The article in question was intended to be — and I believe *was* — a fair and thorough report of the activities at McGill's School of Human Communication Disorders. It did not purport to venture beyond that into the national and international debate on deaf education. As was stated, the master's program in auditory-oral rehabilitation under the supervision of Dr. Daniel Ling and his wife Dr. Agnes Hamilton-Ling, is only one part of the school's work. Master's students are also trained in speech and language pathology and in audiology and aural rehabilitation, and doctoral students are researching various human communication problems.

In answer to Dr. Charrow's five objections:

1. Nowhere was it stated that "manual education is totally devoted to signing and finger-spelling." The article noted that manualists "believe that the deaf should be taught to communicate *principally* by sign" and went on to define the combined system known as Total Communication, "in which oral communication, signs, and finger-spelling can be used jointly or separately."

2. Nowhere was it stated that "oral educators have always had to fight against rabid manualists to maintain a foothold in deaf education." The article made reference *only* to the debate at McGill in 1973 when the Lings first proposed a master's program in auditory-oral rehabilitation. It stated that "there was — not entirely unexpectedly — heated resistance to their proposal.... The manualists and advocates of Total Communication were opposed to a master's program which would produce oralists. They argued that graduates of the proposed program would not be suited to work in the majority of Canadian schools for the deaf. Furthermore, they said, the program failed to consider children with multiple handicaps and contradicted the wishes of the major associations for the deaf."

3. and 4. Nowhere was it stated that "manualists do not want to allow the deaf child to fit into the larger hearing community" or that "all deaf children can benefit from Dr. Ling's program." What was stated was Ling's belief that the auditory-oral method has merit for *some* hearing-impaired children. Ling was quoted as saying that "for the others, some other form of communication, like signs, would probably be appropriate." The article presented Ling's viewpoint without making a value judgement on it. It also pointed out that the university Senate, in approving the master's program, recognized that it "will not meet the needs of all hearing-impaired children," but "there is evidence that various children might profit from it."

5. It was not within the scope of the article to discuss the differences between speech and language. It was simply stated that Ling believes that "given the right circumstances, 85 per cent of [hearing-impaired] children will learn to talk fairly normally and integrate into regular schools."

The article pointed out that there are different approaches to deaf education; it never suggested that one is better than another. What it did present was the approach that has been adopted at McGill's School of Human Communication Disorders.

### A Question of Policy

Is there a policy governing who and what are reported in the "Where They Are and What They're Doing" section of the *McGill News?* This section used to have the appearance of being compiled on the basis of general interest in the achievements and appointments of graduates. But some items included in the Spring 1977 issue — reports of alumni's receiving PhDs, entering medicine, marrying classmates — would seem more appropriate for a class newsletter. They are achievements of a sort, but of interest only to friends and acquaintances.

I don't know how the reporter of this section gets the items that are selected for publication. If there is absolute dependence on write-ins, however, the selection won't be all that interesting.

Perhaps a more active searching out of newsworthy items about graduates is the answer, or perhaps the Graduates' Society should reexamine the whole subject of communications about graduates.

W. Leonard Orr, MD'40
Revelstoke, B.C.

*Editor's Note: In the "Where They Are and What They're Doing" pages of the magazine, it has always been the policy of the* McGill News *to give priority to items about alumni who have kept in touch by phone or mail. The staff also gleans information from reunion class questionnaires and from the many magazine and newspaper articles forwarded to us by a national press clipping service.*

*If you would like to let your classmates know where you are and what you are doing, please write the* McGill News, *3605 Mountain Street, Montreal H3G 2M1, or call (514) 392-4813.*

### Informative and Entertaining

Kudos to the *McGill News* staff for turning out such an excellent issue last spring. The articles were exceptionally informative and entertaining, and served to inform your readership of the wide scope of the university's involvement in cultural activities beyond the purely academic.

And what a treat it is to receive a magazine that continues to use top-quality paper at a time when most other magazines use paper resembling newsprint.

Keep up the good work!

Holly (Higgins) Jonas, BA'58, MSW'71
Westmount, Que.

# Sticking to the union: The life and

by Janet Kask

Madeleine Parent has been maligned, harrassed, arrested, and jailed for her union activities. But for over thirty years, she has stuck to labour organizing in Canada.

It was hard to imagine that the petite, soft-spoken woman who met me at the door of her Toronto highrise had once been called "supple as an eel" by a Quebec judge and denounced as a "dangerous influence" by a Quebec priest. But Madeleine Parent has been a central figure in some of the biggest labour struggles in Canada's history. Her lifetime commitment to organizing unskilled workers in the forgotten sectors of industrial life — most notably in the appalling conditions of Quebec's textile mills in the 1940s — has found her doing battle with big business and all its powerful allies.

Parent's life story unfolds like an epic novel. When still in her twenties, she had been harrassed and arrested many times and tried and jailed for seditious conspiracy. She has survived it all. Today she is one of Canada's leading trade unionists and an active force in the all-Canadian union movement. After thirty-six years of union organizing, she is still fixed in her vision of the work place as a human place and is as fearless and outspoken as ever.

Parent's concern with social justice can be traced to her childhood. She was born in 1918 in east Montreal; when she was eleven her family moved to the city's west end. Like most girls of middle-class French-Canadian background, she was educated in private convent schools. But she never adjusted to the rigidity of convent life. (At one point she was so unhappy she became physically ill and had to be sent home.) As a teenager at the convent Villa Maria, she witnessed a practice that deeply disturbed her. Young girls from the countryside were hired by the nuns to work as maids for fifteen hours a day at six dollars a month. Two-thirds of their wages were mailed home to their impoverished families. These girls were not allowed to fraternize with the students, but Madeleine spoke to them and

*When Madeleine Parent was young, close friends nicknamed her "La Soeur Supérieure" because of her refined manners. As her reputation as a labour organizer grew, however, opponents branded her "a dangerous influence."*

# times of Madeleine Parent

the memory of their bleak lives has never left her.

This "horrible exploitation," she notes, has to be seen in the context of the widespread unemployment then existing in Canada. "It was also the time of the rise of Fascism and later I became very conscious of the connection between economic crisis and the rise of this kind of repression."

After four years at Villa Maria, Madeleine gave up her Catholic education and transferred to an English private girls' school, Trafalgar, because it had a good academic reputation. She soon discovered that the English Protestant view of history and Ciceronian Latin were "exceedingly different" from the versions she had learned in convents.

### Irreconcilable Differences

The contrasts she experienced in her schooling heightened Madeleine's critical faculties. By the time she graduated from Trafalgar, she was no longer willing to accept any system without closely examining it. While she hadn't renounced the church (she supported the Dominicans' stance on social issues), she enrolled in Arts at McGill to get away from the clerical influence that still dominated the University of Montreal. She hoped eventually to study medicine with Dr. Wilder Penfield, but attending his clinics at the Montreal Neurological Institute convinced her that she didn't have the emotional stamina for the work.

She did have the stamina to stand up to some of the more conservative elements at McGill, however, to the point where she risked being expelled from the French department on one occasion, and not graduating on another. The French department chairman made it clear that she would have to give up her French studies if she continued to speak out on an issue that sparked strong feelings: the absence of French Canadians on the department's teaching staff. The department was staffed entirely by professors from France who, Parent feels, "were contemptuous of the French-Canadian people of Quebec." Madeleine believed that francophone Quebecers should also be hired. As president of the Société française, the women's French society, she invited two like-minded friends, journalist André Laurendeau and civil libertarian Thérèse Casgrain, to speak on the campus. The department, which controlled the choice of guest lecturers, tried to stop her — unsuccessfully.

By her third year at McGill, Parent's irreconcilable differences with the French department led her to abandon her French studies. She switched her major to sociology, in which she had already become deeply involved through the influence of McGill sociologist Dr. Everett Hughes. She also joined the Canadian Students' Assembly (CSA), a group that was campaigning across the country to raise five hundred university scholarships for working-class and rural students. "We were looked at rather politely and kindly to begin with," Parent recalls. "But as the years went on and after war was declared, it was considered a horribly revolutionary demand."

Student interest in Dr. Norman Bethune prompted the CSA to sponsor a meeting with a student recently returned from a visit with Bethune in China. The meeting was strongly opposed by certain factions on the campus, including some members of the Board of Governors who questioned whether the organizers should be allowed to graduate. "The powers that ruled McGill at the time were determined that the upper class should retain the upper hand," Parent says, "but in this case they decided the student generation was a short-lived one." Parent duly graduated with a BA in 1940.

The combination of her sociology studies and her assessment of the political situation in Quebec made her decide to give up the idea of going into a profession. The life of the upper-middle class wasn't what she wanted. Another influential factor in her choice of work was an International Ladies' Garment Workers Union (ILGWU) strike in Montreal during her senior year. "The overwhelming majority of striking workers were women, and francophone women and their interests were being betrayed by the union leadership. I wanted to become an organizer in an area where women would be working." The garment workers were, she felt, just one rung up on the ladder of exploitation from the maids at Villa Maria. But they were organized and fighting back.

Parent's first union job was with the ILGWU. She gave English evening classes to workers until friction with the union's manager from New York and his "all-pervasive bureaucracy" made her decide to quit. Two friends who were among the few female organizers at the time encouraged her to continue her work. They were Lea Roback, who directed the ILGWU's education department, and Charlotte Gauthier, who later served as manager of the Montreal Furworkers' Union. Like Gauthier, Parent took the traditional office route of women unionists and worked as secretary to the Montreal Trades and Labor Council of the American Federation of Labor (AFL), which was then the biggest trade union in Montreal. There she learned the ropes of trade unionism, writing pamphlets, speaking to workers' groups, and organizing.

### "I was an *étrangère.*"

In the course of her work she met (and in 1953 married) Kent Rowley, a dynamic organizer and one of the founders of an umbrella organization for AFL unions in Quebec that is now known as the Quebec Federation of Labour. Rowley felt the time was right to unionize the textile industry. In 1942 he started to organize in Valleyfield in Dominion Textile's largest mill. It was the beginning of a four-year fight for union creditation for the United Textile Workers of America.

In early 1943 Rowley asked Parent to organize full time. She started at the Dominion Textile mill in Montreal's St. Henri district, where men put in a sixty-five-hour week, women earned twenty-two cents an hour, and children worked from the age of ten. The compulsory school attendance law was not enforced — to have children working for very low wages was advantageous both to the mill and to the parents, often textile workers themselves, who badly needed any extra income.

Conditions were much the same in Valleyfield. But it was an even more volatile spot

because of the textile mill's critical importance to the town's economy and the large concentration of workers in one plant. It was here that the strong-arm tactics of Quebec Premier Maurice Duplessis and his consorts — big business and the conservative wing of the Catholic Church — were unleashed in full fury.

Violence erupted on several occasions. One evening in 1944, a band of Catholic youth broke into union headquarters. The vandals had met earlier with Father (later Cardinal) Paul-Emile Léger and received encouragement in their mission. According to Parent, the incident was a company attempt to run union leaders out of town. The youth, she says, "were called upon to defend their allegiances and traditions against *les étrangers*. I was an *étrangère* because I came from Montreal forty miles away and because I was a woman — in their minds no decent French-Canadian woman would be a union organizer."

The federal government had granted certification rights in 1943; but Dominion Textile persistently refused to recognize the union. Despite their grievances, millworkers upheld a pledge by the official labour movement not to strike during wartime. In 1946, however, after four years of unsuccessful negotiations, they could no longer be restrained. On June 1, six thousand Dominion Textile employees in Montreal and Valleyfield walked off the job and opened one of the most turbulent chapters in Quebec labour history.

### Machine Guns and Tear Gas

The strike continued all summer. After two months the company settled in Montreal, signing the first union contract. But it was still determined to break the strike in Valleyfield. In early August it sent in a large contingent of private guards and special provincial police to guard the millworkers who were crossing the picket lines. "They [the strikebreakers] would be called upon to go to mass," Parent says, "and when there were enough to cross the lines with the priests, they'd go back and forth, accompanied by the company's private guards and the QPP [Quebec Provincial Police]. On the morning of August 11, about three hundred people from the total work force of three thousand had crossed the picket lines. Between 7:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m., some five thousand residents, workers, their friends and families, had gathered at the mill gates to watch the strikebreakers when they were due to leave for lunch."

At this point police aimed machine guns at the crowd and fired tear gas. People retaliated by tearing up the pavement and throwing rocks and pieces of concrete. The battle raged all day. After hours of negotiations, police agreed to halt the crossing of picket lines.

A few days later Rowley was arrested and jailed for inciting the crowd to riot. As second-in-command, Parent took charge of the strike and of union affairs until his release. In September the strikers went back to work when the Quebec labour minister offered acceptable terms of settlement, including the provision of a secret ballot for workers to choose between the United Textile Workers of America and a new company union.

The day before the vote a warrant went out for Parent's arrest on the charge that she had bribed three young boys not to testify in Rowley's trial. Arresting and jailing strike leaders, she says, were common methods used by the ruling powers to disorganize strikes. "It was planned to use my arrest and the adverse publicity surrounding it to rob us of votes and upset the workers. But we outmanoeuvered them again." Parent went into hiding until her lawyers found a judge to arrange bail. On the eve of the vote she surfaced and addressed a mass meeting of workers while police were still searching for her in Valleyfield homes. The vote was won and in November the first union contract was signed. The charges against Parent were quashed by a court of appeals, which established that the boys had in fact been bribed by police to testify against her.

In 1947 Rowley and Parent were called in by workers to lead a strike for union recognition at the Ayers Woolen Mills in Lachute, Quebec. It was a bitter fight. Rowley was arrested again and charged with seditious conspiracy. So was Parent. Accused of being a communist sympathizer, she was jailed for several days.

Early in 1948, at the end of a highly publicized three-month trial — the longest criminal trial in Quebec history until then — she was convicted and sentenced to two years in prison. The death of the court reporter, however, left the transcripts incomplete. A new trial was ordered. Every year she went to stand trial, and every year the message from Duplessis, who was also provincial attorney-general, was the same: it was not in the public interest to proceed at this time.

Seven years after the original trial the case finally got a hearing. When the traditional message not to proceed came down, the judge, an adversary of Duplessis, disregarded it. Parent was eventually retried and acquitted, as was Rowley. But, she notes, there was little publicity when their names were cleared.

The battles in which they became embroiled weren't limited to those with company and government officials. There were growing tensions through the years with American union leaders who were unwilling to relinquish control of Canadian affiliates. In 1952 Parent and Rowley split with the AFL because they felt its leaders were betraying workers' interests. They began the long grind of building a Canadian union movement.

In 1968 Parent and Rowley were instrumental in founding the Confederation of Canadian Unions (CCU), which now has 30,000 members. It was the realization of their long-held goal. Since then most of Parent's union work has been in Ontario where she is secretary-treasurer of the Canadian Textile and Chemical Union, a CCU affiliate. She has continued to organize mainly in the textile industry, in which, she says, immigrant women workers "are comparable in the scheme of things to francophone women in the 1940s and before." Two of the most difficult and prolonged strikes she has helped lead in Ontario in recent years were at the Texpack plant in Brantford and at Artistic Woodwork in Toronto.

A large part of Parent's work lies in presenting the union viewpoint to an increasingly unsympathetic public. "Whenever workers strike," she says, "the media see to it that everybody points a finger at them as being responsible for the troubles of the economy. And that is not at all true. We've got to fight every day to get *our* story into the media and overcome the discriminatory approach. If it had not been for our constant struggle to correct the lies about us and to bring the plight of the textile workers before the public, we never would have won the '46 strike."

### A Deep Feeling for People

In addition to her union activities, Parent has been on the forefront of the movement for women's rights. One issue on which she has spoken out repeatedly is equal pay for work of equal value. Despite legislation and recognition such as International Women's Year, she points out, the wage gap between men and women keeps widening and "the ghetto walls continue to go up."

Parent's success in all her pursuits comes from a rare combination of qualities. Formidable tenacity and thoroughness have made her a master at the convoluted gamesmanship of labour negotiations and have earned her the grudging respect of some of the country's toughest company lawyers. Patience and the knowledge that change takes time sustain her.

Parent has been called a Joan of Arc, a heroine of the working class, a martyr. But perhaps the reason that she has been so effective as a leader is that she doesn't see herself as such. She is no superstar. She shuns publicity except for her causes. "The key to her is her very deep feeling for people," says Danielle Dionne, her longtime friend and fellow organizer of the 1940s. "She has the love and trust of workers because she has never put herself above them." □

*Janet Kask is a Montreal poet and freelance journalist.*

# *L'enfant terrible* in the White House

by Nicholas Daniloff

**When Jimmy Carter came to power in the United States last January, so did Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski, who was appointed the president's national security advisor.**

They said he would be a Polish Kissinger — a brilliant intellectual, manipulative and a touch arrogant; a naturalized American whose lust for power had overcome his love of scholarship. They said if "Zbig" ever took over Henry Kissinger's former post as national security advisor to the president of the United States, it would be the same story: the strong White House aide stealthily gaining influence, outshining his cabinet partners, and ending up the major architect of American foreign policy.

Well, Dr. Zbigniew Kazimierz Brzezinski was installed last January as President Jimmy Carter's chief of staff of the National Security Council. But as for the predictions — he is doing his best to lay them to rest. In the past few months he has portrayed himself as an erudite assistant, a congenial teamplayer, and anything but a publicity hound.

Brzezinski has made a conscious decision to keep a low profile — partly to avoid the inevitable comparisons with his predecessor, partly to preserve some semblance of a private life with his wife Emilie ("Mūska") and their three sons. Arranging an interview with him proved even more difficult than I had anticipated. I pleaded and cajoled for weeks and had all but given up hope when I got a call from the White House: Brzezinski would see me briefly on his return from the economic summit meeting in London.

At five o'clock on a May afternoon, I waited in the West Lobby of the White House, wondering with mounting apprehension what the encounter would be like. Suddenly I was summoned and transported through an inner corridor past two secretaries who guarded Brzezinski's door. I was finally face-to-face with the presidential assistant for national security affairs.

He stood, tall and assured, behind a massive desk cluttered with papers and folders. He was instantly agreeable, even welcoming. As we sat down to talk, I stole a glance around the room. I noticed a tennis bag lying on the floor and in the far corner a globe and a television set. The

*Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski, chief of staff of the United States Security Council: "We have to establish some sort of global equity."*

full-length curtains were drawn except for a single window looking onto the austere old State-War-Navy Building. (Kissinger often left the curtains open, leading photographers to snap him in shirtsleeves as he worked.) Behind the desk stood a cupboard with a variety of books on its shelves. A good omen, I thought. So often government officials give up reading anything more than their own turgid reports.

I began the interview slowly. "Listen, fire away," Brzezinski said after three questions. He glanced at the blinking digits of his wrist-watch. "We don't have much time — only fifteen more minutes. If we go through my biography at that speed," he continued in an engaging way, "we won't get beyond McGill!"

Still, one has to begin at the beginning. Brzezinski was born in Warsaw in 1928. Not long before the outbreak of World War II, his father, a diplomat, was posted to Montreal as Polish consul general. He retired in 1945 but the family decided to remain in Canada rather than return to a Communist-overrun Poland. Young Brzezinski lost much of his Polishness — though not his accent — in the Montreal Catholic schools he attended.

By the time he entered McGill in 1945 to pursue studies in economics and political science, Brzezinski had developed strong political instincts. In 1948 he and another undergraduate engineered a coup to oust the executive of the Student Labour Club. "It was extremely, well...," he began tentatively. Then in an amazing burst which is typical of his speech he shot out: "It was essentially a Communist-front club. So what we did was recruit a large number of people to join it. And we simply overthrew the leadership." The takeover was subsequently undone, and new elections supervised by the Students' Society restored the original leadership. But Brzezinski had shown his true colours.

In 1949 he earned a BA with first-class honours and won a fellowship to study towards an MA in political science, which he received a year later. Then he left McGill to pursue doctoral studies in government at Harvard University. Last year a Canadian politician commented that as a young man Brzezinski "considered Canada too small for his drive and ambition." That may be partly true. But what initially drew him to the United States was the prospect of a first-rate graduate education. "I wanted to go to the States because graduate schools were better," he told me. "I decided to take a chance on Harvard, which did not give me a fellowship. I went there with two hundred dollars that I had earned during the summer. [Brzezinski's salary today is $56,000.] I got four As in the first semester, and things went on from there."

As he worked towards his doctorate, Brzezinski became more and more intrigued by Communist power in Russia and Eastern Europe. Harvard's Russian Research Center was a mecca for him. He completed his PhD in 1953 — a year before one of his classmates, Henry Kissinger — and was appointed an instructor at Harvard. He also won research posts at the Russian Research Center and the Center for International Affairs.

But as time went by, the politics of Harvard's government department began to turn against Brzezinski. After being promoted to assistant professor, he was denied tenure. It was a disappointing blow, but he landed on his feet and in 1960 joined the staff of Columbia University in New York City as an associate professor of public law and government. A year later he was appointed director of Columbia's newly formed Institute on Communist Affairs (since renamed the Research Institute on International Change).

In 1962 Harvard apparently repented of its earlier action and offered Brzezinski a full professorship at the uncommonly young age of thirty-four. He turned it down — but not with a sense of sweet revenge. "It wasn't really such a pleasure, curiously enough," Brzezinski said. "I was very attached to Harvard and was tempted to go back, but I decided that you just can't retrace your steps in life."

### A Change of Heart

By now Brzezinski was an up-and-coming expert on the Communist world, writing countless articles and appearing frequently in public debates. He was invited to join the prestigious Council on Foreign Relations, a private foreign policy study centre based in New York City, where he got to know influential business and political figures. In 1963, five years after becoming an American citizen, he was voted one of the country's ten outstanding young men by the Junior Chamber of Commerce. The following year he served on the steering committee of the Young Citizens for (Lyndon) Johnson.

During the mid-sixties, Brzezinski earned a reputation as a hardliner on Communism. He backed American intervention in Indochina, arguing that if America's power were to mean anything it had to be used to support people who sought to govern themselves by democratic rule but found themselves under attack by hostile forces. Bluntness became Brzezinski's hallmark. The Soviet press occasionally accused him of trying to undermine U.S.-Soviet relations. Even his American academic colleagues were sometimes taken aback by his irrepressible, almost brutal exposition of the world's ills as he saw them. He became known as an *enfant terrible*.

The year 1966 proved to be a crucial one for Brzezinski. It was then that he went to work for Lyndon Johnson's administration as a member of the State Department's policy planning council. His assignment was to develop a more productive Eastern European policy at a time when American involvement in Vietnam was growing, and U.S.-Soviet relations were going into a deep-freeze. From a believer in intervention, he turned into a doubter. "My position was that, in doing so much, we were reducing the incentive for the South Vietnamese to do more. We were involved in a massive engagement leading nowhere, while paralyzing our policy elsewhere." (Despite the rationale he gave, some of Brzezinski's critics called his change of heart "opportunistic.")

In 1968, after leaving the State Department, Brzezinski became a foreign affairs consultant to Senator Hubert Humphrey in his unsuccessful presidential campaign. The next year he travelled to Vietnam on a peace mission with a group organized by Clark Kerr, then president of the University of California. "We tried to talk [President Nguyen Van] Thieu and [Prime Minister Nguyen Cao] Ky into the notion of accepting a cease-fire, which, very reluctantly, they agreed to. But the administration here was not particularly sympathetic to it." Richard Nixon and Kissinger had their own approach: step up the efforts to negotiate an honourable peace and, by increasing military force, punish the other side for failing to strike a deal.

As Brzezinski watched the progress of the war in Indochina — the bombings abroad, the protests at home — he became increasingly convinced of the necessity of redefining America's role in a changing global order. He believed that the United States should take the lead in laying the foundations for international cooperation — both to avoid a nuclear war and to combat the global problems of overpopulation, pollution, and diminishing resources. He summed up his vision of an interdependent world in 1970 in a tightly written volume entitled *Between Two Ages — America's Role in the Technetronic Era.*

In 1971 Brzezinski spent six months in Tokyo on a Ford Foundation grant, analyzing changes on the domestic scene in Japan and exploring the role the Asian nation might play on the international scene in coming years. He recorded his observations in the *Fragile Blossom* published in 1972.

Brzezinski's far-reaching knowledge of world affairs made him a perfect candidate to head the Tri-Lateral Commission (TLC), an international association established privately in 1972 to further the economic and political collaboration of North America, Western Europe, and Japan. In 1973 Brzezinski left his niche at Columbia to become the TLC's executive director. The commission attracted to its membership financial, industrial, political, media, and labour leaders. Among them were Harold Brown, Cyrus Vance, Walter Mondale — and an emerging southern politician named Jimmy Carter.

Carter was impressed with the TLC — in his autobiography, *Why Not the Best?*, he wrote that it had provided him with "a splendid

learning experience" — and when he was elected president he drew heavily on its talent. Brown became his secretary of defense, Vance his secretary of state, Mondale his vice-president. And of course Brzezinski, who had acted as foreign affairs mentor during his campaign, became his chief of staff of the National Security Council (NSC). The existence of pre-election contacts — in some cases, long-standing ones — among the principals of the Carter administration undoubtedly helped pave the way for the relatively harmonious relations that now exist in the White House — that, and the unpleasant memory of Nixonian secrecy and Kissingerian backroom power plays.

### Noticeable Differences

Carter, despite his lack of experience in foreign affairs, showed from the start a desire to improve foreign relations and the mechanisms of foreign policy making. One of his first steps was to reorganize the NSC, which Kissinger had used as his stepping stone to power. In the Nixon administration there were seven NSC committees which dealt with key elements of foreign policy. All of them were chaired by Kissinger. The revamped NSC is divided into two major committees: the Policy Review Committee and the Special Consultative Committee. Brzezinski chairs only the latter, whose jurisdiction includes crisis management, arms control review, and supervision of intelligence operations.

"We're really trying to make the NSC work the way it was supposed to in the beginning," explained Brzezinski's aide for press and congressional relations, Jerrold Schecter. "It is the funnel through which the various options of the departments [including the Pentagon, the Treasury, the State Department, and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)] are assembled and presented to the president. Brzezinski does the presentation and adds his views where he feels they are necessary."

Although he has spent his life in academe (apart from leaves of absence, he remained at Columbia for sixteen years), Brzezinski has had no difficulty slipping into political harness in Washington. His workday begins early. He leaves his private residence by chauffeured limousine and arrives at the White House by seven o'clock. His first duty is to prepare the president's morning intelligence briefing. He reviews the morning press, confers with CIA representatives, and then meets with Carter to discuss the latest developments. This roundup of world affairs is usually scheduled between 7:30 and 8:30, depending on the day's events.

Returning from the Oval Office, Brzezinski often grabs breakfast at his desk. The rest of his day is crammed with appointments, which are recorded in a fine hand in a red-covered *Economist* diary. Carter needs Brzezinski and Vance to debate the merits of different foreign policy positions with him. Visiting dignitaries, ambassadors, congressmen, newsmen — all seek audiences with Brzezinski. Then there are endless NSC studies to be directed, and pressing problems to be resolved.

At the moment Brzezinski's list of priorities in foreign affairs includes vigorously pursuing the effort to seal a peace settlement in the Middle East; stabilizing U.S.-Soviet relations without relying on détente as a global panacea; developing a serious African policy; strengthening ties with Europe and Japan; and making a concerted drive to help developing nations. He continues to call for international cooperation. "We need a wider international system, responsive to the fact of four billion people in the world, and more than one hundred independent nation states," he says. "What we did after 1945 was to promote peace, free trade, and an Atlantic-centred alliance. What we need now is more than peace, more than free trade, and more than an Atlantic community. We have to establish some sort of global equity. There is no conflict between liberty and equity."

It is one thing, of course, to come to power with a desire to set right the nation and the world; it is quite another to achieve that goal. Nixon and Kissinger started off with a grand design to ensure several generations of peace in the world. Brzezinski himself gave them high grades in several areas of foreign relations in an analytic "report card" he wrote in 1971. Yet ultimately they were forced to become tacticians, resolving crises, staving off catastrophe. As Brzezinski commented in 1974, "after an initially respectable performance, a perturbing decline."

Nonetheless, Brzezinski remains optimistic about foreign policy prospects and reproaches his predecessor for radiating "Spenglerian gloom" about the decline of the West. He believes that the Carter administration can succeed in foreign relations where the Nixon administration failed — by avoiding an élitist, secretive approach to policy formulation, by taking Congress more into its confidence, and by trying to inspire support at the grass-roots level. "In terms of defining a politically relevant and a morally authoritative posture for the United States, I would seriously give this administration an A so far," he told me. "In terms of our Middle East policy, an A; our European policy, probably a B; our East-West policy, an A; our African policy, probably a B-; our Latin American policy, maybe a B; and our North-South policy, maybe a B-." (By October, however, some of those grades appeared to have slipped. The United States and Soviet Union had failed to reach a new strategic arms limitation agreement, and the Middle East seemed no closer to a peace settlement.)

Certainly there have been noticeable differences in American conduct in foreign affairs since Carter's inauguration. A new concern for morality in policy making and for human rights has appeared. So has a new directness. In the Middle East question, for example, Carter has raised the central issue of a homeland for the Palestinians — to the anguish of the Israelis and the pleasure of the Arabs. He also took the bold step of writing to Andrei Sakharov, a Soviet dissident and Nobel Peace Prize winner, and having the letter delivered through the American Embassy in Moscow. Furthermore, last spring, when he received an honorary degree from Notre Dame University, Indiana, he used the opportunity to enunciate a significant foreign policy statement which stressed concern for human rights and for developing countries.

### Helping the Human Condition

There can be little doubt that Brzezinski has influenced those actions. He shares Carter's convictions about human rights and has long advocated genuine morality in foreign relations. "A morally indifferent America is automatically a weaker America," he has said. "An amoral America is also likely to become a lonely America." As for the new directness — Brzezinski has always insisted on moving from the periphery of contentious issues to their core.

Only occasionally, however, has Brzezinski left the wings to appear on centre-stage himself. When the Soviet leadership violently rejected Carter's proposals for the U.S.-Soviet strategic arms limitation talks in March, he called a full-blown press conference to defend the proposals and their guiding principles. By contrast, Secretary of State Vance, who had presented the proposals to the Soviets, was much more guarded in talking with newsmen.

The inevitable crises of world affairs have a way of overtaking the best-laid plans of any administration. And even the most sincere attempts at team play can falter in the heat of international confrontation. Brzezinski holds a powerful position and may yet break away from the team. But at the moment he professes a disdain for solo diplomacy and denies that he will use his position in the NSC to solidify his power as Kissinger did.

"My view happens to be that we live in extraordinarily turbulent times that contain a potential for massive chaos — or maybe for something constructive and enduring to help the human condition. I feel that if the latter alternative is to prevail it will require an effort beyond the capacity of a single individual.

"If I can help to orchestrate a collective effort which brings out the best of Vance, the best of Brown, the best of myself, then this is plenty to be satisfied with. I don't know if that can be called influence or power, but I think it is a constructive mission." □

*Nicholas Daniloff is a national security correspondent for United Press International.*

# A nurse of the world

by Carol Stairs

Dr. Helen Mussallem, the executive director of the Canadian Nurses Association, is a woman determined to change the image and role of the modern nurse.

As a young woman, Dr. Helen Mussallem, BN'47, was a shrinking violet. The executive director of the Canadian Nurses Association (CNA) smiles now as she remembers her shyness as a nurse at the Vancouver General Hospital in the early 1940s. "That's why I did so much in the operating room," she laughs. "I could hide behind a mask."

Those days are long since gone. Today Mussallem is an outspoken leader in the Canadian and international nursing communities and makes dozens of public appearances every year. In 1969 she was named an Officer of the Order of Canada; in 1976 she became the first nurse from outside the United Kingdom to be elected a Fellow of Britain's Royal College of Nursing. The citation that she received in London last November described her as "Canada's most distinguished nurse in her generation" and "a nurse of the world."

Born in Prince Rupert, British Columbia, Mussallem trained and worked at the Vancouver General Hospital. After a three-year stint with the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps during World War II, she collected her resettlement allowance and completed her nursing degree at McGill. In 1947 she returned to Vancouver, becoming first an instructor and later the director of nursing education at the hospital's School of Nursing — a curious feat for a woman who had decided early in life *not* to become a teacher.

Mussallem's first exposure to nursing on the national level came in 1957, when the CNA selected her to supervise its three-year pilot project for the evaluation of schools of nursing in Canada. Her detailed report, "Spotlight on Nursing Education," proved to be a major catalyst in the improvement of education standards. In 1960 she became CNA's director of special studies and in 1963 was cajoled into accepting for four months the executive directorship of the Ottawa-based association. This "temporary" appointment has lasted fourteen years.

"The CNA almost *is* Helen Mussallem," says CNA president and McGill School of Nursing director Joan Gilchrist. "She feels the pulse of nursing across the country." As head of the forty-nine-year-old organization — the largest association of health professionals in the country — Mussallem is responsible for implementing a complex program. In addition to coordinating the activities of the ten provincial nurses' associations and the Northwest Territories nurses' association, she oversees the operation of an extensive research library and a bilingual information service which publishes the monthly journals, the *Canadian Nurse* and *L'infirmière canadienne*. Also under Mussallem's wing are a research and advisory unit, a labour relations service, and a testing service for nursing registration. Keeping attuned to the diverse needs of 115,000 members is a full-time job.

### Globetrotting

Despite these demands, Mussallem and her colleagues work tirelessly to maintain the CNA's collaboration with over 110 organizations around the globe. These include the Canadian International Development Agency, the International Council of Nurses, and the World Health Organization. Mussallem herself has logged thousands of miles on short-term overseas assignments since becoming executive director. Her teak-panelled office is filled with souvenirs of international friendship: Philippine wood carvings, African cooking implements, countless snapshots.

The main thrust of her work abroad has been nursing education. She has acted as a consultant on surveys of nursing and nursing education in Lebanon, the Philippines, and the Caribbean. She has led seminars for nurse educators in Russia, Uruguay, and Latin America. She has assisted both West Indian and African nations in forming regional nursing associations. She has served as a Canadian delegate at numerous international conferences. And she has been instrumental in obtaining Canadian government grants for nursing associations in several developing countries.

Mussallem is not one to fret about politics. "I'm concerned about doing things," she says. "I realize you can't do a great deal, no matter how hard you work. But I look upon it like this: If I'm living in a fine house and my neighbour is starving, then I would like to help him learn a skill so he could make enough money to live with dignity." She is definitely not out to convert the Third World to the North American way of life. Her philosophy: Help others get on with the job but don't do it for them. As she puts it, "They have to do it so that it fits their country."

What Mussallem *is* out to change is the role of the nurse in Canada. Nurses, she believes, are generally underutilized in the hospital setting. "When you go into a hospital and see nurses tidying up the medicine cupboard.... I thought that was passé!" she says in disbelief. "Nurses are in the hospital to care for people. The rest of it is really hotel work."

Although Mussallem acknowledges that there will always be a need for hospitals, she maintains that the majority of the population would profit from expanded community health program staffed by nurses. "Only about 7 per cent of the 173,000 registered nurses in Canada work in the community — outside the hospital or institutional setting," she notes. "Nurses should be where they have the opportunity to change the course of events that brought the patient into the hospital. If suddenly half of all the hospital nurses who had the background and education went into the community, the number of hospital admissions would decline dramatically. I'm so sure, but I can't prove it." At least, not yet.

Last June McGill's School of Nursing opened the Workshop, a novel community health resource centre in Beaconsfield, Quebec. Mussallem calls it "a model for the future." The first of its kind in Canada, the Workshop is designed not to deal with illness but to promote health. Counselling, discussion groups, and a library are among the free services offered to the public by the three nurses on staff. A team of researchers is also studying the area's health needs and evaluating the centre's impact on the health of middle-income families. Says Mussallem: "I now question that poverty and its associated living conditions are [solely] responsible for malnutrition. I believe

*Dr. Helen Mussallem believes that within fifteen years the practice of nursing could more closely resemble the practice of the family doctor.*

that affluence and its associated living conditions are also responsible."

Mussallem feels that the role of the nurse must keep pace with the medical advances that are reducing sickness and extending life expectancy. "In ten to fifteen years the practice of nursing could more closely resemble the practice of the family doctor [though] she will not replace the doctor [or] make a medical diagnosis.... This new nurse would move freely from the home to hospital and back. She would become the family's nurse and her main concern would be *health*. This may not be what nurses today wish to accept. But any thoughtful nurse will not make a decision for the future solely on the basis of present practice. She will make it in the best interest of the public."

Mussallem says that a prototype of this "nurse of the future" already exists — in the Canadian north. "There's a nurse who knows everybody and knows when they need help," she notes. Canada's nurses of Indian ancestry recently joined forces to form an association, which Mussallem supports wholeheartedly. "On many occasions the CNA has expressed concern about the health or sickness care provided to the Indian people but, I regret to say, has done very little." The new organization is hoping to improve community health, encourage young native people to become nurses and nursing assistants, and record the dying craft of the medicine man.

### A Case for Research

For nursing practice to move ahead, however, a much stronger research base must be developed. Says Mussallem: "We have pathetically few nurses trained to do research and even fewer doing it." When she earned her PhD from Columbia University in 1962, she became the first Canadian nurse to hold a doctorate. Even today there are only about fifty other nurse-PhDs in the country.

More than a thousand research papers are lodged in the library at CNA headquarters — Mussallem's thesis was the first in the collection. Whereas nursing education and administration were the subjects of most early work, there has been a marked shift to the study of nursing practice and nursing care. "Every nurse should have an appreciation of research and be able to read and understand a research project. That is basic," Mussallem emphasizes. To help promote higher education for nurses, she serves voluntarily as secretary treasurer of the Canadian Nurses Foundation, a charitable organization which provides fellowships to graduate students. But Canada has few master's and *no* doctoral programs for nurses. According to the executive director, "we still have a long way to go."

Overcoming the cultural attitudes that turn many men away from the nursing profession is also a concern of the CNA. "Any profession that has a mixture of both men and women is much healthier," Mussallem explains. "Canada has by far the lowest number of male nurses [1 per cent] of any country in the world. Most of them come from other nations. What has happened in the States and in Canada is that they soon go into management positions; it's interesting that women seem to put men in a leadership role." Male nurses are becoming more prominent in psychiatric care, but she won't rest easily until they constitute at least one-quarter of the nursing work force.

Mussallem is hard pressed to single out her most exciting assignment. Understandably. Her travels have taken her from Nootka Sound to Cape Race, and from Montevideo to Tokyo. But she describes her work at the CNA as the most challenging of all. "I have to think nationally on everything I ever do." She has, however, paid a price: she has not been able to provide the direct nursing care that gave her such satisfaction in her early career. "But not a month passes where you're not using some of your knowledge," she smiles. "You never forget the attitudes, the skills, or the art of nursing." □

*Carol Stairs is editorial assistant of the* News.

# Jim Waugh: Building for people

"I began to realize that an architect could produce a building that would get ... praised in magazines," recalls Jim Waugh, "but the people ... in it were unhappy with it."

*Editor's Note: It was in his early teens that Jim Waugh, 32, made up his mind to become an architect. As well as being an outstanding athlete — he held several Canadian swimming records — he was a top student at the high school he attended in Lethbridge, Alberta. He felt that architecture was a discipline that would combine his academic and creative abilities. After graduating from the McGill School of Architecture in 1968, however, he did not try to land a job with an architectural firm. Concerned that he — and indeed most architects — knew too little about the effect of the built environment on people, he spent two years at Oxford on a Rhodes Scholarship studying psychology and sociology.*

*After a year's leave to travel and work abroad with his wife Charlene, he went to Cambridge to work towards a PhD in architecture and remained there until 1974. But he became increasingly disillusioned with the program's quantitative, computer-oriented approach to the environment. "There seemed to be too many intangibles that just didn't lend themselves to being codified," he explains. "Finally I felt that I wasn't getting anywhere and decided to work full time at what I was interested in — the relationship between people and buildings."*

*A fortuitous job offer came from the University of Calgary's Faculty of Environmental Design under the deanship of Bill Perks, a McGill engineering graduate and former McGill faculty member. The innovative graduate program in architecture, urban planning, and environmental science needed someone for its architecture staff with the kind of multi-disciplinary background that Waugh had. ("Just about everyone in the Faculty is a hyphenated person," he jokes.) He was hired as a research associate and with only mild regrets eventually abandoned his thesis. Since joining the Faculty of Environmental Design, Waugh has assumed more teaching responsibilities and is now an assistant professor. Last year he also found time for private practice, pinch-hitting for an architect friend on leave.*

*In June the* News *spoke to Waugh in his Calgary home about his views on architecture and architectural education. Excerpts from that interview:*

**News:** What made you choose to study at McGill's School of Architecture?

**Waugh:** A lot of different things. I wanted to get away from the west for awhile and experience a different way of life. I was born in Winnipeg and grew up in Lethbridge. I applied to McGill, the University of Toronto, and MIT [Massachusetts Institute of Technology] and was accepted by all three. Both McGill and the University of Toronto offered me scholarships, but I decided on McGill because I felt that Toronto was too close to what I already knew. The city seemed too familiar. It wasn't exotic. I had never been to Montreal before.

As it turned out, the years that I was in Montreal, from 1963 to 1968, were very exciting, culturally and politically. There was Expo'67 and a lot of other architectural activity — much more so than in Toronto or any of the cities out west.

McGill suited me well, too. A lot of architecture schools in Canada and the United States had faculty who thought very much alike. At McGill there were people going off in lots of different directions, so that students could get stretched and extended much more. That was exciting to discover in contrast to high school. Here was a place where people actually debated, fought with each other, contradicted each other. It was a good introduction to architecture, which is a field of contradictions.

**News:** Was there one professor who influenced you more than the others?

**Waugh:** There were three or four people who were strong influences. I found one professor who taught the history of architecture very stimulating intellectually. He had a strong, innovative approach to the subject. Another professor, who died a few years ago, was from the Bauhaus tradition. It's hard to put into words what he taught, but there was a really intense presence about him. You could feel enthusiasm bubbling out of him and flowing into the class. A lot of architecture has to do with feeling — the way you sense space and visual and acoustic elements.

Another professor who was influential in his own way taught a studio course. He was the sort who would walk in, tear your drawings off the wall, throw them away, and say, "That's no good," after you'd spent days and days working on them. He was a skilled artist, a person who could draw exceptionally well and knew what made a building stand up and work as a building. I think practically all the students who took his course hated him. But later they realized how much he had contributed to what they knew and began to develop a respect for what he was doing and the crazy way he went about it. Practically any professor I had was an influence.

**News:** When you were at McGill, the university was in the middle of a construction boom. As an architecture student, what did you think of the new buildings?

**Waugh:** I liked the Leacock Building best. It had lots of tactile surfaces and changes from brightness to darkness. The tower part of the building was a simple, elegant use of reinforced concrete. It seemed to be quite a neat building, answering a lot of problems.

At that time, architecture students, or for that matter architects, were still thinking about buildings in almost theoretical ways. Buildings didn't include people. I can remember trying to take pictures of buildings when no people were around to get in the way. I used to sit up at the reservoir looking over the campus and see it as a physical thing, enjoying some changes and hating others. In those years it was simply a place for me. There was no relation between the buildings and the people who used them.

**News:** When did your attitude to architecture begin to change?

**Waugh:** In the summer of 1967, I got a travelling scholarship to study architectural interiors. Until then everyone who had gotten it had gone to Europe and brought back sketches of the Vatican and things of that kind to show to the sponsors. I had gone to Europe the year before so I decided to travel all over Canada and the States. I didn't make the trip with the intention of going against the grain. I just felt that there was a lot of worthwhile modern architecture in North America.

I spent two months travelling. I flew, went

*Jim Waugh: Studying the relationship between people and buildings.*

by bus, hitchhiked. I saw what there was in Canada — like Simon Fraser University and Scarborough University — but there wasn't much. I went down the west coast, came back up through the southern and mid-western states, spent some time in Chicago, and then went over to the eastern states. Mostly I was in major cities, but I also made side trips to smaller towns. I saw all the buildings that were famous and a lot that weren't.

Because my scholarship was given to look at interiors, I spent a lot of time inside buildings. I began to realize that an architect could produce a building that would get written up and praised in magazines, but the people living or working in it were unhappy with it. I discovered a lot of places that were horrible from the point of view of modern architecture yet were nice to be in. Los Angeles, for instance, had smog and cardboard box buildings. Yet I enjoyed it — and Disneyland — more than any of the other places I went to. In some buildings that would never get published in *Progressive Architecture,* people seemed to be at home. I guess that trip really woke me up to the human side of architecture.

The sponsors were quite disappointed when I came back with sketches and photographs of things they didn't think were architecture. After I explained it all to them, they were satisfied that I had at least fulfilled the terms of the scholarship. But I think they are probably still wondering to this day why I didn't go to all the places of pilgrimage in Europe.

**News:** Did you get any background in the social sciences in the School of Architecture?

**Waugh:** We had a course in urban sociology and were encouraged to take psychology or another sociology course, but it wasn't compulsory. McGill was grappling with some of the problems. I guess every architecture school was. A lot of them began to hire sociologists or expect their students to take a sociology course as an option, but no one had come up with any real answers. There weren't any books in the field and you could count the articles on the fingers of one hand. A few people in the States and in England and France had begun to do research work. When I graduated, I felt I had to do something about that gap in my knowledge before I actually built something.

**News:** You must be anxious to put your ideas about environmental psychology into practice.

**Waugh:** Yes, and I have in some of the buildings I've designed. But most are projects that will probably never get built — or at least not in the way I initially designed them. For example, one building I've worked on has changed from a hundred-and-forty-five-suite highrise to an eighty-suite lowrise, simply because of changes in the financial situation. Most buildings go through some sort of transition.

This past year I've been looking after my friend's practice while he's away, and it's been a good opportunity for me to look at the way buildings get built. I've worked for other firms — I worked in Australia for six months — but they were much larger. In a big firm you prepare a set of drawings but someone higher up supervises the job. My friend has no partners; there are only four draughtsmen and a secretary in the office. So I've been dealing with clients on a firsthand basis. With a private developer, you have to work as cheaply as possible and start thinking about how small a particular room can be.

**News:** Isn't that frustrating?

**Waugh:** It's a horrible experience for an architect. But on the other hand, architecture is in many ways the art of the possible. If you become famous only through your drawings, you're not really an architect.

A lot of architects go into a project, design what *they* like, and then cheapen things or cut things out altogether to bring building costs down to within the client's budget. You end up with buildings where you feel the architect should put up a sign saying, "This didn't quite turn out the way it was supposed to."

There is an enormous cancer facility in Calgary that came in way over budget when it was designed. What was to distinguish it from other such places was that the facilities for terminally ill patients were to be as pleasant and unhospital-like as possible. But the architect didn't realize that in order to build what he wanted and get it done within budget, he had to do it in a certain way. He did it in another way and ended up deleting the very features that were to make the building unhospital-like.

You have to learn how to build within the framework provided. When you start measuring bathrooms in square inches instead of square feet, you start to realize how the people with the money think about the environment and how you have to respond as an architect.

**News:** Do you sometimes feel that you should be educating clients, too?

**Waugh:** Well, you do a lot of that. Today I spent twenty minutes on the phone talking to a developer in Lethbridge, trying to convince him to put in bigger windows. I said he was within his rights — the contract specified small windows. But I asked whether he would rather have the people living in the building say, "How could they have been so cheap as not to have put in a window that would give me a decent view," or "Look what a good job these people did for me." I won him over.

**News:** Given its affluence and rapid development, is Alberta an exciting place for an architect to be right now?

**Waugh:** Most of the big developments in Calgary are financed by eastern Canadian or American firms and built by architects from Montreal, Toronto, or the States. The exciting work that local architects are doing is up north or in smaller communities.

**News:** Are you doing any research now?

**Waugh:** Yes. The main focus of my work in Alberta has been senior citizens. I've been studying their response to what's being done for them in terms of housing and other facilities. The provincial government built a bunch of lodges that were a little like Second-World-War military housing. They had names such as Sunshine or Rainbow Lodge, and they gave the institution a rather bad reputation. A lodge is a residence that has nursing attendants and a common dining hall.

Even though lodges now are almost like spas — they have palm trees in the lobbies and whirlpool baths — the government decided that there should be an alternative. It started to build apartments all over the place.

The first project I worked on was commissioned by the Alberta Housing Corporation. I was looking at the effect these building programs had on small towns and trying to determine whether they were appropriate or whether there were other solutions to the problems facing senior citizens in the outbacks of the province. For example, if you build a sixteen-unit apartment building in a small town and house 50 per cent of the community's senior citizens in it, it has an impact on the way the townspeople view the older people, and on the older people who aren't in it. And of course it has a big impact on those who are suddenly together in one building.

I did surveys and talked to a number of people. I recommended that the government stop building lodges and apartments and become much more experimental, trying out ideas that could be built by private developers, church organizations, or groups of private individuals.

I finished that study and am now working with senior citizens living in cities. Most older people aren't aware of the alternatives and think that the apartment or lodge is all there is — if you are too crippled to have your own apartment, you move into a lodge.

Going into a lodge can be a pretty horrifying experience for a lot of older people who realize that ultimately they will be carried out the back way in a box. That's also true for those who live in highrises where there may be three or four hundred senior citizens. They are places built for dying.

Sure, there are people who want to live in lodges or apartments. But there are also those who want to live in their own houses or in places that don't yet exist. Two years ago the Alberta government brought out a grant system that allows homeowners over sixty-five to get money to repair a roof, for instance, or get a new furnace. That was one step in the right direction, but there are others that have to be taken. We ought to make it possible for people to do and have what they feel is appropriate. □

*This interview was conducted by Louise Abbott, outgoing editor of the* News.

# Super sleuths

As partners in an independent research firm in New York City, Ann Novotny and Rosemary Eakins can find any information a client wants — in record time.

At the corner of Fifth Avenue and Forty-Second Street in New York City stands one of the largest public libraries in the world. Ann (Peacock) Novotny will never forget the day in 1961 that she first saw it. A recent McGill graduate — BA'57, MA'60 — she had just landed a position as a researcher with a small public relations firm. Her first assignment: to write a four-page article on commemorative Greek pottery. "I stood at the portal of the New York Public Library," she recalls, "and thought, help, I don't know anything about Greek pottery. But a sympathetic librarian pushed me in the right direction."

Over the next two years, Novotny produced countless articles for her employers. Used as editorial fillers in publications across the United States, they opened with information on everything from the history of women's cosmetics to ghost hunting and ended with plugs for the commercial sponsors — a cosmetics manufacturer, say, or a restaurant believed to have a resident ghost. "It was a funny niche of the public relations business, and it still exists," Novotny says. "I was a combination newspaper reporter-academic researcher; I learned a great deal about the library resources of New York City." In fact, she became such a frequent visitor to the New York Public Library that she lunched regularly in the employees' cafeteria without ever being questioned.

Novotny next worked for Time-Life Books, preparing guide books and other material for the New York World's Fair. But she continued to moonlight as a researcher. By the summer of 1965 she had become so adept and in such demand that she decided to strike out on her own. She established Research Reports, housed in a rambling garden-apartment in an old brownstone on the city's upper west side. The firm now employs two other full-time and two part-time researchers; it also relies on a network of stringers elsewhere in the United States and in Europe.

Four years ago Novotny took on a partner, an old friend from McGill. Rosemary (Gravina) Eakins came to the research business by a circuitous route. After earning her BSc degree from McGill in 1956, she worked as a geologist in the mining industry for several years. She then shifted course, returning to the campus to study English. She completed her MA in 1960 and taught in the English department until 1964. She later went to Oxford University for a PhD — her thesis was on Victorian poet Robert Browning — and another round of university teaching. She spent two years in Paris and then thought about returning to Canada, only to discover that the bottom had fallen out of the teaching market. She welcomed Novotny's invitation to join her in New York City.

Eakins adapted quickly to being a professional researcher; like Novotny, she credits her expertise to a bibliography course given at McGill. "We nearly perished from overwork," she says, "and I think [Professor] Archie Malloch nearly perished from overwork when he corrected everyone's papers. But that course laid the foundation for any research I've done since, and I shall be forever grateful for it." (While Eakins praises the education she received in the English department as "first class," she is critical of changes that have taken place in recent years. "The English department fell apart during the late sixties," she says, "and the most idiotic collection of Mickey Mouse courses was introduced. I would not be so angry and hurt about it if I did not care so much about McGill.")

*Ann Novotny (left) and Rosemary Eakins agree that their unique research firm could not exist anywhere but in New York City — the hub of publishing, advertising, and other industries.*

Both Novotny and Eakins agree that Malloch taught them how to ferret out information by the most direct route — finding someone who is an expert on the subject. "Of course, you can do it from scratch," Eakins says, "and go through bibliographies and encyclopedias, but it's easier to ask somebody. You do a lot over the phone. It's so simple and logical. Suppose you want to know about the pipe-fitting industry: you find a trade association and go on from there. There are trade associations for just about everything. They're delighted to overwhelm you with reports, photographs, names, addresses." Adds Novotny, who specializes in photographic research: "There are numerous picture sources — libraries and commercial suppliers. For example, if you were looking for a medieval illustration, you could go to the Bettman Archives and probably find something."

Located in a city that Novotny calls the "nerve centre" of many industries, Research Reports has a broad clientele. Magazine and book publishers, writers, film and television producers, broadcasting executives, exhibition designers, lawyers, advertising agents, public

relations consultants, business corporations, and trade associations — all have called on the firm's services. Over the past twelve years, Research Reports staffers have completed more than 500 assignments, some exciting, some routine. A sample: they dug up 300 black-and-white historical stills of Harlem, nightclub, and black life in the 1930s for montages in the film about jazz singer Billie Holiday, *Lady Sings the Blues;* prepared information and photographic research on world resources for the Man the Producer pavilion at Montreal's Expo'67; found cheesecake and news photographs of actress Marilyn Monroe for Norman Mailer's book *Marilyn;* researched and wrote recipes for the *Male Chauvinist Cookbook;* and conducted a market survey on household plastic and paper cups and plates for the Beech-Nut Corporation.

Often working on a dozen projects at once, the researchers have a simple way of keeping track: on a bulletin board in their office, they tack pieces of paper that detail the various stages of completion. Push pins are colour coded for psychological effect. Projects just finished are tacked with tranquil blue pins; projects underway with urgent red; and projects in the offing with hopeful white.

"We live and work at an absolutely insane pace," Novotny admits, "because by the time people come to us they are already in some kind of mess. One of their own staff members has tried to deal with the problem and failed, or has left it too late to meet the deadline. We're constantly being asked to drop everything in order to finish something by next week." One of the most high-pressure assignments Novotny has ever taken on was a survey of the effects on voters of election-night TV broadcasts. Her report formed the basis of CBS President Dr. Frank Stanton's testimony in important Senate hearings in July of 1967.

**"I ... began to have hallucinations."**

Novotny recounts the episode with a deserved sense of triumph. "CBS asked me to investigate the problem of broadcasting the progress of election results in a country which, if you count Alaska and Hawaii, has four different time zones. A group of people in the Senate and Congress believed that to hear how the east was going influenced voters in the west. They felt strongly that television networks should be prohibited from broadcasting results until the last polls closed.

"I started to gather material. But the Senate suddenly changed the date of its hearings and brought them forward three weeks. CBS called me up on a Tuesday and said it had to have the report by Friday. I pulled together everything we had collected, including copies of every single study and newspaper article referring to the problem in the States, Canada, and Britain. I wrote the report cold and typed for seventy-two hours without sleeping. The electric typewriter overheated and I actually began to have hallucinations and hear voices. I would stop occasionally, drink coffee, eat, and walk around the apartment. My conclusion, by the way, and the conclusion of other people, was that the broadcasts do not make a bit of difference. There are people who do change their votes, but the number who switch to the underdog balances the number who switch to the apparent winner.

"Anyway, when I finished the report — it was massive, much bigger than CBS had expected — I jumped into a taxi, handed it in, and went straight to the train station to go up to my house in the country. When I sat down, I looked at my feet — I had one blue shoe on and one brown! I thought, my God, what have I written? I began to wonder whether it had even made sense at the end. When I got to the country, I slept for sixteen hours, then went and sat in the garden to read my copy of the report. It was good — there weren't even any typing mistakes. I think that was the maximum point of concentration and output that I have ever reached. It was the job that carried the biggest responsibility."

There are assignments, of course, which present few obstacles to the researchers. "Sometimes we get someone with a problem that he thinks is difficult," Novotny points out. "But we can see quite clearly that one day spent in the Library of Congress in Washington and it's easily soluble."

There have been a few instances, though, where even Novotny and Eakins have been stumped — at least temporarily. When *All the President's Men* was in the final stages of production in 1976, Research Reports got a desperate call for help. To complete the title sequence, the film company needed the original front pages of several issues of the *Washington Post* that had been printed in 1973 during the Watergate scandal. It is usual practice for press archives, libraries, and other repositories to transfer bulky newspapers onto microfilm. The *Post* had previously retypeset certain pages expressly for *All the President's Men,* but the paper had been shut down by a strike.

"We tried all the back-issue places and every school of journalism we could think of," Eakins remembers. "We were making long-distance phone calls; we were willing to pay any price to the suppliers. We knew that somewhere there was a little old man sitting in a garret surrounded by newspapers, but we couldn't find him." After numerous leads failed to pan out, Novotny and Eakins finally learned that the Library of Congress was several years behind in microfilming and had the newspaper issues required. "That wasn't normal picture research," Eakins says; "that was problem solving. We were relieved when we finally found what we needed."

Apart from listings in the Manhattan Yellow Pages and in a few professional journals, Research Reports doesn't advertise. It doesn't need to: One satisfied client leads to another. "Even in the early years the business came to us," Novotny explains. "The one time I did try running an advertisement, the only responses I got were from people who wanted to be researchers themselves."

As busy as they are, the team rarely refuses assignments. "Occasionally we turn things down by quoting prices that are too high," Novotny says. "Not too long ago we were approached by an encyclopedia publisher who within six weeks wanted portraits of 1,000 economists from all periods of history. It was preposterous, so we quoted an outrageous fee and never heard from him again."

Do they ever say no to a client because they disapprove of the nature of the project? "Sometimes ethical questions come up when you are working for a client whose political viewpoint does not coincide with your own," Novotny admits. "For instance, we have been doing photographic research for a film on the history of the National Guard, which never mentions the incident at Kent State in 1970. The National Guard is trying to present itself in the best possible light, and that was the ground rule in doing the project."

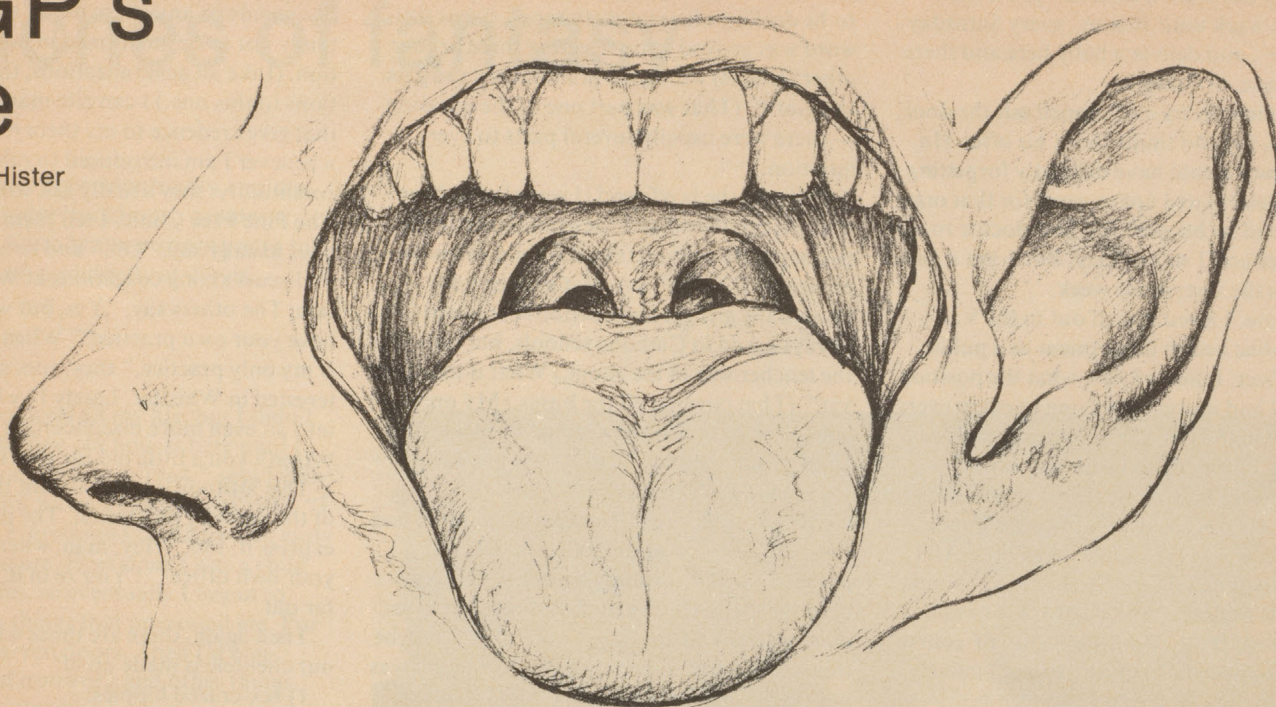
There is one sort of assignment that Research Reports adamantly refuses to take on: supplying research for student term papers or theses. As a former teacher, Eakins becomes particularly incensed when she suspects that it is a student on the phone. A year and a half ago, though, her instincts failed. When she heard a rather timid foreign voice on the line, she nearly started to chew the caller out. "Are you a student?" she demanded in what her partner jokingly refers to as her "fierce persona." "No," the man said, startled. The caller turned out to be a forgiving Mexican publisher. Research Reports has been doing work for him ever since.

The researchers are more than clients' workhorses, however. They have also managed to complete several projects of their own. Novotny coauthored *White House Weddings* in 1967 and wrote two other historical volumes: *Strangers at the Door (Ellis Island, Castle Garden, and the Great Migration to America)* in 1972 and *Alice's World: The Life and Photography of an American Original (Alice Austen, 1866-1952)* in 1976. All three — "labours of love wedged in on evenings and weekends" — reveal Novotny's penchant for historical photographs.

Two years ago Eakins and Novotny compiled and edited *Picture Sources 3,* the third edition of a directory of over 1,000 print and photograph sources. Now they are eager to coproduce an album of Canadian historical photographs. They may not get a chance for awhile, but they remain optimistic: the project is listed on their cluttered bulletin board. It is tacked with a white push pin. *L.A.*

# A GP's tale

by Arthur Hister



*Editor's Note: Dr. Arthur Hister, BSc'68, MD'70, lives in Vancouver, British Columbia with his wife and five-month-old son. He works half time as a general practitioner in private practice and half time at the Vancouver public health department's Pine Free Clinic. When he wrote the humorous but telling article that follows, adapted from the April 1977 issue of* Canadian Doctor, *he was still full time at the clinic.*

The other day, while I was finishing an impassioned speech to a new patient about responsibilities, trust, and love (which, now that I think about it, must have been totally pedantic and obnoxious), the fellow looked at me, wiped the evident boredom from his eyes, and said, "Hey, man, what's a guy like you doing in a place like this?" This took me slightly aback. I wasn't sure whether he meant, "What is a nice guy like you doing in a racket like this?" or "How did a guy like you get to be a doctor, anyway?"

As any other physician might have, however, I immediately dismissed this irrelevant question from my mind. Until that night, that is. I couldn't sleep. All the brilliant medical advice I kept giving my insomniac patients — suggesting that they count sheep, for instance — was of absolutely no use. My gastritis was acting up, too. Milk in hand, I plopped into my favourite chair and tried to assess what I was and whether I was happy with that particular product. Naturally, I began to think about why I had become a GP and about my work at the Pine Free Clinic in Vancouver.

Thinking back, I realized that ever since day one of medical school there had been — or more correctly, I had felt — a not-so-subtle pressure to specialize. To become a specialist was the promised pot of gold at the end of the medical rainbow, the ultimate reward for service to the people. At McGill in the late 1960s, the term general practitioner was practically outlawed. If it had to be used at all, it was usually spoken in hushed tones and out of earshot of impressionable young medical students.

Perhaps that's what set me apart, in my own mind, from "them." I knew very early in my training that I did not want to spend any more time than necessary in apprenticeship. I wanted out as soon as parole could be granted. I was afraid to confide any of these essentially heretical feelings to my peers because of the inevitable questions that would ensue. I felt somehow, well, different. Here I was, a "seven-year med" wonder child; I was going to graduate a whole year ahead of my age group and I didn't want to specialize. I was a traitor. I felt as if I were letting down a mythical team in some undefined way.

There was another factor that set me apart — I grew my hair slightly longer than the others in that essentially crew-cut class. Maybe I just wanted to cover my bald spots earlier. But this immediately marked me as the student most likely to become a psychiatrist (an assumption that had nothing whatsoever to do with my own preference). Nonetheless, the majority of staff and residents surmised that I really had no use for any knowledge in their particular specialties because a psychiatrist doesn't need to and doesn't want to know any other type of medicine. The one exception was a resident who felt I should learn as much internal medicine as possible, so I wouldn't have to call her to help me take a blood-pressure reading.

By the time I arrived in the wide open spaces of the Canadian west — downtown Vancouver — I was determined to start anew. In this wild, unpopulated region, nobody would know who I was, and consequently there would be no preconceptions about what I had to become. I would arrive at my avocation slowly, with no outside influence, purely through my own choice. I felt reborn, a pioneer.

My new personality lasted about eight weeks. Being in dire need of a salary, I went searching for a job. Someone suggested taking a locum. I didn't know what the term meant, but if it paid the bills, then I was willing to give it a try.

The first group I contacted was in Port Coquitlam, which is about fifty minutes by car (travelling sixty miles an hour at three in the morning with a sober driver at the wheel) from where I was living. After some hesitation, I told them that I was not willing to move there. They conferred for about ten seconds, concluding that perhaps I would not be all that keen on answering night calls if I remained in Vancouver. They turned me down.

Second I tried a doctor with the biggest one-man practice I have ever heard of. As we sat and sipped sherry at ten p.m., which was the first hour he could see me, he casually told me that I, too, could become a millionaire by the time I was forty. As I had only fifty dollars (a gift from my parents for my trip to the new world), the thought of my own Cadillac and villas in Spain was not altogether unpleasant.

It was very simple, he said. All I had to do was work every day from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., two evenings a week until 10 p.m., every Saturday until 1 p.m., and deliver a baby here and there (mostly there, of course).

I spilled my sherry and slipped out the door, telling him I would think about his offer. (In fact, I knew I would have difficulty forgetting it.) I was determined not to work for that man, even if I had to become the first doctor to apply for welfare. I'm not lazy, but I am a firm believer in the forty-hour week.

Desperate, I hired myself out to the Vancouver public health department as a public health officer. I didn't know what the position entailed. I had visions of having to eat in every restaurant in town to see if I developed food poisoning, or having to visit every hotel on skid row to see how many fleas I could collect. But I quickly discovered that being a public health officer was far simpler than that. All I had to do was call on the local schools to talk to the little darlings. And what was I to talk about? Well, their favourite topic, of course. And what was their favourite topic? I naively asked. Why, sex, of course. Oh!

It seemed that the parents didn't want to discuss the subject with their kids, probably because the kids knew more about it than they did. And much to my surprise, I quickly discovered that they knew quite a bit more than I did, too.

Picture the scene. The distinguished, very frightened doctor, the traditional enemy of all children under sixteen, is about to invade foreign turf. I put on my best — and only — suit, brush my hair, and step onto the battleground, terrified. The war is on.

It was my usual custom on entering a new classroom to seek out the most quiet-looking girl and address all my replies in her direction. That way I knew there was at least one person in the room more afraid than I. I realized this child would later have difficulty explaining to classmates why I had singled her out for every answer; but that seemed a small price to pay for my confidence. And perhaps my intimacy would win her favour, and she would proceed to rescue me if I got in over my head. How wrong I was!

I made it a habit to ask for questions from the floor. The first question, while the students were sounding me out and allowing their teacher to escape, was usually relatively innocuous: Did I or didn't I approve of sex? I usually did. This approval was greeted with audible sighs of relief. The assumption was immediately made, therefore, that I was totally and absolutely in favour of sex. This signalled phase two of their battle plan.

At this moment, my ally, the dear little twelve-year-old at the back, would stand up and in a tiny voice ask, "Mister (I was never called anything but Mister), what happens if your (it was always mine — I don't know what kind of family they thought I came from) sister, who is sixteen (at least we weren't going to be dealing with statutory rape), sleeps (this word was arrived at by rejecting three or four other choices) with your grandfather and gets 'pregint'?" (That was part one of the question — there were usually several parts to every question.)

"Should the boyfriend (I was glad to hear that the boyfriend and the grandfather were two separate people) take the child as his own, especially if he isn't sure if it's his or not? Should the girl get an abortion? (This was always asked in Catholic schools, but only if the teacher was in the room.) What if they get VD?" (That covered all the bases.) My only consolation: they never seemed to care if the child would then be the mother's uncle.

I always answered the easy parts first, hoping they would forget the rest by the time I had finished. They never did. Always tell your parents, I lied. I certainly wasn't going to undermine the authority of the family, not even *that* family. And anyway, I told myself, maybe this was a cultural phenomenon to which I was not yet accustomed. After all, McGill — the school that Osler built, or vice versa — didn't teach us everything. And, I continued aloud, the innocent young couple should go and visit their priest, preferably without the grandfather. I never referred them to their family doctor, for fear he or she would reciprocate this referral when I had set up my own practice.

By the end of this reply, my flight response had generally gotten the better of my fight response, and as casually as possible, I fled out the door to the tune of "What happens if they get VD?"

After several more weeks of this work — in which I managed to explore publicly every permutation and combination of the extended family — my boss called me into his office and announced that the city was going to start up a clinic for transient and alienated youth. The doctor they had had in mind had suddenly developed some trouble, which my boss suspiciously refused to specify, and was now in Oregon. Would I be interested? My boss and the now-departed Oregonian thought I would be perfect for the job. I was puzzled. I did not feel any more alienated than your average doctor and, since I was not planning to move, I certainly didn't feel transient. Perfect for the role? Well, I said to myself, maybe it's because of all the expertise I've acquired recently.

After due consideration of the available alternatives (none), I decided to try the new role. Perhaps it would be the path back into the mainstream of medicine, which I found I missed. I would take my place again as a respected member of the medical community. Wrong again!

One impression stands out after five years of practice in a free-clinic environment: there is still a stigma attached to this type of practice, as if it should be pursued only in garages or basements or anywhere out of sight. It is certainly not to be mentioned in polite conversation. (Like all generalizations, there are exceptions to this one.) I can cite many illustrations that give credence to my theory. For instance, whenever I am introduced to other GPs in the community, they usually ask where I practise. The Pine Free Clinic, I tell them. The polite ones usually say, "Oh," and immediately start to discuss skiing conditions at Whistler Mountain. The others say, "Yes, but where do you have your own practice?" When I reply, "That *is* my only practice," they, too, suddenly get interested in Whistler. Lately I've been running into an even more disconcerting reaction: "Aren't you a little old for that kind of thing?"

This attitude is certainly not the monopoly of the medical profession. The patients often express it, too. "Hey, man, where do you have your own office?" "You're in it, man?" "Oh, far out."

Then again, there are those who think that our clientele is made up of:

1) sex-crazed hippies;
2) dope-crazed hippies;
3) just plain crazy hippies;
4) abortion freaks.

In short, kids between fifteen and eighteen who live on welfare or unemployment insurance after they run away from home, and who spend all their time in bed or high, or both. And if they have to get up, it's only to collect their welfare cheques, score some dope, or get an abortion.

Over the past five years, I have heard all these charges, usually followed by a loud, self-righteous chuckle and a quick glance around the room. The plain truth is that our patients are very hard to categorize, even by age.

Some generalizations, however, can be made. By and large, our patients are between fourteen and forty. They come from all socio-economic groups and include many professionals. And surprise! They come to us for all their medical needs, not just for birth control and venereal disease. Undoubtedly, we do see a high proportion of patients for these reasons, but in a young, highly mobile population, this is to be expected.

The really surprising statistic, I believe, is that the majority of our patients have medical coverage. They could go elsewhere for their medical care but they choose to come to our clinic. Needless to say, this provides the staff with a tremendous amount of secondary satisfaction.

In short, free clinics have changed. For a large number of people, they are now accepted centres for the delivery of medical care.

And Dr. Arty has changed, too. In a funny way, I have become a specialist, although one not yet recognized by the Canadian Medical Association. My time will come. □

# Touches of fantasy

by Joan Irving

Anxious to document Montreal's rapidly disappearing older buildings, amateur photographer Edith Mather spent years taking hundreds of architectural views.

"I'd lived in Montreal all my life, but I didn't start noticing the fine old houses here until I moved to Greene Avenue in 1964," says Edith Mather, a McGill Science graduate of 1947. "I started reading everything I could find on early Quebec architecture. Ever since I was a child I'd taken pictures, so eventually I began to photograph the things that interested me. For a while it was carved doors. Then I'd concentrate on roof ironwork and other things."

Mather does not use her camera as an artist, she explains modestly, but as a recorder. Recently Tundra Books, a small, specialized publishing house in Montreal, issued 160 of her photographs in an album entitled *Touches of Fantasy on Montreal Streets.* A selection from the more than 1,100 black-and-white architectural views she has taken over the past decade, the book documents a Montreal that is rapidly disappearing. It also reveals Mather's fascination with gargoyles, turrets, finials, and other decorative elements of Victorian and Edwardian buildings in the city.

When the youngest of her four children, twelve-year-old Geoffrey, was an infant, Mather used to pack a lunch, bundle the baby and his bottle into a sturdy English pram, and set out for a walk each morning. Eventually these outings led them miles along streets in older sections of Montreal, including Pte. St. Charles, St. Henri, and Parc Lafontaine. Unnoticed, Mather took photographs with her thirty-five-dollar Yashica camera and brought home any bits of debris — pieces of iron rod or plaster moulding, for instance — that would fit into the pram. As Geoffrey grew older, the two took the bus, then walked through neighbourhoods even further afield.

Mather carefully catalogued the photographs she took by location and date. Not all are perfectly focussed or well composed; Mather learned the nuances of black-and-white photography by trial and error. What makes her photographs so valuable is that more than half of the buildings they record have since been demolished. "I worked alone at the beginning," she recalls. "Most of my friends couldn't understand why I was spending so many hours after work and on Sundays in the darkroom for these photo-

graphs." Later, when saving Montreal's historic architecture became a public issue, they started to appreciate what she was doing.

One of those who encouraged her was May Cutler, the president of Tundra Books and a fellow McGill alumna. Mather and Cutler first encountered each other thirty years ago when both worked — Mather only briefly — on the *McGill Daily* newspaper. They did not meet again until one day in 1968 when Mather arrived in Cutler's office with a portfolio of her photographs. Cutler was impressed with the project and suggested that Mather take a few more photographs to round it out. Mather took hundreds more before returning to Tundra in 1975. As Cutler says, "if we had printed all the good photographs she supplied, the book would have been twice the size."

Mather and Cutler decided it was most important to publish photographs of buildings that are still standing. An earlier Tundra book, *A Feast of Gingerbread,* which featured photographs of Victorian domestic architectural woodwork, had generated a great deal of public interest in preserving the buildings it recorded. They hope *Touches of Fantasy on Montreal Streets* will do the same.

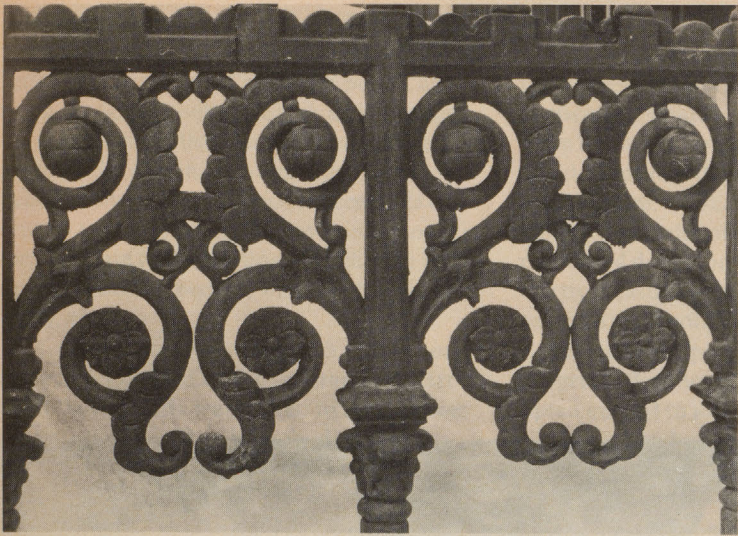
Mather, now fifty-two and divorced, lives with her son Geoffrey above a store on Greene Avenue in Westmount. Not surprisingly, the building is of turn-of-the-century vintage. The apartment's rooms are vast, the windows large and leaky, the ceilings high and greying at the corners. For Mather it's a comfortable living space. "I know it's not always practical to keep places like this," she says, "but I hate to see them go. They have character. You can see the craftsmanship in the stone and woodwork. These buildings reflect our history and our artistic experience; they show a different way of looking at life."

Although it is not evident in Mather's published work, she also feels deeply about "natural" things. She is too shy to photograph people, but two summers ago she finally found a subject that suited her taste for colour, beauty, and nature. While eating lunch in a field near the textile factory in southwest Montreal where she was then working, she spied a bronze copper butterfly. It was the first butterfly she "collected" on colour film; there have been hundreds since. Most of them she finds in the city; one day last summer she discovered twenty species among the flowering milkweeds in Mount Royal Park.

"Sometimes, of course, I have to wait," she says. "I see one and sit down in its territory. I know now that it will come back." When Mather takes photographs, waiting is not a matter of patience. It's a matter of love. □

*Joan Irving is a Montreal freelance writer.*

*At right and on page 27, four photographs from* Touches of Fantasy on Montreal Streets.



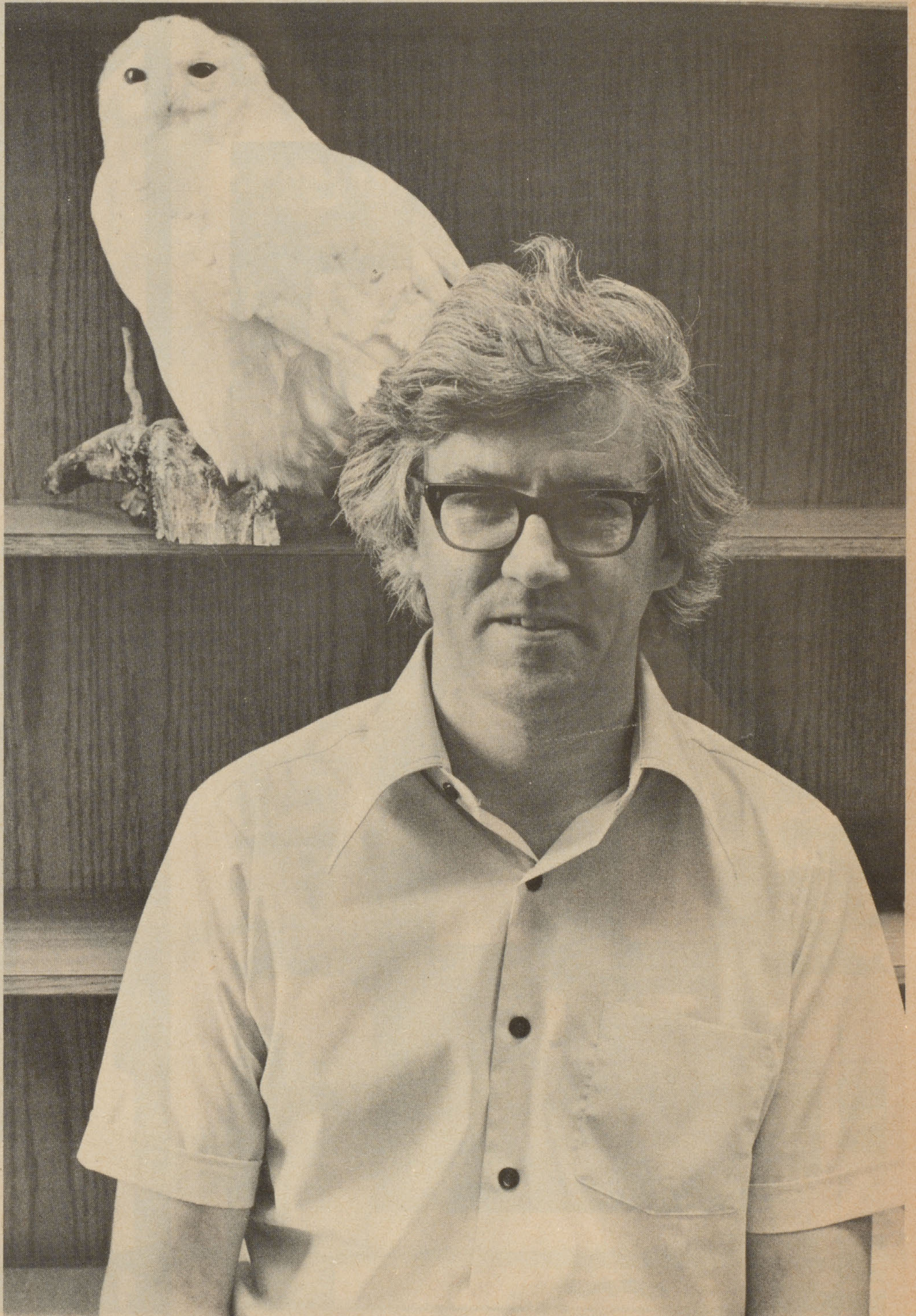
# The iceman

A few years ago, William Barr switched his field from physical to cultural geography. But his research preoccupation remains the same: ice and snow.

A walrus is an animal that doesn't take easily to strangers and doesn't hesitate to show its feelings. Just ask geographer William Barr. When he was a McGill doctoral student in the late 1960s, he met up with one. He and some colleagues were conducting research at northeastern Devon Island in the Northwest Territories. "We were on field work along the coast after breakup, which takes place in July," he recalls. "The boat quit on us, so we were paddling and not making much progress. There was a walrus that was more than a little inquisitive. Walrus can be extremely dangerous and this one was heading for us. I slapped the water with my paddle; he dived and came up about three feet in front of the bow. He had these little red beady eyes and great tusks and bristles. One of my friends was trying to get his rifle out of its case. But fortunately, the thing just lit off."

On another occasion at Devon Island, Barr was awakened early one morning by sounds outside his tent. His unexpected visitor: a polar bear. But again the researcher was spared when the animal turned tail. Despite these hair-raising experiences, Barr insists, in his soft-spoken way, that doing field work in the north "was not as tough or rugged as it sounds, just a little lonesome. In case of accident or emergency, we always had access to communication with the [Arctic Institute of North America's] base camp at Cape Sparbo."

Barr relied on freeze-dried food and common sense during his three summer expeditions in the Arctic. Besides, he had already proven equal to the rigours of northern Quebec during a year as an MSc student and research assistant at McGill's Sub-Arctic Research Laboratory in Schefferville. In fact, with what some Canadians might regard as a streak of perversity, Barr has always sought out ice and snow. Born in 1940 in the relatively mild climes of England, he started to attend school in Scotland when he was eight. As a geography undergraduate at the University of Aberdeen, he wrote a thesis on glacial geomorphology in the Scottish highlands.



*Geographer William Barr in his office at the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon.*

Because of his interest in the effect of ice on land forms, he was intrigued by a notice on the geography department's bulletin board, advertising the Schefferville research assistantship. He sent in an application and was accepted. After a brief stay in Montreal, he flew to Schefferville in July of 1963. Inaccessible except by train or plane, the iron-mining town is located close to the treeline. The climate is severe; the townspeople, who number about 4,000, are hearty.

McGill's Sub-Arctic Research Laboratory (then administered by the geography department, but recently transferred to the auspices of the Centre for Northern Studies and Research) served as a weather station under contract to the federal Department of Transport. Research assistants like Barr were expected to take shifts at the twenty-four-hour weather watches. They also took courses from the resident director and assisted in ongoing research on frost-heave, lake-ice growth and temperatures, micro-climate, permafrost, and snow-cover. Barr was "dragooned," as he puts it jokingly, into charting a temperature profile of ice in nearby Knob Lake with the help of two measuring devices, a thermocouple and a Wheatstone bridge. "The worst thing," he remembers, "was squatting out in the middle of the lake for about two hours once a week all through the winter."

During the summer Barr was free to conduct personal research for his master's dissertation. His topic: the fluvioglacial morphology of an area south of Schefferville. "The term fluvioglacial," he explains, "means meltwater, in this case from the Wisconsin icecap. The area around Schefferville is where the last chunks of ice disappeared about six thousand years ago. Particularly in the last stages of deglaciation, there were vast amounts of meltwater which modified the landscape strikingly.

"In terms of glaciation and deglaciation, indeed in terms of most of the physical environment, the area around Schefferville is the most thoroughly studied part of the Canadian subarctic, simply because the McGill laboratory has been there for twenty-three years."

After receiving his MSc in 1965, Barr returned to McGill's Montreal campus to begin a PhD. But during the summers he headed for the Northwest Territories for field investigations into glacio-isostasy and its geomorphic effects. "Isostasy refers to a state of balance in the earth's crust," Barr points out. "If you put an icecap on part of the crust, the weight of the ice will depress it. If you remove the ice by deglaciation, the crust will rebound. Most of Canada, especially the northern part, is rising. The area around southeast Hudson Bay and the Belcher Islands is rising at the rate of about 1.3 metres a century. It is possible that when equilibrium is finally reached, Hudson Bay will have practically disappeared and Churchill will be several hundred miles from the sea.

"What I was trying to figure out was the pattern of uplift in a fairly small area. It was not particularly unique work; lots of people had done the same thing in other parts of Canada. But nobody had done that sort of study so far north before." To carry out his research, Barr collected samples of organic material and did carbon-14 dating on them, determining their age by measuring the radioactivity of their radiocarbon content.

Although he spent three years in the PhD program, Barr never completed his thesis. He opted instead to join the faculty of the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon, where he is now an associate professor of geography and editor of the *Musk-Ox*, a biannual journal produced by the university-connected Institute of Northern Studies. In recent years he has become increasingly interested in cultural geography. While he continues to teach and do research in geomorphology, he considers himself primarily as an historical geographer specializing in Arctic studies.

### A Fascination for the Soviet North

Barr has written several articles on a subject that is little known in the English-speaking world: the history of exploration of the Soviet Arctic and the development of the Northern Sea Route. His desire to read Soviet polar literature prompted him to teach himself Russian, building on the foundation he acquired in an introductory course at McGill. "I have had very little occasion to speak Russian," he says, "so I certainly don't consider myself fluent. My vocabulary is oriented towards ice conditions, icebreakers, sledge dogs — which is not exactly what you need to find your way around Russia."

Barr's proficiency in the language, however, is sufficient for him to have translated numerous articles and a book, which was issued by the McGill-Queen's University Press in 1976, called *Charting the Russian Northern Sea Route*. He has also translated material from French and German. "I find translation challenging plus relaxing," he says. "It has the same attraction as doing crossword puzzles."

Barr's most recent research project was generated by a casual comment from the now retired director of McGill's Centre for Northern Studies and Research. "About three and a half years ago, Trevor Lloyd mentioned that one of the icebreakers the Soviets relied upon in the north in the thirties, forties, and even fifties was actually the *Earl Grey*, an old Canadian icebreaker that used to make the run from Prince Edward Island to the mainland every winter." Barr discovered that the Russian government had purchased the icebreaker from the Canadian government at the outbreak of the First World War in order to bring supplies into the country. "The German navy had the Russians bottled up in the Baltic and the Turks had them bottled up in the Black Sea. The Trans-Siberian Railroad was operating, but there was a limit to what a single-track railway could haul. The main access into Russia during the war was Archangel on the White Sea, which is icebound from November through April. The Russians, however, had no icebreakers."

In the course of his research, Barr learned of eleven other icebreakers or icebreaking streamers that Canada and Newfoundland had sold to the Russians between 1914 and 1916. Some had originally been used for ferry service, others for sealing and transporting coal or other cargo. "There wasn't any particular surplus of ships," Barr notes, "but the seal hunt was beginning to decline and the prices the Russians paid were extremely good."

Barr decided to pursue his investigations further while on sabbatical. He spent the winter of 1976 at Dartmouth College in New Hampshire, which boasts one of the finest polar libraries in North America. "I discovered that almost every expedition organized by the Soviets in the north in the twenties and thirties involved one or more of these ships. The Russians aren't exactly shouting this from the rooftops, of course. But it is no exaggeration to say that these ships opened up the Soviet north." It wasn't until 1967, in fact, that the last of the Canadian fleet was scrapped by the Soviets.

In the spring of 1976, Barr spent several weeks in Britain, visiting the Vickers shipyards where the ships had been built. That summer he travelled to St. John's, Newfoundland, and last spring to Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. "I was very lucky in St. John's in being able to get in touch with two older fellows who remembered the ships extremely well. One is a marine historian, the other the son of the captain of one of these ships. The seal hunt lasted about six weeks; the rest of the year the sealing ships operated as tramp steamers. This may seem anomalous, but two or three were in the banana trade from Jamaica to New York every summer. This old fellow can remember his whole family going down to Jamaica from St. John's in May and vacationing there for a few months, while his father ran up and down to New York."

As a result of his research, Barr has produced a hefty manuscript, which is now awaiting publication. He has every intention of continuing his studies of the Soviet north: He would like to investigate the development of weather stations and the movement of warships during World War II. "The whole topic of the Soviet north is practically untouched by English-speaking writers," he points out. What could be more appealing to a geographer fascinated by ice and snow. *L.A.*

# Where they are and what they're doing

'21

PRESTON McINTYRE, MD'21, has received an honorary doctor of laws degree from the University of Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown.
RICHARD A. PARSONS, BCL'21, has published his eleventh book of poetry, *Contemplations*.

'27

WILFRED GALLAY, BA'27, MSc'28, PhD'30, a consulting chemist in Ottawa, Ont., is heading a committee on problems of the environment for the International Council of Scientific Unions.
ARTHUR B.B. MOORE, BA'27, has been elected chancellor of the University of Toronto, Ontario.
WILLIAM S. ROW, BSc'27, has been awarded the Inco Ltd. platinum medal by the Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy.
ALICE WILLARD TURNER, BA'27, MA'28, has received an honorary doctor of laws degree from York University, Downsview, Ont., where she has taught since its founding in 1960.

'29

A. STEWART ALLEN, MD'29, a resident of Cardinal, Ont., is celebrating his forty-eighth year of practising medicine.

'31

DAVID LEWIS, BA'31, has been made a Companion of the Order of Canada.

'32

VICTOR ARCHER, BSA'32, has been appointed acting governor of St. Lucia, W.I.

'33

DEANE NESBITT, BEng'33, is chairman of the board of Nesbitt Thomson and Co. Ltd., Montreal.

'35

JOYCE I. MARSHALL, BA'35, has won the Canada Council award for the best translation from French to English in 1976. Her prize-winning translation is *Enchanted Summer (Cet été qui chantait)* by Gabrielle Roy (McClelland and Stewart).
HUGH J. McDONALD, BSc'35, head of the biochemistry and biophysics department at Loyola University, Chicago, Ill., is the recipient of the American Association for Clinical Chemistry Award for outstanding efforts in education and training.

'36

ROBERT LAXER, BA'36, MA'39, is coauthor of *The Liberal Idea of Canada: Pierre Trudeau and the Question of Canada's Survival* (James Lorimer).

'37

D. CARLETON JONES, BEng'37, has retired after twenty-three years with Hudson's Bay Oil and Gas.
MALCOLM NEARY, BSc(Agr)'37, has retired after forty years with the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Marketing.

'39

EDWARD M. BOULTER, BCom'39, has returned to Pasadena, Calif., after a year as a consultant to the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency, Jeddah.
B. SEYMOUR RABINOVITCH, BSc'39, PhD'42, a professor of chemistry at the University of Washington, Seattle, is editor of *Annual Reviews of Physical Chemistry*, and in 1978 will be a visiting professor at the Technion Institute, Haifa, Israel, and University College, London, England.

'41

WILLIAM H. GAUVIN, BEng'41, MEng'42, PhD'45, has been elected president of the Chemical Institute of Canada.
ROBERT D. MACKENZIE, BCom'41, has been elected president of the Public Accountants Council for the Province of Ontario.

'42

DOUGLAS C. BROCKIE, BSc'42, has become chief exploitation geologist, mineral exploration division, of Kerr-McGee Resources Corp., Oklahoma City, Okla.

'43

HERBERT HENRY JASPER, MD'43, has been awarded an honorary degree by the University of Western Ontario, London.
RUDOLF A. MARCUS, BSc'43, PhD'46, a professor at the University of Illinois, Urbana, has been named recipient of the American Chemical Society's Irving Langmuir Award in Chemical Physics for his work in theoretical chemical kinetics and chemical dynamics.
GORDON W. THOMAS, BA'40, MD'43, executive director of the International Grenfell Association, Newfoundland, is a co-recipient of the Royal Bank Award, given in recognition of his contribution to human welfare.

'45

JOHN MARTIN, BSc'44, MD'45, has been elected president of the Newfoundland Medical Association.
BLANCHE (LEMCO) VAN GINKEL, BArch'45, has been named director of the School of Architecture at the University of Toronto, Ontario.

'46

MICHAEL BRECHER, BA'46, a professor of political science at McGill, has been awarded a renewal of his I.W. Killam Senior Research Scholarship by the Canada Council. He is making a comparative analysis of the behaviour of foreign policy decision-makers in international crises.
RAYMOND LEMIEUX, PhD'46, a professor at the University of Alberta, Edmonton, has been selected to receive the Haworth Award and Medal from the Chemical Society of London, England.

'47

RICHARD F. GOSSE, BA'47, is deputy attorney-general of the Province of Saskatchewan.
JOHN ELLIS MOXLEY, BSc(Agr)'47, MSc'52, professor of animal science in McGill's Faculty of Agriculture, has been made Commandeur de l'ordre du mérite agronomique by the Ordre des Agronomes du Québec. He has also received the Canadian Society of Animal Science Certificate of Merit.
WILLIAM J. REID, BCom'47, has been named vice-president, finance, of Air Canada.

'49

JOHN F. ALLISON, BSc'49, has been appointed vice-president, employee relations, of Cominco Ltd., Vancouver, B.C.
WILLIAM L. ARCHER, BA'49, is commissioner of the Niagara Region Study Review Commission, Ontario, which recently released a report on regional government.
DOUGLAS T. BOURKE, BEng'49, has been elected president of the Canadian Steel Service Centre Institute, which has its headquarters in Toronto, Ont.

'50

PHILIP P. ASPINALL, BCom'50, is president of the Order of Chartered Accountants of Quebec.
DONALD BISHOP, BSc(Agr)'50, has been named coordinator of administration and exhibitions for the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Marketing, Halifax.
DOUGLAS LANG, BSc'50, is president of the Insurance Accounting and Statistical Association of the United States and Canada.

'51

JOHN H. DeLORY, BEng'51, has been elected president of the Association of Professional Engineers of Nova Scotia.
HENRY G. McADIE, BSc'51, is serving a second term as chairman of the board of directors of the Chemical Institute of Canada.

# Focus

Around the turn of the century the Steiff Company in Germany and the Ideal Toy Company in the United States both decided to gamble on marketing a new stuffed toy. It was a huge success and soon acquired the name teddy bear after American President Theodore ("Teddy") Roosevelt, who is said to have saved a bear cub's life during a hunting expedition. The teddy bear has been a fixture in the homes of European and North American families ever since.

No one understands the charm of teddy bears better than **Helen (Drummond) Henderson,** DipPE'27. Since 1965 she has sewn and sold more than 1,500 of them — each one unique. "I had a bear as a child," she says, "and I kept it until I gave it to my grandson." But Mrs. Henderson didn't think to try her hand at making teddy bears until her interest in needlework led her to a book on soft-toy making. "For the first five years," she recalls good-naturedly, "the bears covered the guest room, unwanted."

Today her creations are so popular that she can hardly keep up with the orders. She has no desire to speed up her production or raise her low prices, however. "It's all a fun thing with me," she explains. "Friends buy the bears; they're not sold commercially." Mrs Henderson herself keeps only enough from sales to cover the cost of her materials. The rest of the proceeds go to her two favourite charities, the World Wildlife Fund and St. Margaret's Home, a Montreal home for the elderly founded by her grandfather.

In a small workroom in her Westmount home, she stores materials and keeps partially completed teddy bears. A head may await a body, hind legs a pair of paws. "Very often after breakfast, I rush upstairs to cut out the next bear. I work fairly steadily at them in the evenings with the radio or television on. I *can* make one of these little fellows in a few hours, but I don't time myself."

Mrs. Henderson takes pride in her craftsmanship and has little patience for "trashy" commercial stuffed animals. Whether a few inches or a few feet in height, all the teddy bears she makes have fully jointed parts, reinforced seams, and eyes securely attached to coil wires in their heads. They are fashioned with fake fur — usually bought in local stores but sometimes dispatched from as far away as England — and stuffed with fake fur fragments, polyester fibre, or used nylon stockings that friends save for her. The paws are made of felt or suedine, the noses of embroidery cotton.

"I thought I'd get tired of it years ago," Mrs. Henderson says, "but I never have. It's such fun to experiment. I go ahead and do the mouth and nose and things, and some of them are nice and some aren't. But even if I think a bear is dull, someone else may like it." Mrs. Henderson's teddy bears have found homes with children and adults alike. Two of them were bought by a San Francisco banker who has a collection of over 900.

Because of her interest in teddy-bear making, Mrs. Henderson corresponds with other aficionados and authorities like Peter Bull, the British author of a book on teddy bear lore and history called *Bear with Me*. She also gives classes to church groups or other organizations seeking instruction. "If I'm going to teach people how to make bears, I've got to have four or five sessions," she points out. "Sometimes the ones they turn out at first are very odd indeed!" More than anything else, she tries to instill the need for patience, advising her students to redo loose joints or reset crooked ears.

Part of the remarkable energy that Mrs. Henderson brings to her hobby undoubtedly derives from her long history of physical activity. Since graduating fifty years ago with a physical education diploma, she has participated in sports ranging from riding to golfing. A recent snapshot pictures her snorkelling in the Caribbean. The rest of her energy seems to derive from her buoyant spirit. Of her youth and forty-seven-year marriage to the late Dr. Arthur T. Henderson (a pioneer allergist at Montreal's Royal Victoria Hospital), she says "it's been an interesting, full, splendid life."

In recent months she has travelled extensively, revisiting scenes from her past — the spot in Jamaica where she and her husband spent their honeymoon, the house in Colorado where she lived as a girl, and the school in England where she studied. Now that she is back home, she is thinking of her next goal: her two thousandth teddy bear. (She recently completed number 1570, dubbed Fireworks for his red paws.) Although she emphasizes that "bears do not occupy my whole life's interest," she clearly delights in her avocation. "Bears engender love. There's love in the making, in the giving, and in the having." *L.A.*

TREVOR W. PILLEY, BSc'51, is president and chief executive officer of the Bank of British Columbia.
BERNARD ST-ONGE, BEng'51, has become president of the Shawinigan Engineering Co. Ltd., Quebec.

'52
PEARCE BUNTING, BCom'52, has been named president of the Toronto Stock Exchange, Ontario.

'53
JOHN S. ASTLE, BCom'53, has been appointed comptroller of the Province of New Brunswick, Fredericton.
MARCEL E. BLOUIN, BSc'53, has been named senior account representative, elastomers department, of Exxon Chemical Co. U.S.A., Florham Park, N.J.
J. PETER CHAPLIN, BSc(Agr)'53, is marketing manager, industrial products, for Kraft Industrial Inc., Memphis, Tenn.
GORDON DAVIES, MD'53, is medical director of Royal Inland Hospital, Kamloops, B.C.
RICHARD C. GREULICH, PhD'53, has become scientific director of the National Institute on Aging and will be in charge of the research program at the Gerontology Research Center, Baltimore, Md.

'55
ARTHUR COHEN, BEng'55, has been named a Fellow of the American Society for Testing and Materials and has received the Society's award of merit.
HERBERT M. LEWIS, BCom'55, has been appointed vice-president, sales, of Cominco Ltd., Vancouver, B.C.
DR. GERALD J. SARWER-FONER, DipPsych'55, has been appointed psychiatrist-in-chief of the Royal Ottawa Hospital, Ontario.

'56
JANE C. HALIBURTON, BN'56, director of education at Yarmouth Regional Hospital, has received the award of merit from the Registered Nurses Association of Nova Scotia.
LOU HOLLANDER, BEng'56, has become president, recreational products group, of Bombardier Ltd., Valcourt, Que.
RT. REV. REGINALD HOLLIS, BD'56, bishop of Montreal, has received an honorary doctor of divinity degree from the University of the South, Sewanee, Tenn.
HELEN (CREIGHTON) HOWARD, BLS'56, MLS'67, has recieved her PhD from Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, New Brunswick.
R. THOMAS NEWTON, BEng'56, DipMan'70, is manager, program planning, of Canadair Ltd., Montreal.
HAROLD T. SHAPIRO, BCom'56, has become vice-president, academic affairs, of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.
PETER TARASSOFF, BEng'56, has been appointed manager, engineering division, of Noranda Research Centre, Pointe Claire, Que.

'57
GERALDINE A. DUBRULE, BSc(PE)'57, coordinator of aquatics in McGill's athletics department, has won the distinguished service award from the Federation of Synchronized Swimming of Quebec.

JOHN EVANS, BSc'57, MSc'59, an ecologist teaching in the biology department of Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's, has built an experimental station called the Newfoundland Ark on a six-and-a-half-acre farm. "The ultimate goal is self-sufficiency," he says, "but in the meantime the Ark functions as a research and teaching centre oriented towards applied ecology."
DAVID M. WILES, PhD'57, director of the division of chemistry at the National Research Council, Ottawa, Ont., has been made a Fellow of the Institute of Textile Science.

'58
STEPHEN V. ALLISON, BEng'58, is a groundwater advisor with the World Bank, Washington, D.C. He writes that in the last few years he has "travelled half a million miles and worked in the Philippines, Thailand, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Yugoslavia, and Mauritius."
CLINTON J. NESBITT, BSc(Agr)'58, has become agricultural representative at the Elmvale Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Simcoe County, Ont.

'59
ROLAND B. BRETON, BCom'59, has become managing director of the Royal Trust Co. of Canada office in London, England.
ANDRE J. GALIPEAULT, BCL'59, has been appointed vice-president and general counsel of Texaco Canada Ltd., Toronto, Ont.
JOHN B. HOWSE, BSc'59, has become business editor of the *Calgary Herald,* Alberta.
WENDELL LAWRENCE, BEng'59, has been named project officer, engineering, at the Caribbean Development Bank, St. Michael, Barbados.
REV. A. DONALD MacLEOD, BA'59, is general director of Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship of Canada, Toronto, Ont.
DONALD WOOD, BSc(Agr)'59, has become a Liberal member of Parliament for Malpeque, Que.

'60
RAYMOND L.S. SAWCHUCK, BEng'60, is commanding officer of the Canadian Forces Station at Beaverlodge, Alta.
SANDRA (FREEDMAN) WITELSON, BSc'60, MSc(A)'62, PhD'66, has been promoted to professor of psychiatry in the Faculty of Health Sciences, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ont., and recently received the 1976 Morton Prince Award from the American Psychopathological Association.

'61
NATHAN AGENSKY, BEng'61, is president of a newly formed soil-testing company, Inspec-Sol (Ont.) Ltd., Kingston Ont.
ELLA MacLEOD, BN'61, has retired as director of nursing at Prince Edward Island Hospital and has become director of public health nursing for the provincial government, Charlottetown.
ROBERT RICHARDSON, MA'61, has been appointed acting chairman of the department of history of medicine and science, Faculty of Medicine, at the University of Western Ontario, London.

'62
RALPH GALLAY, BEng'62, is an assistant professor of marketing at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, New Brunswick.

'63
SIDNEY ASTER, BA'63, MA'65, visiting professor of modern British history at Erindale College, University of Toronto, Ont., is author of the biography, *Anthony Eden* (McGraw-Hill Ryerson).
MOSES ZNAIMER, BA'63, and a colleague have bought the film rights to Richard Rohmer's novels *Ultimatum* and *Exxoneration,* and plan to begin filming this year.

'64
J. ALICE BAUMGART, MSc(A)'64, has been named dean of the School of Nursing at Queen's University, Kingston, Ont., and is completing her doctoral degree at the University of Toronto.
A. RAE CAMPBELL, BEng'64, is project manager of the heavy oils program of Petro-Canada, Calgary, Alta.
NEIL FAULKNER, BSc'64, is working with the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs in Ottawa, Ont., where he coordinates federal financial and sociological relations with the governments of the Yukon and the Northwest Territories.
DOUGLAS H. HURLBURT, MSc'64, PhD'72, is on staff at the Lincoln Laboratory, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, where he is involved in the development of acousto-electric surface acoustic wave devices.
ROBERT SILVERMAN, LMus'60, BMus'64, will appear as guest pianist with the BBC Symphony, London, England, in November during the first all-Canadian music festival in Europe.

'65
ANDREA JEANNE (PASKINS) HURLBURT, BSc'65, MSc'70, PhD'74, has been appointed a research associate in the radiology department at Harvard Medical Center, Boston, Mass.
PETER G. KEVAN, BSc'65, has received a grant from the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, to study the interrelationship of alpine flowers and insects on the Mosquito range and at the summit of Pennsylvania Mountain, Colo.
JOHN MacFARLANE, BSc(Agr)'65, an electrophysiologist, has joined the staff of the International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology, Nairobi, Kenya, where he is reseaching the destructive army worm caterpillar. "We hope to be able to deal with it through the creation of hybrid [crops] which it will not attack," he says.
MAUREEN ANNA POWERS, BN'65, is executive director of the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario.
EZRA SKEINMAN, BA'63, DDS'65, has been elected president of the Mount Royal Dental Society, Montreal.
THOMAS SPIRA, MA'65, PhD'70, is author of *German-Hungarian Relations and the Swabian Problem* (Columbia University Press).
WILLIAM L. VERRIER, DipEd'60, MA'65, has been named general manager, United Kingdom and Ireland, of Air Canada.

'66
JOEL B. FREEMAN, MD'66, MSc'70, has been appointed chief of the surgery department at the Ottawa General Hospital, University of Ottawa, Ontario.
R. JAMES McCOUBREY, BCom'66, has become president of Young and Rubicam Ltd., a public relations firm in Toronto, Ont.
JOHN READ, BEng'66, MEng'70, is manager, research and development, of Canadian Liquid Air Ltd., Montreal.

'67
PETER I. HIDAS, MA'67, PhD'74, has published *The Metamorphosis of a Social Class in Hungary during the Reign of Young Franz Joseph* (Columbia University Press).
HENRI E. OUELLET, MSc'67, PhD'77, has been appointed chief of the natural sciences division of the National Museums of Canada, Ottawa, Ont., where he is also curator of birds.
ARNOLD ROVERS, BSc(Agr)'67, has become director of marketing and economics for the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Marketing, Halifax.

'68
HAROLD WILLIAM COCK, BSc(Agr)'68, MSc'70, a biochemist in the pediatrics department of Dalhousie University, Halifax, N.S., is conducting research on the effect of diet on the growth of the brain. He holds a five-year young investigator's scholarship from the Medical Research Council.
DR. WILLIAM E. FELDMAN, BSc'68, has become an assistant professor in the pediatrics department at Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, Ga.
J.A.H. FRASER, MEd'68, assistant professor in the School of Education, Acadia University, Wolfville, N.S., has been appointed dean of students.
CHRISTOPHER JURCZYNSKI, BA'68, has joined the federal Department of Finance in Ottawa, Ont., and is working on financial questions relating to Crown Corporations.
WILLIAM SHAFFIR, BA'68, MA'70, PhD'72, a sociologist at McMaster University, Hamilton, Ont., spent the summer in Israel conducting research on Chassidic communities.
STEPHEN DINGMAN THOMPSON, BSc'68, has completed his doctor of medicine degree at Queen's University, Kingston, Ont.

'69
LINDA COVIT, BSc'69, an artist who works with fibres, is director of Powerhouse Gallery, Montreal.
JAMES R. McBRIDE, MA'69, has become executive director of the Canadian Bureau for International Education, Ottawa, Ont., a private resource centre.

'70
PETER J. HABIB, BA'67, BCL'70, who recently received his doctorate in law from the University of Paris, France, is working for the legal department of the Canadian Broadcasting Corp., Ottawa, Ont.
MARGARET HUBER, BA'70, is studying Japanese at the Foreign Service Institute in Yokohama prior to joining the commercial division of the Canadian embassy in Tokyo, Japan.
JOHN MURRAY McPHERSON, BA'70, has been called to the Bar of the Province of Ontario.
LOUISE M. (HARLAND) PARADIS, BSc'70, has received an MSc in education from Niagara University, New York.

'71
D. GRAHAM CARR, BEng'71, is general manager of Inspec-Sol (Ont.) Ltd., a newly founded soil-testing firm in Kingston, Ont.

# Focus

When **John Asfour** migrated to Canada from Lebanon in 1968, he was twenty-three and could not understand a word of English. By 1974 he had earned a BA in English literature from Montreal's Concordia University, and by 1975 an MA in creative writing from McGill. In 1976 poems culled from his master's dissertation were published by Fiddlehead Press in a volume entitled *Nisan* (an Arabic word meaning April).

In this age of epigrammatic and enigmatic verse, Asfour's poetry is unusual for its accessibility to the reader. He explores the themes of good and evil, love and death. "The twentieth century is fundamentally cynical and love poetry is rare now," says Asfour's MA thesis director, McGill English Professor Dr. Louis Dudek. "But Asfour comes back with it, not naively, but simply, in an honest, exuberant way."

For Asfour evil is exemplified by the civil war in his homeland; the strife is a constant source of anguish that finds expression in his poetry. "One hopes that some day the old life, the spiritual life, will come back and Lebanon will be again the cultural centre of the Middle East," he says reflectively. "It hurts me to see people I grew up with torturing and killing each other. To me nothing, nothing can be as valuable as human life — no issues, no religion, no politics, no land, absolutely nothing. I write a lot just to express what I feel about the problems. If I don't, who is to speak of those children who died? I celebrate their death in my verses."

Asfour himself was one of the war's victims. When he was thirteen, he picked up a grenade lying in the grass. It exploded, leaving him completely blind. But he ignores his disability as much as possible and encourages others to ignore it, too. He refused to let it stand in the way of completing his university education. He simply learned to thread his way through campus buildings and found volunteers or paid assistants to type out his written work and to read aloud material not available in Braille texts or on tape.

His poetry appears to draw heavily on tactile and aural imagery. But Asfour believes that more significant to his writing than his blindness is his Eastern background. He acknowledges his indebtedness to sources as diverse as eleventh-century Arab philosopher Ibn Sina and twentieth-century Irish poet W. B. Yeats. Dudek also discerns a cultural cross-fertilization in the work of his former student: "You must think of his poetry as a transformation of traditional Arabic verse into contemporary English poetry."

Asfour is presently working on a doctorate in English at McGill and teaching part time at two Montreal colleges, Dawson and Vanier. He is also preparing a second volume of poetry to be published under the title *Poems Out of Season*. He is realistic about the impact of modern poetry — "It's a very select group who comes to readings or buys books of poetry," he says — and expresses only mild disappointment that his first volume received limited recognition. He will continue to write poetry because he must.

## Your Enemy

You did throw me out of my house,
You blew out the candles,
  And the books that were on my shelf you tore.
My children had to run out naked into the night,
I had no tears to shed.
  I had no voice to scream.
Even the eagle that was flying that day
Over my country
  Came down to eat my eyes.
His claws rent my face.
His beak cut through my chest.
  He scorned what I had done —
Destroyed the eagle's nest, I did.
Once before I had climbed the mountain
  Looking for the eagle's young.
Rocks, shrubs, ridges and trees,
Yet the mountain top is no longer the eagle's
    country.
  You surrounded my yards with barbed wire.
You planted fear and horror outside my window.
You left me nothing, nothing at all but a name.
  Your enemy. □

OWEN CLARK, BMus'71, a composer and percussionist with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, will have his composition for percussion, electronic tape, and dancer performed by the Percussive Arts Society in Manitoba.
DONALD ROBERT DUNN, BSc(Agr)'71, has been appointed director, farm products inspection branch, of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Toronto.
MOHAMED A.E.G. FARIS, PhD'71, is working as a sorghum breeder and team leader in the Democratic Republic of the Sudan, under the auspices of the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics.
ABRAHAM I. INGBER, BSc'71, has been ordained a rabbi by Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, Cincinnati, Ohio, and has been appointed director of the University of Cincinnati's Hillel Foundation.
JOHN STRATTON, BSc'71, is a branch manager with Confederation Life Insurance Co. in Toronto, Ont.

'72
RONALD ABRAHAMS, BSc'72, has received his MD from Queen's University, Kingston, Ont.
DENIS CUDAHY, DipMan'70, MBA'72, has become director of production at the Royal Canadian Mint, Ottawa, Ont.
MARIA ANA (MOLINO) DE ANTONIADIS, BPT'72, has completed her medical degree at the University of Panama, Republic of Panama.
OKAY T. DJAMGOUZ, MEng'72, is an associate professor of mining engineering at Laurentian University, Sudbury, Ont.
ASHLEY F. HILLIARD, BA'72, is articling with the law firm of Shrum, Liddle, and Hebenton in Vancouver, B.C.
JOSEPH LEVY, BSc'72, has received a doctor of medicine degree from Hahnemann Medical College and Hospital, Philadelphia, Pa., and is now a resident in surgery at the University of California Hospital, San Diego.
COLIN McMILLAN, MD'72, a specialist in internal medicine and cardiology, has joined the staff of the Charlottetown Clinic, Prince Edward Island.
BRIAN McPHEE, DDS'72, has opened a dental practice in Deseronto, Ont.
ALAN PERES, BA'72, has become director-general of the Jewish Convalescent Hospital, Chomedey, Laval, Que.
THOMAS SCHNURMACHER, BA'72, writes a bi-weekly gossip column in the *Montreal Star*.
RICHARD S. SURWIT, PhD'72, has become an associate professor of medical psychology at Duke University Medical Center, Durham, N.C.

'73
MURRAY DUNDASS, DDS'73, has set up a dental practice in Lachute, Que.
DAVID L. PATICK, BSc'73, has received his master's degree in public health from the University of Alabama, Birmingham, and has entered the University of South Alabama School of Medicine.

'75
WILLIAM JAMES BOOTH, BA'75, MA'77, has won a Canada Council Doctoral Fellowship to study political philosophy at Balliol College, Oxford.
ROBERT C.M. JACK, DDS'75, has opened a dental practice in Ottawa, Ont.

PETER L. KYULULE, MA'75, is the principal assistant secretary at the Chama Cha Mapinduzi headquarters in Dodoma, Tanzania.
JAMES D. PULFER, PhD'75, has been appointed a lecturer in the chemistry department at the University College of Swaziland, Kwaluseni.

'76
STEPHEN J. KELLY, BSc'76, writes, "I am working as a climatological technician for the British Columbia Ministry of the Environment. And ... no, I can't change the weather!"
JACQUES PAIEMENT, PhD'76, has been awarded a Canada Council research scholarship to pursue his work in biochemistry and cytology.
KEITH SADKO, BMus'76, assistant organist at St. Matthias Anglican Church, Westmount, Que., has been awarded first prize in a national competition sponsored by the Royal Canadian College of Organists.
HYACINTH YOUNG, BA'76, has received a Canada Council special MA scholarship to continue her studies in English.

'77
PATRICK R.T. CARDY, MMA'77, currently completing his doctor of music degree at McGill, has become an assistant professor of music at Carleton University, Ottawa, Ont.
DAVID MacDONALD, MMA'77, has received a Canada Council Artists' Award to study organ in Paris, France, and church music in Oxford, England.
CARL SULLOVEY, BSc'72, MD'77, is doing his internship in internal medicine at Toronto Western Hospital, Ontario.
HEATHER THOMSON, BTh'77, has been ordained a deacon in the Anglican Church, Lennoxville, Que.

# Deaths

'06
GEORGE ELLIOTT HOUSSER, BA'06, at Vancouver, B.C., on Aug. 21, 1977.

'07
NORMAN McLEOD HALL, BSc'07, on July 1, 1976.
LUCILE MABEL KING, BA'07, MA'10, at Montreal, on Aug. 29, 1977.
CLARA L. WILLIAMS, BA'07, on Jan. 21, 1977.

'08
HERBERT W. READ, BSc'08, at Sackville, N.B., on July 1, 1977.

'09
FREDERICK INNES KER, BSc'09, at St. Thomas, Ont., on Sept. 24, 1977.

'10
ASHLEY ALEXANDER COLTER, BSc'10, at Fredericton, N.B., on June 10, 1977.
JOHN RAFFLES COX, BSc'10, MSc'll, at Cave Creek, Ariz., on June 12, 1977.

'11
W. GORDON IRVING, BA'11, MA'13, at Montreal, on Aug. 18, 1977.

# Society activities

by Tom Thompson

Graduates splashed around the campus and the McGill Redmen scrambled through the mud to a 5-4 victory over their traditional football rivals, the Queen's University Golden Gaels. But the rain that alternately drizzled and poured failed to dampen spirits during McGill's annual reunion. More than 3,000 alumni turned up from across the country and around the globe. Obi Obembe, BEng'52, travelled the furthest distance of all — 5,000 miles from Lagos, Nigeria.

There were no less than sixty class parties and nineteen general events during the three-day weekend. Among them: the Leacock Luncheon, with guest speaker Harry Boyle and perennially witty master of ceremonies Don MacSween, BA'56, BCL'61; a special dinner for the class of 1927, given by Principal Dr. Robert Bell and his wife Jeanne; and the chancellor's dinner, hosted by Conrad and Joan Harrington, for classes that graduated in 1922 or before.

The Macdonald College reunion, held during the campus's Fall Royal in mid-October, was equally successful. Nine classes convened, with the class of 1952 winning the shield for the highest turnout. In mid-November, moreover, McGill Dental graduates reunited during the Montreal Dental Clinic.

Reunion is not only a time for lighthearted reminiscing and merrymaking; it is also a time for recognizing outstanding contributions to the Graduates' Society and the university. At its Annual General Meeting, the Society presented its Award of Merit to Conrad Harrington, BA'33, BCL'36, who has served McGill in numerous capacities, becoming chancellor in 1976. The Distinguished Service Award went to Donald Greer, BCom'56, past-president of the McGill Society of Toronto. And an honorary life membership went to Harry Griffiths, BCom'33, who recently retired after twenty-two years as McGill's director of athletics. Student Distinguished Service Award winners were: Michael Gardiner, BCom'77, chairman of this fall's Open House; Claire Hopkinson, BA'77, last year's president of the McGill Players' Club; and Charles Galbraith, an MBA student and captain of last year's McGill Redmen basketball squad.

## Rowing Makes A Comeback

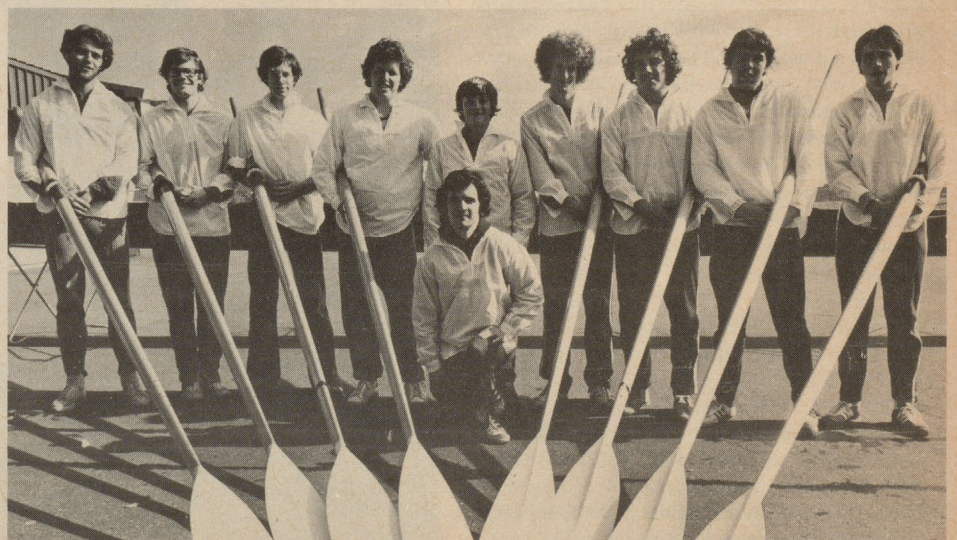
Rowing was once a popular sport at McGill, drawing as many as 2,000 spectators to competitions. Formed in 1924, the McGill rowing team excelled under the guidance of Belgian coach Urbain Molmans, an Olympic oarsman. But the outbreak of World War II and the death of Molmans in 1940 brought the sport to a halt.

Last year saw the first serious attempt to revive intercollegiate rowing at McGill. A small group of determined students led by Mark Hoskin, David Lee, and Dane Solomon, formed a co-ed rowing club and obtained permission to use the Olympic Basin at St. Helen's Island. One of the Montreal branches of the Graduates' Society, the McGill Society of Montreal, pitched in along with the Arts and Science Undergraduate Society to provide seed money.

In September the oarsmen began training and in mid-October entered a team in intercollegiate competition: the Rideau "Silver Jubilee" Regatta in Ottawa. McGill's eight-man crew came in eleventh and the mixed-four boat came in third, giving the team a modest but respectable ninth-place finish among the fourteen universities competing. Team members have every intention of continuing their practice indoors through the winter and boosting their performance next fall. In the meantime they have received some good news: the McGill Athletics Board recently agreed to bring the rowing club under its auspices next year, a move which offers some relief to its budgetary pressures. □

*Tom Thompson is director of alumni relations.*

*Members of McGill's rowing club assemble for a group portrait.*



'12
WINIFRED (MATHEWSON) PORTER, BSc(Arts)'12, at Buckingham, Que., on Sept. 29, 1977.

'14
D. JAMES HADLEY, BSc'14, at Ottawa, Ont., on Sept. 14, 1977.
REV. PERCY V. SAMSON, BA'14, in 1977.

'15
JOHN HENRY MOLSON, Eng'15, at Montreal, on Sept. 27, 1977.

'17
JENNIE (SYMONS) SIMPSON, BA'17, MSc'21, PhD'25, at Chula Vista, Calif., on July 24, 1977.

'19
R. CLEMENT HOLDEN, BA'14, BCL'19, at Montreal, on Sept. 24, 1977.

'20
LOUIS ALBERT MILLER, MD'20, at Edmonton, Alta., on June 13, 1977.
T.P. GLADSTONE SHAW, BSc(Arts)'20, MSc'22, at Cornwall, Ont., on March 31, 1977.
ISADORE L. TOLZESS, BCL'20, at Montreal, on Aug. 6, 1977.

'21
JAMES BARRETT BROW, BSc'21, MSc'22, at Charlottetown, P.E.I., on June 17, 1977.
GEORGE EDWARD TREMBLE, MD'21, at Montreal, on July 7, 1977.

'22
TREVOR BROWNE, MD'22, at Phoenix, Ariz., on March 17, 1977.
A. DOUGLAS CROWE, DDS'22, at Montreal, on Sept. 18, 1977.

'23
DORIS E. (FEE) BLENKHORN, DipPE'23, at St. Catharines, Ont., on Sept. 19, 1977.
ERNEST S. BOYLE, MD'23, at Montreal, on July 10, 1977.
S. HARDIE CAMPBELL, MD'23, at Windsor, Ont., on June 23, 1977.
BERNARD ARMEL CULPEPER, BSc'23, at Oakville, Ont., on Sept. 19, 1977.
WILFRID HENRI PERRON, BSc(Agr)'23, at Montreal, on Aug. 19, 1977.
MATTHEW J. ROBILLARD, MD'23, on Aug. 12, 1977.
GEORGE F. SKINNER, MD'23, at Saint John, N.B., on June 13, 1977.
E. HOWARD TERRANCE, BSc'23, at Ottawa, Ont., on June 10, 1977.
FREDERICK BOULTON VAN ETTEN, BArch'23, on Aug. 28, 1977.

'24
SYDNEY WILLIAM BRITTON, BSc(Med)'22, MD'24, on Feb. 15, 1977.
WINSTON C. BUSHELL, DDS'24, at Montreal, on June 24, 1977.

'25
HENRY KLEIN, DDS'25, at Montreal, on Sept. 1, 1977.
J.D. LANTHIER, BSc(Agr)'25, at Bradford, Ont., on Sept. 5, 1977.
ROBERT S. WADE, MD'25, at California, on April 17, 1977.

'26
J. ARTHUR BYRNE, MD'26, on Jan. 24, 1977.
MARGARET (WILSON) STACK, DipEd'26, on April 22, 1977.
WILLIAM WALLACE WALKER, BSc(Agr)'26, at Montreal, on July 18, 1977.

'27
ANTONIO CANTERO, MD'27, at Montreal, on June 16, 1977.
LAWRENCE E. HART, BA'27, at Montreal, on March 31, 1977.
LEWIS F. McLEAN, MD'27, at Buffalo, N.Y., on July 6, 1976.
W.H. BLANCHARD MUNN, MD'27, at Summerland, B.C., on Sept. 4, 1976.
J. ERNEST PRIEST, BCom'27, on May 11, 1977.
EDWIN B. SIMS, Com'27, at Vancouver, B.C., on July 7, 1976.

'28
THEODORE T. FOX, MD'28, on June 16, 1977.
RAYMOND NAPIER, BSA'28, on April 12, 1977.

'30
LORNE STUART WEBSTER, BCom'30, at Prouts Neck, Me., on Aug. 6, 1977.

'31
VALMER D. BOUCHARD, BArch'31, on May 30, 1977.
WILLIAM E. GRIFFITHS, BSc'31, on March 22, 1977.

'32
MacLEAN J. GILL, MD'32, at Hyannis, Mass., on July 7, 1977.

'33
SEYMOUR ELKIN, BA'30, BCL'33, at Montreal, on July 9, 1977.

'34
DOUGLAS A. CORNELL, BSc'34, at San Diego, Calif., on Sept. 28, 1977.
HARTLAND M. DEVENNEY, MA'34, on July 30, 1976.
JOHN V.V. NICHOLLS, BA'30, MD'34, MSc'35, at London, Ont., on June 4, 1977.

'37
ANGUS J. SUTHERLAND, BSc(Agr)'37, MSc'38, at Lakewood, Colo., on Feb. 13, 1977.
ARTHUR M. WELDON, BA'34, BCL'37, at Sherbrooke, Que., on Aug. 21, 1977.

'38
W.D. McCUSKER, MD'38, in March 1976.
MARY (DOHAN) McGOEY, BA'38, on Feb. 22, 1977.
JOHN H. SHIPLEY, PhD'38, on April 21, 1977.

'40
MAX COHEN, BSc'38, MD'40, at Montreal, on June 26, 1977.
JOSEPH H. STOUT, MD'40, at Pasadena, Calif., on June 2, 1977.

'41
JOAN S. (CAMPBELL) ROBERTSON, MD'41, at King, Ont., on Sept. 12, 1977.
KENNETH W. SMITH, MD'41, at Windsor, Ont., on July 31, 1977.
WARREN R. STEE, BA'41, at Montreal, on June 30, 1977.

'43
WILLIAM C. JOHNSTONE, BSc'42, MD'43, at Lynbrook, N.Y., on July 23, 1976.

'47
HONOR MARY KIDD, MD'47, at Vancouver, B.C., on April 27, 1977.

'49
HUGH M. CRAIG, BSc(Agr)'49, at Pointe Claire, Que., on Aug. 8, 1977.
JOHN G. DUNLOP, BCom'49, at Montreal, on Oct. 3, 1977.
ROBERT L. TRERICE, BSc'49, at Champlain, N.Y., on Feb. 15, 1977.

'50
ANDRE R. DUCHARME, BEng'50, at St. Lambert, Que., on Aug. 28, 1977.

'56
LEO J.E. BERTRAND, BSc(Agr)'56, at Laval-des-Rapides, Que., on Feb. 24, 1977.

'57
ALFRED M.J. NAIMER, BA'57, at Montreal, on June 22, 1977.

'58
JUNE E. TAYLOR, BN'58, in January 1977.

'59
DR. JAMES KERR LOWTHER, BSc'59, on May 25, 1977.
MARJORIE (FLAVELLE) WILLIAMS, DipN'59, at Georgeville, Que., on July 9, 1977.

'61
STEPHEN R. ALLEN, BEng'61, at Toronto, Ont., on July 8, 1977.

'63
REV. KEITH A. WHITNEY, BD'63, at Toronto, Ont., in 1977.

'66
DR. GAETAN YVES TREMBLAY, MSc'66, on Aug. 14, 1977.

'68
JOHN M. GRISDALE, MA'68, at Ottawa, Ont., in July 1977.

'70
KENNETH JAMES FELLOWS, MEd'70, at Montpelier, France, on July 14, 1977.

'71
CECIL EMANUEL LEWIS, BSc(AgrEng)'71, at Kingston, Jamaica, on July 9, 1977.

# School days

by Linda Feldman

As a child I was totally fascinated by my teachers. Small wonder: they were all two feet taller than I and, like my mother, seemed to have sprung into the world fully grown and wonderfully wise. My first teachers had extraordinary abilities. They could write letters that never strayed from the lines; they could restore order to the most muddled equation. So it was not surprising that I used to dream of occupying the magic space on the other side of the teacher's desk. I would command such respect! My pupils would be hunched over their books so conscientiously that I would scarcely see their faces. I would be an amazing teacher and they would be amazing students.

Last October I stood in the largest and loneliest classroom in the world. It was 7:40 a.m. on my first day of student teaching. For the next three weeks, McGill's one-year diploma in education program would station me in a French high school on the shore of Montreal's Rivière des Prairies. It was a large concrete building with corridors so tangled that only the Minotaur would have been at home in them.

Momentarily twenty-five French-Canadian students would run the maze, burst into the room, and discover that someone new would be teaching their grade eleven English class. I heard the kids before I saw them. The din finally resolved into two distinctly articulated questions: "Is she married?" and "Does she understand French?"

Within ten minutes I had come down to earth. I wasn't an amazing teacher and they weren't amazing students. Likeable, yes. Intelligent, yes. But hard-working? Motivated? Not to learn English, especially not in the highly emotional days before the Quebec election last November when corridors and cafeteria buzzed with political debates.

Teaching English was, depending on your point of view, either a lost cause or a challenge. There were ten final-year English classes, one advanced, one average, and the remainder slow. The teachers bore with their slow learners in stoic silence. They claimed that nothing worked with these kids — not games or skits or records or slide presentations or theatre visits. The English texts had been abandoned years before; they were kept in locked cupboards or handed out but never used. The classroom had become a battlefield, pitting the teachers' will power against the students'.

It was difficult to understand this stubborn resistance. The school served a solidly middle-class community. Many of the kids had parents in professions, and many assumed they would go to university. But they seemed to forget that English was compulsory for their high school leaving certificates and used their considerable intelligence and inventiveness to avoid work. It was much more fun to spend twenty minutes explaining why an exercise didn't get done than to spend ten minutes doing it.

Perhaps because I was a novelty, the students in the slow classes I taught seemed to like me. They called me Linda or Miss. I was startled at first by the informality, but reassured myself that it was not a sign of disrespect. "Miss, do you want to play volleyball?" (I joined in the game and promptly got hit on the head.) "Miss, you coming to the dance of Friday?" (I decided to pass that up.) "Miss, c'est plat." (Translation: it's boring.) It was their favourite expression, uttered three seconds after any teacher began to speak. "Miss, I don't get one word of what you're saying, and this is hard, and my right hand is itchy, and Jeannine is bothering me, and in ten minutes it's lunch...."

There was nothing like a class before lunch. Unless it was a class before recess — or a class before final dismissal. Then I was not so much a teacher as an animal tamer. Two seconds after the bell had rung, the students were gone.

It's astonishing how little students can learn when they put their minds to it. In a few months they would be writing high school leaving exams but they still couldn't form the simplest English sentences — and they weren't worried. Apparently failing exams, like dying, happened to other people. Besides, it was only October.

"They're a frisky group," I warned my faculty advisor from McGill. How was I to know that on the day he appeared to evaluate my teaching skills the students would be as quiet as Egyptian mummies? Attentive. Hardworking. Heavens, they were volunteering to answer questions — and the answers were right! When my advisor left, they turned to me with large smiles. "Did we put on a good show?"

In February I approached my second round of student teaching with more confidence but fewer expectations. The high school to which I had been assigned was less than two miles from the first. But it was in a completely different world.

I was teaching in Babel. Most of the students were the children of immigrants and were fluent in Arabic or Armenian or Chinese or Greek or Italian or Punjabi — but not in English. Since the school is officially English, however, it cannot offer English as a second language. So, in a course billed as remedial reading, I tried to build up the students' frail command of English. While many could speak it adequately, they were confounded by composition.

The school was on a four-day rotation schedule, leaving me just forty-five minutes every fourth day to help root out pronunciation errors, expand weak vocabularies, and improve faulty grammar.

In addition to basic grammar and essay exercises, I tried all manner of pedagogical techniques. I asked the class to describe action photographs, fill in crossword puzzles, and guess the missing key words in short stories. I held Scrabble tournaments and role-playing sessions.

Progress was slow. Although the students were highly motivated, their academic performance was rarely optimal. Some were held back by cultural differences, others by evening jobs that left them sleepy and sluggish in class. But I had to exercise extreme caution in advising parents of any problems; they were usually authoritarian and wanted their children to succeed academically at all costs. One word from a teacher and a student might face Draconian punishment at home.

Because of their cultural backgrounds, many of the girls in my class were shy and submissive and found answering questions difficult. One highly intelligent Chinese girl joined the class after throwing her regular English teacher into despair. He claimed that she had no concept of a sentence; but my supervising teacher and I were dubious.

At the next class I turned up with a copy of a famous Chinese poem and my attempted translation, along with two professional ones. The girl's painful shyness gave way to enthusiasm. She told me how much she loved the ancient writings and translated the poem into English. While she made some grammatical errors, it was evident that she knew what a sentence was. She stayed in the class and I tried to give her the personal attention she needed to overcome her shyness.

The weeks went by quickly and my apprenticeship drew to a close. As I sat in the teacher's room on my final day, I thought about some of the students I had gotten to know in both schools: Francine, who could whip her friends into obedience or defiance at will; Robert, who lived on his own at fifteen; Yolande, who was educationally handicapped but industrious; Joseph, who was bright but bored. Each child was another enigma waiting to be decoded.

"No generalizations possible," I muttered as I figured out a way to capitalize on a "Z" on the Scrabble board. Yet another game was underway and I was leading.

"What?" asked the other teachers.

"Each kid is different, each school is different," I continued. But they weren't listening.

I put my remaining letters on the board and won the game. ☐

*Linda Feldman, BA'71, DipEd'77, a regular contributor to the* News *over the past year and a half, recently left Montreal to spend six months in Germany teaching German and English and writing her first novel.*

# The McGill Society of Montreal Travel Program for 1977-78

The McGill Society of Montreal announces its fifteenth year of travel service to the McGill community. Membership in the Travel Program is available to graduates, parents, and associates making contributions to McGill, or by paying a $10 fee to the McGill Society of Montreal.

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11 Feb. — 26 Feb. and
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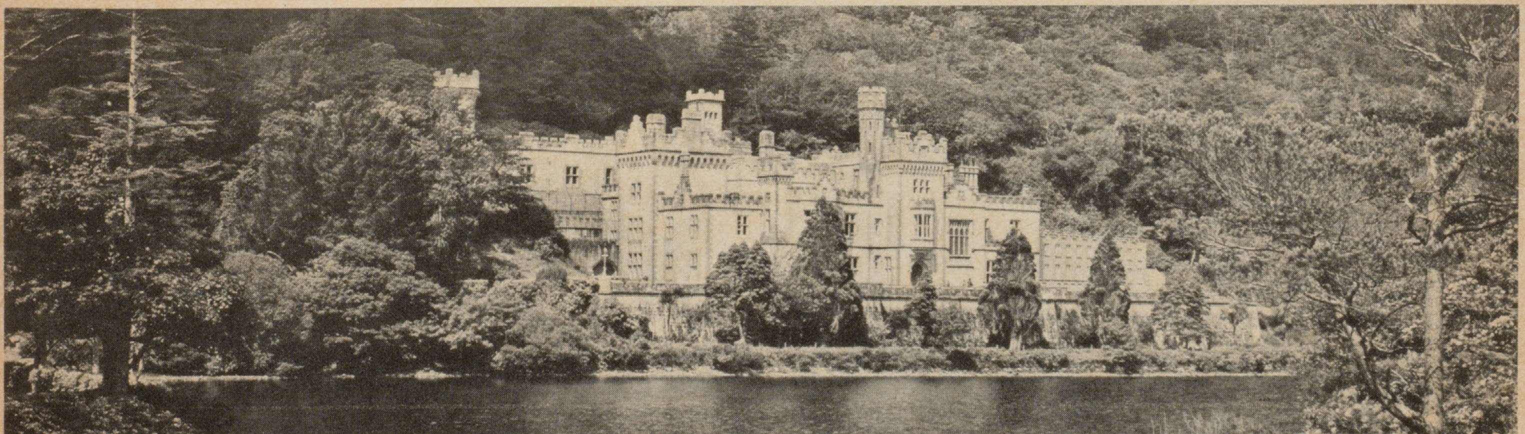

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