Beating stress at home, work

hours from highly qualified

employees who are stricken

with stress-related diseases



a series of workshops on stress sponsored by the Georgetown YMCA beginning Nov. 18 and running until Dec. 9. Mrs. Belleghem lives and works in Georgetown and has degrees in psychology and adult education and counselling. The workshops. she stressed in a recent interview with The Herald, are not meant. to be sessions of group therapy, but educational forums encouraging participants to deal with stress by themselves, identifying the causes of stress and individual signs of being under pressure.

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(Herald photo)

Some people bite their nails, some people scratch their heads, others light up clgarettes, still others start speaking rapidly. Everyone seems to have a

different way of dealing with stress, but distinguishing between the types of tension which grip people daily and becoming conscious of how each of us deals with them may mean the difference between divorce and ulcers and a more productive life.

The idea behind a unique series of workshops sponsored by the Georgetown YMCA which will begin next month is to teach people to become. aware of their own stress "signals" and pinpoint the real reason behind a sudden flare-up of anxiety.

"We want to teach people to recognize when stress starts. to know when the knot in the stomach begins," workshop instructor Marilyn Belleghem told The Herald last week.

"In a typical household scenario, the husband and wife may have a morning dispute apparently because the eggs are overdone or the toast is burnt." However, the argument, Mrs. Belleghem points out, may be the culmination of a number of grievances which have been formenting for a while.

"It could be reading in bed and not the eggs," she said. Mrs. Belleghem, who has a Bachelor of Arts in phayeology and Master of Education

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in counseiling and adult education, noted that it may be difficult for people to admit they deal with stress badly and enroll in the workshops. She stressed that the workshops aren't group therapy sessions but educational forums, complete with films and recommended reading which will help individuals turn potentially destructive stress into constructive energy.

"We'll be teaching what stress is, how it's created, how people cope with it and how it's affecting you physically," Mrs. Belleghem sald. "In other words, how to cope with stress and get more out of

Stress comes in a variety of packages. There's the nervefraying, on-the-job stress which many people thrive on while others succumb to the physical and mental duress it creates.

Mrs. Belleghem pointed out more long-term stress may be suffered by some housewives: whether staying at home to raise the kids is her ideal of life or something she's doing because she feels she has to. HUNGER STRESS "If we didn't have stress, we

wouldn't do anything," Mrs. Belieghem sald. wouldn't pay the bills, or feel the stress of hunger or tired muscles." In fact, she said, some of us

genuinely like stress. "Who wants to sit and have to watch a blank wall? Part of

The Y's stress workshops will begin at Centennial Middle School Nov. 18 and run until Dec. 9 every Wednesday between 7 and 9 p.m. The series fee is \$35 and you are encouraged to register now at the YMCA's offices on Mountainview Road South in Georgetown tSt. Andrew's United Church) or call 877-8183.

the workshop will involve learning what stress you like and don't like.

For some people, slowing down can be more stressful than maintaining the fastpaced, "race horse" lifestyle to which they have become accustomed. Forced to shift to low gear, highly motivated individuals try to appear "busy for the sake of being busy", having to lie so that they don't reveal their real boredom. This facade provides excellent fuel for stress. During the last two decades

their has been a considerable amount of interest in sex-related stress, Mrs. Belleghem said. There is an enormous amount of peer pressure among teenagers encouraging them to become more sexually aware of themselves. Suddenly, stigmas are attached to morally sound, perfectly healthy life situations like

virginity. Stress isn't something that hut affects the home; It affects industry, too, Mrs. Belleghem said. Many businesses lose hundreds of man-

like chronic migraine headaches and alcoholism.

And it's that motivation of lost revenue that's spurring many companies to hire personnel administrators who have backgrounds in counselling employees with prob-

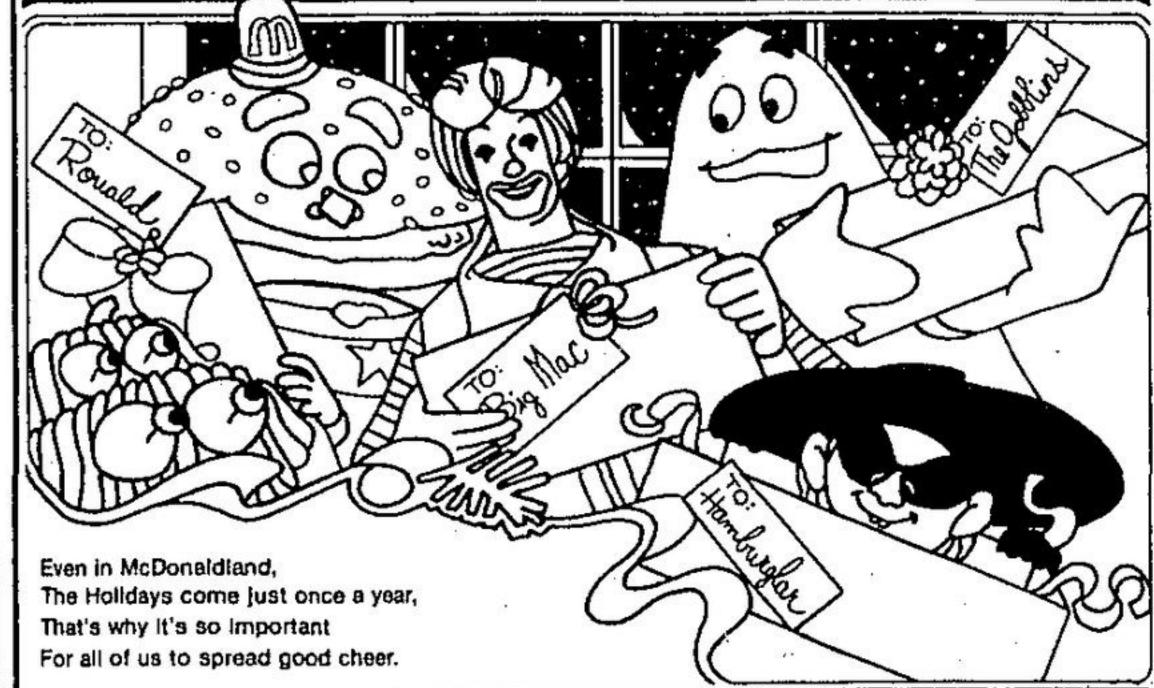
The workshops, Mrs. Belleghem sald, will teach people to realize their own stress warning signals like brow-mopping and sweaty palms. Individuals may even

learn exercises to do in a quiet and inobirusive way when they feel stress symptoms. Dealing with stress means breaking it down into component parts. As Mfs. Belleghem said, "How many of us take time to see what it is that's driving me nuts".

Plate on the warpath?

The second in a series of Royal Ontario Museum exhibits has been installed at the Georgetown public library. School visits are being arranged so students can view a display recounting the history of Greek warfare.

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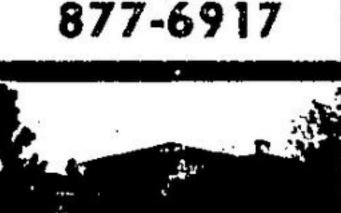


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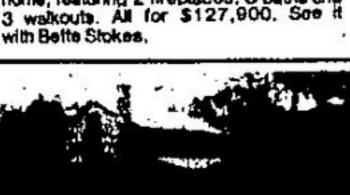
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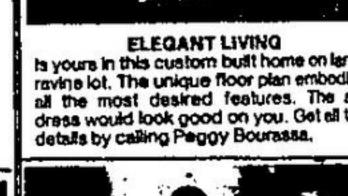
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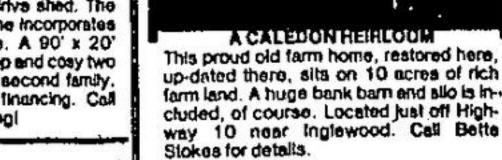
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