

Parents Anonymous

# P.A. provides friendship for deprived parents

By Bob Burt

Jane is a mother of three children. She sincerely loves each of them but is inclined to abuse them both physically and emotionally. As a child Jane was frequently abused and beaten by her parents.

Jane is a fictitious name and the situation referred to is fictitious as well. But in real life there are hundreds of people living through frightening experiences because of poor parent-child relationships.

Over 100 parents are seeking help for their problems through an infant organization, known as Parents Anonymous. PA is founded on, and finds strength in many of the same principles that makes Alcoholics Anonymous such a phenomenal success.

Learn by example

Marg Morrison, a Burlington woman and one closely connected

with the Hamilton District Chapter of PA, said that 95 per cent of all child abusers were abused themselves as children.

The Hamilton District includes most of Halton County involving about 30 people who attend weekly meetings and another 100 who receive strength from PA through phone conversations.

The organization is manned by six volunteers, provides 24 hour phone service, is a non-profit organization in nature and requires only that members be interested in improving their relationship with their children.

In an interview, Mrs. Morrison explained PA was one division of Parent Child Concern which was formed last March. PA was formed in May.

Public Education

Parent Child Concern provides several services. In order to encourage public education

members speak at community groups and publish pamphlets. Since the group started there have been 150 speaking engagements.

The group is currently considering holding a pilot project in a county high school for about 150 students. "We hope to convince students that parenting is a learned behavior," she said.

Although Mrs. Morrison does have a strong professional background as a nurse at Sick Children's Hospital in Toronto and as a teacher at nursing college, she feels a professional background isn't a prerequisite to being a PA volunteer.

Deprived parents

She says the organization works with what is referred to as the deprived parent syndrome. In many cases parents have never received love or friendship. By having someone to call and receive support from, they become stronger people.

"People have to receive love before they can give it," Mrs. Morrison feels all of the people who have called for help really love their children.

While the problem of child abuse isn't a new one, the increased mobility of today's family and other factors account for an increase in child abuse. In many cases a parent has not extended family to talk to and they aren't able to form a close relationship with a friend. As Mrs. Morrison puts it, they are deprived of many of the things that go toward making a good adult.

PA conducts what they refer to as a lay therapy program. Women are trained to work with parents and children. These people are compassionate people, skilled at playing with children. Part of the philosophy is to teach by example.

Frustrated

Many of the parents who phone for the first time are frustrated and on the brink of beating their children. "We encourage them to change their patterns. We'll tell a person that when they are ready to go bananas to call us and talk about the problem, rather than beat the child."

It works

One of the advantages of PA is that the body has no official power and isn't aligned with any government body or agency.

According to Mrs. Morrison many parents fear Children's Aid Societies and agencies of that ilk, not for any real reason but the fear is there. "Many have their minds set that the CAS caseworkers are baby snatchers," she explains.

Because callers aren't required to give more than their first name, they enjoy a certain sense of security. "Later we hope they will trust us for other reasons."

Independent

While PA isn't aligned with any other body or agency, members are aware of social agencies and their purposes and often help people in need to avail themselves of those agencies if the need is one PA workers can't provide.

On occasion CAS has been called upon but not before it was requested by the parent. "We have never gone against the wish of a parent but we have been able to use CAS every time we felt we had to," she said.

Unlike the popular myth that only the lower income groups face this problem, PA members represent every socio-economic group. Poverty, however, is known to trigger child abuse.

"Many parents have unrealistic expectations of themselves and their children," Mrs. Morrison noted. She explains that many parents feel their two year old should have the ability to concentrate for long

# Chansonettes, models present fashion parade

The house lights dim. The curtain parts. It is early morning in a spring garden. A wooden trellis covered with climbing roses forms an arch on centre stage leading to the runway, on one side a majestic forsythia, on the other two statues mid evergreen shrubbery stand by a murmuring fountain. It is sunrise, the golden light intensifies as the beautiful voices of the Milton Chansonettes sing "Yellow Bird".

Fourteen lovely models clothed in this season's shades of yellow poise like beautiful statues in a golden spring garden. The voices fade, leaving a soft piano background by Mrs. Win Newell. Each model in turn now moves out on the runway. Mrs. Lorraine Campbell describes the fashions and their outstanding features.

Mrs. Judy Hunter, director of the Chansonettes and Mrs. Betty Anne Smith of "by bettianne of georgetown" combined their outstanding talents in fashion and music at the Ontario School of the Deaf in Milton Thursday evening.

Always eager to demonstrate her firm belief that fashion is truly an art form, Betty Anne used Canadian and imported designs plus a number of "by bettianne" originals. Nearly 100 items of apparel, dresses, pant suits, sportswear, swimwear, caftans and evening gowns were shown, complete with jewellery and accessories.

Models were Ingrid Buikema, Marion Clark, Sylvia Katterwe, Rod Smith, Doreen Burt, Arien DeBruyn, Susan Mooney, Caren

Burt, Wendy Forsyth, Cynthia Twiss, Eleanor Butt, Sandra Greig, and Gary Smith.

The Chansonettes are an attractive, lively group of women who love to sing. Members are, first sopranos, Lynne Brown, Phil Chase, Sue Henderson, Betty Clement, Eleanor Jackson, Beryl Rutledge, Barbara Snow, Liz Roberts, Carol Clarke and Marilyn Smith.

Second sopranos are, Isabel Thompson, Dawn Chase, Sandra Pollen, June McCuaig, Liz Moir, Margaret Kerr, Lillian Cornfort, Billie Marshall, Liz Frame, Dawn Brodie, Joan Etherington, Barbara Kneale, Marjorie Magee, Linda Hodd, Lois Makovnyk and Kathryn Foster.

A trio of Lynne Brown, Sandra Pollen and June McCuaig also sang four numbers.

The stage setting and floral arrangements were by Barry Burne of Milton Greenhouses. Marten Tenton and Ralph Johnson from the House of Hair spent a busy night changing hair styling for each model throughout the show. The latest in quality footwear was supplied by Roo's Shoes, Georgetown. The students and staff of the school provided the lighting, the dressers and the refreshments during intermission.

The full co-operation of the school staff and the willingness of local merchants to display their goods and talents played a great

part in the overall success of the show.



SKIRT LENGTH is just above the knee this spring.

## Wind up quilting

The Nassagaweya Presbyterian ladies wound up their winter quilting season on Tuesday, April 10. To mark the occasion a pot-luck lunch was enjoyed at the home of Mrs. Daird Henderson, who had done most of the setting up and marking the quilts as well as serving tea and cookies to the quilters in the afternoons. The season has been quite busy, several custom jobs have been done, as well as some quilts prepared for sale at the May luncheon.

As Mrs. Henderson's birthday was approaching, the group presented her with a gold colored chrysanthemum and sang Happy Birthday.

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## Champion

## Family Page

### Hear report on U.C.W. annual

St. Paul's United Church Women

The ever memorable Easter Story of Christ's Last Week as told by His Mother was read by Mrs. Robert McKim, interspersed by Easter hymns and solos by Mrs. Gary Cormann, accompanied by Mrs. W.L. McNeil. Special scriptures on the Resurrection were given by Mrs. Jack Bousefield and Mrs. Charles Wilson. Prayer by Mrs. W.L. Mahon closed the devotional exercises at St. Paul's U.C.W. meeting recently.

Mrs. J. Gilbert called on Mrs. Stan Love, assistant secretary to read the minutes. The treasurer's report was given by Mrs. Harold Coulson, in the absence of the treasurer. Interesting unit reports were received. One unit gave out topics on the India Study, which involved research for the members. Another unit had a craft evening, teaching crocheting and how to make an afghan. Mrs. Gordon Thomas read a thank-you letter from the secretary of Halton Presbyterial U.C.W. annual meeting for serving the evening meal to the delegates.

Mrs. E.W. Foster gave a timely

message on citizenship and social action, suggesting that each unit try short discussion periods on "Racial Brotherhood" and "World Peace" and watch the daily papers for other topics.

Mrs. L. Fidler reported on community friendship and visiting, listing the calls at Halton Manor, the hospital and different homes. Workshop details were outlined by Mrs. H. Coulson in the latest work. Mrs. C. Williams gave a few concise items on the fall bazaar.

U.C.W. Presbyterial

A number of facts on the annual U.C.W. Presbyterial were provided by Mrs. H. Coulson. This meeting was held in St. Paul's United Church with a fine attendance with two sessions, afternoon and evening. She remarked on the sing-song led by Mrs. K.O. Foster, also the generous display of 300 or more pieces of literature on many topics, provided by Mrs. Helen Haight and Mrs. Bird from the United Church Publishing House. The evening program, started off with musical numbers by Lowville Young People's choir and their Youth orchestra with Rev. Wayne Irwin and their organist. Pictures and an address by Rev. Lois Wilson of First United Church, Hamilton who had attended a conference in Crete, will be long remembered.

Mrs. A. Gropp, stewardship secretary told of the special panel to be presented on April 29 at the morning service at 10:45 in St. Paul's. Mrs. William Mahon offered to order any books that the units wished for study or reading on April 30, when she attends the Presbyterial executive.

Unit leaders or their representatives are to be at the Graham Hall on April 24, 25 and 26 to help with the rummage sale project.

An invitation was received to the daffodil tea at 12:30 at Hillcrest United Church on April 19. Miss True Davidson will speak.

### Euchre, bridge winners

Twenty one tables of players played euchre and bridge April 9 at the John Milton Chapter I.O.D.E. windup party at Ligny Hall.

The bridge winner for the year was Mrs. Helen Babcock and Mrs. Hazel Wilson was low, while Mrs. Mabel Hadley was high euchre winner and Mrs. Menzies was low.

Mrs. Anne Galloway was high bridge scorer for the day while Mrs. W. A. Marshall was low. High euchre player for the day was Hazel Andrews and low was Mrs. Moulton.

Mrs. Marion Hill and Mrs. Evans won tally prizes. Draw prizes went to Mary Tufford, Mrs. Myles, Mrs. W. Cooke, Mrs. Weir, Elva Ezeard, Mrs. Laundon, Mrs. Whitelock, Mrs.

Sinclair, Tucky Kennedy, Mrs. Poppe, Bena Grenke, Violet Scott, Eva Chisholm, Lola Robertson, Mrs. Lawrence, Mrs. Harvell, Mrs. McKinnon, Doreen Wilson, Mrs. Stan Fay and Mrs. McCarron.

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