

Update!

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University of St. Jerome's College

Gérard Pelletier on Christians in Politics



Gérard Pelletier delivers the sixth annual Graduates' Association Lecture.

Gérard Pelletier was born in Victoriaville, Quebec in June 1919, one of eight children. He was educated at the Séminaire de Nicolet, Collège Mont-Laurier and the Université de Montréal. From 1939 to 1943 he was General Secretary of Quebec's Jeunesse étudiante catholique, and was Field Secretary of the World Student Relief Organization in Geneva from 1945 to 1947.

In 1947 he and his wife Alexandrine returned to Montreal, where he worked as a reporter for *Le Devoir* until 1950. It was his reporting of the 1949 Asbestos Strike which brought him to the position in 1950 of editor of *Le Travail*, the organ of the Confédération des travailleurs catholiques du Canada. In 1961 he became editor of the Montreal daily *La Presse*.

His passionate commitment to justice, his fierce opposition to the antidemocratic practices and policies of Maurice Duplessis and to the rampant clericalism of the Catholic church in Quebec, led Pelletier and several colleagues, including Pierre Trudeau, to found the journal *Cité Libre* which sought to create a more open, progressive and

democratic Quebec.

In 1965 he was elected to the House of Commons as the member of Parliament for Hochelaga, one of the "Three Wise Men" with friends Trudeau and Jean Marchand. He served as Secretary of State and Minister of Communications in the federal cabinet. From 1975 to 1981 he served as Canadian Ambassador to France, and from 1981 to 1984, he was Canadian Ambassador to the United Nations. He is currently President of the Centre canadien d'études et de co-operation, a non-governmental organization active in thirty third world countries.

He is author of *The October Crisis* (1971), a penetrating and balanced study still relevant 20 years after those tumultuous days, and he is the author of two volumes of memoirs *Years of Impatience* published in 1983, and *Years of Choice* published in 1986. Like the man himself, both books are characterized by their candour, warmth and perception, chronicling the social and political evolution of Quebec and the careers of four of Quebec's and Canada's most important political figures.

In the post-Meech Lake, post-Oka era, there is ample evidence that Canadians have grown cynical towards their governments and legislators. The sixth annual Graduates' Association Lecture, however, held on October 27, 1990, provided a refreshing glimpse of the successful integration of faith and politics; of a man who saw his role as politician in terms of true public service.

The Hon. Gérard Pelletier, author, journalist, labour activist, cabinet minister, and diplomat, spoke on "Christians in Politics" and addressed the critical link between values and politics in his own life. It was a warm and reflective talk, peppered with anecdotes and characterized by humility and integrity.

He demonstrated that the integration of his faith into his life and actions started at an early age. He cited his "conversion" at the young age of 16 when he joined the Catholic Action Movement in Quebec. "(It) made me realize then that Christianity was essentially a way of life devoted to the service of one's neighbour. I have yet to fully understand what that means," he observed modestly, "but ever since I realized that it was fundamental to my faith, I've been thinking it over and over."

When he began to work full-time for the labour unions in 1950, he realized that the "social doctrine of the church offered a set of principles, and nothing else, and it was the responsibility of Catholic politicians and political scientists to develop policies in line with those principles. The social doctrine of the Church was not a political ideology; it was an inspiration, a slide rule useful in measuring the merits of actual policies."

Of his entry into politics in 1965, Pelletier remarked, "If one is a true believer, one cannot take such an important decision but in the light of one's convictions." Although he maintains that he never had a "vocation for politics" his dismissal as editor of *La Presse* in March 1965 after five years, and the active encouragement of two of his friends, Pierre Trudeau and Jean Marchand, who were considering running in the upcoming federal election, created the opportunity for him to seek office.

"They (Trudeau and Marchand) appealed to my social conscience, my sense of altruism,

and a few other virtues I didn't possess, thus making the choice a moral one, directly related to my religious convictions."

Once in Ottawa, Pelletier was reluctant to show off his religious faith, "but (he) didn't hide it either," he says. He had lived through a period of Quebec history where its politicians "shrouded themselves in their devotion to St. Joseph and their closeness to the clergy," and he found this both distasteful and unethical. He also referred to Western Canadian premiers who preached the bible over the radio, "Using one's faith as vote getter was, and still is, repugnant to me."

Pelletier noted that the foundation of his own political thinking is summed up in the words of the French lay Catholic philosopher Emmanuel Mounier. "All human beings are, by nature, essentially equal. Inequalities between them are accidental. Sound policies are those which tend to reduce inequalities among human beings; policies which increase and exploit those differences are wrong and should be fought against."

Referring to so-called "free votes" in the House of Commons, Pelletier asked rhetorically, "Does the occurrence of such free votes signify that in all other votes, MPs are allowed to ignore their conscience? I prefer to believe that an MP's conscience holds a full-time job, not a part-time one."

He spoke of the dangers of "religious radicalism" in politics, particularly the Ayatollah Khomeini variety which blends politics with a rigid and authoritarian view of religion. He cautioned that Catholics are not immune to this danger, and cited the arch-conservatism of French Archbishop Le Febvre, and the entry into political debates by some American Bishops. "Is it legitimate to impose, through legislators, our Christian convictions on non-believers or people of other religious persuasions?" he asked.

Many agnostics hold views which we



photo by S. Borjesson

might call Christian, he said, and Christians in politics should never isolate themselves from the political milieu in which they operate. Christians, he observed, do not have a monopoly on political virtue, and should work co-operatively with colleagues of different beliefs.

Pelletier concluded by referring to the "utter failure" of Marxism in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. "People, and in particular, the young, will be looking for another source of hope, another shield against despair. It is our Christian responsibility to put forward, in deeds more than in words, the message of hope we find in the Gospel, the only one that has outlasted secular doctrines and political disappointments over the last two thousand years."

"'Tall assignment' you will say. Indeed. Nothing in Christianity is mediocre, except Christians. An extraordinary opportunity is given to us at the turn of this millennium."

"If Christian politicians, and Christians generally, throughout the world, live up to the occasion, history will remember the present decade as the time of an extraordinary and unexpected revival of the Christian faith." ♦

Cassette tapes of Mr. Pelletier's lecture are available @ \$6.00 each and can be ordered by using the coupon on p. 8.

Reunion '91 Fête de Finn!

The St. Jerome's College Graduates' Association's Reunion '91 will be held on Saturday June 1, 1991, and will feature a special tribute to a dear friend of hundreds of SJC grads. **Fête de Finn** will roast and boast retired French Professor and former President Fr. John Finn, C.R.



photo by C. Valente

Fr. John Finn, C.R.

For early arrivals, there will be an afternoon excursion to the Stratford Festival to see *Hamlet*, and a short lecture on the play over lunch given by our own Shakespearean scholar Dr. Ted McGee. Reunion festivities begin with Mass at 5:00 p.m. followed by a reception and dinner. We hope to prepare a slide presentation on Fr. Finn, so if you have any photographs of him you'd like to loan us, send them to Rob Donelson at the College.

Mark your calendars for this special event, and let your SJC friends know about it, too! Watch *Update!* for more details as the date approaches. *A la prochaine!* ♦

An autumn of achievement

Full Convocation for the Faculty of Arts took place on Saturday October 20, and saw 31 new members added to our burgeoning family of over 4,000 St. Jerome's graduates. Among our new grads are Hazel Andrews, Jerry Fisher, Judy Noordermeer, and Lisa Lynn Schirch-Elias, each of whom was named to the Dean's Honours List for the Faculty of Arts. Helen Grant earned a diploma in the College's Sexuality, Marriage, and the Family programme, and St. Jerome's grad Gerry Grundy (BA '66) received a Master of Arts degree in French. Congratulations and welcome to all!

St. Vincent Project revisited

Of special note at this year's convocation was the graduation of two students from the island of St. Vincent in the southern Caribbean who earned their BA degrees entirely by correspondence. This was made possible thanks to the initiative in 1984 of St. Jerome's grad Fr. Ron Mendes (BA '81) (See *Update!* Vol.3, No.4).

Maureen James and Carlotta Beresford-Joseph attended convocation ceremonies to receive the degree they began studying for in the mid-1980s. "Despite the obvious logistical difficulties of offering correspondence courses to students in St. Vincent, we received strong support and encouragement from St. Jerome's College,"

remarks Bruce Lumsden, UW's Associate Director for Distance Education. The College donated nearly 2,000 books, he notes, and Fr. Ron Mendes played a leading role in St. Vincent in initiating a volunteer committee at St. Martin's Secondary School to administer the programme. To date, over 25 students have taken courses.

Two other St. Vincent students graduated last year, Antionette Jardine and Mignonne Samuel. Three others will likely graduate in 1991. Lumsden says that the new grads have upgraded their jobs thanks to their degrees and refers to the St. Vincent Project as a form of "international development," on the part of UW. ♦

Montreal Massacre remembered

For a few moments on an overcast December day, over 300 students, faculty and staff from across the UW campus paused during a memorial service at St. Jerome's to remember the fourteen women slain on December 6, 1989 at Montreal's Ecole Polytechnique.

The first anniversary of what is now known as the Montreal Massacre was marked in a moving memorial service which blended song, reflection, liturgical dance, and candlelight.

In a passionate reflection, Religious Studies Department Chair Dr. Mary Malone noted that since the massacre, "89 women have been killed in Canada in domestic violence - two per week - and 34 in Quebec alone." She questioned whether or not any significant change had taken place in Canadian society since the massacre, to eradicate violence against women.



Dr. Mary Malone

"The murders in Montreal have become a lightning rod event, focusing attention on violence against women, and particular on the university campus," she noted. Yet, had these women died in a fire, an inquiry would have been held and new fire regulations would have been enforced across Canada, Malone believes.

She maintained that our society still tolerates a level of violence against women, and perceptively observed that Marc Lepine was "a part of a culture which continues - at enormous cost - to alienate young men from the feminine in themselves. They are often offered but two role models, either the Wimp or Rambo."

Noting that mere mourning was not enough, Malone challenged all present to look inside themselves, our societal structures, and our universities "to face our own complicity in these oppressive and violent patterns."

The service concluded with the lighting of candles throughout Siegfried Hall as the names of the fourteen women were read to a hushed audience. The final hymn, "Do Not Fear to Hope" was sung. Students, faculty and staff left in silence to return to their classrooms and offices, hopefully emboldened to heed the call to work tirelessly to eradicate from our campus and society all subtle and overt instances of violence against women. ♦

"After Montreal and the continuing violence, neither refusal nor ignorance are any longer possible choices. Violence is a choice made by some from a context that includes all of us. We must make a common commitment to end this violence. It is an illusion that we can put hope and vision on hold. We cannot stay alive and be creative without creating and maintaining a place for our spirits, our bodies, our minds, and our dreams. May our university campus become such a place for all of us."

Dr. Mary Malone



Out of the darkness ... light?

One response to the Montreal massacre has been the formation, by St. Jerome's psychology professor Dr. Peter Naus, of a group on the UW campus that wants to do something concrete about decreasing the incidence of sexism and violence against women.

Known simply as "The Men's Group," Peter Naus convened the group of approximately a dozen men who "have decided to examine our own (UW) house to try to make it a more hospitable place for women." He acknowledges that similar groups have been formed at other universities.

Naus says that the group has decided to focus its energies on three key areas: curricula, policies and procedures, and the Women's Studies Programme.

The group is concerned that some courses exclude a discussion of women's issues "where they are clearly relevant. Sometimes this is done inadvertently," observes Naus, "and sometimes it is deliberate". To exclude the contributions of women to scholarship is to neglect a critical area of study, he maintains.

In the area of policies and procedures on campus, Naus believes that discrimination is not always explicit, but that it does exist. For example, a woman who takes an extended leave to have children, is sometimes excluded from promotion because her absence leaves a gap in her resumé.

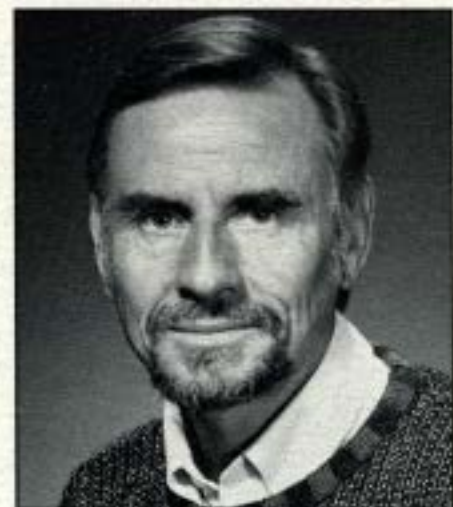
"As men, we never really question these assumptions, but such policies and procedures are written by men and for men," he says. "Women are in effect penalized because many men regard their own view of the university as the only view."

Naus also argues that all universities need to increase the resources put into women's studies programmes. He maintains this is especially true for scholarly reasons.

And why does the group only have men among its membership? "We are concerned that men are a very important part of the problem of sexism and violence against women, and that they should be an important part of the solution," explains Naus. He says that the group has met regularly to pursue its mandate and also to reflect on particular incidents or events that are sexist, and on

important initiatives that are examples of positive change.

"Our numbers are deliberately small at this point," acknowledges Naus, "until we find our bearings and get better established. It is a highly collaborative effort." ♦



Dr. Peter Naus

Grads offer public speaking mini-course

Students who sometimes get the butterflies or break into a cold sweat when asked to make a toast at a wedding or during an oral presentation at work or school, may have found the answer to their problems.

The new and informal mini-course called "The Essentials of Public Speaking," sponsored by the College's Graduates' Association, was offered on October 10, 17 and 24, 1990 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., and nearly 40 students participated.

Speakers for the non-credit course were **Ben Bauer** (BA '89), now a graduate student in psychology at UW with many years of experience in retail sales and product training seminars, and **Kelley Teahen** (BA '83), a reporter and columnist for *The London Free Press*. Kelley holds an MA in English, a journalism degree, and has wide experience in the theatre.

"The Essentials of Public Speaking" was offered as part of the Graduates' Association's mandate to build links with current students and to serve their needs where possible. The mini-course covered such topics as vocal techniques and voice projection, the "do's and don'ts" of public speaking, body language and timing, interview techniques, and others.

Students received speaking assignments and prepared short speeches for the final evening of the course. A bibliography of current literature on public speaking was also provided.

"The students were enthusiastic and learned from each other," noted Teahen. "We kept it fun and students appreciated the informality and the chance to learn."

Added Bauer, "Every person, regardless of skill, has some anxiety when speaking in public. The difference between the skilled and unskilled speaker is how one uses that anxiety, which is really a form of energy. The mini-course had a certain momentum because we helped students recognize and use that energy."

Judging by the response of students, the Graduates' Association will offer the mini-course again next year. ♦



Ben Bauer, left, and Kelley Teahen.

photo by S. Bjorkquist

Writeback

Thanks for an excellent issue of *Update!* I loved St. Jerome's College and now that I live so far from Ontario I look forward to hearing the latest news.

The latest issue had an article on the Downys from my old neighbourhood as a kid; an article about John Orlando - my all-time favourite teacher; Mrs. Brown - loved her subs!; and about a friend I spent a lot of time with ("Where are they now?").

My husband Don (BMath '78) is the manager of Group Finance and Actuarial at Maritime Life. I stay home with Mark and Claire and do volunteer work for the literacy network. We love the Maritimes. Keep up the good editing.

Annabel (Quinn) MacDonald, (BA '83)
Halifax, Nova Scotia

Thank you for keeping us on the *Update!* mailing list. It gives us a good feeling to be aware of what is happening at and around St. Jerome's.

Martin Harris (BA '86) *Whitby*

Update!

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Update! is the newsletter of the University of St. Jerome's College Graduates' Association. It received the 1983 and 1984 Communications Award of the Canadian Association of University Information Bureaus and the 1988 Best Newsletter Award of the Canadian Council for the Advancement of Education, a Canadian organization of university alumni, development, and information officers. It is published quarterly and mailed free of charge to all graduates, former residents, students, faculty, and friends of the College for whom we have reliable addresses. If your address has changed, or if you would like to receive information from the College, please complete and mail the coupon on page 8. We welcome letters for Writeback and general news of graduates for Where Are They Now?

Editor: Robert Donelson Consulting Editor: Peter Hirschcliff
Layout: Dianne Keller Photographs: As Indicated

Students shine in Charity Run '90

For the fifteenth straight year, St. Jerome's and Notre Dame College students endured fatigue, cold temperatures, rain, and sore feet in their annual effort to raise money for a local charity.

Students raised nearly \$8,000 for the Central Ontario Developmental Riding Programme, a non-profit organization offering therapeutic horseback riding programmes for disabled persons at Pride Stables in Kitchener. The C.O.D.R.P. serves both children and adults with learning, behavioural, and emotional problems, visual and hearing impairments, and those who are mentally and physically challenged, including those with multiple sclerosis and stroke victims. Funds raised by our students will be used for the purchase of equipment to maintain the C.O.D.R.P.'s active programmes which are designed to increase physical development, relaxation and co-ordination, decrease spasticity and hyperactivity, improve strength, raise self-esteem, and improve communication skills.

Pairs of students ran, walked or wheeled around UW's Ring Road continuously for 48 hours. The Run concluded with a candlelight Mass in Siegfried Hall which brought over 200 students together for a spiritual reflection on their efforts. ♦



All for a good cause College President Dr. Doug Letson took his turn in the "dunk tank" in support of the 1990 Charity Run organized by students in our two residences. Students bid on chances to throw the ball that would release the seat, thereby drenching their presidential 'victim'. Several students, faculty and staff participated in the fundraising event, which was one of several in support of the Central Ontario Developmental Riding Program (C.O.D.R.P.). (Photo by Wade Young).

Next Issue...

- Probing the life of one of Canada's major church figures - Cardinal Carter
- Grad Profiles
- Reunion '91 Update

A budding Bateman in our midst?

One of the most satisfying aspects of living and working within the closely-knit community that is St. Jerome's and Notre Dame Colleges, is the opportunity to come to know our students. After a short time, one quickly realizes that they are a very talented, committed group of young people.

Among the many gifted students at the College this year is first year general arts student Derek Rhodes, 20, of Chatham, Ontario. His vivid portrayals of Canadian wildlife show that we might have a budding Robert Bateman in our midst.

That Derek has such a talent for realism in his art is impressive in its own right; that he does so with a colour-deficiency in his vision which prevents him from distinguishing shades of colours, is extraordinary. To compensate, he relies on his memory, and on the assistance of his brother or parents in identifying colours.

"I often feel frustrated because I can't enjoy true freedom as an artist," he says. "I rely so heavily on others to interpret colours for me, and that is very time-consuming."

Derek, a graduate of Ursuline College in Chatham, has sketched informally since his teens and he took art courses throughout high school. He began to get recognition for his work when, in grade 12, people offered to buy several of his sketches.

The result has been the creation of a small business in which he sells two sets of prints each year. He attends several craft shows,

and occasionally does commissioned work. His earnings have helped to defray his tuition and residence fees. He currently lives in the St. Jerome's Men's Residence. Derek's work is available in Windsor, London, Chatham, Blenheim and Kitchener and he has donated many of his prints to charitable causes, including the 1990 SJC/NDC Charity Run.



First-year student Derek Rhodes. photo by S. Bjorkqvist

As the adjacent photo indicates, Derek has produced some realistic drawings, and he's done them using an unusual and fairly rare format - coloured pencils. Their photographic accuracy is impressive.

While he is flattered with the Bateman comparison, he modestly dismisses it and admits that his real mentor is Chatham wildlife artist Frank Jordan, whose work he has admired and whose encouragement he has valued. "He (Jordan) was impressed with the detail of my work and he gave me some advice I hope I don't forget. He said 'be humble, accept praise, but keep building on your skill.'"

Derek is uncertain of his career path at the moment. He hopes eventually to teach high school history, geography, and fine arts, and plans to pursue these courses while at St. Jerome's. But he wants to expand his artistic repertoire to include oil painting and water-colours, and he'd like to incorporate more landscape and background into his wildlife works.

His career dilemma is complicated by the colour deficiency in his vision, and he is not sure how far he could take a career in art. One thing is certain - he is a very promising artist with considerable talent. Whether or not he shares his gift with students in the classroom or with the public at large, Canadian artistic life will be enhanced. ♦

Former prof, grad receive honours

The Catholic Religious Education Consultants of Ontario (CRECO) recently honoured two friends of the College. Religious Studies Professor Walter Bildstein and former chaplain Sr. Marie Taylor (BA '71) received the CRECO Award for 1990 at the organization's annual general meeting in Kingston.

Both were recognized for their "outstanding dedication and commitment to Catholic education." Bildstein has long been associated with off-campus and correspondence religious studies courses serving several separate school boards in Ontario. Many teachers, in particular, were able to complete their degrees and upgrade their religious studies qualifications thanks to these courses.

Sr. Marie Taylor has served the Waterloo Region Separate School Board as a teacher, principal and consultant. She was associated for several years with the Divine Word Centre in London, and served as a chaplain here at St. Jerome's in the late 1970s.

Prof. Bildstein lives in Ayr, just outside Waterloo, with his wife Theresa. He is on long-term disability after suffering a stroke several months ago. This has been complicated by numerous heart ailments over the years. ♦

College receives foundation grant

A new graduate programme to be offered by the College has been awarded a three-year \$53,000 grant by the Waterloo Region Catholic Community Foundation.

The Master of Arts in Religious Studies (Education Option) programme is designed to serve the professional and academic requirements of Catholic school teachers and administrators, and is expected to be first offered in 1992.

The grant consists of \$41,657 to finance library acquisitions necessary for a specialized programme of this nature. New acquisitions in such areas as scripture, theology, spirituality, catechetics, and Catholic church history will be made. Library resources must be enhanced in order for the programme to receive provincial government approval.

A further \$11,000 will finance miscellaneous expenses related to mounting the programme.

"Our ability to offer an effective and meaningful graduate programme which meets provincial standards is dependent upon the generosity of supporters within the commu-

nity," he adds. "This grant provided by the Waterloo Region Catholic Community Foundation is a sign of this support."

"St. Jerome's has taken a leadership role in mounting this new graduate programme which will help ensure that those designing curriculum have a solid grounding in the Catholic faith," Letson says. The program has received positive endorsement from The Institute for Catholic Education, an Ontario-wide educational body, and the Waterloo Regional Separate School Board. Letson envisions the involvement of other separate school boards in the province, and particularly the six boards within the Diocese of Hamilton. ♦

If graduates and friends would like more details on the programme, please call or write Dr. Mary Malone, Chair of the Department of Religious Studies at the College (519) 884-8110.

News briefs

Thirtieth Anniversary The year 1990 not only marked the 125th anniversary of the founding of St. Jerome's College. It also marked the thirtieth anniversary of our federation with the University of Waterloo.

SJC Profs Address RC Educators Three College professors recently gave talks at the annual Christian Curriculum Development Conference sponsored by the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association, November 9-11, 1990 in Toronto. Religious Studies Professors Michael Higgins and Mary Malone addressed the topic "Though the Vatican II Prism", while Psychologist Dr. Peter Naus spoke on "Adults and Teenagers: Searching for Common Ground."

Modest increase in enrolment The Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada reports that full-time undergraduate enrolment in Canada has grown for the eleventh consecutive year. Fall 1990 enrolment grew by 3.1% in Canada, and 3.9% in Ontario. St. Jerome's Registrar Kevin Donelson reviewed these figures and reports that the College's first year enrolment has remained stable with no change over last year. Overall arts enrolment at St. Jerome's grew by 7.2% from 555 students in Fall, 1989 to 595 in Fall, 1990. Combined arts and math enrolment grew from 807 students in Fall, 1989 to 829 in Fall, 1990 or by 2.7%.

Attention Hamilton-area grads!

Don't miss the premiere performance of the new play *Heyday*, written by St. Jerome's grad Kevin Arthur Land (BA '79), on Saturday, May 18, 1991 at 8:00 p.m.

It is 1909, and Hamilton is abuzz with the shooting death of Ethel Kinrade. According to her sister Flossie, an aspiring vaudeville singer, the killer is a tramp who mysteriously disappeared and is nowhere to be found. Is Flossie telling the truth? Discover the sobering reality as the story unfolds using music, comedy, dance and spectacle. It's a tale of greed, lust, ambition ... and vaudeville!

Meet the cast and playwright at a post-play reception.

Location:
Theatre Terra Nova at the Playhouse Theatre,
177 Sherman Ave. N.,
Hamilton (at Barton St.)

Tickets: \$12.00 per person

Available by contacting Rob Donelson at the College (519) 884-8110, ext. 45.

All SJC graduates are welcome to attend.

Recent Synod reaffirms status quo, profs say

The Synod on the Formation of Priests in the Modern Era, held in Rome from September 31 to October 28, was "the most disappointing yet from a Canadian perspective," says St. Jerome's President Dr. Doug Letson who attended the Synod for a week with colleague Associate Dean Dr. Michael Higgins. Both were in Rome as accredited journalists, Letson representing the College's quarterly *Graill: An Ecumenical Journal*, and Higgins representing *Catholic New Times*.

"Historically, the Canadian Bishops have a reputation for taking tough stands at past Synods," notes Letson. "My reading of the 1990 Synod documents from that point of view indicates that this was the most disappointing of Synods."

"The Canadian Bishops have joined the chorus of voices reaffirming the status quo and the perception of a cultic priesthood," acknowledges Letson who with Higgins, also attended the 1985 Extraordinary Synod in Rome, and who has written and spoken extensively on that Synod and the 1987 Synod on the Laity.

"The main qualification would be Bishop Fred Henry's intervention on the psychological testing of seminarians, and on psychological and sexual growth on a continuing basis after ordination. Bishop Henry stressed that priesthood is a lifelong growth experience," he adds.

Both Letson and Higgins were disappointed in the lack of debate on the question of priestly celibacy, the enhanced role of women in the church and in the training of priests, and the need for alternative forms of ministry in the face of dramatically declining numbers of priests. Also not addressed was the issue of sexual abuse of children by priests, which has rocked the Canadian church in recent months.

"It was difficult to get access to information and people," recalls Higgins, "and we often dealt with hastily translated addresses. There was a pathological preoccupation with a homogeneity of view which simply does not exist."

Higgins argues that there was a "forced unanimity" among those who related information to the media. He notes that the delegations at the Synod represented diverse regions of the world - Africa, Asia, Europe, the Americas - "they cannot possibly share the same views. The African bishops want to build more seminaries while the U.S. bishops are closing seminaries and creating a national seminary." ♦

Higgins also notes that the Canadian church is facing a crisis about celibacy, yet the topic was not discussed, even though the Synod's theme was "the formation of priests in the modern era."

"Celibacy is understood as an important discipline in priestly ministry," acknowledges Higgins. "Why should it not be aired especially in the face of declining numbers of priests?" He notes that there are 100,000 laicized priests who could be involved in active ministry, and regrets that this potential source for effective ministry was not on the Synod agenda for debate.

The sexual abuse of children was not discussed even though an Ad Hoc Committee of the Canadian bishops recommended that the Canadian delegation to the Synod raise the issue.

Regrettably, reflect Higgins and Letson, the Synod was characterized by "a lack of openness, a lack of information, and a lack of realism about the realities facing the modern priesthood." ♦

Recruiting students

Fourth-year St. Jerome's Honours English (Rhetoric and Professional Writing) student Sonia Bjorkquist of Stratford assisted Registrar Kevin Donelson as High School Liaison Officer during the fall term. Sonia visited nearly 70 high schools throughout Ontario and assisted in organizing the College's annual Open House and guided tours for visiting students. A talented photographer, many of Sonia's photos appear in this and previous issues of *Update!*.



Sonia Bjorkquist



Impact of TV on children probed by prof

Television. Its presence is ubiquitous, and all of us at one time or another have wondered about its effects. Of particular concern to educators and parents is television's impact on children. A new book by St. Jerome's psychology professor Dr. Judy Van Evra probes this issue.

Entitled *Television and Child Development* (Lawrence Erlbaum, 1990), the book provides a thorough review of three perspectives on the question: how children process television information, i.e. what they understand, remember, and distort; the social impact of television and the effects of violence, stereotypes and advertising; and a theoretical integration of communications and psychological points of view, i.e. the interaction of television content and viewer characteristics.

The statistics provided by Van Evra are startling. "North American children are said to watch about 1,500 to 1,800 hours of commercial television annually, one in five of which is spent on advertising," notes Van Evra. She adds, "If the average viewing time is 4 to 5 hours a day, a child might see about 130 commercials daily, or more than 900 a week or 45,000 a year. One researcher estimated that children see more than 11,000 ads a year for junk food alone."

Writes Van Evra, "By understanding more about how, and to what extent, television actually affects children, and what role other variables may play in mediating television's impact, we can maximize its potential for facilitating and enriching cognitive, social, and emotional development, and we can minimize its negative influence."

Van Evra, who is on sabbatical leave in 1990-91, first became interested in this topic



Dr. Judy Van Evra

photo by S. Bjorkquist

while watching television with her three daughters who, at the time, were pre-teen and teenagers. "As a parent, I began to pay more attention to the stereotyping done on television," she recalls, "and as a developmental psychologist, I was intrigued by what effect television could have on children generally. I wondered if it would interfere with school performance or social skills."

Her first study began in 1983-84, during her last sabbatical, but the most intensive research has been done during the last year and a half. Much of the work in this area has been done in the last 15 years, but Van Evra found that relatively little had been done to integrate the psychological and communications perspectives. "By bridging these two fields of inquiry, I hope my book will help to fill that void," she says.

Van Evra maintains that television is not necessarily harmful for children, and can be very positive, but she cautions that too much view-

ing can have adverse effects. "People use television largely for two reasons: information or entertainment/diversion. Both the amount viewed and the purpose for viewing, as well as the development level of the child, affect its impact. For example, children from disadvantaged homes may be more vulnerable to TV's influence if it is used as a major source of information, if it is the way in which they learn about the world."

Depending on the television message, then, and whether TV is seen as realistic, such viewing can have negative effects. TV is likely to have less of an impact on children who use it primarily for escape or diversion and who have many other diversions and sources of information.

"It is also important for parents to watch TV with their children sometimes to provide input about their own values and about the reality of the TV content," she believes.

"Without such input, children may see TV's ways of resolving conflicts and problems as more realistic than they actually are. For example, most shows pose a dilemma and then solve it, leaving everything neat and tidy by the end of the half hour or hour."

In addition, "young children react more to salient content - the flashy lights, loudness, action scenes," she says. "They do not understand narration and dialogue, and therefore easily may miss subtle messages or 'morals of a story.'" If parents are present, they tend to prompt interaction and questions, and may be able to clarify some misinterpretations. Research has demonstrated, however, that television shows such as "Sesame Street" do lead to gains in language and vocabulary in young viewers, Van Evra says.

Van Evra's research also drew her into another area which she hopes to pursue further in the future: the role of television for the elderly. "For many elderly persons, television is a companion, an escape, and a major source of information, but research has shown that heavy viewing, without other activities and other informational sources, can cause some elderly people to become more fearful, or may lead to other unrealistic expectations."

Van Evra's contributions to this important area will help us to understand this modern and still little-understood phenomenon. Stay tuned for more details.

Van Evra's book can be ordered through any bookstore for \$29.95. Its Canadian distributor is Copp Clark Pittman. ♦

Open meetings

All St. Jerome's grads are welcome to attend the meetings of the College's Graduates' Association Executive Committee. The next meetings take place at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, February 13, 1991 at the offices of Pat Mackesy, 117 Hughson St. S., Hamilton, and on Wednesday, March 6, 1991 in the Board Room at St. Jerome's College. We hope you will come to share your ideas and input.

Democracy and literacy

by Tom Ciancone (BMath '70)



photo by K. Chyngham

In February of 1990, many Nicaraguans voted for the first time in democratic elections. I was fortunate to be part of a Canadian delegation to observe these elections. Although the loss of the Sandinista Front was a shock, clearly the Nicaraguan people voted through a democratic process to end the contra war and the U.S. economic blockade, which have devastated their country. Credit is due to the Sandinista government in preparing the people for their democratic structures. We Canadians were terribly impressed at how well organized the elections were. As a literacy worker I can only marvel at the extent to which the government made sure people understood the election process. On the ballot itself, each party was identified by its name, symbol, number and colour. A person who was unable to read would have no trouble in marking the ballot. Here in Canada, where we take democracy for granted, not nearly as much care is given to those with low literacy skills.

While in Nicaragua, I spent one week in the northern city of Esteli. There I met Ileana Gonzalez and Maribel Espinoza who were responsible for Literacy and Adult Education for the Northern Region 1. On one occasion I went with them to visit a literacy program in the mountains near the Honduras border and our jeep broke down on the way.

When we finally arrived all dusty in the town of Jalapa, I found how few resources they have. The office and classroom were in a run-down old building with a couple of 40 watt bulbs for light. I had brought with me two boxes filled with paper, pencils and other materials - donations from various literacy groups in Toronto. Upon receiving these materials, Moncho Peralto, wrote these words to us, "We recognize that for you this donation is somewhat small in volume, but for us it is very big, only for the sign of solidarity which is the most important. It serves as a bond between our two sister peoples and it is the opening of a new channel of communication that we will maintain between Jalapa and Toronto." In return he gave us a book entitled *In 1990 Jalapa Will Be Free of Illiteracy!*.

If we take Moncho's words seriously about the bond between Nicaragua and Canada, especially among literacy learners and practitioners, there is much for us to share. On our part, we can send material aid (through Tools for Peace), and we can send letters or our stories to show our support for their struggles and triumphs. On their part, they have already shown us a tremendous amount in their passion for democracy and how they use popular education as a tool for democracy. They have made the link between literacy and democracy very clear. If we look at our reality - issues like the Meech Lake Accord, the G.S.T., or environmental problems - we see how access to information is key to our participation. Literacy is the key to democracy. ♦

Tom Ciancone is a literacy and numeracy instructor for the Toronto Board of Education.



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Waterloo, Ontario
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Where are they now?

'73 **Ken Lavigne** (BA '73) was recently appointed Associate Registrar, Admissions and Student Awards at the University of Waterloo. Formerly, he served as Associate Registrar for Graduate Studies.

'76 **Pat Lynch** (BA '76) and his wife **Monica** welcomed with delight the birth of their second child, Gregory Parker, on October 23, 1990. Gregory is a new brother for Meghan. Pat works as a communications consultant with Bell Canada and Monica is a graphic designer at UW's Graphic Services. *Update!* is one of her creations.

Rich Poremba (BMath '76) and **Melissa Van Kessel** (BA '88) were married on July 28, 1990. Both teach at St. John's College in Brantford where Rich is Assistant Math Department Head and Director of Student Activities.

'78 **Maureen** (née Bauer) **McGahey** (BA '78) is a freelance journalist and a home-maker. She is currently writing a biography of her late uncle Fr. David Bauer, the former coach of Canada's national hockey team and a prominent figure on the Canadian sporting scene for many years. She recently completed an article on Fr. Bauer to be published in the *Canadian Catholic Review*. Maureen's husband, **David**, is Vice-Principal at St. John's Elementary School in Perth. Their fourth son was born on April 2, 1990.

'79 **Diane** (née Warren) **Dewan** (BA '79) and **Phil Dewan** (BIS '80) welcomed with delight the birth of their first child, a daughter, Rachel Grace Deborah, on January 16, 1991, weighing nine pounds. Diane and Phil live in Mississauga.

'80 **Stewart Cook** (BA '80) works for the Federal Government as an Access to Information and Privacy Analyst in the Public Works Dept. An active volunteer for the Red Cross and United Way, Stewart recently attended the SJC Ottawa-area chapter reception held at the Museum of Civilization in Hull, Quebec.

Sr. Barbara Graf (BA '80) is Director of the St. Joseph's Centre of Spirituality in Hamilton.

Nancy Youngson (BA '80) is a Youth and Family Counsellor with the Youth Services Bureau of Ottawa-Carleton. She lives in Chelsea, Quebec.

'81 **Frank DePalma** (BA '81) and **Marianne** (née Lasovich, BA '79) welcomed their fourth child in September, a daughter, Laura Elizabeth.

'82 **Michael Jenny** (BA '82) was appointed Head of the Religion Dept. at Assumption High School in Burlington. He earned an MEd degree from OISE in 1987. Mike married **Sheila Brown** (BA '87) in 1988 and they welcomed the birth of their daughter Cecile Michelle on May 11, 1989.

John Vallier (BA '82) is associate pastor at Blessed Sacrament Church in Grand Rapids Michigan.

'84 **Paul McGrory** (BA '84) is Project Manager for Ecuhome Corp - Metahomes Project in Toronto. He is married to **Andrea** (née McColl, BMath '85).

Jean Pierre (J.P.) Quintal (BA '84) was called to the Bar of the Province of Ontario in February, 1990, and is currently teaching law at Algonquin College in Ottawa.

'86 **Martin Harris** (BA '86) is manager of the Data Customer Service Centre (Major Accounts and Collections Division) at Bell Canada, and is a regular volunteer at Rosalie Hall Maternity home in Scarborough. He is married to **Annette Stokes-Harris** (BA '87) who earned a BEd degree at the University of Toronto and who is now Drama Department Head at John Paul II Secondary School in Scarborough. Together they operate Act One Theatre Company which presents a number of productions in the Scarborough/Durham area to raise money for local charities and to train aspiring actors.

John Longarini (BMath '86) lives in Calgary where he works for AMOCO.

Mike Matthews (BA '86) earned a Master of Public Administration degree from Carleton University in Ottawa in 1988, and has worked in the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Resources, as well as the National Liberal Caucus Research Bureau. He is currently a tax analyst with Revenue Canada and he is working on an MBA degree at the University of Ottawa.

'88 **Julie Pierroz** (BA '88) is an elementary teacher at St. Lawrence School in the Hamilton-Wentworth Roman Catholic Separate School Board. She is engaged to **Enrico Palmese** (McMaster '88).

'89 **Andrew Rickert** (BMath '89) works in Stratford as a Systems Analyst for National Trust. He lives in Breslau.

'90 **Guy D'Amours** (BA '90) is a student in the Faculty of Theology at the Université de Montreal.

What's new in your life?

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Province _____

Postal Code _____ Telephone _____

Job Title _____

Name of Company/School etc. _____

Address _____

City _____ Province _____

Postal Code _____ Telephone _____

I.D. # _____

Year of Grad./Program _____

What's new in your life? Job Change? Married? Family? _____

Please send me the cassette tape of the Pelletier lecture *Christians in Politics* @ \$6.00 each. My cheque is enclosed and made payable to St. Jerome's College.