

Women's groups to receive additional funding

by **Evangeline Sadler**

The federal government will quadruple funds for women's organizations to \$15.5 million during the next four years, announced the minister responsible for the status of women at a news conference last Wednesday.

The Hon. Judy Erola said that much of the money will go to research and public education of such issues as child care, violence in the home and inequalities in the workplace. Voluntary organizations that have thus far limped along with inadequate funding will now have the resources to properly promote women's concerns, Erola said.

The increase comes as a pleasant surprise to the National Action Committee on the Status

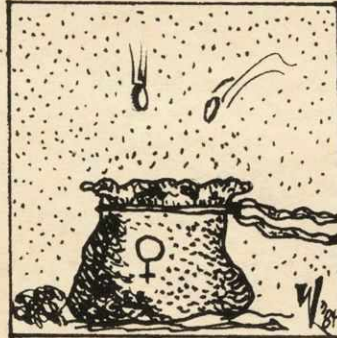
of Women, which lobbies on behalf of 271 member organizations. President Doris Anderson said the spending increase will help the committee establish more programs and social services for women, though she could not say what portion of the revenues her organization would share.

A spokesperson for the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women said the funds will, at the very least, satisfy an urgent need for this kind of government expenditure.

Ottawa plans to increase spending to \$4.3 million, up \$1 million from previous estimates this fiscal year, and an additional \$10.3 million dollars in 1985.

As well, nearly \$500,000 will go, each year, to a women's study chair at Canadian universities. The universities will have to match the donations with privately-raised funds.

Alison Brewer, the Dalhousie Women's Committee Chair, is



pleased with the government's move, and hopes funding will be renewed at the end of the four year period. She feels the Liberal Party has been consistently supportive and affirmative towards women's needs in the past few years.

There is a need for a women's study chair at Dalhousie, as there are an extremely small percentage of women on faculty, said Brewer, "Though as it stands it is too early to say if one will be set up."

Pen-pals for peace

by **Susan Fullerton**

Mount Saint Vincent University (MSVU) is joining Mount Allison University in a letter-writing campaign to support Prime Minister Trudeau's peace initiative. Mount A. student council is encouraging other Canadian universities to write to student representatives in East and West bloc countries, using the Prime Minister's peace proposals as a basis for discussion.

The Dalhousie Disarmament Society (DDS) is planning a similar campaign.

Mount A. has chosen to write to Belgian students because in the past, Belgium has suffered from conflict between the superpowers. MSVU student council President plans to com-

municate with both American and Soviet universities, specifically those in Washington State and Moscow.

Although the DDS is using the same medium, the message is different.

"We're going to be writing on specific issues rather than a general overview," said John Figg, DDS Coordinator.

Figg and others plan to question why Canada voted against a global nuclear freeze at the U.N. in December 1983, at a time when Trudeau was publicly promoting world peace.

Although the DDS supports the peace initiative, we tend to be somewhat more cynical about the motives behind it, said Figg.



It's The End for MSVU

Mount Saint Vincent University's English Department will be offering a special seminar beginning September 1984, on the subject of "Writing the End".

Dr. Peter Schwenger, who will be conducting the course, says that it deals with the fundamental human preoccupation of the holocaust. "In our era," he says, "when doomsday is in the hands of man, the subject of nuclear holocaust has been considered unthinkable. But since 1946, this numbed silence has been broken by an increasing number of outstanding novels on the subject."

The first half of his seminar will include what he calls "apocalyptic literature" such as the writings of St. John, The Book of Revelations, John Donne, William Blake, Mary Shelley, and many others down to the work of

Edgar Allan Poe. The second half incorporates modern writers such as John Hersey, Neville Shute, Walter M. Miller and Bernard Malamud, bringing students up to the present day.

Schwenger says that the topics under discussion are in keeping with the Mount's nature and concerns. "However," he points out, "I don't want the course to be taken only as an expression of concern. It's more than that; it explores a unique problem in literary criticism. For students in their final year, it will provide an invaluable opportunity to break new critical ground on a question of major importance."

He says he wants to do full justice to all points of view including the admission that "we somehow almost look forward to the unleashing of chaos."

The End

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