

Women for political action speak

On Tuesday, January 16, Ms. Barbara Unroe has been invited to speak by Women for Political Action at 8 p.m. in the Law School Auditorium. This is open to anyone interested in the subject of women and alcoholism.

Ms. Unroe will also be addressing the UNB Women's Organization on the same day at 12:30 noon on the top floor

of the SUB Room 203. She will be focusing on the unique pressures of women and social factors which make alcohol abuse particularly difficult to detect in women as well as the appalling lack of treatment facilities for women who need help.

Why focus particularly on women alcoholics? After all the disease of alcoholism can attack anyone, male or female. However, it is becoming increasingly acknowledged that women become alcoholics for reasons which are different from those of male alcoholics, and need therefore different kinds of treatment for this disease. Also, the female alcoholic is regarded in a less sympathetic light than her male counterpart, consequently the disease tends to be either deliberately hidden, or goes on its way unrecognized, simply because to recognize it would be to acknowledge a dreadful failure, the destruction of the alleged feminine ideal. "Woman", as Joseph Hirsch wrote in *Women and Alcoholism*, "represents important

social and moral symbols that are the bedrock of society. And when angels fall, they fall disturbingly far. We would rather have them in their place, which is another way of saying that they define and make our own place possible and even more comfortable."

Certain facts will describe the present situation clearly and will serve to explain why the disease of alcoholism, particularly in women, is now arousing so much concern.

The incidence of alcoholism among women appears to be increasing sharply. In Ontario between 1962 and 1973 deaths from liver cirrhosis among females aged 15 to 70 rose 120 per cent. The female population increase in the same period was only 35 per cent.

Recent studies suggest that the male-female ratio among alcoholics is 3:1. This is the current ratio at Donwood Institute, a residential treatment facility in Toronto. In 1974 one-third of AA's new members in the States were women.

The documented female alcoholic is usually "discovered" in her forties. By then she looks much older than her age and has been drinking heavily at least 8 years.

Estimates of the proportion of female alcoholics who are "hidden", i.e., socially integrated and untreated, run as high as 90 per cent.

Although women may start drinking later in life than men, once they have estab-

lished a pattern of heavy drinking they generally develop alcoholism more rapidly.

A woman more frequently than a man points to a specific problem as having precipitated her heavy drinking. It may be divorce, death of a family member, a physical ailment, her children's growing up and leaving, or the loss of custody of her children.

Alcoholic women are much more likely to have alcoholic husbands than vice-versa. They are also more likely to be divorced than either non-alcoholic women or alcoholic men. It is estimated that for every ten women who

remain with their alcoholic husbands, one man stays with an alcoholic wife. (While wives of alcoholics have been studied as the partial causes of their husbands' problem, non-alcoholic husbands of alcoholics are commonly thought of as the injured parties).

Many alcoholic women who seek treatment are cross addicted. In addition to their alcoholism they have developed a physical dependency on a mood-modifying drug prescribed by a physician.

Research in progress suggests that there is a one-in-three risk of fetal

anomalies in women who continue their heavy imbibing during pregnancy.

A study of women being treated at Donwood Institute revealed that they felt more devoid of worth and more dissatisfied with their social relationships and their purpose in life than matched controls.

Their facts, while covering only a limited number of all the horrifying aspects of alcoholism in women, nevertheless indicate the enormity of the problem. They speak, as the cliché goes, for themselves.

Why johnny can't read

Dr. John Gillis of St. Thomas University's Psychology Department has recently published the results of a study which could provide a clue to understanding the problems of children with reading disabilities. The article appeared in the last issue of *NEUROPSYCHOLOGIA*, an interdisciplinary journal published in Great Britain.

Dr. Gillis, along with Dr. Agatha Sidlauskas of the University of Ottawa, con-

ducted the study at the Child Guidance Centre at the University of Ottawa over a twelve month period. Testing the oral reading performance of ten dyslexic children - children with serious reading handicaps - the researchers used auditory feedback to control the level of sound reaching each of the children's ears. The study concluded that the children improved their reading behavior when forced to listen to themselves read using only their right

ear. Dr. Gillis's findings have already generated a substantial amount of interest among educators, medical doctors, and psychologists worldwide. "I'm receiving two and three requests every day for more information about the study from people involved with the problem. It's really encouraging," says Gillis. He hopes that one day the results of his study may have some practical application.

African nite coming soon

By EDWRYN A. MALAKI
(President)

Time has come again when most of the students are looking

forward to Winter Carnival. At this very time every year, another yet great event takes place: THE AFRICAN NITE. It is a night not worth missing. An unforgettable night when Canadians and visitors

to Canada have the rare chance to see "Africa in Canada". It is a pity that the Nite passes unnoticed by many people.

Organised by the African students union, the Nite is the climax of the Union's annual events. It is an experience as well as an excitement to Canadians, visitors to Canada and especially to the African students who

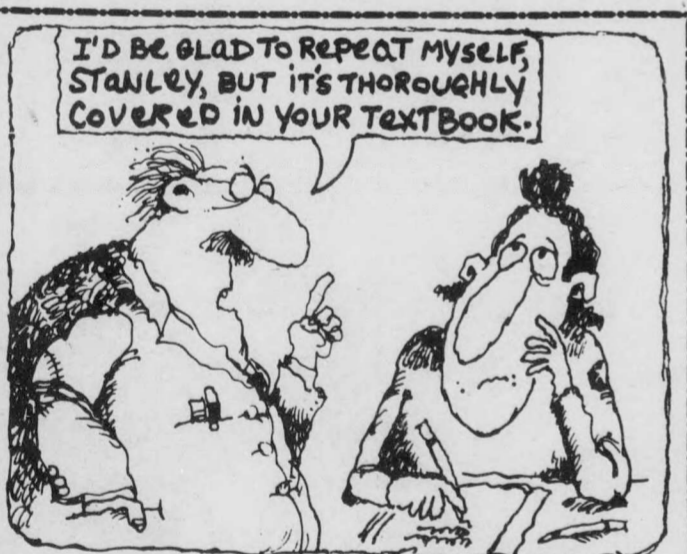
organise the event. The people of Africa work together to bring their experiences, culture, music and dances for an audience that is usually more curious about the continent by the end of the night than ever before.

This year's Nite takes place in the SUB Ballroom on Saturday 27th, January. The early part of the program will include films and slides showing all what you wanted to know about Africa. The A.S.U. band will provide interval music - all African, featuring some of the latest African musical arrangement whose co-ordination has remained a mystery to the Western Pop music lover.

Communal family life in Africa will be the theme of this year's plays in which a young, educated man cannot conceive the idea of marrying two wives despite the pressure from his family and peers. The cast will include last year's competent witch-doctor, Joe Orenda (the polygamist), Luke Nzangi, a stubborn young educated man, brainwashed by the Western Culture and Shikuugu (Shik), the old man who will not accept the inevitable social changes. We also have an addition of young African women taking part in the plays, a delicacy we had to do without last year.

By the end of the plays, we figured that everybody would be feeling a bit hungry, so, we have made arrangements for a snack that will include a variety of African dishes that will be prepared by our talented young women.

To round up the evening, those people of mature age will be able to remain for the usual summing up disco.



Your Textbook: you need it for a lot of good reasons!

- to reinforce class lectures
- to clarify & complete your notes
- to supply details & visual aids
- to help prepare for your exams
- to keep as a permanent reference

UNIVERSITY BOOKSTORE
FREDERICTON CAMPUS

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS

Applications for graduate fellowships are invited from candidates intending to study full-time in a graduate program leading to a master's or doctoral degree at Concordia University. Academic merit, broadly interpreted, is the prime consideration in the granting of awards. Financial need is not taken into account.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: February 1, 1979
ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS: April 1, 1979
COMMENCEMENT OF TENURE: September 1, 1979

These awards are valued at up to \$6000 a year, plus basic tuition, and may in some cases be renewed for up to three years.

Additional information and application forms are available from the:

Graduate Studies Office
Concordia University
1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W.
Montréal, Québec H3G 1M8
Tel: (514) 879-7314