

Open school taught by skilled amateurs

Housewives, lawyers moonlight with Nohant

By ANNA VAITIEKUNAS
There has been much speculation in recent years as to whether the current fad in education - the open spaced, unstructured school - is really working.

Roberta Seidman, acting principal of Nohant, a non-profit, tuition-free school which operates out of Downsview Public Library, is convinced that it is.

Nohant, named after an 18th cen-

ture French estate that was used as a gathering place for some of the world's most renowned figures (including J.S. Bach), is a private, alternative school founded five years ago by Jeff Seidman, now 20.

The school attracted more than 100 applicants in its first year of operation and only 40 were accepted after careful screening and approval by its educational consultants.

Nohant is fully recognized by the ministry of education, and is inspected and evaluated annually by department inspectors for its fidelity to departmental regulations: 120 hours of classroom instruction per course, and the use of the credit system in order to graduate its students with an Ontario Senior Matriculation Certificate. These are the only formal guidelines the school abides by.

The courses are offered to fit

available schedules and a class may last for several hours at a time. Nohant's students use the premises of the Downsview Public Library for meetings and some classroom instruction, as well as museums, art galleries and other public information centres across Metro to research the projects they set themselves.

The only criteria Nohant teachers must have in order to teach are adequate knowledge of the course they are to teach, a capacity to demonstrate their competence in instruction if asked (B.A. or no B.A.), and compatibility with the students on a one to one ratio.

Most of the teachers at Nohant are not the teachers we've known, but rather housewives, lawyers and university students with a special skill, who donate a few hours of their time each week for consultation and in-

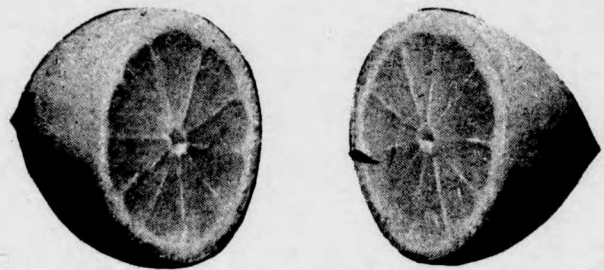
struction on a volunteer basis.

Tuition is free but there is a small registration fee of \$5, paid directly to cover the cost of the department's school inspector's yearly visit to the school.

As a result of Nohant's open teaching system, both the teachers and students participate in a learning capacity; the teachers learn how to teach and the students learn how to learn.

Plato once professed, in contemporary linguistics, that the human soul, personality and ideal virtues should be the product of education, so that the individual may best cope with nature, his society and himself, and that education should be the beginning of this process of learning. Utopian and idealistic as it sounds, this is the very concept of Nohant.

For further information, contact Antoni Burzotta at CYSF offices, N111 Ross.




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Guide barely survives

OTTAWA (CUP) — Carleton University will distribute a heavily-edited version of its banned handbook, *Survival*, in about three weeks.

The new handbook will lack all reference to off-campus business which in the original version raised profound protests from the university administration.

Missing will be information on such subjects as bakeries, beer stores, delicatessens, laundromats, theatres, TV stations, and discothe-

ques, as well as landlord-tenant relations and venereal disease.

The Carleton Board of Governors agreed for the most part that it should not be distributed. But Board member Bruce Cameron, former student council president, said the university seems to be letting the implications of an upcoming \$5.5 million fund-raising campaign shape its judgments on local business.

He concluded that this year's *Survival* was tame compared to some earlier publications approved in other years.

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