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Many Students Have Eating Disorders

By ALICE J. PITRE

I'm going to tell you a little about one of my vices. Just one of them, mind you; there are others.

I eat too much.

Ross menu.

There. It's out. Now, I can hear you saying,

sometimes.' But I'm not talking about sometimes. I'm talking about losing control, eating when I don't want to, feeling guilty and putting myself down because of it, dieting or fasting to make up for it, then binging again a day or so later.

I think, as far as I can remember, that I always liked to eat. Who doesn't? But about the time I turned eighteen, I 'So what? Everybody does that started to eat to stop the feel-

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ings. Maybe you know which feelings I mean - thinking I have to be such a good girl but knowing I'm not, feeling I am responsible for everyone's happiness, setting such high standards for myself and then getting depressed because I can't

I don't like feeling bad about myself. So to stop the feelings, I eat. But then I get on the scales, and oh the guilt. Some people take laxatives, or spend hours each day working out, or even vomit after every binge, but I go on a diet. It might be a long diet, or it might be a short one - a fast, or a day or two, or

And then of course, I get hungry, or feel deprived and underprivileged, and find I can't do anything to stop the

But I'm not the only one. They say it happens to a lot of women when they turn eigh-

In any case, it is an eating

GRAD PHOTOGRAPHY

"Class of '89"

live up to them.

even five.

next binge. It's aw ful.

teen. Sometimes they call it anorexia, for those who don't eat because they are so scared to getting fat. And sometimes they call it bulimia, for people like me.

disorder, and it's not good for us. Poor nutrition can cause loss of concentration, preoccupation with food and

recipes (my husband says that's me, for sure), depression, irritability, and fits of anger. It also causes binging.

Binges can be controlled 80-90% of the time through proper nutrition. Our bodies crave the missing nutrients, but all a body can do about it, is to cry, 'Eat! Eat!' If you're like me, and turn to peanut butter sandwiches or ice cream, that nutritional deficit is never filled, and you go on to binge after binge.

Sounds pretty negative, doesn't it? But there is help. The Counselling Centre and the Health Centre work closely together to help students with eating disorders. It is a pity that so many of us find the subject so embarrassing that we suffer in silence. If only we would talk about it.

I can talk about it now because I've had a lot of help talking about it. There are support groups in the city for this very reason. When a whole group of people have the same problem, it's not so hard to talk. You find out you're not the only one, and you can let out the feelings without fear of rejection and criticism.

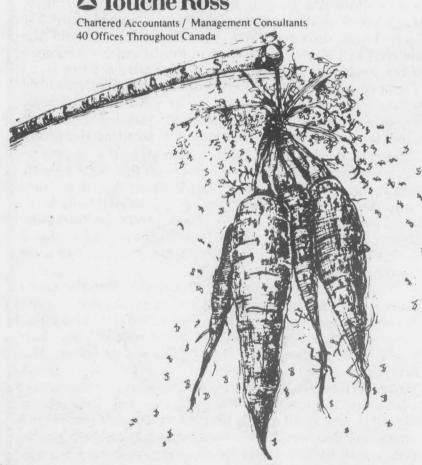
These groups, like Counselling Services, are all confidential. Sometimes it takes a crisis to make us willing to get help (a mid-term crisis, perhaps?) But the most important thing to know is that help is there.

Besides, an eating disorder is an order of the elite. Fred Horsley, at the Counselling Centre, says it most often affects the bright, the sensitive, and the creative. Now doesn't that make you feel good?



Who is this? Is it man, myth or misses? Have you ever seen him before? Do you know what he does? Does ne go to all his classes? Is he even a student? If you know who this is send your answer clo News Dept., The Bruns, Rm 35 SUB. You may be eligible for a prize.







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