

Illich

Desocietizing in review

by donalee Moulton

"Professions have mutated into corporations who can define what society needs and how these needs can be satisfied", said Ivan Illich. "Increasingly", he stated, "we define norms in terms of professional norms". Illich, renowned democrat and believer in individual freedom, spoke Monday at Mount Saint Vincent University. In a very informal manner Illich spoke of his beliefs, centering much of his discussion on his latest book, *Medical Nemesis*.

An expert, according to Illich, is one who knows a system, has a kind of thinking he can share with others, but today these ideas are shared with members of the experts clan. Expertise has become a professional aspiration. His non-medical book on medicine was written to exemplify this point. Illich sees himself as an innocent; his role that of an outsider looking into the situation.

The problem with the medical field, as with the educational field, is that it excludes public control. As

it stands, only experts/professionals can decide what is healthy/unhealthy, what the needs of society are and how to alleviate these needs. This control by a university educated elite is especially obvious in the field of medicine. These professionals define the diseases: they tell us what deviance is, they tell us what schizophrenia is, they tell us what cancer is.

To achieve the corporate structure and power that doctors have, Illich says the public needs legislation. Laws must be passed similar to those of the medical profession. Then the medical experts may determine the situations of work as well as, when and by whom, it may be done. To explain this point Illich discusses the allocation of research funds.

He contends that a large percentage of medical expenses are used for useless or harmful work. In cancer research 3% is used for detection or cure. 97% has been proven at least useless in terms of survival.

This process, this control, excludes the public from participation and hence denies them basic freedom. "When we talk of freedoms, we are not talking of a zero sum game. All people, by paying public taxes, have a right to obtain (freedom)."

"The purpose of medicine is not for the health status of the nation", states Illich. The view that doctors protect people from death began in 1919; the notion that doctors are pain killers is even newer and an entirely English/American concept. Illich compares the multi-role doctor of the past with today's expert; and the suffering during this transition are the public—the patients. When you attribute your pain to a god it is bearable but when it is because of exploitation (misuse of medical funds by professionalism) it is unbearable.

The solutions?

According to Illich there is only one: we must depoliticize society and we must deprofessionalize medicine.

Sam the Record Man

CANADA'S LARGEST AND BEST KNOWN RECORD STORES

NOW TWO HANDY LOCATIONS TO SERVE YOU

◇ HALIFAX ◇

BAYERS ROAD SHOPPING CENTRE
 Mon., Tues. & Sat. 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
 OPEN Wed., Thurs. & Fri. 9 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.

◇ DARTMOUTH ◇

K-MART MALL, TACOMA DRIVE
 OPEN Mon. to Sat. 9:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Marion Waddington

by donalee Moulton

There's an art gallery, Canadian artists cover the walls. There are rows of chairs but too many people. Some sit on the floor. There is a lady standing between the paintings and the people. She is reading poetry. Her voice is the only sound - her audience is busy listening.

I am referring to Winnipeg born poet Marion Waddington who entertained Dalhousie with a reading last Thursday evening. Publically Waddington bubbles, carbonated sometimes to the point of silliness but her expertise with audiences is evident. There are no long catatonic moments of silence. Her reading flows, her stories amuse, and her audience is made to feel intelligent and appreciated.

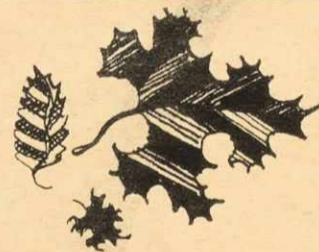
Her poetry is love poetry, fun poetry, poetry with something to say, poetry set to words by such men as Morris Sterdum. To her "Poetry should be a pleasure. I like the kind of fooling around with words."

Her problem is time, Monday night she had plenty of it, but usually "The way most of us live (i.e. poets) we are fragmented by time. I think one needs time." and Miriam Waddington does need time, time to teach her classes at the University of Toronto, time to write poetry and time to write critical books and essays.

She feels that art is something magical, something transcending and poetry is "another aspect of reality and a transformation of reality." Her delight in poetry, in reading poetry is transmitted to the

audience. She is one of those unusual speakers who can render the audience attentive regardless of the interestability of the material being presented. She says, "My last poem is usually my favourite poem." but her reading conveys a favouring of every poem.

*And beyond
 come
 through the barriers
 of ice
 to the pure
 pole silence
 and the sun.
 I am
 distance less
 a prairie
 of far
 snow.*



M.H. Abrams, the Class of 1916 Professor of English at Cornell University, will give a public lecture at Dalhousie Friday, October 29th. Entitled "How to Prove an Interpretation", it will consider methods of validating literary criticism. Special attention will be given to the works of William Wordsworth.


Abrams is a distinguished lecturer and a noted authority on eighteenth and nineteenth century literature, literary criticism, and the Romantic movement. He has made numerous contributions to literary journals and collections of critical essays. He is best known, however, for two prize-winning books, *The Mirror and the Lamp: Romantic Theory and the Critical Tradition* and *Natural Supernaturalism: Tradition and Revolution in Romantic Literature*. In a poll of 250 critics and professors of literature taken in 1957, the first of these two works was cited as one of five "works published within the last thirty years which...have contributed most to an understanding of literature."

Abrams will speak in Room 115 of the Weldon Law Building at 5 p.m.

GUS' GRILL

RESTAURANT AND PIZZERIA

LICENSED



TAKE OUT
& DELIVERY

FULL COURSE MEALS' STEAKS FISH & CHIPS

OPEN:
 SUN. TO THURS. 7 am - 1 am
 FRI. & SAT. 7 am - 2 am

423-0276 **423-7786**

2605 Agricola St. — Halifax, N. S.



UN ONE

DINNER DOLLAR PICCADILLY

THIS NOTE IS LEGAL TENDER
 BETWEEN 11:30 A.M. and 7:30 P.M.
 EVERY DAY IN OCTOBER, 1976
 CUSTOMER'S NAME AND ADDRESS MUST BE
 FILLED IN ON BACK. VALID ONLY TOWARDS
 THE PURCHASE OF A ROAST BEEF DINNER (1 per dinner)



NOT VALID IN CONJUNCTION WITH OTHER PROMOTIONS OR MEALS ALREADY DISCOUNTED OR OFFERED AS A SPECIAL.