

Family planning urged

Profits slow "pill" research

By SUE KAISER
Many of us, if asked to identify a typical contraceptive user, would describe a young woman who wants to postpone having children until her life is more settled, or one who is already a mother and uses the pill to space her children. Certainly, Drug Company ads often give us this very middle America view of their customers. And for these women, contraception information is available.

But what about a thirteen year old who is having intercourse? Where does she go for information and prescriptions? And what attitudes does she encounter when she gets there?

SHARE RISKS

What about men who feel willing to share some they should share some of the risks of the more effective methods? Why is male contraceptive technology so primitive in regards to male contraception?

These are several among the many situations discussed as part of the overall state of contraception information dissemination and research last Friday at the Politics of Contraception conference. The conference was co-sponsored by the Ontario Institute of Studies in Education (OISE) and the Abortion and Contraception Committee of Toronto (ACCT). ACCT is a coalition of agencies and individuals in Toronto who are involved in counselling and education in the areas of abortion and contraception.

The aim of the conference was to bring together women and men who are interested not only in discussing issues, but in planning strategies for improving the quality of contraceptive information and broadening its general availability.

MORE AWARE COUNSELLORS

There were three workshops held in the morning: New Developments in Contraceptive Research, Counselling, and the Myths of Population Control. The Counselling workshop was a working session, designed to make coun-

sellors more aware of their own biases which sometimes blantly and subtly affect the type of information they are giving people. It was pointed out in one session that contraceptive information is information for healthy people, not sick ones. Labelling information seekers a patients or even clients as is done in most hospitals and clinics is unnecessary and confuses the person looking for facts, not cures.

In the workshop on new

developments in contraceptive research, reports were heard on work being done in the areas of post-coital contraception (morning after pills), vaginal probes and male pills to prevent sperm development. None of these methods will be available for quite awhile. Research in general moves slowly, it was reported, partly because it is mostly funded by drug companies, whose first goal is to make a profit, and also because of

(Continued on page 17)

Thieves beware

By ROSS FREAKE

Every person apprehended shop-lifting in the university bookstore is prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

Rafeal Barreto-Rivera, director of the bookstore, said this may seem ruthless and inhuman but "we refuse to be judge and jury, so we let the courts decide on any mitigating circumstances."

Losses in the bookstore, due to theft, had reached approximately \$60,000 two years ago and was still shooting upwards. The bookstore changed security companies, and decided to take a stronger stand on shop-lifting. Instead of stoically accepting their losses, they decided to fight back and prosecute every case, without exception, of shop-lifting regardless of how small or insignificant the article stolen.

In the past when the Metro Police were summoned to arrest a shop-lifter they would be discreet. Now they come in the front and act as conspicuous as possible.

Barreto-Rivera attributes this high-brow, inflexible stand, and the competence of the new security company with the declining losses of approximately, to \$15,000 last year, a drop from three per cent to less than one per cent of total sales.

Loss Prevention Services Limited, the present security company, came highly recommended and the bookstore director thinks the recommendation well warranted.

He pointed out there are un-

dercover security personnel in the bookstore whenever it is open, and not even the bookstore workers know them.

For persons who do make the attempt to acquire their books gratis, and do get caught in the process, it can result in two years imprisonment.

Peter Brunner, operations manager for the bookstore, said, "The majority are convicted, and set a criminal record. Persons who are not citizens of Canada can be deported."

Although stealing a book outright seems worse than switching price stickers and getting the book more cheaply, it is not so. This constitutes fraud and the penalty, if convicted, can be much stiffer than theft under \$200.

It is entirely to the judge's discretion if the person charged with fraud will be tried under Section 288B or Section 3381.

If the person is tried under 288B, then he goes before a judge only, and the maximum sentence is two years. But if the judge decides on Section 3381, then the accused can elect to be tried before a judge, or a judge and jury with a maximum penalty of 10 years.

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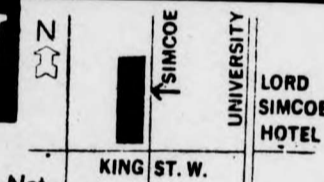
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