

Mental retardation is theme of NIMR library on campus

By BONNIE SANDERSON

The John Orr Foster Reference Library is internationally reputed for its' comprehensive collection on mental retardation. The present holdings include approximately 6,000 books and major reports, plus subscriptions to all allied professional journals and an extensive collection of reprints, newsclips, pamphlets, films and videotapes.

The library, sponsored by the National Institute on Mental Retardation, is located in the Kinsmen NIMR Building on York Campus. Mrs. Armour began looking after the library eleven years ago in a little building on Bedford Road. The Canadian Association for the Mentally Retarded moved into the National Institute in June, 1970.

The new building was constructed with a \$350,000 donation from the Kinsmen, a Canadian Service Club which at the time was celebrating its 50th anniversary. Other local associations raised funds for the completion of the building.

Forty staff members are now running the institute, which, along with the library, sponsors lectures, symposiums, and various other programmes to involve the community in work with the mentally retarded.

INTO THE COMMUNITY

The Comprehensive Community Services programme (COMSERV) was introduced by the association to get the retarded out of institutions and involved in the community where they live. The new focus is on the needs and the education of those people in the community.

The John Orr Foster Reference Library contains more knowledge about the mentally retarded than is being used. Mrs. Armour wants to get as much information to the public as quickly and as easily as possible.

The library operates on an inter-library loan plan, loaning books and reports to other libraries throughout Canada and the United States. The books are loaned for two weeks but are never allowed out of the libraries. The staff will conduct literature searches, and upon request pamphlets and other materials are shipped to interested persons.

Comprehensive catalogues of the publication lists are available from the institute. There are also 66 movies, and about 40 videotapes which can be rented from the NIMR

Audio-Visual Department for \$2.00 each plus a \$3.00 service and handling charge for items sent by mail. Bookings should be made as far in advance as possible; three to four weeks is the minimum time for processing a request and mailing out the material.

The film library is maintained and used extensively by provincial and local associations, universities and community colleges, schools and departments of education, schools of nursing, other voluntary organizations and government agencies.

Because the Library is a National Reference Service, books may not be taken out. However, there are many comfortable areas suited for quiet study.

The library is open Monday to Friday from 9a.m. to 5p.m., on Saturday from 9a.m. to 1p.m. and on Thursday until 7p.m.

VARIETY OF SERVICES

Other services offered by the institute include a centralized manpower exchange specifically oriented to mental retardation disciplines. The Career Development and Employment Service (CDES) is designed to bring together people seeking employment in the mental retardation field, and the employment opportunities for which they are qualified. The Career Opportunities Bulletin is distributed nationally free of charge.

Applications are now being accepted for traineeships-in-residence, three and four week programmes designed to upgrade people's knowledge of human services and help them acquire the skills necessary for advanced professional leadership. The next programme begins Jan. 28. Further information can be obtained from Mr. Fred Harsham, coordinator of training, Kinsmen NIMR Building, 661-9611.

The association also runs one and two week courses across the country on such things as sheltered workshops.

The major goals of the association are to make the public aware of what is happening in the lives of the mentally retarded and to help retarded people mingle with and be accepted by their fellow citizens as human beings with human needs and human problems—not a race apart.



M. Hallett Photo

Mental retardation is the theme of the NIMR library situated in the north-west corner of the campus, in the Kinsmen building. Found in the Kinsmen Building, beside the Physical plant, the library is open to all students. Pictured is Mary Ann Hutton, assistant librarian.

Gazette office raided by Morality squad

Halifax (CUP) — Dalhousie Gazette co-ordinator Marg Bezanson resigned last week because the paper printed what she termed a sexist story.

The news story brought about a raid on the Gazette offices by the Halifax Morality Squad on the grounds of "blasphemous libel." No charges have been laid.

Bezanson said co-editor Ken MacDougall acted "irresponsibly" by printing the story and not informing her it would be printed. Had she been informed she would have opposed it, she said.

Bezanson said the rest of the staff was not told the story was going in the paper, and the only people who knew about it were MacDougall and the person who submitted it. She said the printing of the story was another example of MacDougall's autocratic leadership.

The Gazette has received considerable criticism for the story on moralistic grounds from local church officials and the press.

Frank Fillmore, editor of The Scotian Journalist, a Halifax bi-weekly, supports the Gazette's right to publish, and is fighting the grounds on which the raid took place.

"The law is archaic," said Fillmore.

Fillmore said it never occurred to him that the story was sexist.

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