



# Saint Mary's Times

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Saint Mary's helps rewrite Beijing University curriculum

# How Chinese teachers learn to teach English

by Anne West

**C**HINA is a country with 1.3 billion inhabitants and English is the first foreign language the children learn. That means a lot of English teachers and Saint Mary's has just signed a contract with Beijing Normal University (BNU) to help rewrite the curriculum by which those teachers are trained.

"The implications are enormous," says Dr. Terry Piper, Director of Saint Mary's English as a Second Language program, "This could influence teacher education all over China...What we do could influence how generations of Chinese are taught English." She explains, "This is very big business. In the teaching universities, all students take English for two years, then the majors stay on in the foreign languages department for the next two years, while the non-majors move on to other areas." Beijing Normal University (BNU)



Dr. Terry Piper

has been chosen to play a leadership role in revising the English component of the teacher training curriculum for all teacher training

universities in China. During an 18-month period ending in December 1992, a Canadian team headed by Dr. Piper will work with two members of the Foreign Languages Department of BNU to revise the curriculum, a job which entails writing the syllabus for between 25 and 30 courses. The Canadian team includes Dr. Terry Piper, Dr. David Piper, Dr. Elizabeth Gathbonton, Dr. Bob Courchène and Dr. Jane Jackson-Fahmy, Dr. Terry McEachern and Dr. Nancy Yildiz.

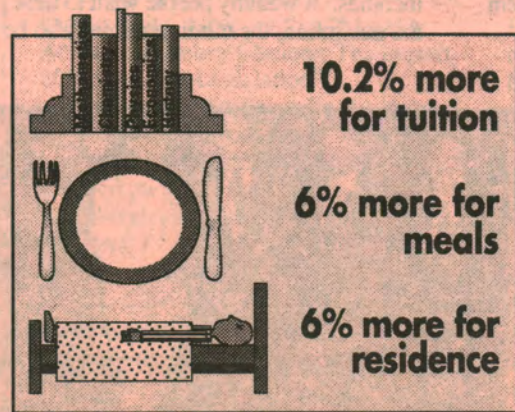
Why does the curriculum need updating? Dr. Piper says, "The English we hear from students at Beijing Normal University is very good, so they must be doing a great deal that is right. I suppose one reason is that the material is dated." She also explains that the Chinese segregate the skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening and teach each separately. The Chinese wish to retain this system, but Piper says, "Even though we will continue

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# Fees go up under hard times budget

**F**iscal responsibility is included in Saint Mary's mission statement and today it is more important than ever. The long process of deliberation and negotiation that ends with the production of a new budget concluded June 28, when the Board of Governors passed a \$34 million budget for the year 1991-92. On the income side, the budget contains \$20 million in grants from government, an increase of just 2.9 per cent over 1990-91. With inflation and the GST, most University departments will find their purchasing power reduced by seven per cent under the new budget.

Next academic year, students at Saint Mary's will have to shoulder a higher proportion of the cost of their



education. They face paying 10.2 per cent more for tuition in the coming year, up to six per cent more for accommodation in residence and around six per cent more for their

meal plans. Full-time tuition is \$2,150, with the cost of individual courses set at \$430. Despite this increase, Saint Mary's is still not the most expensive university in the province.

Wage and salary costs are up despite the provincial government's wage restraint program, because people who are members of campus bargaining units will receive scale increases. In addition, some much needed new positions have been created to cope with the growth of the University.

The care with which Saint Mary's manages its resources has led to the instigation of a fuel management

program which has been in the planning stages for several years. This will bring about fuel savings of \$94,000 this year, heralding long term savings once the cost of implementation has been covered.

Capital expenditure for equipment on campus is also down 20 per cent, from \$535,000 in 1990-91 to \$425,000 in the present year. This money will be spent on departmental equipment and furniture, audio-visual equipment and computer hardware and software. In addition, approximately \$300,000 will be spent on the University's ongoing program of residence improvements and \$368,000 on other alterations and renovations, including \$200 for the energy management program.

Redesign economic system

# Prof proposes economic constitution

**Perspectives on an Economic Future: Reforms and Evaluations**  
**Shripad Gopal Pendse**  
 Greenwood Press, January 1991  
 \$42.95

Politicians' attempts to modify economic policies often seem like re-arranging deck chairs on the Titanic, says Shripad G. Pendse— what is called for instead is a major rethink about the design of the economic system.

Dr. Pendse, Professor and Chairperson of Management at Saint Mary's University, attempts to find blueprints for a sustainable economic system in his edited book, *Perspectives on an Economic Future: Forms, Reforms and Evaluations*. In producing this book, Pendse approached top economists in Australia, Canada, France, the Netherlands and the United States and asked them to design the economic system they thought would work best and benefit the most people.

"I wanted them to put themselves in the same frame of mind as the founding Fathers of America, when they set about designing the Constitution and the Bill of

## Saint Mary's profs win Best Paper awards

For the first time, two professors from the same university have been awarded "best papers" at the prestigious Administrative Sciences Association of Canada's (ASAA) annual conference.

Terry Wagar, Assistant Professor of Management at Saint Mary's won for his paper entitled "Dismissal for Incompetence: An analysis of the factors used by Canadian courts in determining just cause for termination". Wagar was appreciative of the award saying, "It is quite an honor to be recognized by the ASAA. They host the largest conference for business schools and the "best paper" portion of the contest is very competitive."

Professor Wagar's paper explored the factors that affect court decisions of unjust dismissal. Wagar found that employers were much more likely to win their court case if they had held a hearing with the employee prior to dismissal; if past disciplinary measures had been documented in a written form; and, if the employee had obtained another job prior to the court hearing.

Dr. Hermann Schwind, Director of the Executive MBA program, and graduate education student Janice Bowie presented Ms. Bowie's thesis, "The effect of interpersonal coaching sessions on university students suffering from high communication apprehension".

The paper measures apprehension levels in university students when asked to make an oral presentation. Twenty students with high levels of anxiety related to the fear of oral presentations were identified. This group, through a series of relaxation methods, coaching and counselling, were able to reduce significantly the anxiety levels associated with making public or group presentations.

by **Melanie Jollymore**

Rights," explains Pendse. "The United States was the first nation to be planned in this way. All previous political systems evolved over time, through tradition and custom, as have economic systems. I wanted them to plan the best economic system, keeping in mind the philosophical idea of justice and political and economic feasibility."

It is no coincidence that the year of publication, 1991, is the bicentennial of the U.S. Bill of Rights. "I have phrased the book within the context of the bicentennial, with the idea that there should be an economic bill of rights that defines the goals of the economic system and the responsibilities of individuals and governments within it," he says.

In Pendse's mind, the purpose of such a bill of rights is four-fold: to avoid extreme poverty and its effects; to limit the concentration of extreme wealth and the power associated with it; to reward individuals in proportion to their contribution; and to maintain citizens' freedom to make economic choices.

The views of the nine contributors, who include a Nobel laureate and a former president of the American Economic Association, range from libertarian conservatism to modernized socialism.

In his own chapter, "Designing an Economic Bill of Rights within Cybernetic Constraints," Pendse takes ideas from each extreme and tries to combine them into a workable solution. He doesn't think excessive control is effective in creating an efficient and equitable system - rather it causes dysfunction. To explain some of the problems in the current Canadian economic system, he uses the concept of cybernetics, which says there are limits to the number of factors that can be controlled in any system before it breaks down.

He cites programs in place to prevent extreme poverty, such as minimum wage, rent control, and welfare, and says, "piecemeal attempts to implement them have often created unexpected and

undesirable side effects. For example, rent control laws make it unattractive for landlords to maintain existing rental property or build new units. Rent controls thus often result in reduced availability of affordable housing to the poor."

By the same token, says Pendse, minimum wage laws tend to lead to high unemployment, particularly among disadvantaged groups like blacks, women, teenagers, and people with little education. "If a person's productivity is only worth \$2 an hour, but an employer must pay them \$5, that person is not likely to get a

job at all," he explains. "For example, the teenage black unemployment rate in the 1980s rose to at least five times as high as it was in the 1950s, when minimum wage laws began to take effect."

Similarly, policies to impose surtaxes and other penalties on the super-rich only produce unproductive tax shelters and other manipulations of the tax law, without generating much revenue.

Pendse's alternative is to control far fewer

factors, but more successfully, by setting minimum guaranteed and maximum allowable annual incomes for all citizens. He likens this approach to profit-sharing. "Companies that use profit-sharing tend to have a significant edge in productivity and profitability," he says, explaining, "There's a limit on the extent to which a company can measure an individual employee's productivity, because in reality work is interdependent. So, in an effort to obtain greater rewards, employees start to play with the measurement system, creating internal competition and conflict." With profit-sharing, each employee's reward depends on the overall health of the company, so co-operation rather than competition is the way to succeed. This is one reason behind the great success of Japanese companies.

His proposal is essentially an extension of the profit-sharing concept to the national level. He proposes a set ratio between the maximum and minimum incomes. If wealthy people want to raise the maximum, the minimum must also be



Shripad G. Pendse

raised, which would require an increase in the gross national product through higher productivity. Everyone has an incentive to make this system work. His proposal includes a tax credit system to maintain incentives for those whose income has reached the maximum.

"If a person can only earn up to a certain amount of money, it reduces the incentive to exploit the poor and to operate outside the law to make more money," says Pendse. He adds that unemployment would be very low in a system where wages match productivity. "People could afford to work for those wages, since that money would supplement their guaranteed minimum income. Those people would then have the opportunity to gain experience and work their way up to higher income levels."

## Saint Mary's helps Czechoslovakia convert to free market economy

At the beginning of July, Dr. Hermann Schwind, Director of the Executive MBA program, will be in Prague, the capital of Czechoslovakia, teaching 150 Czechs and Slovaks about modern methods of human resource management. Saint Mary's is one of three Canadian universities working with the Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE) to help eastern European countries switch to a free market economy. The program is financed by the federal government's Task Force on Eastern and Central Europe.

With Dr. Schwind in Prague will be a professor from the University of Victoria, a professor from the University of Guelph and two consultants. Dr. Schwind's topics will include labour/management relations, creating a motivating environment, rewarding

performance and carrying out a human resource audit. Classes will be in English, but Dr. Schwind's own German background means he will also be able to communicate with the students in a language which is traditionally more familiar to them.

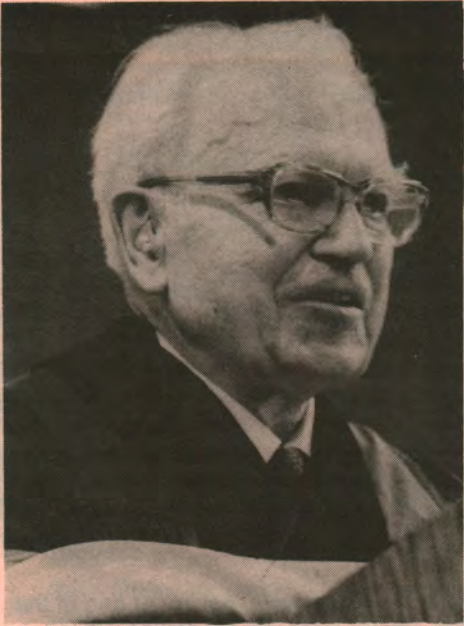
At the end of the two-week course, 30 of the students will be chosen to come to Canada. In October, 10 will go to Guelph University to study agriculture, 10 will study public administration in Victoria, and 10 will study business administration at Saint Mary's. The visitors will start their stay in Nova Scotia with a week on campus, before entering a five-week internship in the public or private sector. At the end of this period, they will return to Saint Mary's for three days before flying home.

**Homes are needed for the 10 Eastern European visitors in October. Anyone who would like to help should get in touch with Dr. Hermann Schwind.**

## Education meeting

The Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC) held a meeting at Saint Mary's in March. Some of the University's top students and professors made presentations at a luncheon following the meeting. Shown here (L to R): T.S. Chan, MBA Director; Dermot Mulrooney, member of MPHEC; Tim Andrew, chairman of MPHEC; Nancy White, Commerce Student of the Year; and Ravi Tangri, Commerce Professor of the Year.





## Spring Convocation 1991

Convocation was held at the Halifax Metro Centre on Monday, May 13. These photographs by Peter Parsons of Clark Photographic capture some of the highlights of the event.

Photos from top left:

- Dr. Gerhard Herzberg addresses the graduates during Convocation
- Interpreter Clare MacDonald in action at Convocation
- Heather Nelson graduates with a Bachelor of Arts degree.
- Academic stars! Medal winners photographed after Convocation, L to R (back) John J. Whelan (Arts), Allan H. MacLeod (MBA), Peter L. Twohig (University Gold Medal), James Fraser Burke (Governor General's Silver Medal), Randolph E. Corney (Centennial Scholarship Medal), Michael J. Donnolly (Education), (front) Dr. Philip Street (Teaching Medal), Simon E. Day (Science), Dr. John O'C. Young (Acting Vice-President, Academic and Research), Dougall J. MacPhee (Commerce).



### Family affairs!

- Top: Director of Computer Services Mike Tingley, with his wife Olive and their son Charles, who graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce degree.
- Centre: Among the MBA graduates was Bonnie Kirby, Continuing Education's Manager of Professional Development Programs. She is seen here with her children, (L to R) Bruce, Colleen and Sean.
- Bottom: Proud daughters! Elizabeth Jardine received her Master of Education degree at Convocation. She is seen here with her triplet daughters (L to R) Kelsey, Stephanie, and Nicole.



Unfortunately Dr. John Young, Acting Vice-President (Academic and Research) broke his ankle shortly before Convocation and had to play his role from a wheelchair.



Professor William Greer of the Management Department, a former opera singer, added a professional touch to Convocation with his magnificent renderings of *O Canada* and *God save the Queen*.

## Around campus

A small birthday celebration was held 10 May for the 95th birthday of Arthur Inglis, Saint Mary's oldest known alumnus. Seen here with the birthday cake are, (L to R) Dr. Kenneth L. Ozmon, Mr. Inglis, and student Robert Hessian.



A GROUP of Chinese MBA students raised over \$350, through a craft display and sale. They presented the money to the Patrick Power Library on April 8. In front (L to R): Margot Schenk, Head of Public Services; Dr. Kenneth Ozmon, University President; Beinan (Allison) Zhang; and Xiaofei Song. In back (L to R): Zengxiang Wang; Da Lu; and Yifeng Shen.

JUNE 8 saw the 1991 graduation exercises of the Society of Management Accountants of Nova Scotia. Seen here (L to R) are Dr. Colin Dodds (Dean of Commerce), graduate Kevin Publcover (winner of the Ernie Whitman Prize for results in national examinations), and Gerald Walsh (CMA Vice-President). Saint Mary's delivers the academic component of the CMA program for Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and many students in New Brunswick.



Elijah Harper, MLA for Rupertsland, was the guest speaker at a graduation banquet hosted by the Confederacy of Mainland Micmacs in the Great Hall of Dalhousie's University Club 18 May for Micmac graduates of all Nova Scotia postsecondary institutions. Mr. Harper is seen here with Saint Mary's people, (L to R) Sherry Pictou (1990 BEd graduate), Elijah Harper, Marlene Martin (BEd 1991), Dr. Joanne Fiske of the Sociology Department, and Shawn Reader (BEd 1991).



The Hon. Edward Broadbent, President of the International Centre for Human Rights and Development and former leader of the federal NDP party, came to lunch at the International Education Centre (IEC) 27 May. He was in Halifax to speak on "Human Rights and Democratic Development" at the Black Cultural Centre in Westphal, an event jointly sponsored by the IEC and the Black Cultural Centre. Broadbent is seen here talking to IEC Director Joy Woolfrey.



On a fine summer day, the entire staff of the Alumni Office posed in front of the University. L to R: Greg Sperry (Alumni Officer), Ann Mussett (Alumni Director) and Betty-Jean Frenette (Secretary)

## 15th Annual APICS Student Psychology Conference

55 students and 15 faculty from across the Atlantic provinces took part in this year's Atlantic Provinces Council on the Sciences (APICS) Student Psychology Conference hosted by Saint Mary's University.



"It gave students the opportunity to present their research at an academic conference," explained Dr. Victor Catano, Saint Mary's APICS Representative. "Everyone commented on the high quality of research presented by the students."

Seen here looking at one of the presentations are Dr. Abe Ross, Memorial University, Chair of the APICS Psychology Committee; Dr. Darryl Bruce, Saint Mary's Psychology Chair; and Dr. Catano.

### Publishing in Halifax

## ACS student panel packed

There may not be much money to be made from it, but there is certainly a lot of interest in publishing in Halifax! "Maritime Publishing: Possibilities and Problems," a panel discussion organized by members of the Atlantic Canada Studies Society, packed the Student Conference Centre on February 28.

The panel was made up of five speakers who talked about different aspects of publishing in the Atlantic Provinces. Professor emeritus,

Dr. Kathleen Tudor, whose retirement project is a new venture entitled Roseway Publishing, described the problems of getting started. She pointed out that although publishing may seem inexpensive to begin with, a new publisher meets all kinds of unexpected expenses and is not eligible for grants until four books have been published.

Louise Flemming of Ragweed Press, Charlottetown, also dwelt on the financial aspects of publishing, pointing out that profit margins are very small, and it is difficult to borrow money. The GST, she believes, has added about 10 per cent to the cost of books, and caused a reduction in sales.

Phil Buckner runs Acadiensis Press, an academic publishing company based at the University of New Brunswick. He believes that limited print runs and highly specialized topics mean that academic journals and publications will always have to be subsidized. In addition, his observation is that although there is no bias against scholarly writers in the Atlantic Provinces, there is a bias against topics relating to Atlantic Canada. This situation, he believes, will get worse as budget cuts deepen.

Elizabeth Eve, Assistant Editor of the Atlantic Provinces Book Review, gave an overview of Canadian publishing since the late 60s. She thinks there is an increasing dimension of American culture in our publishing and believes a lot of energy is needed to fend off American takeovers of Canadian publishers.

## Philosophy Society active

The Philosophy Society, dormant since the early 80's, has been resurrected in the past two years and now numbers among the active student societies on campus. The Society has held a series of seminars and discussions with faculty and students on topics including natural law theory, non-standard knowledge and mysticism.

According to Darlene Dort, treasurer of the Society, topics for the discussions are selected by the students, and presented by a faculty member who leads the discussion. Apart from satisfying their curiosity, the discussions "give students a chance to see other profs in action," says Dort.

Dort, who is working towards a Masters in Philosophy, is largely responsible for getting the Society back on its feet. Although it has only 10 members, turn-outs at the discussions tend to be much higher.

## Students sponsored

NSERC sponsored 12 Saint Mary's students for summer jobs this year. Shown here are: (L to R) top. Len MacGillivray - Chemistry; Dawn Munden - Biology; (bottom) Merle Travis - Math and Computer Science; Joyce Chew - Biology; Sean Christie - Chemistry; Shelley Creaser - Mathematics and Computer Science; Steven Copp - Chemistry; Christopher Thomas - Physics; Colin McConnell - Biology; Sean Brown - Chemistry. Missing are David Pass - Geology and Scott Furey - Chemistry.





Sisters under the skin! Twenty-five women from 14 countries took part in SIGAD IV.

## Women and development

Twenty-five women from 14 different countries spent a month at Saint Mary's from 16 May to 12 June. The women, who came from countries as far away as Samoa, China, Papua, New Guinea and Thailand, were attending the fourth Summer Institute on Gender and Development (SIGAD). In their home countries they work in institutes, universities, government programs and non-governmental organizations and their interests include education, empowerment, rural women, women in the informal economy, women and the state, health, violence and many other issues related to women and development. The purpose of the institute is to teach women research skills to help them in their development work and to create an atmosphere in which they can share the struggles and achievements of their 'sisters' around the world.

The institute is sponsored by Saint Mary's and Dalhousie universities, with the co-operation of Petro-Canada, the International Education Centre, the International Centre for Ocean Development, and the Canadian International Development Agency's Public Participation Program.

Plan gives students practical experience

## Grant for science co-op program

Saint Mary's science co-op program is less than a year old. It was started with Faculty of Science funds, already has 26 students out in the workplace and has just been awarded \$200,000 by Employment and Immigration Canada. This grant is funded under the Job Entry Program of the Canadian Job Strategy.

Dr. William Jones, Dean of Science at Saint Mary's, says, "This funding puts the co-op program in the Faculty of Science on a very firm basis, and I know we will be very successful with it. We shall be looking at the possibility of expanding it to other areas."

The money, which will be received over a four-year period, will enable the University to continue to expand the co-op program. Dr. Grant Hilliard, Co-operative Education Liaison Officer, says, "It is basically for the cost of finding new work positions for co-op students and for the expenses of the program, including approving and evaluating students."

Dr. Hilliard believes the co-op program will

really take off with this important government support, and says, "It will enable us to identify more qualified students and allow us to get out to employers in Atlantic Canada and make the program better known. We have established a base with the industrial community, which has shown great interest in the program. Now it is up to us to give them the details about how many students we will have to offer in each discipline in the next year or two." Saint Mary's is currently offering co-op options in Computing Science, Computing Science and Business Administration, Chemistry, Biology, Geology and Geography.



• Above: Co-op in action: Geology student David Pass with his work term supervisor Dr. David Piper at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography

• Left: June 18 saw a meeting of the Co-operative Education Advisory Council on campus. (L to R) Dr. William Jones (Dean of Science), Dr. David Hilliard (Fenwick Laboratories Ltd), Dr. Grant Hilliard (Co-operative Education Liaison Officer), Regis Duffy (Diagnostic Chemicals Ltd), and Jon Shute (Maritime Life Assurance Co. Ltd).

## Letter found in bureau drawer sheds light on N.S. history

by Claudine Laforce

What's in a name? Quite a lot, according to Dr. John Reid, Co-ordinator of the Atlantic Studies Program. A document discovered in Scotland by Dr. Reid last year shed some light on early controversies about the name of the province now known as Nova Scotia.

The 350th anniversary of the death of Sir William Alexander, Earl of Stirling and one of the first colonial promoters of the area known to us as Port Royal/Annapolis Royal was the occasion that placed Dr. Reid in Scotland, at the University of Edinburgh.

Dr. Reid was there to speak on Sir William but he never expected the trip to turn into a fruitful one in the area of historical discoveries. The day of his lecture, Dr. Reid took part in an interview on BBC Radio Scotland. That same day he received a call from a Mrs. Hunter who had heard the interview and wanted to let him know that she had several documents in her possession which referred to the very topic he was talking about. She had found the documents in an antique bureau.

After reviewing the documents, Dr. Reid called her back to say he was very interested in their contents. "She told me to take them home, they were of no use to her," explained Dr. Reid. "Knowing their possible historical importance, I told Mrs. Hunter that I would be glad to take them home but would pass them on to the Public Archives of Nova Scotia where they could

be authenticated and preserved." The documents donated by Mrs. Hunter were lithographs - the nineteenth century equivalent of the photocopy - of eighteenth-century originals which were made in 1839.

The documents all centred on one theme. It seems that back in the 1830s there was a Scotsman named Alexander Humphrys who was interested in laying claim to Sir William Alexander's title. He did research back through his family's descent and was able to find connections to Sir William. Humphrys lost his fight for the title, but only after a long legal battle during which many important documents were brought to light including these lithographs.

The main document is a letter written by a Frenchman named Mallay in Lyons, France, in 1706. Mallay had visited French Acadia in 1702, and had found there a copy of Sir William Alexander's 1639 charter for the colony of New Scotland. This is the first piece of evidence to indicate that French officials in Acadia possessed a copy of this document. At the time, the name of New Scotland had long fallen into disuse, although New Englanders still often referred to this region by the Latin version of the name: Nova Scotia.

A few years later, after the British conquest of 1710, Nova Scotia came to be the name officially applied to the territory by the British.

The lithographs brought to Nova Scotia by Dr. Reid can be found at the Public Archives of Nova Scotia.



Dr. Paul Erickson putting the last piece of Lucy's skeleton together.

3.5 million year-old Lucy

## Prehuman skeleton cast comes to Saint Mary's

"...The camp was rocking with excitement. That first night we never went to bed at all... There was a tape recorder in the camp, and a tape of the Beatles song 'Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds' went belting out into the night sky, and was played at full volume over and over again out of sheer exuberance. At some point during that unforgettable evening the new fossil picked up the name Lucy, and has been so known ever since..."

excerpt from *Lucy: The Beginning of Humankind*  
by Donald Johanson & Maitland Edey

So came the name of the oldest, most complete, best-preserved skeleton of any erect-walking human ancestor that has ever been found. The Physical Anthropology Laboratory at Saint Mary's recently acquired casts of our 76-piece, 3.5 million year-old, prehuman ancestor, Lucy.

The bones were first discovered by anthropologist Donald Johanson in the Afar Triangle region of Ethiopia in 1974. He brought them to the United States where they were placed in storage for several years. It was just recently that the casts became available through the Institute of Human Origins in Berkeley, California and anthropology professor Dr. Paul Erickson jumped at the opportunity. "A picture is worth a thousand words and a cast is worth a thousand pictures," jokes Dr. Erickson. "But seriously, Lucy provides a wonderful opportunity for our students to put the parts (of a prehuman) together as a whole. She's a real celebrity."

The casts add significantly to the Physical Anthropology Laboratory's collection of fossil casts. According to Dr. Erickson, Saint Mary's now has the best collection of (bone) casts in Eastern Canada.

# Times editor Anne West writes about her three-week

**C**HRIS AND I HAVE ALWAYS liked walking. When we first met, we walked on the Mountain in Montreal, and over the years we have walked in Canada, Europe and England. To celebrate our 25th wedding anniversary, we decided to attempt the ultimate walk—a 19-day trek in Nepal! We spent six months preparing for the trip, reading the Halifax City Regional Library's excellent collection of books on Nepal and other Himalayan kingdoms, collecting gear, being immunized against exotic diseases and worrying about whether we would be able to cope.

At the end of March, we travelled to Kathmandu via London and Delhi, learning as early as London, where our Air India flight was delayed for a day, that everything takes longer than you expect when you visit the mysterious East. In Kathmandu we met the rest of our group, only six of us (three Danes and three Canadians), because the Gulf War had seriously affected tourism in Nepal. Bo and Karin were a Danish doctor and nurse and Jorgen a Danish engineer. The third Canadian was Geoff, an oil magnate from Calgary.

Two days later, we travelled to Pokhara, where we began our trek. Although "Trek" is an Afrikaaner word meaning, among other things, "to travel arduously," the Nepalese have made it their own and visitors like us have become an important part of their economy. Nepal was never part of the British Empire, but trekking has a strong flavour of the British Raj. Although our party was so small, we had a staff of 24!

Our tour leader Jhyoti, who had been to an English school in Darjeeling and spoke the language perfectly, was there to look after the guests. On our trek this included escorting Bo and Karen back to Pokhara when she became too sick to travel, and leaving early to rush Geoff back in time for a board meeting in Toronto.

With Jhyoti away so much, we got to know our sirdar, Balaram, very well. The sirdar manages the trek and many of them do not speak English and often have little to do with the guests, but we were lucky. Balaram spoke good English, looked after us superbly, and did his best to amuse us after long days spent supervising the trek.

We had two sherpas, Gopal and Krishna. To my surprise, sherpas do not carry things. They are elite trek staff who organize the pitching and striking of the camp, lead the trek and look after the porters. In addition, Gopal and Krishna took in turn the tedious task of shepherding Chris and I who, no matter how hard we tried, always brought up the rear.

Next in the hierarchy came the cooking staff, six of them, lead by Rambada. Cooking for a Nepalese trek means rising before dawn, in order to wake the guests at 6:30 with "bed tea" and a bowl of hot water. Next breakfast is served, porridge, pancakes, eggs, and more tea. Then the crew pack and remove all traces of their kitchen, and set off carrying their equipment, moving fast to reach the lunch stop before us.

One really cold day at around 10,000 ft., when rain had turned to damp snow, we had lunch huddled under an overhanging rock. As well as the usual hot dishes, Rambada produced french fries! Then it was clear up, load up and trek on ahead to pitch camp and prepare a welcome cup of tea for our arrival,

followed by a huge meal at supper time. No matter what the weather, each meal was complete with table, table cloth, stools and paper napkins.

Cooking was done on an antiquated kerosene stove, inside an equally antiquated canvas tent if the weather was bad. The secret of Rambada's culinary prowess was an ancient pressure cooker. With this and a set of battered aluminum pots, he produced an incredible range of regional dishes, heavily laced with curry, plus weird versions of such western dishes as apple pie and chocolate cake.

Everything had to be carried and the porters made up the rest of our staff. Some we didn't get to know, but others became well known characters. Lima was tall, dark-haired and cheerful, with an infinite capacity to carry. We each had a duffel bag for our kit. I could just about drag mine a few feet along the ground, but Lima carried three of them all day long, and was ready for

volleyball when we reached camp.

My favourite porters were three girls from the Tamang tribe, who were chaperoned by their father. Not more than 18 or 19, they spoke no English at all (we were told the Tamangs don't believe in education for women), but were always

became a central feature of our lives and our conversation.

One great western influence in Nepal is toilet paper. The Nepalese don't use it, but tourists do and we were regularly issued with rolls of bright pink, Chinese "White Rabbit" toilet paper. It looked normal, but had the consistency of crepe paper and tore into long pink strands, because the perforations didn't work.

## Camping

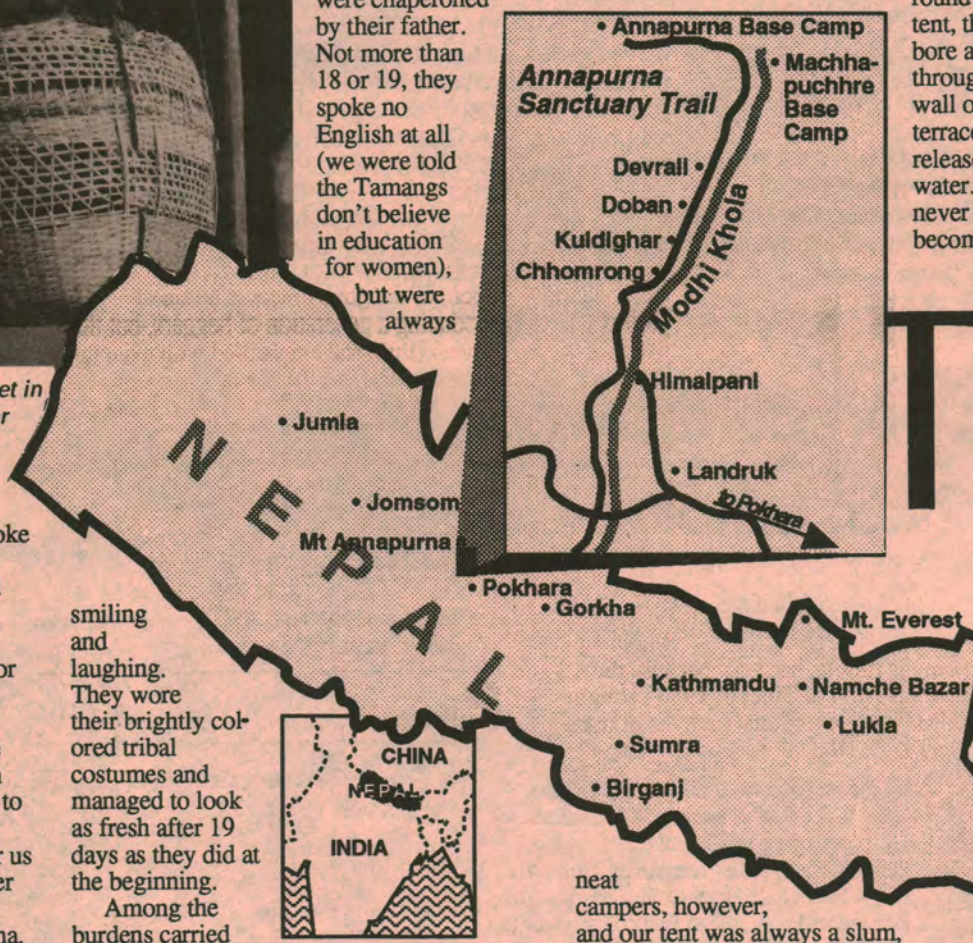
Neither Chris nor I are ardent campers. However, we soon adjusted to the routine and my Girl Guide mother's admonition to keep things dry came back to help. I remembered how she taught me to wash all over with a tiny bowl of water and we learned to wash our hair and clothes in streams or under village hoses.

The day Bo and Karin rejoined us, we had a foretaste of the monsoon. We were camping on the lowest of a row of terraces and the water poured down the slope, surrounding our tent and threatening to rise over its waterproof base. That night we learned to use an ice axe to dig a canal

round the tent, then bore a hole through the wall of the terrace to release the water. We never did become



Baby in basket in Landruk, near end of walk.



smiling and laughing. They wore their brightly colored tribal costumes and managed to look as fresh after 19 days as they did at the beginning.

Among the burdens carried by our long suffering porters was kerosene. One of the major problems caused by a burgeoning population and the growth of the tourist trade is the cutting down of trees for fuel, and the inevitable soil erosion and landslides that follow. The government tries hard to minimize tree cutting and trekking parties must now carry kerosene, although the porters, who cater for themselves, are allowed to pick up very tiny pieces of wood for their cooking fires.

## Our stomachs

It wasn't long before we got to know our fellow trekkers very well, and the rigors of the journey made our conversations more intimate than you normally have with fellow hotel guests. Although we took all possible precautions, drank only boiled water and washed our hands in disinfectant before every meal, we all suffered constantly from diarrhea. The toilet tent, or "hell hole",

neat campers, however, and our tent was always a slum, despite our good intentions.

## The trek

Walking is the best way to observe a country, and we spent our days trudging steadily through people's lives, quickly learning the universal greeting, Namaste, said with head inclined and palms pressed together in the position of prayer.

For the first week we trekked through a remote area, far from tourist routes. On day one we walked along a flat river bed, but after that we hit the hills and began a steady routine of climbing steeply up and down for seven or eight hours a day. In a tiny country like Nepal, which is only 200 km wide, and 800 long, but ranges from near sea level to the peak of Everest at 29,000 ft, almost nothing is level. Often the paths were steps, beautifully constructed of rock. We soon dubbed them "stairways to



Machhapuchhre!

# The lon



Tamang girl porters take a rest

hell," whether they led up or down. I spent a lot of time trying to decide which was worse, up or down, and eventually decided that, despite the pain of going down, at least it didn't require the punishing physical effort of climbing.

I doubt if I would have made it if, on day

# Week trek through Nepal in April



These tiny fields are ploughed by cows or water buffalos. We became very fond of the buffalos, stupid, placid, slow-moving animals, which end up as "steak" in the restaurants of Kathmandu.

Walking one day past a house with the usual lean-to cow shed on the side, we realized that a calf had just been born. There with cow and calf was a tiny boy, not more than four years old, who seemed to be in charge. He was trying to push the calf to its feet. While we watched, he succeeded and the calf staggered towards its food supply.

There were goats and chickens everywhere, and outside each house a cheeping, clucking conical basket, under which mother hens and their chicks safely pecked and scratched. Although our diet was mainly vegetarian, we did have chicken from time to time, after Balaram had conducted a bartering session with the villagers. One particularly exhausting day, we came down a steep hill and found the kitchen crew resting before the last lap. From one of their baskets came a fearful squawking and we could see the brilliant tail feathers of a cockerel. The reality of our evening meal seemed suddenly uncivilized, but we were so hungry that scruples lasted only seconds.

## Foreign aid

Nepal is a mecca for international aid agencies and has seen countless development projects since its borders were opened in 1950. A few of these have been successful, but many have brought new problems in their wake. The most ridiculous we heard about

was a reforestation project which involved cutting down young trees from a nearby forest to provide stakes for new trees.

The whole

economy is fragile, not least because the Chinese invasion of Tibet in 1950 brought a sudden end to traditional patterns of trade and overloaded the country with Tibetan refugees. The development of tourism has proved the best addition to the economy so

the pitfalls of sudden change.

Most of the villages we passed through appeared reasonably prosperous and we began to admire the age-old way of life and understand the devastation which its destruction could bring. Everyone had a role to play, old women took the cows to and from the pasture, impelling the reluctant beasts with a stick and a shrewd twist of the tail, and, when not at school, both boys and girls helped look after younger siblings. Everyone seemed to have a role in society. The people work year round to maintain the fertility of their land and repair their terraced fields when the monsoon washes them away. Nothing is wasted and the bedding from the animals is carefully spread on the fields before ploughing. As we walked through one village, we watched an old man scoop up a fine pile of buffalo dung with his hands and carry it home—we got the feeling he was afraid we might take it!

## Children

No sooner were the tents up in each new camp site, than the local children arrived to inspect us. Even in the most remote villages, they were learning English and were eager to try out their lessons on us. Some, unfortunately, are accomplished beggars and, "Me poor student, give me pen," soon ceased to tear our heart strings. Giving them anything other than tiny souvenirs is frowned upon, as the government is afraid of producing a generation of beggars, but they have so little and are thrilled with even the smallest items, so the temptation is great. They loved the shells I took with me, and the Saint Mary's pins.

It was lucky the children spoke English, because none of us did very well with Nepalese. Having failed to find time to learn any before we left, I determined to master a few words each day during the trek. Most of our days were so demanding, however, that words became the last thing on my mind and progress was pitiful.

## Politics

As we trekked through the farmlands of the foothills, steadily making our way up towards the high peaks of the Himalayas, we learned a little about the political situation. Nepal was about to have its first democratic election for 35 years and the communist party seemed very popular in the villages—little boys were chanting "Communist, communist." We were told that the communists had been round flashing big gold watches and telling the villagers that communism means sharing—nobody will be rich any more; a sure fire message for people who are totally unaware of the international events of the past two years!

In a country where illiteracy is high, political parties use symbols and we tried to gauge the situation by counting the signs for cow, sun, moon, tree and cock.



Trekkers take a break. L. to R: Sirdar Balaram, Jorgen, Karin, Bo, Anne, Chris, Geoff, group leader Jhyoti.

## Tourist country

After the first week, our trek changed gear sharply. We had climbed well above the level of agriculture and glimpses of the great peaks became more frequent. One cold, wet day we walked along a 10,500 ft ridge through our first forest of brilliant pink rhododendrons, too cold to enjoy what we had worked so hard to see. Then, soaked and chilled to the bone, we slithered down a steep, muddy slope and reached Ghorepani. This was trekking country, a village of tourist hotels at the junction of many popular routes. We took refuge in the first hotel, a simple wooden building with a hot stove, round which we huddled, dried our wet clothes and drank lifesaving hot chocolate. Suddenly, the rain cleared and we got our first really close view of the Annapurnas, the circle of great peaks inside which we were to trek on the next leg of our journey.

At Ghorepani we met other trekkers, were introduced to local apple brandy, and spent a night in a hotel run by an ex-British army Gurka who boasted that he had done guard duty outside Buckingham Palace and visited Canada. The Gurkas, for so long a respected part of the British army, are among the most prosperous Nepalese, often using their pensions to set themselves up in business when they retire. We found the hotel flea-ridden and uncomfortable and went thankfully back to our tent the next night.

From now on we followed well-worn paths, and learned to fall in step with a stranger for half an hour, share life stories, then part again. We met other organized treks, many young people who carried their own packs and went where the fancy took them, and some who had just hired a guide to help them. We got to know well two Danish girls, who had been studying music in India, then come to Nepal to see the mountains. We met a research scientist from an American teaching hospital, who was sorting out her midlife crisis by trekking alone through Thailand and Nepal. We met Brits, Germans, French and Israelis and, although drugs are illegal, we met some whose main interest was not in the mountains.

We met dogs too! The Nepalese are kind to dogs, and never allow them to starve, consequently they are friendly and recognize suckers when they see them. There is a special kind of dog, or kukkur, which attaches itself to a trekking party for a few days, enjoys the food and graciously befriends the tourists, then moves on to join another party.

## Food

Although our cooks worked so hard to feed us, we didn't find the primarily vegetarian fare very satisfying and began to dream of food. We craved sugar and, once we joined the tourist trail, discovered that every roadside guest house sold Fanta and Cadbury's chocolate. The chocolate was made in Bombay and had its own distinct flavour, but it gave us instant energy at many a critical moment. We drank Fanta at every rest stop, feeling guilty that what we wasted on wayside snacks would probably feed a

# ng walk

three, Gopal had not cut me a strong stick. With one of Chris's handkerchiefs folded and tied as a handle, it became my third leg. Going up, I planted it ahead of me and hauled myself up it like a monkey on a stick. Going down, it went ahead and took the weight of my arthritic hip. I couldn't bear to part with it and managed to get it safely home to Halifax, although the handkerchief was stolen during the Air India leg of the journey.

One very long day, we climbed an endless staircase, only to discover we still had to make a steep descent back to a river before camping. In a mist of exhaustion, I was seriously tempted to take Satan's advice and caste myself down, in the hope that his angels would bear me up. I cannot remember going down that hill.

## Agriculture

Our pre-trip reading was mostly about the more northern areas, close to the Tibetan border, where agriculture is minimal and trading the way of life. We actually trekked through areas where, despite the steepness of the hills, the agriculture is intensive. As far as the eye could see, every inch of land was ingeniously terraced. It was like looking at a gigantic patchwork of colors, from the brilliant green of potatoes, to the gold of ripening grain. There were beans, and corn, and empty fields waiting for the monsoon to begin and rice to be planted.



Boys helping Sete up with his load, the kitchen stove!

far, but it too brings problems in its wake. Reading Rising Nepal, the English language daily in Kathmandu, gives a clear picture of a country struggling to help itself, and avoid

# Thoughts on rationalization

**This article by University President Dr. Kenneth L. Ozmon is reprinted, by courtesy of The Chronicle-Herald and The Mail-Star, where it appeared on 29 and 30 May 1991. It has been slightly shortened due to space constraints.**

**O**VER THE NEXT FEW weeks and months, there will be much comment about the degree-granting institutions in Nova Scotia. In part, the discussion will stem from the annual announcements of funding. This year, however, a new element will be added — discussion of rationalizing programs.

Preparatory to the public debate, some institutions have outlined their solutions to the problems faced by higher education in Nova Scotia. Some of the schemes proposed have a certain attractiveness in their simplicity. Unfortunately, as with most simple solutions to complex problems, they address symptoms rather than causes and are predicated on assumptions which do not stand the test of reality.

That Nova Scotia should have universities and colleges which measure up to the best in the country goes without saying. That the institutions, since a high proportion of their funding comes from taxpayers, should collaborate with one another to ensure that what they deliver is done both efficiently and economically is not in dispute either.

Presidents and others on campus may even be willing to admit that they could do things a little better. How such improvements should be brought about, and what form they should take, however, has been a matter of much debate, with a great deal more to come.

Much is made of the number of universities in the province, as if each is duplicating the other's offerings, as if each is consuming too much of the public purse, and as if each is run as efficiently—or inefficiently—as the other.

One of the main characteristics of Nova Scotian higher education is the number of separate institutions with a highly specialized focus, such as engineering and architecture, agriculture, art, theology, and even teacher training. This is unique in Canada. Measured by cost per student, it is also expensive.

Another unique feature is the number of students our universities and colleges attract from other provinces, relative to the number of Nova Scotians opting to study elsewhere in Canada. The 1985 Royal Commission on Postsecondary Education in Nova Scotia referred to this 24 per cent disparity as a major cause of funding problems. This is because federal transfer payments are based on the population of the province, not enrolment, so the net inflow of students dilutes the money available to the system.

There are historical, political and other reasons for maintaining an array of relatively small, specialized institutions, in spite of the cost of doing so. There may also be good reasons for accommodating large numbers of out of province students, even though doing so has the effect of spreading limited funds over a larger than perhaps desirable number of students.

The suggestion has been made that to deal effectively with higher education's problems, we need greater centralization, through a formal confederacy. Such a confederacy would presumably make decision-making easier, and produce greater efficiency and effectiveness by forcing the institutions to relinquish some or most of their autonomy.

Whether this association would require the creation of a super Board of Governors with certain defined powers, or a voluntary association with persuasive powers, has not been made clear. Who would elect, or appoint such a body has not been specified. The super Board's relationship to academic senates, which traditionally establish admission standards, approve programs and monitor quality, has not been spelled out.

Another idea resurrected from time to time, is that of the creation of a University of Halifax. Such a university, it is said, would be better able to organize and co-ordinate the efforts and physical resources of several institutions. This would make for a more economical, efficient and responsive single university. Its single voice would be more effective in dealing with government and with the community, and its size would allow it to aspire to great things, nationally and internationally. Such an institution,

it is argued, would reduce duplication and costs.

Unfortunately, the record of larger universities and 'multi-versities' in our own province and others, would indicate that the reality of such savings and efficiency falls far short of its promise. The fact is that large institutions, like big governments, often do not manage their resources very well, are excessively bureaucratic, less responsive to the community, have poor rapport between the administration and faculty and staff, and pay less attention to students.

Preliminary reports from a national Commission of Inquiry into Higher Education, which will report later this year, indicate that students at smaller institutions have more access to faculty, participate more in campus activities, are more satisfied, and are better prepared for life. Furthermore, the institutions themselves are more capable of adapting quickly to changing circumstances. Generally, they also manage their resources carefully.

A case in point is my own university, which has no operating deficit, even though it is forced to derive 35 per cent of its operating revenue from tuition (versus provincial and national averages of 21 and 16 per cent). By any standards, Saint Mary's is one of the most, if not

‘Unless assistance to students increases... fewer students will be able to attend... at precisely the time when more education is perhaps the only sure way to address urgent social demands and enhance our competitive position globally’



the most, cost-efficient universities in Canada.

While an inequitable funding system has forced extreme frugality on us, resulting in a full-time faculty/student ratio of 19:1 (provincial average 12:1), we have tried, successfully, to live within our means.

Small wonder we do not view sharing the debts and the problems of the other institutions, through confederacy or amalgamation, as a particularly enticing proposition.

If amalgamation of some or all of Nova Scotia's postsecondary institutions is not the answer, what is?

Voluntary associations can work, as has been demonstrated in Halifax by the Metro Universities Presidents' Committee. During the 1980s, presidents, vice-presidents and other administrators representing the Halifax institutions met regularly to discuss sharing resources to enhance their collective educational mission.

Such an approach led to the creation of an electronically-integrated library system, the confederation of faculties of education, joint academic programs and the creation of a jointly-owned company, Interuniversity Services, Inc., which has brought considerable savings through joint purchasing and shared services.

Since co-operation is voluntary, much depends on goodwill between the parties, which implies mutual trust and respect. The present competitive environment, to some extent generated by the Nova Scotia Council of Higher Education's rationalization efforts, and the desire on the part of some members to pursue their own interests independently, has diminished the strong spirit of co-operation that had earlier resulted in con

Presently, the universities and colleges of Nova Scotia, at the request of the Council of Higher Education, are addressing issues of economy, co-ordination and downsizing. Discussions have focussed mainly on academic departments at several universities where

Council believes there is unnecessary duplication. It remains to be seen whether or not the considerable efforts of the institutions will result in savings and greater efficiency, as is the Council's intention. To the extent that short-term political concerns, rather than a long-term educational imperative, drive the process, higher education in Nova Scotia may take some time to recover.

Admittedly, there are some very real problems in higher education in the province. The problems are not likely, however, to find their solutions in greater government intervention or new structures. If there is an answer to the problems of funding and control of universities, in Nova Scotia as well as nationally, it probably lies in a totally new approach.

One such approach, mentioned periodically, but never seriously pursued, was suggested by the MacDonald Royal Commission of a few years back—that of a voucher system for students. Under such a system, all prospective students would be given vouchers entitling them, if they qualify, to pursue postsecondary education in one form or another. Such a scheme could provide universal entitlement, and be combined with a system of loans. The combination of these funding sources would ensure every qualified person a place in the higher education system. Funding derived from these sources would account for all the operating funds obtained by the institutions, and they could then adjust their tuitions to reflect their real costs.

Universities would have a much greater incentive to be cost efficient, and co-operate with other institutions where such co-operation was deemed to be in the interests of improving programs. While competitive instincts would also be unleashed, there is no evidence suggesting that competition for good professors and good programs which attract students would be corruptive. In fact, universities are competing now for the best students and best professors. It would be refreshing to see them competing for cost efficiencies as well.

To ensure a high standard of achievement, governments could exercise a review function, preferably through a body independent of the political process. Such activity is much more in keeping with government's proper function, and would allow the universities the independence from the vagaries of funding announcements they need in order to plan properly.

The federal government would still have to be involved in funding research at universities through the bodies which currently perform that task very well. In fact, the reason inadequate research funds are at least distributed well is that the government has turned it over to experts in the fields.

A voucher scheme is not without problems. It would be difficult to implement unless adopted by several provinces, since tuition might increase substantially. This would interfere with interprovincial mobility, unless provinces worked out exchange agreements which would allow for payment, on an equivalent basis, for students studying in other provinces. Universities now have such agreements with foreign institutions.

Released from dependency on government, university administrators would be able to concentrate on meeting their responsibilities to society and the needs of students. Forced to maintain the excellence of programs in order to attract and retain students, and their accreditations, I am convinced postsecondary institutions would be more responsive, efficient and effective—qualities Canadians have a right to expect.

In the absence of such incentives, governments, councils and commissions might effect some cosmetic changes, but the underlying problems would remain. Intrusion of governments into the core operations of postsecondary institutions will serve neither a beneficial economic nor educational purpose. In its recent budget, the federal government froze transfer payments for postsecondary education for an additional two years, until 1994. Its stated intention is to phase out payments by the early part of the next century. Faced with that threat, universities and provincial governments should vigorously pursue new funding initiatives. Coupled with greater institutional control, and accountability to the public, universities and colleges would have some positive incentives to solve their own problems.

Unless assistance to individual students increases, as fees inevitably will, fewer students will be able to attend our postsecondary institutions. This at precisely the time when more education is perhaps the only sure way to address urgent social demands and enhance our competitive position globally.



**FRIDAY FORUM:** Saint Mary's University researchers explain their work to their peers

Stories by  
**Melanie Jollymore**

## 'This place is driving me crazy!'

**D**R. Grace Pretty's interest in community psychology was piqued several years ago when she worked in psychiatric institutions. "I kept hearing patients saying, 'I'm fine, it's this place that's driving me crazy!' I had to find out if there was something to what they were saying," she says.

Her early experiments involved sending chronic patients back into the community, where there were likely to be more resources to meet their needs. She based this assumption on two psychological models: "An early model says that people get into psychological trouble through a lack, on their own part, of intellectual, emotional, physical and social resources," she explains. "The newer model says the person is only half of the equation. The environment is the other half. The resources of the community can be used to help address the vulnerabilities of the individual."



**Dr. Grace Pretty**

a readily available, mutually supportive network of relationships as part of your everyday life.

Pretty set about developing a theory of psychological sense of community, and testing its importance to mental well-being. She chose Saint Mary's students living in residence for subjects, and surveyed 400 of them on various factors relating to their social environment, including personal relationships, involvement, support, independence, competition, academic achievement, and their relationship to the university system itself, in terms of order, organization and student influence.

She discovered the number one factor in creating a psychological sense of community, in Saint Mary's students anyway, is involvement in university activities. Number two (surprise!) is academic achievement. "That is why they're here, after all," she says. Third on the list is the feeling that they are being supported in their endeavors. Pretty adds these findings have been replicated in other universities, although the order may be somewhat different.

Pretty then tested the students' level of psychological sense of community against the burnout indicators of emotional exhaustion, depersonalization and level of personal accomplishment. "When we're burnt out, we refuse to be sensitive to each other's needs...we go through a process of depersonalization," she explains. "And, when we shut other people out, it is very difficult to feel good about ourselves, so we lack a sense of accomplishment."

In her analysis, Pretty discovered that students with a high psychological sense of community were less likely to feel burned out. When she went to objective measures, such as quality point average, she found a similar correlation. Students with a high psychological sense of community tended to have better marks.

"These findings about the importance of psychological sense of community must be examined in terms of the growing numbers of students at this university," Pretty stresses. "We have to look at whether or not we can really provide the level of support they need, and consider engineering ways to improve the sense of community."

Yet, the patients who were put back into the community all returned voluntarily to the psychiatric ward. Why?

"We don't belong out there, we belong here," they said.

"This triggered the idea that, when they're in the ward, they have a psychological sense of community," she says, explaining that such a sense comes from having

## Funding idea threatens science research at smaller universities

**S**CIENCE research in small universities may dwindle and die if a recent NSERC proposal is accepted, says Dr. Mike Zaworotko, chemistry professor at Saint Mary's.

NSERC (Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council) is proposing that research money be granted more selectively and to fewer researchers in Canadian universities. The main problem with this, according to Zaworotko, is that those researchers given the money are almost certain to be working out of larger universities.

"When times are tough, the big sharks always end up eating the little sharks," he says.

His prediction is borne out by what has happened in chemistry research in Canada over the past 20 years.

"Chemistry researchers voluntarily decided to have NSERC allocate its grants more selectively," he explains, adding that the proponents of this step were two really big-time researchers who stood to get a larger portion of the pie by cutting out the small researchers. "It's easier to push the small guys off to the side - they have less power, less political clout." Not to mention one particularly interesting tidbit: in the past 10 years, there has been only one representative of a small university on the NSERC granting committee for chemistry.



**Dr. Mike Zaworotko**

Zaworotko collected statistics on grants to small universities (from NSERC), and on grants to chemistry researchers (from various sources), and compared those data to come up with a picture of the granting trends in chemistry in small universities. The picture revealed was not a pretty one.

"Over the past ten years, the number of chemistry researchers supported by NSERC in small universities has been reduced by almost half," he says. "There are 30 small universities in Canada. In 1980, there were 50 chemistry researchers in those universities - now there are 30. That wouldn't be so bad if there was a corresponding decrease in the large universities. But there hasn't been. There has only been about a 10 per cent decrease."

And the cuts haven't only been in the area of operating grants, says Zaworotko. They have been even worse in the equipment grant area: "In 1989, there was one equipment grant given to a chemistry researcher from among all 30 small universities in Canada. There were nine grants given in biology." He adds, "The irony of the chemistry situation is that those who are left are doing well relative to other disciplines. We did well in the 1990-91 chemistry competition, with the first two equipment grants ever from the NSERC Chemistry Grant Selection Committee."

Zaworotko fears the new NSERC proposal will wreak the same havoc across all scientific disciplines, if something isn't done to stop it. "The big crunch is coming. In five years, it will be too late," he predicts.

There are several courses researchers in small universities could pursue to protect their interests. One possibility is to appeal to NSERC to run separate grant competitions for small and large universities, so small universities don't run the risk of being cut out of the picture altogether. They'd get a smaller pie, but at least it would be all theirs.

Another option is to become more politically active, more vocal, and push for small-university representation on granting committees. Or,

researchers in small universities could forget about NSERC, and go after the applied research dollars.

As long as they do something, for unless they do, "Research in small universities might completely disappear," warns Zaworotko. He adds this is particularly worrisome in Atlantic Canada. "This region is very vulnerable, because most of the universities are smaller."

Zaworotko believes the injustice is that it can be argued that small universities tend to be more efficient with fewer research dollars than larger ones, and train more undergraduate students in the process.

Saint Mary's has been proactive in protecting small universities' access to funding for many years, says Zaworotko. Hopefully, that will continue. "Most members of the Science Faculty seem to be pretty much on my side," he says. Another positive sign: Dr. Bill Jones, Dean of Science, and Dr. John Young, Acting Vice-President of Academic and Research, are heading to a small university conference on research. "Maybe that will be a forum whereby we can get things done," concludes Zaworotko.



**Saint Mary's President Dr. Kenneth Ozmon and Peter Lesaux, President of Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA), signed an agreement on April 9, extending ACOA's commitment to the Burnside Business Development Centre for another year.**

## New deal signed with ACOA

Peter Lesaux, President of Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA), visited Saint Mary's on April 9. He and Dr. Kenneth Ozmon met to discuss ways the University and ACOA could work together to benefit the Atlantic Canadian economy.

Topping the list was the continued operation of the Burnside Business Development Centre. This joint project between Saint Mary's Faculty of Commerce and ACOA provides inexpensive business advice and assistance to entrepreneurs in Metro.

"ACOA is investing more and more into the human resources of the Atlantic Region," says Lesaux. "We're encouraging young people to consider entrepreneurship as a real alternative. And for those who choose that route... we want to give them the tools necessary to succeed." The Burnside Business Development Centre is one such tool, and ACOA proved its commitment to developing entrepreneurship by committing funding to the Centre for another year.

Lesaux says he is pleased with the relationship ACOA and Saint Mary's have maintained so far, and adds, "We want to explore ways and means in which we can enhance the Atlantic Canadian economy and community in the challenging times ahead."

## Where tradition meets the future

by Chuck Bridges

The summer has arrived at Saint Mary's University. It will roll along with no quiet time on the horizon as more than 3,000 students take summer courses. Conferences, the Tattoo and the Summer Institute on Gender and Development will also bring guests from around the world to our campus. During hot days and warm nights, special community events such as the Labatt's 24-Hour Relay, the Special Olympics, the Atlantic Coast Games, Mini-University and the Camp of Champions keep the campus at a steady pace of activity.

The rationalization process continues and so, too, does the Ideas Team. What's new on these fronts?

Deadlines are set and consultants appointed to begin the next phase of the rationalization process. The Council of Nova Scotia University Presidents (CONSUP) released its recommendations to the Minister of Advanced Education in early May. Five of the seven recommendations will have a direct impact on Saint Mary's University if implemented. Business, engineering, education, computing science and geology are being discussed as potential areas of rationalization. The two areas not impacting Saint Mary's are food and nutrition sciences.

The Council's decision on what programs are to be moved must be in the hands of the Minister by the end of the year. Implementation is scheduled for September 1992. Government officials have said, rather ominously, that if the presidents can't agree, they will step in to make the decisions.

Consultants have been asked to develop a permanent structure to govern the university system in Nova Scotia. Confederation, a super board of regents, is one idea. Follow-up discussions will take place with all groups affected by rationalization. Departments, students, faculty, staff unions and the Board of Governors will be asked for their suggestions on the seven proposals and the structure. The consultants will meet with all 13 university presidents during a one-week period in late August. They are to report to CONSUP by early September, a very tight time frame.

Improvements to the Saint Mary's University work environment have been the prime focus of the Ideas Team over the last few months. The Team's three main suggestions are to improve new employee orientation, internal communication and employee recognition at the university. This summer, as a follow-up to the wage and compensation survey conducted in March, a staff attitude survey will be conducted. The results of the two will be available in early fall.

The Team would like to recognize the good work of the Personnel Department, particularly given the growth of the University and the fact that funding has not matched this growth. As a result of this growth, there is an urgent need to re-evaluate the working environment and communications system for this 190 year old institution. This is exactly why the Team was formed. Its recommendations and the survey results may help form a long-term human resource plan for Saint Mary's University.



# Times

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Submissions from faculty, staff, students and friends are welcome.

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## The long walk

From page 7

Nepalese family for the day. Prices of both Fanta and chocolate varied widely, depending on how far it had been carried. We frequently met porters carrying baskets of empty bottles back towards the source of supply. The pattern of trade is very visible in a country where everything is carried by people or animals

### Annapurna Sanctuary

Two days on from Ghorepani we reached Chhomrong, where Bo and Karin rejoined us and we began our assault on the Annapurna Sanctuary, a circle of moraines and glaciers surrounded by some of the highest peaks in the world. We trekked up the valley of the Modi Khola, the river which starts in the Sanctuary. In one day we passed through farmland, then bamboo and rhododendron forests, then into an area where spring had not yet come and snow lay in familiar dirty patches.

The river became steeper and our rough track diverted across a makeshift bridge because the path had recently been washed out by an avalanche. Chris and I got lost, and found ourselves climbing up a disused river bed, with boulders 8 ft high. Balam eventually found us and we realized we had never been further than 30 ft from the path, although it was quite invisible.

That night we camped, in near winter conditions, just before the gates of the Sanctuary—a forbidding gulley with high cliffs on either side. The following morning we donned the snow gaiters which had seemed such an inappropriate part of our kit and set out on the final haul. We were at 12,000 ft by this time and Chris was beginning to become breathless. When we reached the next camp, at 12,500 ft, he could hardly put one foot in front of the other—altitude sickness had got him!

We were supposed to spend one night at the first base camp inside the Sanctuary, then make a day trip to our ultimate goal, the Annapurna base camp, from which it is possible to see the great Annapurna glacier. We struggled into the first base camp at lunch time, the tents were pitched, and the snow began.

We huddled inside the tents, wearing all the equipment we had, conscious always of the porters whose cold weather equipment consisted of a pair of Chinese sneakers, socks, gloves and snow goggles. No sleeping bags, down jackets, high tech thermal underwear and climbing boots for them!

The snow stopped, but by that time nobody wanted to stay at that altitude too long, and I was anxious to get Chris down as soon as possible. We decided that the fittest members of the party would make the one-hour trip to the Annapurna base camp at six the following morning, then follow the rest of us, who would set off down at the usual time. I got up to see the others off, and followed them for the first 20 minutes of their trek, from darkness into the brilliant sunrise that hit the inside of the Sanctuary. Then I turned back to camp, enjoying my few never-to-be-forgotten moments alone with the mountains.

### Machpuchhre

Towering over all this forbidding scenery was the mountain we came to know best, Machpuchhre, the fish-tailed peak.



Balam supervises crossing the Modi Khola

Regarded as sacred by the Nepalese, it has only been climbed once, and the man who did it stopped 40 ft short of the summit, out of respect for the people's beliefs. Today the government, which makes much-needed hard currency from trekking and climbing permits, no longer allows attempts on Machpuchhre.

For us it was enough to gaze at its splendour. It dominated our lives for four days. We saw the sun rise over it, we missed it when clouds came down, and our most awe-inspiring view was when we were returning through the gates and looked up through a gap in the cliff to see it bathed in mid-morning sun, gleaming like a silver waterfall.

Our journey back down the river passed quickly and within an hour Chris was restored to health. The one sure cure for altitude sickness is going down. The rest of our trek took us through yet more fascinating areas. We gradually left the peaks behind, passed again through the foothills and eventually found ourselves approaching Pokhara down yet another river valley.

### The magic kingdom

Of all the brilliant images we tried to keep in our minds, one stands out. On our last day we camped at noon beside the Madi Khola, rested and washed in the river. By evening we began to feel the lack of exercise, and decided to climb the cliffs that separated the river from the alluvial plain it had laid down a million years before. We climbed a stone staircase so steep that I was afraid of tripping, to crash hundreds of feet below.

At the top we found ourselves in a magic kingdom, where the golden evening sun slanted over a picture straight from the Old Testament. Following a narrow path between tiny fields, we saw men ploughing and women reaping; young girls helping and boys playing noisy games, all against the backdrop of yet another towering golden cliff.

There seemed to be movement in some empty fields and we realized that hundreds of monkeys were stealing supper. They scampered off in leisurely fashion as we approached, insolently dropping down the cliff out of reach of retribution.

We returned to Pokhara, then Kathmandu, Delhi, London and home, left with wonderful memories and far too many photographs. The big question now is whether we can manage one more visit to this enchanted country before we grow too old.



## People

### English

"Dark Moments—Open Adequacy: The Godless Prayer of Poetry" was the title of a paper given recently by **Dr. Ken Snyder**. He was taking part in a conference held by the International Association for Philosophy and Literature entitled Conference on Change/Penser le changement at the Université de Montréal.

### Sociology

**Dr. Ronald Cosper** presented a paper entitled "Sound Correspondence between Egyptian and Hausa" at the March annual meeting of the North American Conference on Afroasiatic Linguistics at the University of California, Berkeley.

### Political Science

In February, 1991, **Dr. Leonard**

**Preyra** was awarded a \$6,000 contract from the Royal Commission on Electoral Reform to study the mass media and federal elections at the constituency level in Atlantic Canada.

### Geology

**Dr. Jaroslav Dostal** was recently appointed honorary Research Associate in the Department of Geology at Dalhousie University. Dr. Dostal has also been designated by the National Research Council of Canada as the national delegate representing the International Association of Volcanology and Chemistry of the Earth's Interior at the August 1991 International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics General Assembly in Vienna, Austria.

Honors student **Julie Selway** was named winner of the 1991 Chamber of Mineral Resources of Nova Scotia Scholarship for a senior-year student in a mining- or geology-related Bachelor degree program at St. Francis Xavier, Acadia, Dalhousie, Saint Mary's or Technical University of Nova Scotia.

Honors student **Randolph Corney** presented a paper on "Sedimentation at the Appalachian Thrust Front, Port Au Port Peninsula, Western Newfoundland" at the Annual Meeting of the Atlantic Geoscience Society in February. It was co-authored by **Dr. John Waldron** of Saint Mary's and G.S. Stockmal of the Geological Survey of Canada, Atlantic Geoscience Centre. Also at this conference, Honors student **Joe Nearing** presented a paper on "Early Carboniferous Hydrothermal Events of the Western Cobequid Highlands, Nova Scotia".

### Management

The Canadian Journal of Administrative Sciences has reappointed **Dr. Hermann F. Schwind** to its editorial board for a three-year term. Dr. Schwind will be acting editor for the Human Resource Management area for one year.

### Accounting

**Professor Sam Jopling** presented "Toward a New Conceptual Foundation for Government Accounting at the National Level" to the British Accounting Association National Meeting in Salford, England in early April of this year. At the same conference, **Professor Bryan Emerson** described his research concerning "The Irrelevance of Relevance: A Proposed Inquiry into the Social Usefulness of Academe's Contribution to the Discipline of the Management Control Systems". **Professor Barry Gorman** was also there to discuss his paper entitled "Making Accounting Policy Choices: The Impact of Income Tax Legislation".

**Professor Peter Secord's** "Culture and Accounting Models in Asia: A Linkage with Classification Research" received the "Best Paper" award at the 1990 South East Asia University Teachers' Conference in Jakarta, Indonesia. His extension on this work was presented at the European Accounting Association Congress in Maastricht, the Netherlands in mid-April of this year by **Professor Jopling** who also presented his own work, "A Transaction-Based Income Statement But a Value-Based Balance Sheet". Also at this conference, **Professor Gorman** presented his work designed to address the question "Are Corporations Becoming More Socially Responsible? An Exploratory Study of Social Reporting in Canada".

## The Challenge of the Environment CAUCE Conference

University Continuing Education departments across Canada focused on the environment during the 1991 CAUCE (Canadian Association for University Continuing Education) Conference held in Halifax.

According to **Jim Sharpe**, Director of Continuing Education and 1991 chair of the CAUCE planning committee, there were two main recommendations made at the conference. First, universities should provide environmental awareness programs for university faculty on a national basis, and second universities should work with other national organizations with environmental interests on public education of environmental issues.

The conference, hosted by Saint Mary's, Dalhousie, Mount Saint Vincent, Technical University of Nova Scotia, the College of Art and Design and the Atlantic School of Theology, had 160 participants from across Canada, as well as a few from Britain, the United States and Mexico.



**Ms. Chard** receives her honorary degree from **The Most Reverend J. Edward Troy** (left), Chancellor and Chairman of the Board and **Daniel W. O'Brien**, President of St. Thomas University.

### Registrar receives honorary degree

**Elizabeth A. Chard**, Registrar of Saint Mary's University, was awarded an honorary degree during 1991 convocation ceremonies at St. Thomas University in Fredericton. Ms. Chard received the degree of doctor of laws honoris causa for her distinguished career in higher education and public service.

In the citation recommending Ms. Chard, **Dr. Stan Atherton** of St. Thomas' English Department gave several reasons why she should receive this honor including, "...it is her dedication to athletics, both at the university level and also in involving those who have traditionally been thought of as disabled, that Elizabeth Chard may have made her most enduring mark."

Ms. Chard said she was startled to receive such an honor. "It's not often that a university registrar receives an honorary degree," she commented, then added, "They told me their honorary degrees were often placed on people who were born, educated and living in the Maritimes and who had improved the quality of life around them, so I was pleased to accept the award."

Ms. Chard joins **Dr. Edmund Morris** as the second active staff or faculty member at Saint Mary's University to be presented with an honorary degree.

Among the guest speakers were **Dr. Margaret Fulton** from the University of British Columbia, Past President of Mount Saint Vincent, and **MP David MacDonald**, Chairperson of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Environment. Mr. MacDonald spoke on the national and international context of facing the environmental challenge. He said that people must begin thinking globally and on an 'ecological basis'.

Besides **Jim Sharpe**, **Linda MacDonald** of Continuing Education was involved as co-chair of the planning committee while **Margaret Anne Bennett** was co-chair of the hospitality committee.

## Accounting update

The Accounting Department at Saint Mary's is a hive of intellectual activity:

- Accounting is witnessing a revolution in thought and educational processes. In the past two years alone, 11 of 19 undergraduate accounting and commercial law courses have been significantly altered to reflect current content and instructional approaches.
- Two new programs have been designed and are in the process of University review. The first is an MBA/Accounting concentration designed specifically for undergraduate accounting majors, that reflects a need for study beyond the minimum entrance requirements of professional societies in both accounting and business. This graduate program has a unique co-op component structured within it. The start date is expected to be 1992.
- The second is a PhD program in Accounting which has received Faculty of Commerce approval in principle. With accounting faculty recruiting in the Atlantic Provinces a serious problem coupled with an aging faculty, this program will allow the region an opportunity to provide replacements for the faculty at Saint Mary's and elsewhere in Canada. 1993 is the expected start-up date with the first graduates to appear in 1997.
- Accounting students have also been making their mark on the University. Over 100 Saint Mary's students were helped by members of the Accounting Society in filing their income tax returns. Students also took part in two regional and one Saint Mary's accounting case competitions which were held to assist students in dealing with professional problem analysis and presentations. Saint Mary's won the CMA regional case competition.
- In faculty news, four textbooks in accounting were written over the last year and a half, while 11 papers were presented at regional and international meetings. Educationally, **Alice Ireland** received her PhD and **Barry Gorman** completed his PhD dissertation and is awaiting its approval. A third faculty member, **Bryan Emerson**, will go on leave to study at the University of Manchester for two years, beginning in September.

## Publications

### Geology

**Dr. Victor Owen** recently published two articles. "An empirical sapphirine-spinel Mg-Fe exchange thermometer and its application to high grade xenoliths in the Popes Harbour dyke, Nova Scotia, Canada" (co-written with J.D. Greenough) appears in *Lithos* v. 26, pp. 317-332 while "Contrasting garnet parageneses in a composite Grenvillian granitoid pluton, Newfoundland" (co-written with R.A. Marr) appears in *Mineralogical Magazine*, v. 54, pp. 367-380.

**Dr. Qadeer Siddiqui's** monograph "Tertiary Ostracoda from the Lindi area, Tanzania" (with M. Ahmad and J.W. Neale) appeared in the January Bulletin of the British Museum Natural History (Geology), vol. 46 (2), pp. 175-270.

### History

**Dr. G.F.W. Young** recently published an article entitled "British Overseas Banking in Latin America and the Encroachment of German Competition, 1887-1914". It can be found in the Spring 1991 issue of *Albion*, vol. 23, no. 1.

### Economics

A review of *Productivity and American Leadership: The Long View*, by **William J. Baumol**, **Sue Anne Blackman** and **Edward N. Wolff** (Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press 1989, pp. xii, 395) was written by **Dr. James Ahiakpor** and can be found in *Small Business Economics*, Vol. 3, 1991, pp. 73-75.

### Vice President (Academic and Research)

**Dr. J. Colin Dodds** has completed an article (with **Charles W. Neale** and **David D. Shipley**) entitled "The Counter-Trading Experience of British and Canadian Firms" which can be found in *Management International Review*, Vol. 31, No. 1, 1991. Dr. Dodds has also reviewed *Economic Policy-Making in the Asia-Pacific Region* by **John W. Langford** and **K. Lorne Brownsey** (eds.) in *Kyklos*, Vol. 44, Fasc. 1, 1991.

### Political Science

In January, **Dr. Leonard Preyra** published a review of **Philip Resnick's** "The Masks of Proteus: Reflections on the Canadian State" in *The American Review of Canadian Studies*.

## Obituary

# Leo R. MacDonald

With the passing of Leo MacDonald, the Saint Mary's community mourns a good friend and a wise and able administrator. MacDonald, who died 22 June, first came to Saint Mary's as a student, graduating with a BA in 1941. He was a member of the Canadian Officers Training Corps during his student days, and went on to the Royal Military College in Kingston. He served in the Canadian army for 30 years, fighting in the European theatre in the latter part of the Second World War. He rose to the rank of Major, and returned to Saint Mary's as Director of Admissions in 1969, at a time when the office had recently been separated from that of the Registrar due to the pressure of growing numbers.



Leo MacDonald

Leo MacDonald's time on campus spanned great changes at Saint Mary's. Among others, he saw the University become non-denominational, and witnessed the arrival of women students. Many people credit Leo MacDonald with establishing the admissions policy and systems which allowed Saint Mary's to grow rapidly through the 70s and 80s. "He developed the admissions office into a functioning organization," says a colleague. "His expertise and administrative ability really got it going. He was a superb administrator and developed an excellent relationship with the high school guidance counsellors and principals in Halifax and Nova Scotia." In addition, he played a key role in organizing the University's current system of entrance scholarships.

Leo MacDonald's military background was always apparent and it was said of him "He planned the admissions campaign like he was planning the D-Day invasion." Another colleague comments, "He tempered his tremendously professional army mentality to the University, which is something the University has benefitted from ever since."

Leo MacDonald was tall and authoritative and to some he may have seemed imposing, but beneath his gruff exterior he had a heart of gold and great concern for students. One colleague says, "I admired his ability to understand where students were coming from; to know when a story was true and when fictitious. There were many students who, after being interviewed and accepted by Leo, went on to do very well at the University." It was also said of him that in his compassion for students, "He never let the rules run him. They were used as a general guide. He had a great understanding of the issues that had to be dealt with and seemed to have the knack of looking above the technical regulations and seeing the broader picture." He was also an interested and enthusiastic supporter of the University's athletics program.

Leo MacDonald was well respected by colleagues outside the University. When he retired, he was made an honorary member of the Atlantic Association of Registrars and Admissions Officers and was also honored by guidance counsellors in the area.

His friends at Saint Mary's will long remember his dry wit, his staunch Catholicism, and the strong opinions on all aspects of world affairs which he shared with them as he held court in his McNally office.

## Special Olympics

**Saint Mary's University hosted the 1991 Special Olympics Summer Games from June 21-23. TOP: A Special Olympics athlete crossing the finish line during competition. BOTTOM: Saint Mary's Huskies mascots, Henrietta and Hennessey with two of the athletes during opening ceremonies.**



## 1991 Camp of Champions

Summer 1991 promises to be another exciting season in the continuing tradition of Saint Mary's sport development camps. Bruce Hopkins, Co-ordinator of Intercollegiate Athletics including the Camp of Champions which has been going on for 20 years, has three goals for these camps. "First, we want to provide a service to our community which has supported us over the years and second, we want to use the profits to fund our athletic scholarships and develop our athletics facilities," explains Hopkins.

The camps are well-known across Metro for bringing in high profile athletes to make guest appearances. This year is no exception. The hockey camps scheduled to run throughout August will include appearances from Montreal Canadian Mike MacPhee, Jaroslav Sevcik of the Halifax Citadels and Ladislav Trela of the New Haven Nighthawks. Paul Boutillier, known for his days with the New York Islanders will also be making appearances before starting school at Saint Mary's in the fall.

Men's basketball also includes stars but they are from Saint Mary's own coaching staff. Camp director Ross Quackenbush, former Olympic and national team member

and AUAA Coach of the Year, combines with Mickey Fox, assistant coach for the Halifax Windjammers, formerly drafted by the Detroit Pistons in 1975 and by the Portland Trailblazers of the NBA in 1979, to provide well-experienced coaching staff at the camp. The Halifax Windjammers are also expected to make guest appearances during the two week-long clinics.

According to Bruce Hopkins, there are still some spots available in each camp. The camp schedule is listed below. For information on registration, call Saint Mary's department of Athletics and Recreation at 420-5429.

**Boy's Basketball**  
Session 1: July 22 - 26  
Session 2: July 29 - August 2

**Girl's Basketball**  
July 15-19

**Hockey (boys)**  
Session 1: August 6 - 10  
Session 2: August 12 - 16  
Session 3: August 19 - 23  
Session 4: August 26 - 30

**Soccer (boys and girls)**  
Session 1: July 8 - 12  
Session 2: July 15-19

## How Chinese teachers learn to teach English

From page 1

to work within their headings, we will introduce a lot more integration. The biggest difference will be a shift away from a structural, grammar-based approach to the organization of the curriculum to a more functional and content-based approach."

The team will also concentrate on making the content of lectures more appropriate for teachers. "You can read an article about Alexander the Great," explains Piper, "but unless you are a historian, it is not of much interest. Passages about child development or how adolescents learn are relevant to all teachers. One of our goals is to include educational content in the curriculum."

Asked why Saint Mary's was chosen to undertake this task, Dr. Piper says, "We already have close ties with China through the Canada/China Language and Cultural Program, and we had seven teachers from Beijing Normal University studying with us this year." She adds, "These colleagues believed the people teaching them here had something to offer, and gave us good references."

The 18-month contract will only see the preparation of the new curriculum, not its implementation and Piper is hoping that it will be extended to cover the period when students at BNU begin to study under the revised curriculum.

The project is funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and comes under the umbrella of the Canada/China Language and Cultural Program, which is based at Saint Mary's. Dr. Rick Miner, director of the CCLP, says "CIDA's decision to fund this project was visionary. For a relatively small amount of money, this project could have a major impact on China's educational system and Canada/China relations for years to come."