

Shelter's growing pains

Professor notes irony as staff complain of 'emotional abuse'

By Ruth Teichroeb
Social Affairs

THE IRONY of staff at a battered women's shelter complaining about an "emotionally abusive" workplace isn't lost on Janice Ristock.

But the University of Manitoba women's studies professor said the conflicts at Osborne House and other women's groups are rooted in clashes over the use of power.

"It does become ironic in a shelter where they're working with the issue of violence against women," Ristock said.

That's because feminists — who link violence towards women to the abuse of power — would have a hard time working in an organization where power is not shared, she said.

Feminist staff would want an organizational model which "empowers" everyone to take part in decision making, she said.

Yet most organizations rely on a "topdown" structure where a few managers make decisions which staff are expected to follow.

When staff with diverse expectations work together, the stage is set for conflicts, she said.

"Not all women's organizations are feminist," she said. "There's bound to be an underlying tension between staff who want the structure to reflect a feminist philosophy and those who don't."

The structure of a shelter like Osborne House is also dictated by its ties to its parent organization, the YM-YWCA, she said.

Management could easily be caught between satisfying the demands of the larger institution and the shelter's needs, she said.

A group of about 26 former and current Osborne House staff have complained of a host of problems at the shelter stemming from what

Osborne House staffers raise grievance list

HERE ARE some of the complaints raised by a group of current and former Osborne House staff:

TREATMENT OF CLIENTS:

- Inappropriate advice/blaming of abused women by some staff
- Withdrawal of services from "problem" clients without adequate referrals
- Overemphasis on rules and regulations to the detriment of clients' needs e.g. enforcing rigid limits on length of crisis calls and counselling sessions
- Cutback of walk-in counselling from eight to a maximum of three sessions

TREATMENT OF STAFF:

- Rigid, rule-oriented workplace; e.g. crisis line staff not allowed to have cup of coffee at work station; limed coffee breaks monitored by supervisor
- Harassment of staff who complain or question rules
- No flexibility of work schedules for new mothers (e.g. job sharing)
- Undermining of staff decisions, lack of consultations with staff
- Lack of clinical supervision and training for staff

they say is an "authoritarian" style of management.

Many said the problems could only be solved by breaking away from the bureaucratic structure of the YM-YWCA and becoming an independent organization.

Women's shelters — which began



WENDELL PHILLIPS/WINNIPEG FREE PRESS

Ristock says management styles set stage for conflict.

as grassroots organizations two decades ago — are experiencing growing pains as they become larger and more institutionalized.

Some shelters have continued to run on a collective model where decisions are made by consensus.

But once there are more than a

dozen workers, that style of operation can become unwieldy, Ristock said.

Other shelters have evolved into a "co-operative management structure" which allows staff to be involved in many decisions but has managers at the top.

Normal levels of mosquitoes expected in city

By Brad Oswald
Staff Reporter

WINNIPEGGERS ARE most concerned this spring about ants in their plants and nightcrawlers in their sod, according to calls being handled by the city's bug line.

But according to insect control supervisor Kevin Nixon, Winnipeggers can expect fairly normal levels of the city's most-hated pests — mosquitoes and canker worms — as summer progresses.

"It's a little early in the season to say about mosquitoes, but unless we have heavy rainfalls in June like we did in 1991, we're looking at a pretty normal year," he said. "In Winnipeg, conditions are always favorable for mosquitoes, but they haven't been so bad that we can't deal with them."

City crews are carrying out the annual larvaciding program, targeting standing water in fields, ditches and bush lots. Nixon said predicting canker

worm populations is easier than guessing at mosquito numbers, and 1993 looks like a low-growth year for the leaf-munching pests. Egg-band counts and monitoring of the number of insects caught in tree-trunk tanglefoot suggest the biological agents used last year have put a dent in this year's population.

"The thing that's different about canker worms is that the females don't fly, so if a block was hit hard last year and hasn't been sprayed, it'll be hit hard again this year," he said.

Spraying for canker worms will begin in the next week or so, depending on conditions.

As the insect control branch's 35-member crew gears up for its busiest two weeks of the year, there isn't a lot of time to deal with complaints about ants, nightcrawlers and bumblebees.

"Usually, people deal with those things on their own," said bug line spokeswoman Linda Glowacki. "There are very few cases where it's actually on city property."

Environment officials review possibility of gas-leak charges

AS THE clean-up continues following a gasoline leak at a Domo Gas bar on Henderson Highway, Environment Department officials are still trying to determine if charges against the company are warranted, a department spokesman said yesterday.

Paul White said it is still too early, however, to say whether any charges will be laid under the Environment Act after a feeder line

burst, spilling gasoline into area sewers and forcing the evacuation of homes and businesses last week.

A review of Domo's daily log showed a trend of gas loss dating back to the last week in April, but the amounts were not high enough to require the company to report it.

Notice is required when three-quarters of one per cent of the tank capacity is drained over four consecutive days.

Abducted girl back in city after Irish judge OK's deal

By Kevin Rollason
Law Courts Reporter

ATWO-YEAR-OLD child abducted by her mother to Ireland for almost two months is back safe in Canada after a deal was reached to drop criminal charges.

Winnipeg police youth Insp. Lou Spado said yesterday the Crown had to negotiate the deal with an Irish judge to drop abduction charges

against Gillian Douglas before the judge would order the woman back to Canada.

"The primary concern was to get the child back safe and sound," Spado said.

"We have no comment on the deal. We just wish people would abide by the rules of the court."

Under the Criminal Code of Canada, a parent found guilty of abduc-

tion can be imprisoned up to a maximum of 10 years.

Douglas, who returned with the child on May 8, has surrendered her passport to the RCMP.

Tom Hague, a Justice Department spokesman, said the issue of staying abduction charges against Douglas was "carefully evaluated."

"It was felt it was appropriate with the circumstances of the case," Hague said.

"Each case has to be evaluated on its own circumstances."

Lawyer Victoria Lehman, Douglas' lawyer, said her client would not comment on the abduction.

"The matter is progressing through the courts," Lehman said.

"We're hoping for a settlement for the best interests of the child." In an affidavit, Douglas said: "I have been educated as to the error of my thinking in returning to Ire-

land with Alia and while I cannot expect to be excused of my actions, I state that I believed at the time that I was acting to protect Alia and in ignorance of any constructive alternative."

Lawyer Catherine Carlson, representing the father, Michael Watson, said he's happy the child is back in Canada.

"He's also pleased the child is back almost living with him on a

full-time basis," Carlson said.

Earlier this week, Mr. Justice Gil Goodman of Court of Queen's Bench granted Watson primary custody, with Douglas having access on alternate weekends.

According to court documents, the couple were granted joint custody of the child last year, and told neither could take her out of the province unless they had written permission from the other.

SOD, SOIL & CRUSHED STONE
McEWEN BROS LTD.
338-0351 Pipeline Rd. at North Perimeter Hwy
Growers of Kentucky Blue Nursery Sod. Top quality mixed screened soils.
WE DELIVER
ALSO AVAILABLE AT THESE SIX LOCATIONS:
• CLIFF'S LANDSCAPING, LOT 139 ST. MARY'S RD.
• LAURIE McEWEN, 3500 MCGILLIVRAY BLVD.
• SUPERIOR SOD/SOIL, 595 MUNROE
• R&T LANDSCAPING, 2690 McPHILLIPS
• GOOD TURF, 3000 MAIN ST.
• CHUCK'S LANDSCAPING, 2303 MAIN ST.

We folded our tent... and moved to behind concert hall parking lot door the next weekend. closed wed. open sun.

London Limos
TO THE AIRPORT
STILL FROM \$17.50 - PRE-BOOK 488-9590

50% OFF
THE TOTAL PRICE OF ANY COMPLETE ORDER FOR
Custom FRAMING
We do quality CUSTOM FRAMING for almost anything you can picture "FRAMED"... we do it well, and we do it for less!
BIRCHWOOD GALLERY
& CUSTOM PICTURE FRAME SHOPPE
2589 PORTAGE AVE. • 888-5840
Not valid with any other offer or discount. Offer expires May 22, 1993.

CORRECTION
Re: Sears Garage Sale advertisement in the Free Press on Friday, May 14/93: 18-Speed All Terrain Bike - Copy states that this bike has hyperglide freewheels, when in fact this is not a feature on this model.
We sincerely regret any inconvenience to our customers.
SEARS

WARRANTY APPROVED SERVICE • NO APPOINTMENTS NECESSARY
TAKE OFF \$4. EH!
WHEN YOU TAKE THIS COUPON TO
MR. LUBE FOR AN OIL AND OIL FILTER CHANGE BUT YOU HAVE TO HURRY, EH!
OFFER EXPIRES JUNE 9/93
Limit one per service. Not valid with other special offers. Must be redeemed at time of service.
MR. LUBE.
EVERY 3 MONTHS OR 5,000 KILOMETRES • 18 BRANDS OF OIL

BRING THIS COUPON IN FOR 2 GREAT OFFERS
KREVCO POOLS
THE SUN AND WATER PROFESSIONALS • 700 BERRY AT SARGENT
\$3 OFF CASH & CARRY ONLY **\$15 OFF**
PURCHASE PLUS \$2M FACTORY MAIL-IN REBATE
Alquimycin
Oxy-Brite
Pool Shock 8 kg
Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9am-6pm Sat. 9am-5:30pm
PRESENT COUPON IN PERSON AT TIME OF PURCHASE TO OBTAIN DISCOUNT
LIMIT OF ONE COUPON PER SALE • OFFER EXPIRES MAY 22/93

Join Assiniboine. Make your mortgage 33% smaller.
Transfer your mortgage to Assiniboine and save with our MAP* — Mortgage Advantage Package. You'll benefit from our low rates. You can pick your own terms in repayment time — from 6 to 60 months. You can even pre-pay up to thirty-three percent of your mortgage in one lump sum.
Plus you get all our regular benefits like: no transfer fees; the option of weekly or bi-weekly payments.
As an added bonus with MAP we'll give you 6 months of Full Service Chequing — free. With MAP you can also get 1/4% off personal loans, as well as 1/4% bonus on term deposits made up to June 30th, 1993. There's even a mortgage add-on option, and other benefits. Come in to Assiniboine. We'll help you MAP your financial future.
MAP* your future at Assiniboine and save!
LOW ONE YEAR RATE
Offer subject to qualifications. See branch for details.
ASSINIBOINE CREDIT UNION
It pays to be a Member

OFFICIAL NOTICE TO CONTROL WEEDS IN THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF WEST ST. PAUL
Notice is hereby given by the Rural Municipality of West St. Paul that weed control is the responsibility of the property owner, agent, or occupant. (Section 3, Noxious Weed Act.)
This is the official notice for 1993 to destroy weeds as often as necessary to prevent growth, scattering and ripening of weeds and weed seeds (Section 20, Noxious Weed Act.) On all residential, industrial, and commercial subdivided portions of the municipality.
If weeds are not destroyed, the municipality may enter the land and destroy the weeds (Section 19, Noxious Weed Act.) and charge the costs of weed control, if unpaid, to the property owner through the tax rolls, (Section 27, Noxious Weed Act.)
If the Municipality of West St. Paul has to destroy the Weeds the land owner will be charged all costs incurred plus a service charge.
Information of specific locations where weeds are flourishing should be brought to the attention of the weed inspector at 3550 Main Street or by phoning 338-0306.
The co-operation of all citizens is requested.
G. Wright
Weed Inspector

Council to vote on deals reached with civic unions

CITY COUNCIL will vote on wage-concession agreements reached between the city and unions representing police, firefighters, ambulance workers and transit bus operators.

Mayor Susan Thompson announced yesterday that she will recommend approval of the tentative agreements.

Settlements with the Winnipeg Police Association and the United Fire Fighters of Winnipeg, Local 867, were approved by executive policy committee on April 27 and ratified by union memberships.

The deal struck with the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, Local 2589, which represents paramedics and emergency medical technicians, has

also been ratified by the union's management.

Thompson said she has been informed of a wage-settlement agreement with the Amalgamated Transit Union, Local 1505.

Both deals must gain EPC approval before being forwarded to full council for a final vote.

Prior to the release of the civic budget in March, the city's largest union, the Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 500, agreed to a four-per-cent wage rollback in exchange for job-security guarantees.

Thompson said yesterday that union co-operation was crucial to the city's effort to meet its budget goals during "difficult financial times."

We Sell AFFORDABLE FUN
Family Fun Center
Mister B
717 Lagimodiere Ph: 255-1114

ENVOY MEDICAL DISPATCH
PHYSICIAN HOUSECALL SERVICE
8:00 A.M. - 8:00 P.M. DAILY
786-4444
NOT FOR LIFE THREATENING EMERGENCIES
Services covered by MHSC

Winnipeg Free Press
For Home Delivery . . . 697-7001