

MCCA

Happenings*

Minnesota Community Corrections Association

Erica Bouza Protests Treatment Of Women

By Pat Simons

Erica Bouza considers herself new to activism. The London born wife of Chief Tony bouza admits that in the 60's and 70's when others were campaigning for civil rights and protesting against the Viet Nam war, her main concern while living in a comfortable Long Island suburb was "raising her sons, designing jewelery and keeping a dust-free house." But since shortly after moving to Minneapolis 5 years ago following her husband's appointment as Police Chief she has become one of the most vocal and well known of the anti-war and weapon protestors and was jailed in 1983 at the Adult Correction Facility in Plymouth after her arrest for civil disobedience at the Honeywell plant.

In the time since she completed her eight day sentence, over half of which was in administrative separation because of death threats that had been received against her life, Bouza has begun speaking out on a new concern—the inequality she feels is prevalent in the system which she experienced and witnessed.

"I did not expect to find my sentence nor confinement pleasant. It was the risk I took because of my commitment but the loss of dignity and personal freedom involved - from what I observed - is quite different for a woman than it is for a man in the same situation."

Bouza feels that women are not given the same rights as the men and the punishment or restrictions even for the same infraction - are unequal at best. In the almost two years since she served her sentence, she has begun speaking to the public, to elected and appointed officials and has served as a representative on a board dealing with correction issues.

While acknowledging the number of men to women is unequal and may have a bearing on the problems, Bouza feels that because of the differences, women are being further punished by the

system.

"Most of the women I met at the facility had already been victims most of their lives due to poverty, horrible family backgrounds and the poor choices they've make. They feel hopeless enough without subjecting them to be treated more harshly than men. While men are allowed to keep their wedding rings, a married woman who enters Plymouth must have hers taken from her. Women are also not allowed to keep razors in their room as men are."

Bouza feels that while these are not the main concerns, they represent beginning differences in the interpretation and carrying out of rules that are supposed to govern each facility, including the two work release programs equally.

The experience which she is most familiar with and sees as needing the greatest reform is the issue of separation status (solitary confinement). Although recognizing the concern of the facility for her safety, Bouza objected to the policy that set her apart from the rest of the prisoners and left her in a small room, restricting her from even talking to other prisoners similarly confined without risking punishment. Bouza also feels that the policy of putting ill prisoners in the same solitary units where there is no contact with others except for checks by the officers is at times cruel.

"The saddest case I witnessed was a young woman who had been separated with a threatened miscarriage. After a trip to the hospital where she was treated and no further medical problems escalated, she was returned to the facility and the small room where she later lost her baby, alone at a time when she most needed the nurturing and caring of other people."

Bouza realizes that for some violations of regulations, consequences are to be expected but the infractions that

Erica - Cont' To Page 6

Ramsey Co. Corrections: An Insiders View

Since last I wrote, alot has happened. I have met my new PO and completed non-residential treatment. I've gone back to AA where I belong and have a good start on the volunteer hours required by my sentencing judge. Restitution is going to take some time...

On the day I was scheduled to meet with my new PO, I arrived early (trying to make a good impression). It didn't work. He was busy. So I went across the street for coffee and happened to sit at a booth with three handsome young men and a lovely woman engaged in a lively conversation. It didn't take long for me to figure out that they were probation officers, given their discussion topics: judges, corrections philosophy, judges, something called "standards", judges, something called "CMC," judges, caseload sizes, judges, corrections related agencies, judges, and somebody called Les Green (I still haven't figured out who he is).

I must admit to having paid extremely close attention, while trying to look interested in my doughnut for fifteen minutes.

One of these PO's, I'll call him Ben, who talked rarely but meaningfully (and whose arms resemble my legs), discussed the difficulty of maintaining an individualized therapeutic approach to each client, given such a large caseload. He talked about specific, realistic goal oriented activities that need to be discussed and formalized with each of his clients. Ben's philosophy included the point that most offenders strive for the same goals as do non-offenders, though critical differences do occur in clients having: mental health, developmental, violent or sexual maladjustment issues. Ben's belief was that feelings of self worth, of being valued, of belonging, are important in leading crime free lives.

Ramsey Co. - Cont' To Page 7

Mowatt Heads Juvenile Probation In Hennepin

Robert Mowatt has been appointed Supervisor of the Juvenile Probation Division of Hennepin County Court Services.

Bob is an experienced corrections professional who bring more than 17 years of a variety of experiences to this new position. For the past three years he has been the supervisor of volunteer services and staff development for the Municipal and District Court Probation Divisions. Prior to that time, and for more than five years, he served as Assistant Superintendent at the Hennepin County Home School.

MCA Fall Conference Set for October

The Minnesota Corrections Association will hold its annual Fall Conference October 9th, 10th and 11th. The Conference theme for this year is entitled "Winds of Change." The Conference Committee chaired by Tom Zoet has assembled over 44 workshops dealing with contemporary issues related to both Minnesota and National Corrections. Participants will have the opportunity to explore how the political, social and economic changes of the times impact on the field.

Keynote speakers include: Judge Miles Lord, Ed Donnerstein, and Allen Breed. Also, back for a return engagement is Noel Larsen, who will be giving the MCA Institute on Sex Offender/Victim therapy.

Workshops will include topics such as Juvenile Recodification, New Generation Jail, Alternatives to Incarceration, Child Victims, Sexual Exploitation by Therapists, Male Intimacy, Resume Writing, Humor and Career Changes.

A new award will be added this year to the existing three awards presented at each Fall Conference. The Correctional Counselor award will be given to an individual working in a correctional facility who has shown outstanding performance toward the care, custody and control for facility residents, and whose abilities in learning, judgement and communications have contributed to the substantial betterment of staff, residents, and the general operation of the institutions.

The Conference will be held at the St. Paul Radisson. For further information contact Bill Nelson (612) 721-6327 or 488-2073.

Notes From The Arrowhead

By John Richardson

I.

How does one do community corrections when his beat is 95 miles long and includes two counties and an Indian reservation? How does one concentrate on that when the beat contains at once the most scenic, and wintriest, landscape in Minnesota?

For half of 1985, between appointments of a full-time probation officer to Grand Marais, Scott Johnson of Silver Bay was covering territory from Two Harbors to the Canadian border and that includes caseloads from Juvenile, Municipal and District Courts!

"It worked because of the creativity of the Grand Marais professionals," says Johnson. "There's not much funding for programs in that sparse corner of the state, but social workers, school psychologists, law enforcers, and Court personnel have a team approach that surpasses some well-funded projects elsewhere!"

Scott Michael Johnson was born February 13, 1954, in Great Falls Montana. He came to Duluth in his early school years, and ended up marrying a visitor to the North Shore, Roxanne Harris from Sherman, Texas. Their daughter Leah is six; Nicholas, 4 and Andrew is eighteen months.

They've remained optimistic in one of the most depressed areas of the upper midwest. But "where else could you buy a \$75,000 home with four bedrooms for \$35,000," says Scott, who intends to remain a resident of Silver Bay. His office was the principal's in a formerly busy school, "but now most of the teenagers are gone."

Scott will miss his "rare, wonderful" duty in Cook County. "They're special up there. And the clients are something else. One appeared from the back woods as dark as a Native American. It turned out that he simply hadn't bathed for about three years."

Others, including Grand Marais leaders, are upper-middle-class, easy going, and extremely talented.

But there are compensations to the Lake County work that he will now once again become fully involved in out of Two Harbors. "Judge Kenneth Sandvick is the big plus there - cooperative and understanding - tough but fair."

It is certainly no surprise that Scott Johnson of Silver Bay has been nominated for the President's special award at MCA this October. Good Luck, Scott!

II.

The ARC Women's Retreat was held at the Vermillion Club in far north Minnesota on Thursday, August 1. These programs have become so successful that Executive Director David Gustafson has put out feelers for the development of a comparable men's organization in Arrowhead Regional Corrections.

III.

On August 19 at the Northeast Regional Corrections Center another all-day session will be spent for interested ARC personnel on "Cultural Perspectives of the Law." Arbra Tawwab of the Institute of Afro-American Awareness and Brenda Otterson of Duluth' Lutheran Social Services discussed Black, Indian, and refugee perspectives.

IV.

The new sex offender program at NERCC has recieved a state grant of \$170,000. There are presently three dozen sex offenders at NERCC. In a future issue we will probe Bob Devlin's sex offender program in South St. Louis County, and the work at NERCC under a counseling director who is now being hired.

V.

Duluth juvenile corrections agent James Barschdorf was recently commended by the ARC Board of Directors for a leisure-time program that has helped youth live their summer days constructively.

McGrane Named To Council For Battered Women

Minnesota Commissioner of Corrections Orville Pung has announced the appointment of Michael McGrane as an alternate member of the Advisory Council for The Minnesota Program for Battered Women. Mike is the counselor supervisor of the domestic abuse program at the Wilder CAP and the 1984 winner of the MCCA Robert H. Robinson Service Award. He has worked with the Wilder Foundation since 1974 and com-

pleted his Master of Social Work degree at the University of Minnesota in 1981.

The Advisory Council for the Minnesota Program for Battered Women is responsible for advising the Commissioner of Corrections regarding the operation of the battered women programs which include emergency shelters and support services, community education programs and treatment programs for violent partners.

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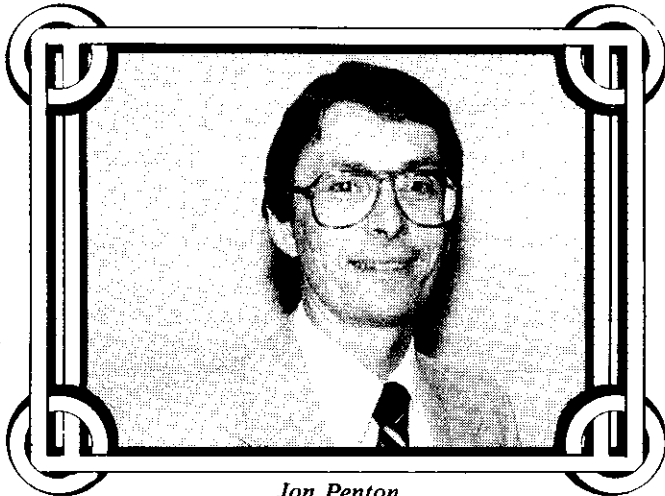
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We Want You To Know



Jon Penton

By Jon Penton

Recently I came across an interesting letter written by the original steering committee of MCCA in December of 1975. I wish to share a portion of that letter with you.

Dear Community Corrections Worker,
January 14, 1976 is an important day in the history of community corrections. On that day the founding members of the Metropolitan Community Corrections Association will be meeting at Martin Luther King Center in St. Paul at 1:00 P.M., to elect officers and vote for incorporation.

For several months some 30 community workers representing over 20 programs have been putting together the framework of an organization that will provide a choice for the men and women who have worked in community corrections in the metro area and will insure that new workers, students, trainees and volunteers will be guided by standards evolved from the best of

our collective experience.

Community corrections has been established as one of the crucial human services essential to the survival of decent, civilized and law-abiding community. It now requires, if its potential is to be realized, all the support we can organize."

The letter reminded me that MCCA will be 10 years old this coming January. In addition, the letter revealed the fervor and dedication of the steering committee to establish an association for and of community corrections professionals, students and volunteers.

As we approach MCCA's 10 year anniversary, let us remember to thank the following people who started the whole thing:

Diane Aisenbrey, Jim Beattie, Tom Christian, Peter Denzer, Bob Elkins, Frank Johnson, Sandy Jones, Jim Martinson, Gary Meitz, Bob Mowatt, Edgar Scott and Tom Williams.

MINNESOTA COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS ASSOCIATION

666 Marshall Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55104

NAME: _____
PROGRAM AGENCY: _____
WORK ROLE: _____
WORK PHONE: _____
ADDRESS: _____
ADDRESS SHOWN IS: _____
_____ HOME STUDENT/VOLUNTEER MEMBERSHIP _____ \$ 5
_____ WORK _____ \$ 100

Make checks payable to MCCA

New Program Attempts To Get Males Off Streets

By Pat Simons

With the lengthening daylight and the warming weather, they become more noticeable in the approaching summer.

On the benches underneath the greening trees, walking on the pathways at dusk, and on the streets that border Loring park and its neighborhoods, the young boys stand waiting for the inevitable johns to come by, proposition them and take them somewhere where a few minutes of sexual favors can earn a \$20 bill. Last year on summer nights as many as 50 worked the park. Their predominant ages from 12-21. This year there is no reason to suspect the numbers will lessen.

The problem of the young male prostitute in the Twin Cities usually has been discounted, overlooked and even ignored. While much has been done in the past decade to help the adolescent or adult female to leave street life behind: for the male, the majority of whom are gay and usually homeless, there have been few resources.

In the past year, however, a growing concern from law enforcement, the court system and social service agencies has resulted in the Minneapolis Youth Diversion Services, spearheading a program to work with the teenage prostitutes. Don LeTourneau is its director.

LeTourneau, a social work graduate of Bethel College, has dealt with teens in the Twin Cities for several years.

Since he joined YDS 18 months ago, besides coordinating the Shoplifter's Education Program. LeTourneau has begun the work that hopefully soon will expand into a wide range of services and support to those who now are the nighttime populace of Loring Park.

To Help is Goal

The aim and focus of the project will be to give the teens help and support, to offer counseling in the areas that will deal with sexuality plus giving them emotional and psychological sustenance. Physical and education needs also will be addressed and a long range goal is to establish both a shorter term and a long term residence where independent living skills can be taught.

"The program has begun slowly, At first we weren't sure what our goals would be or if the kids would respond."

LeTourneau said "Most of them are runaways or throwaways from families who kicked them out when they learned about the homosexuality or prostitution. Yet most of the families the kids come from are multi-problem families, one where chemical dependency, abuse and dysfunction occurred long before

the son's sexuality became an issue. Because of the demeaning treatment by their families and shaming by the system these kids have lost their trust for adults in the straight world. Added to those issues, the kids must deal with the exploitation by the johns and the ostracism of the homophobic community."

LeTourneau definitely believes that it is the public's fear of dealing openly with issues of gay-lesbian lifestyles that has let the problem of male teen hustlers be ignored. Perhaps because the majority of teens who do work the streets are gay, their problem seems less media oriented. While teenage sexuality is openly exploited in movies, TV and the press very little focus is aimed at the gay or lesbian adolescent.

"For the gay teen, discovering and accepting his sexual orientation is traumatic," LeTourneau said. "The most important part of any kid's identity and growth is to be accepted and to belong. When you are a teenager, to know you are different can be frightening. The teen wants to explore and come to terms with himself and meet other gays, but where does he go? Most often the only place he knows where he can do those things is where he shouldn't be—Loring Park, the bars, downtown in the bathhouses; it becomes a set-up for victimization. The sexual act for exploration, for affection, can easily become, too often, a preliminary step to prostitution."

Nights on the street

Last year, before he began working with the teens, LeTourneau spent the summer observing what was going on in Minneapolis. For a few hours a night several nights a week, he spent evenings in Loring Park and saw the kids, the johns and the straights who came to harass and sometimes attack the after-dark population.

The youthful looking LeTourneau in his usual attire of jeans and T-shirt was approached by johns any number of times. He said he doesn't know how he would have handled the situation if he had been a teenager.

"I guess if I were 14 and curious, had been continually propositioned by johns, hassled by straights and turned out by the family and friends, my self-esteem would be so low that I'd eventually say, 'Why not?' and turn a trick. A kid who's wanting to explore his sexuality will take chances. He's used to adults telling him what to do and giving them the power, a prime factor in becoming a victim," he said.

Profiling the johns who cruise the

streets seeking out the young boys, LeTourneau feels they fall into several types. Some are closeted gay men who are not ready to come out and make a commitment on their sexuality. Many of these circle the park in family station wagons and the sexual activities take place often in back seats strewn with their children's toys. Another group of johns is similar to those who use female prostitutes; men who would rather pay for sex than risk failing at a relationship. Rarely do child molesters or pedophiles become customers but those who choose the teens for sex do need to feel in control and powerful in sexual activities.

The majority of boys who work the streets and parks are—unlike the girls who usually work for pimps—working for themselves. Many have no permanent residences but stay nights in doorways or bathhouses unless they can find others to band with and rent apartments. Some of the teens do find "sugar daddies" who will take them in, feed and clothe them and give them the nurturing and care they need in return for sexual favors. But, it is generally the local knit groups of the teens themselves who become family, counselor and confidante for one another in their ostracized life.

They have no resources

"These kids we work with, virtually are without resources; they have no families, incomplete educations, few job skills and are prone to chemical abuse, sexually transmitted diseases and have a high incidence of serious respiratory problems because of their life style. At the period in his life when he most needs a structured physical environment, regular hours and balanced nutrition, the teen lives an upside-down existence, rarely gets medical help and avoids—as best he can—coming into contact with the system," he said.

At present LeTourneau is working with eight to 10 teens he has become close to through referrals by the courts, through agencies like The Bridge for Runaway Youth or those whom he has met on the street and whose trust he has gained. It has been a gradual process.

One of the most positive contributions the program and its supporters must make in the teens' lives is to give them nonjudgmental and unconditional acceptance. LeTourneau feels that is primary importance for the heterosexual community to learn to treat gay issues openly and less negatively. Gay agencies, ministers and therapists are begin-

New Programs - Cont' To Page 5

Hennepin County Takes Lead In Treating Juvenile Sex Offender

By Kevin G. Kelly

"In 1979, no one could have predicted that the Juvenile Sex Offender Program at the County Home School would have become so successful. Five years later, its potential appears unlimited. The statewide and national recognition of the program is a tribute to the years of planning and hard work by all those who are connected with the Juvenile Sex Offender Program. It illustrates the maxim that today's successes are the result of yesterday's experiments."

Robert Roeglin, MCCA Forum 3/13/84

The horizons of the Juvenile Sex Offenders Program continue to expand through the continued vision and hard work of the professionals at the County Home School. Recent recognition includes: 1.) Profiled in "The Criminal Justice Newsletter" (April 1, 1985), 2.) Selection for Spring '85 publication of "Program Profile" Washington Univ. St. Louis, Mo. 3.) Chosen for National Association of Counties award and presented recently at the meeting of the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners.

Our success and recognition is reflected in our rapid expansion. The program now has a capacity of 48 clients, 24 of which remain Hennepin County clients, 24 of which are referrals

from various parts of the country. Currently we have residents from Alaska, Montana, Florida, Virginia, Vermont, Wisconsin as well as all 7 metro counties and outstate Minnesota.

Program expansion in May, 1984 increased outside revenue to more than \$500,000 in 1984. Revenues from the 24 out of county residents projected in '85 would exceed \$900,000. The cost result from '85 is that rather than a net operation cost to the county of \$547,000 for 1 24-bed program for county residents, the net operating cost to Hennepin County would be \$162,000 for 2 24-bed programs. This reduces per diem costs for treatment of Hennepin County residents from \$62.53 per day to \$18.57.

The program's leadership in the treatment of Adolescent Sex Offenders is also measured by the high demand for our program staff to conduct training seminars and workshops. During the last year alone our staff has provided training at:

1. American Psy. Assoc., Toronto
2. The 12th National Conference of Juvenile Justice, Philadelphia, PA
3. National Conference of the Correctional Educators, Assoc.
4. National Meeting of Sex Therapists in Albany, New York
5. The Minnesota Assoc. Of County Pro-

bation Officers

6. Judges, Probation Officers, Social Workers, etc. in Fairbanks, Alaska, Miami, Florida, Fairfax, Virginia, Anchorage, Alaska, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, Kansas City, Missouri and St. Louis, Missouri.

The experiments and risks of the last nearly seven years here at the County Home School continues to result in success. What has been demonstrated is that the county can recover the operational costs of expensive, staff intensive programs that provide qualitative treatment to the very serious offenders. The implication is that the county, through qualitative programs can utilize vacant cottage bed space to help pay for the operating costs of the county's own program.

The long range implications of this program are that there exists a category of very difficult to treat youth for whom there are few available programs within the state or nationwide, intensive enough to obtain significant results. What has been achieved with Juvenile Sex Offenders Program is potentially replicable, and the staff at the County Home School continue to respond so that higher quality services can be provided to the hard to treat youth of Hennepin County and across the nation.

New Program - Cont' From Page 4

ing to set up programs and support groups where they can safely deal with gay issues and meet others but the teen must also be included in the concerns of the straight community.

Support is coming

YDS in setting up the program is beginning to get support from many areas in the community

LeTourneau feels that unless confronted, the problem of the male teen hustler can't help but escalate in the Cities. Passage of 21-year-old drinking age legislation would turn many out of the bars and onto the streets. The construction of the world trade center and new convention center in Minneapolis will increase the numbers of prostitutes of both sexes, and current revisions in the juvenile justice code will mean that more kids will avoid detention centers and other parts of the system. Without some system contact, many will slip between the cracks and may never find the help they need.

"We're just beginning to look at the problem." LeTourneau said, "to admit that it even exists. So far we have only reached a minute percentage but we have hope. It will take time and we need

more sponsorship and funding from the community and system which usually turns away from these kids. The problem and the kids won't go away. They deserve all we can do to make sure there is a place—a safe caring place for them in the daylight and straight world."

They have no resources

"These kids we work with, virtually are without resources; they have no families, incomplete educations, few job skills and are prone to chemical abuse, sexually transmitted diseases and have a high incidence of serious respiratory problems because of their life style. At the period in his life when he most needs a structured physical environment, regular hours and balanced nutrition, the teen lives an upside-down existence, rarely gets medical help and avoids— as best he can—coming into contact with the system." he said.

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One of the most positive contributions of the program and its supporters must make in the teens' lives is to give them nonjudgmental and unconditional acceptance. LeTourneau feels that is of primary importance for the heterosexual community to learn to treat gay issues openly and less negatively. Gay agencies, ministers and therapists are beginning to set up programs and support groups where they can safely deal with gay issues and meet others but the teen must also be included in the concerns of the straight community.

"It is very important that these kids have accepted me, a straight working within the system." LeTourneau said. "It gives them a beginning where they can open up to others. To know that other people are out there who care and can offer alternatives and options to what their life is like now is essential."

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1985 Legislation Affects Correction

At the July training session of the MCCA, State House of Representative staff members discussed several new laws passed by the 1985 legislature which will have an impact on corrections.

Enforcement of Restitution Orders.

Chapter 110 provides that restitution orders are to be docketed as civil judgments and may be enforced in the same ways as civil judgments. The Court may order a PSI contain information regarding the amount of loss suffered by the victim. The burden of demonstrating the amount of the victim's loss and appropriateness of the type of restitution rests with the prosecution.

Child Abuse Prosecution. Chapter 286 requires courts to give docket priority to child abuse cases. In child protection cases testimony of a child witness may be taken in an informal setting. The courts will presume in favor of authorizing parental visitation of a child who has been placed out of the home by the court. Other sections of this law merge the crime of "intrafamilial sexual abuse" into the crime of criminal sexual conduct, eliminate references to "familial relationships" in favor of the term "significant relationships," and permits minors to be charged with the crime. The law also requires a taped or written record of the interviews with alleged child abuse victims.

Chapter 266 amends the child abuse reporting law's definition of "person responsible for the child's care" to include persons within as well as outside the family unit in a responsible child-caring capacity. The law provides that a professional must report physical or sexual abuse if he "knows or has reason

to believe" there is such abuse. Persons who report under the law are immune from civil and criminal liability if their actions were taken in good faith.

Chapter 293 provides that certain information in a report of abuse of a child or vulnerable adult shall be given to the parent, guardian or legal custodian of the alleged victim.

Domestic Abuse. Chapter 159 makes a second misdemeanor assault against the same person within five years and trespassing on the grounds of a battered women shelter a gross misdemeanor.

Chapter 195 permits notice by publication of Orders for Protection.

Counseling for American Indian inmates in correctional facilities is required of the Commissioner of Corrections by chapter 113.

Juvenile Code a future issue. Revisions in The Juvenile Code will continue to be considered, with interim hearings scheduled by the Crime and Family Law Committee. The general thrust of the debate is likely to be whether juveniles should have rights similar to those of adults, such as jury trials and civil commitments for treatment.

The legislative staff members told the MCCA that there is some concern that the availability of numerous treatment facilities may be creating an excessive sense of need for treatment and that "too many (in the chemical dependency field) are getting rich."

Other issues likely to receive future consideration include the abuse of electronic stun guns, plea negotiation guidelines and mandatory prison sentences for sale of drugs and burglary or robbery of a pharmacy.

cites discriminations and differences at the two facilities. Situations covered include: the regulation against borrowing or lending clothes, personal items even cigarettes that is enforced for women; the forbidding of women from taking food from the dining tables as men have always been allowed to do; and the regulations that prevent women from wearing shorts or suntops inside the unairconditioned facility, where there is no cross ventilation in the summer. Other concerns include the lack of activity other than bingo, tv, or a few craft projects for the women and the need for women to work with issues of self-improvement and self-esteem.

"I recognize that it is up to Superintendent Sig Fine and his staff at the facilities if the changes are to be implemented. In many instances they seem to have been unaware that the supervisory staff in each place had interpreted and enforced the rules in two different manners. My speaking out has at least brought these issues out in the open. Hopefully it can do more than that."

Even her experience in Plymouth did not deter Bouza from her new activism in the Honeywell Project which caused a second arrest this spring. For this offense, she and some of her fellow protestors were sentenced to community service hours. She spent that time with the homeless, nights at St. Stephen's shelter and plans to return there as a volunteer this fall.

Bouza feels that anyone has the right and duty to speak out on issues of concern and to do so openly and without backing down. She realized that not all people agree with her or understand why she feels it necessary to emulate Don Quixote and fight against windmills.

"It is because I met those women, those women who feel they have no voice, that I feel it is important to give them some little bit of hope, the thought that someone cares enough to speak for them. Because of who I am, some people may listen to me. That is all I can do-for now."

Erica Bouza claims to be new in her activist role but in the time she has spent with her causes of the Honeywell Projects and other protest activities, she has taken that role seriously. Now that her sons are grown and her jewelry designing has turned into a respected and successful business, she can laugh at the woman she remembers who thought the most important contribution she could make was to keep "dust-free" house. She can only hope that her new concern -- the concern for women's rights at the Adult Correction facility will be as successful--she plans to try whatever she can to accomplish this.

Erica - Cont' From Page 1

will bring separation in the womens facility are petty offenses, or ambiguous ones that are dependant on the whims of those in authority. Men are rarely put into separated status except for fighting or security situations. Even the cells in separation units are different - the men's rooms have a table, chair, hooks to hang clothes, shelf and earphones, compared to the starkness of the women's rooms where all that is provided is a bed, sink and a toilet without a seat.

When Bouza spent almost five days in the separation unit, women were not allowed any exercise time out of the cells; new regulations since that time have now gone into effect and have given the women exercise but in the halls of the facility, according to friends of Bouza who have served time lately for further protests. Men however, have always been allowed up to an hour

and a half outside each day.

Since her release and beginning to publicly speak about the changes she feels are necessary, Bouza has met with many Corrections officials from both the men's and women's facilities to try to come to an understanding of the policies that are now practiced and to fight for those changes. She feels that in some cases attempts have been made to placate her without any commitment of those who could facilitate those changes to investigate the circumstances and charges she has brought to their attention.

"A new set of regulations was accepted that insists that each prisoner have the same rights whether male or female but those who enforce the regulations are subject to bending them."

Bouza, in presenting the inequalities, has prepared a five page document that

Ramsey Co. - Cont' From Page 1

He said that corrections agents must use the tools at their disposal to point out positive, realistic alternatives to continued criminal behaviour on their client's part.

However, Ben maintained, clients must accept that they are constantly making decisions affecting each area of their lives, so they must also understand their responsibility to accept the results of those decisions.

Another PO present at the "meeting", I'll call him John, (who resembles a professional cynic, but whose grandfather was a successful muskie fisherman), talked straight-forwardly about his job in terms of providing services to the Court and the DOC. He believes rehabilitation (in some cases, habilitation) of offenders is his sole professional purpose. Obviously, developing accurate information about his clients, enforcing Court or DOC orders and providing the best possible intervention plan are all critical components of that purpose.

He said that though certainly client surveillance and incarceration are occasionally required, rehabilitation involves motivating offender to either correct negative behaviors or to learn positive ones.

John fears that given current caseload sizes, PO's too often become crisis intervention agents, whose time and energy is devoted to resolving new incidents of criminal or untoward behavior, rather than providing rehabilitative services. Report preparation, Court appearances, attempts to find "lost" clients diminish the time available to establish treatment programs, either directly or through referral agencies. I got the message that frustration occurs regarding inappropriate, unwilling or non-existent resources.

John's special interest in MR/MI clients reflects that frustration as well. He believes, on a national level, fewer than one-third of these groups, when known to the criminal justice system, have been active in appropriate mental health/human services systems. The "normalization" of both the MI and MR population has resulted in more mentally handicapped offenders appearing in the criminal justice system, and they are not normally responsive to typical corrections intervention. Traditional services for MI/MR clients are frequently closed to those individuals active in the criminal justice system, particularly when their offenses involved violence. Work is being done to facilitate access to MR/MI programming.

The needs of another distinct corrections client population in Ramsey Coun-

ty was addressed by another probation officer. I'll call him Joe, (though most people know him as Buzz-Bullet). He said that the National Council on Alcoholism has determined that alcohol or mood altering substances are involved in 65% of all murders, 45% of all assaults, 35% of rapes, 35% of other sex crimes, 40% of suicides and nearly 60% of child abuse cases. He drew an obvious correlation between chemical dependency issues and involvement with the criminal justice system.

Joe is a member of the Interdepartmental Planning Team for Chemical Dependency Services in Ramsey County. According to the conversation, that planning team represents a goodly number of agencies in a combined effort to coordinate programs designed to meet the needs of chemically dependent clients. He went on to say that the Ramsey County Corrections Administration was instrumental in developing the Task Force having responsibility for the initiation of the present, in-patient, intensive treatment program at St Paul-Ramsey Medical Center. Joe believes that cost-effective, cooperative delivery of chemical dependency service to corrections' clients is imperative. Such services have shown themselves to be an indispensable part of programming for many clients needing to learn the correlation between their feeling and attitudes and a life free of criminal activity.

In the midst of all these committed and thoughtful men sat a woman, whom I will call Joan, obviously not lacking in dedication to her profession. She spent a goodly amount of time discussing her thoughts regarding the role of women in the corrections system, both as clients and as PO's.

She said that as a rookie in the probation office, she heard all the cliches about why male PO's shouldn't be supervising women clients. Those cliches included comments regarding: men not treating women's problems seriously; women being able to manipulate men; men thinking women who discuss their problems openly are "whining"; about women's dependency issues; about men failing to understand women's needs in general. Though naturally not directing her comments specifically at the men present at the table, Joan said that after 22 years in this business, she believes that all those comments are too near the truth. She went on to say she doesn't feel those attitudes are confined solely to female probationers and releasees, but are also present towards women professionals in corrections.

The example she gave: "What do you talk about so long with your clients? Recipes?" She said that after hearing

remarks similar to that for as long as she has been working in the field, she is convinced that men don't understand what makes women tick. She challenged those men working in corrections who harbor those stereotypical attitudes to take a closer look at themselves and remains pleased that her caseload is predominantly women, for as she said, "They understand me."

Overhearing this conversation between 4 Ramsey County PO's, gave me a goodly amount of insight into the energy and thoughtfulness required to sustain a profession in corrections. I went back to my PO's office with the knowledge that I was very likely to have a rewarding and helpful probation experience, at best, and, at worst, a fair and just opportunity to deal responsibly with my life during my probationary term.

(Apparently none of the 4 PO's I overheard had ever caught a muskie. A successful muskie fisherman can't talk 5 minutes without mentioning it).



Guidelines Commission Takes Action

By Chuck Repke

The Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines Commission approved stiffer penalties for both possession and sales of cocaine on proposed changes in State sentencing guidelines. Possession of cocaine would be changed from severity level one to level three. Sale of cocaine will be changed from level four to level six. Additionally, the guidelines commission voted that when the current conviction offense is sale of a severity level six drug and there was a previous adjudication for a sale of a level six drug, that the presumptive disposition is commitment to the Commissioner of Corrections.

The Guidelines Commission also ranked the only new felony to be passed this year: Criminal Sexual conduct between a therapist and his client. Criminal Sexual Conduct Four was ranked severity level six and Criminal Sexual Conduct Three ranked level Seven. The Guidelines Commission decided to not rank Price Fixing/Collusive Bidding until they could get more feedback from the Bar Association.

September Training: Chris Ringer on Codependency

The September II training will feature **Christopher Ringer** speaking on "Addictive Relationships: The Codependency Habit". Codependents become addicted to destructive relationships with people, relationships that cause more pain than pleasure. Codependents are people who have taken on the qualities of addiction without necessarily having been addicted to alcohol or other chemicals. This workshop will explore the main characteristics, process and recovery steps for codependency.

Chris Ringer, a family therapist specializing in chemical dependency and additive families, has become a popular speaker with a dynamic, entertaining style. He is employed by RELATE Counseling Center and by Franklin Psychiatric Associates.

On September 18, the MCCA Training Committee will present a special showing of the video tape, "I Don't Kiss." This tape, prepared by Genesis II for Women was scheduled for the February MCCA

Conference but was not shown because of technical problems. It features interviews with former prostitutes and discusses the dynamics of prostitution.

The October 9 training, "Prostitution: The Client's View of the System-Positive Suggestions for Change," will be presented by **Jane Hynes**, Family and Childrens Services, and members of PRIDE, a self-help group for former prostitutes. This workshop will be offered in two tracks: **Track A-A** general group discussion of prostitution issues that will focus on the women's experiences with the correctional system. **Track B-A** group discussion with a leader from PRIDE regarding specific issues and concerns of the audience.

All training sessions are held at the Wilder CAP Building, 66 Marshall Avenue, St. Paul. Cost is free to MCCA individual members, \$5.00 for staff of Program Member Agencies. Pre-registration is requested. Call Mike McGrane. 221-0048, to register.

Happenings

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The opinions expressed in the Happenings are those of the contributing writers.

Readers are encouraged to respond to the content of this newsletter and to write on topics of interest to its readers. The staff reserves the right to edit submitted articles. Copy deadline is the 25th of odd-numbered months. **Members of the newsletter committee are:**

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Hennepin County Court Services
- Mia Olsen**
Genesis II For Women
- Laura Sissala**
REM-Lyndale
- Karole Williams, Board Liason**
180 Degrees
- Pat Simons**
The Bridge
- Tim Peterson**
Ramsey Co. Community Corrections

We would like to thank the men in the print shop at MCF-STW for their help in publishing this newsletter.

Nexus Names Program Director

Fran Sipler-King has been named Director of Programming at Nexus, Inc. effective August 14. Nexus, Inc. is a private community corrections residential treatment center for juvenile and young adult male offenders which is located in Minnetonka, Minnesota.

Ms. Sipler-King, age 27, has a B.A. degree in psychology from Beloit College and a Masters degree in Public Administration from Hamline University. She has worked for over four years as

a planner and welfare specialist with the Minnesota Department of Human Service. Prior to that she was the administrator at the Bridge for Runaway Youth in Minneapolis.

With a special interest in the problems of physical and sexual assault, Fran served for three years on the Advisor Board for the Rape and Sexual Assault Center and has served as an advisor for several residential treatment programs throughout the state.

DOC Move

The Central Office of the Minnesota Department of Corrections has moved to a new location. The new address is 300 Bigelow Building, 450 North Syndicate Street, St. Paul, Minnesota, 55104.

MINNESOTA COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS ASSOCIATION
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