

INTRODUCTION

Anton Chekhov, a Russian doctor who cared for the sick, abused and abandoned, gave the world some of the most vivid, nonjudgmental accounts of Russian life at the turn of the century. His stories are so real that you can almost experience life as it was then. Kahlil Gibran could say more about care in a poem than most people could say in a textbook. Melville's *Moby Dick* has been called the frontrunner to psychoanalytic theory. The movies *Salome Bombay* and *Streetwise* provide graphic pictures of what life is like for homeless children. Tracy Chapman's songs give insight into the rhythm and struggle of adolescent life.

So, if you are wondering why fiction, poetry, and personalized accounts of child and youth care experiences increasingly appear alongside academic articles in the pages of this journal, these are just a few of the reasons. Child and youth care is an art as well as a science. The field is rich with stories to be told, pictures to be painted, and songs to be heard. There is not one right way to write about our work any more than there is one right way to search for the truth.

In this issue we think we have a terrific mix. First, we are fortunate to be able to publish four poems (one at the beginning of each section) by Jean Meyer, 1989 winner of the Albert E. Trieschman Center's creative writing award. In our opening section, which includes traditional refereed articles, we have an excellent and needed study of workers' motivations for entering and staying in the field from Swiss worker Juerg Schoch; tips for working with scapegoats from Bill Wasmund, who is a noted researcher and, as you will see, is also able to write good practice articles; and a timely family service model from Pauline Zeece.

Next, experienced professionals Cynthia Rubenstein, Martha Mueller Holden and Jack Holden present examples of independent living programs they developed for dealing with one of today's most pressing problems. Then we receive more tips on writing from Jerry Beker, Editor of the *Child and Youth Care Quarterly*.

In the special feature section, Karen Vander Ven gives a personal and touching account of the reasons she's a child and youth care worker. Jesse Lassandro shares his poem and Mike Burns kindly allows us to reprint two of his children's stories, which are taken from his book on metaphorical change. Craig Waggoner, a novelist and playwright himself, closes with a review of David Condit's beautiful novel, the *Humbird Brigade*.

We have made a few new design changes. The most notable are the new color, which will continue to change each year, and the absence of

an issue number and name of the season of publication. Both modifications have been made to distinguish Child and Youth Care Work as a comprehensive annual as opposed to a monthly or quarterly journal.

Please send us your comments. Last year we were pleased to receive many positive responses. These are always welcome, but so is constructive criticism. So after you read through this issue, help us stay in tune with what's happening by sending us your ideas and recommendations. And also send us an article, poem, or story to review.

M.K.