

FROM THE EDITOR: "Mark's Journal"

Why is this column titled "Mark's Journal"? As I have encountered new and interesting ideas this past year, I have said: "Oh, that would be perfect written up for Mark's journal!" With this column, first of all, I want to acknowledge 'a hard act to follow' and my recognition of the extended process of assembling a journal and the efforts of Mark Krueger, the Editorial Board, and the staff of the Child and Youth Care Learning Center that in the years preceding this first issue, enabled it to come into being and flourish. One of our special feature each issue will be a column by Mark.

I also want to reiterate to readers— and hopefully potential contributors—the journal's *raison d'être*: to compile and disseminate the growing knowledge in the field that must be shared to continue to advance it towards professionalization.

This is the first issue of the *Journal of Child and Youth Care Work* assembled under my editorship. Although putting it together has been a long process, it has been gratifying to watch it come together. Beginning with panic ("where *are* the articles") they began to come in, authors made a few 'suggested' changes, and, finally, a pattern that would tie everything together thematically emerged.

This is "Challenging the Crisis in Care." Today, debate rages as to the relative merits of 'family preservation' and 'child protection.' In the introductory piece, David Millen provides a penetrating analysis of these 'opposing camps' and provides valuable suggestions as he warns us that we must keep the needs of the child paramount.

Quality of care for children and youth, as resources decline and needs increase, is more likely to be ensured if we know what the criteria for it are and how to determine to what degree these criteria are actually being met. In "Seeking to Improve Quality at a Residential Treatment Center for Troubled Youth," Trevor Josephson and Brad Simm report on feedback received from a number of constituencies on the quality of residential experience. In the same vein, Barbara Thomlison proposes two special methods for assessing children's environment of care.

For us to be optimally effective as child and youth care workers, we must recognize how experiences from our past shape our present work. Thom Garfat provides personal examples and insights and challenges us to look at our own silent companion of our own background.

Good news is here! In an ethnographic study, "It's a Way of Life: Direct Care as Community," Susan Eschbach describes how direct care workers on the job do comprise an occupational community and thus can command the benefits that accrue to such a designation.

But child and youth care has a way to go on its route towards professionhood, as reflected in the results of a survey of agency adminis-

trators from all over North America conducted by Earl Stuck of the Child Welfare League of America. In "The Future of Child and Youth Care as a Profession: Assessing Administrator Attitudes," Skip also presents a compelling agenda for advancing the field.

It is important as we work in 'challenging the crisis of care', that we, in the words of our colleague Dr. Carol Kelly, document our successes. In "Words from the Trenches", a first person account, Allan Nass describes how his interventions as a child and youth care worker contributed to the successful rehabilitation of a troubled youth.

What could be more exciting and pose a response to the challenge of care than the first North American Congress of the International Federation of Educative Communities to be co-sponsored with N.O.C.C.W.A. in June 1994 ? Read James Anglin's account of this organization's history and significance. "Trans-Atlantic Learnings," by Victoria Dimidjian and Angelina Bartoli, will show directly the value of international exchange in the field.

We have often contended that we in child and youth care have a positive future as we move into the next century. Being connected to each other is a major way of ensuring this. Dana Lewis, in "Child Care by the Year 2000: Cybercare, Community and Electronic Synergism," makes some revolutionary proposals to help us do this !

Thus we have *Journal of Child and Youth Care Work* 1993. Let's hear from *you* in the year to come, to keep our journal growing and our emerging knowledge in the forefront.

Karen Vander Ven