

Conference to explore new field of counselling

by Abe Heffer

Staff writer

A new approach to dealing with everyday personal problems and dilemmas will be explored at the First International Conference on Philosophical Counselling July 8-12 at UBC.

Developed in Western Europe in the past decade, philosophical counselling helps people develop philosophical insights and self-understanding that help them deal with experiences such as mid-life crises, problems in relationships and in the family, and occupational dissatisfaction.

"The conference is aimed at exploring the theoretical background of this new field and its practical implications," said organizer Louis Marinoff, the executive moderator of the Canadian Applied Ethics Research Networks at the Centre for Applied Ethics.

"Those working in philosophy, psychology and other helping professions are especially welcome."

The idea was introduced first in Germany in 1981 and is now gaining accept-

ance in other countries. The field is supported by two European professional organizations and two journals.

The conference, to be held at Green College, includes symposia July 8-10 and workshops the following two days. Some of the themes to be discussed include consulting on business and professional ethics, and the emergence of ethical counselling: guidelines and considerations.

Scheduled speakers and workshop leaders include Michael McDonald, the Maurice Young Professor of Applied Ethics and director of the Centre for Applied Ethics; Ida Jongsma, a member of the founding group of the philosophical counselling movement in Holland; and Ran Lahav, who teaches philosophical counselling at Haifa University in Israel.

The conference is sponsored by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada and is co-sponsored by the Centre for Applied Ethics, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Dept. of Philosophy.

For more information phone the Centre for Applied Ethics at 822-5139.