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Moving can be a trauma

United Press International

DENTON — A counseling specialist at North Texas State University is urging school officials and parents to give special treatment to children who recently moved because to the children, the change could be as serious as a death in the family.

Dr. JoAnna Strother, who earned her doctorate in education from West Virginia University in Morgantown, W.Va., leads a staff of counselors at NTSU's Pupil Appraisal Center, where many young people who have just moved come for help.

Her academic training and professional experience account for only part of her sensitivity to the

trauma young people — especially teenagers — face in a move.

Strother is the mother of a 16-year-old boy who left his father and relatives to join his mother in Denton two years ago.

"Moving, for an adolescent, is a loss just like a death or the end of a relationship," said Strother.

As a professional counselor, she expected some difficulty. As a mother, she discovered that the process of making friends, breaking into a peer group and no longer missing old friends can take literally years.

"I saw (my son) go through several stages," she said. "It has taken a couple of years to go through this. I

thought it would be painful for him, but I didn't realize how long the process would take for him to feel a part of what's going on."

Strother urges elementary and secondary school officials to make special provisions for a new child. Among her suggestions are arranging for the new student to have a buddy with whom the newcomer can walk or ride to school, begin classes and eat lunch.

She also urges parents to spend time at the school with their child, either in class or as a helper or volunteer so the child knows the parent is nearby and available.

However, there is a limit to what

even the best program can do, Strother said.

"No program is going to make it free of anxiety, but it can speed the healing process," she said.

The Pupil Appraisal Center, which is run by Dr. Lance Gentile, includes facilities for testing students' reading, speech skills and hearing. Gentile helps students improve their reading.

Strother is helped by seven counselors, all doctoral candidates, who engage the very young in "play therapy" and do individual and family counseling.

The center services young people in Denton and surrounding counties, including the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Dome Petroleum talks of equity issue

United Press International

NEW YORK — Dome Petroleum Co., the embattled Canadian energy giant, still is debating whether to market a new equity issue that is crucial to the completion of its \$5.2 billion debt rescheduling plan.

On Aug. 1 Dome signed the largest debt rescheduling agreement in corporate history, with 53 lenders in Canada, the United States, Europe and the Far East, that extends \$5.2 billion of debt over a 12-year period.

But the entire debt package is contingent upon Dome's launching a public offering by Oct. 5 that would attempt to raise about \$350 million to maintain capital expenditures and provide cash assets.

"We'll only go to market if there is a reasonable chance of success," said Dome Chairman J. Howard Macdonald. "If we don't, we'll go back and talk to our creditors, who have a common interest in reaching a solution. It won't be the end of the world."

Dome, Canada's sixth largest oil and gas company based on petro-

leum reserves, made a preliminary filing with Canadian and U.S. regulatory authorities June 11 that used one common share and half a warrant as an example of a possible offering.

"This would not be a share for widows or orphans," said Macdonald, a 56-year-old Scotsman who moved into the top slot at Dome's Calgary headquarters last October from the treasurer's post at the Royal Dutch-Shell Group.

The new equity issue would be targeted at "the sophisticated investor who has an understanding of the rewards and also the risks," he said. "We have been advised that this approach appeals to a large number of people."

Macdonald said Dome will update its filing "by the end of the month and make up our mind whether to go to market."

If Dome decides an equity offering is inopportune, "we would ask our creditors for more time and wait to see what the financial markets do," he said.

Macdonald, who drew up the debt

rescheduling plan two months after joining Dome, believes the company, with assets of \$8.2 billion and 1983 revenues of \$2.93 billion, has "a financial timing problem."

His proposal, which was agreed to by creditors with only minor changes, gives Dome the flexibility to stretch out debt repayments to more closely match its cash flow. The plan also frees adequate funds for reinvestment.

For its part, Dome agreed to sell off non-essential assets and to reduce costs.

"We're now taking the company back to basics — the oil and gas business — and getting rid of all the fringe stuff," Macdonald said.

Dome, founded in 1950, began acquiring other oil and gas concerns, pipelines, mining interests and a shipbuilding company in rapid succession in the 1970s.

The merger mania ended with Dome's takeover of Hudson's Bay Oil and Gas in September 1982 which overextended the company and pushed debt as high as \$8 billion in face of weak world oil demand

and declining prices.

Macdonald blames Dome's runaway growth on "the assumption of prices would go ever higher."

Today Dome, Canada's second largest land owner, is focusing on domestic oil and gas exploration and development, heavy oil production, transportation and marketing of natural gas liquids, and contract drilling in the Beaufort Sea.

Dome has sold off its U.S. oil and gas holdings and is in the process of selling its interests in Sovereign Oil & Gas, mining ventures and its shipbuilding subsidiary.

"We have tightened the management considerably, reduced overhead and changed the board of directors quite a bit," Macdonald said.

Dome narrowed its losses in the second quarter of 1984 to \$61.6 million from \$86 million a year earlier on higher revenues.

"Dome's progress so far has not been unreasonable," Macdonald said with a twinkle. "But we've still got a fair bit to go."



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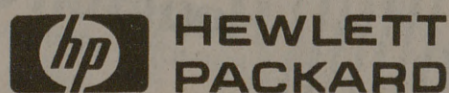
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