

# 'WELCOME TO THE MORGUE'

"Welcome to the morgue", she said as she walked in.

For those who have known Lister House NDSN in earlier days, her description is apt.

Halls and classrooms that once echoed with constant hubbub of voices and footsteps are now deathly silent. Tutors' offices lay bare; chairs and tables are stacked in dark corners of empty rooms.

It is as if the very building has died.

Mary says one student returned to visit the school several weeks ago, but could not bring himself to walk through the empty rooms. Those who have been often upset by the experience.

## POSITIVE

Yet, typically, amid the sorrow and traumatic closure, the remaining Lister House staff can be positive.

"It's been a really great place to work, and the students achieve such good results," says Andrews, assistant dean of the school.

"I think you'll find we've had one of the lowest retention rates, and one of the highest pass rates in the state."

Ray has been at the school for 14 years, and is particularly enthusiastic about the renovation and improvements that have taken place during his time there.

These included the construction of a new hall within the building.

For Mary, the highlight of her years at Lister House has been the student contact.

"What I will miss most are the PTS (Parent Training School) students," she said.

"Every six months we would get a group of people with such high hopes and expectations. They were bright and fresh, full of enthusiasm and.....uncontaminated.

"Later they would return to sit their final examinations with so much experience.

"You grow up quickly when you are just coming face to face with death," she said.