

TORONTO

clarion

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Vol. III No. 20

October 3—October 16

Metro's independent newspaper for social change

Tenants face eviction



Gerry Dunn

The Quick Fox warms up to jump all over lazy landlords. City Hall's Bill Tracey is backing protests about rats, glue-sniffing and garbage on two Parkdale properties.

Parkdale protests rats, glue

By Paul Weinberg

Robert Liani's name is going to be mud in South Parkdale. Angry neighbours have had it with his two empty and neglected houses at 21 Elm Grove and 28 Gwynne.

They are putting up large signs on the front lawns of these houses urging residents to phone Liani, City Hall and Liani's various mortgage holders. "One of Liani's mortgage holders is Royal Trust," says Bill Tracey, the city's newly hired "quick fox" who is aiding the neighbours' protest.

Tracey helps South Parkdale residents deal with growing violations to city bylaws when the City Hall complaint process becomes too slow for comfort. He chaired a Sept. 24 meeting of Elm Grove and Gwynne residents, called by Ward Two alderperson Barbara Adams to discuss what neighbours could do about Liani's neglected houses.

Liani himself was invited to the meeting,

but he ducked out at the last minute, saying he had to visit a sick brother in the United States. City inspectors have visited Liani's premises several times at neighbours' request, but the violations continue. Neighbours complained at the meeting about rodents, uncollected garbage, lack of boarding on the houses and young people sniffing glue on the property.

"The landlord has got away with murder," Alderperson Adams told the neighbours. "The way the traditional system works, you might call health or building inspectors, but it takes so long before anything will be fixed."

Delinquent property owners will eventually be fined for their violations. However, while the city will add the fine to the owner's tax bill, it may wait three years before acting to collect unpaid tax bills.

Liani has not paid his last tax bill, and

Tracey told the neighbours he suspects he may have let his expenses and mortgages go over his head. Liani also owns a few bachelorettes. He owes the city \$70,000.

When a property owner fails to pay his tax bill, the city will add one and a quarter per cent interest for each month the violation continues. In the third year, the matter is taken up with the bailiff. Twenty per cent rate of interest is then added.

"If the owner still fails to pay up," says Tracey, "the city will try to recover its revenue by seizing and selling the property in question in a tax sale."

In the meantime, adds Tracey, as the bylaw violations pile up, the city is in effect "bankrolling the property owner as he continues to break the bylaws." Trying to convince the residents at the meeting to take more direct action to solve the problem was not easy for either Tracey or Adams.

See PARKDALE page 2

Government may bankrupt co-ops

A proposed meeting between Metro Toronto representatives, Ontario Premier Bill Davis and provincial Housing Minister Claude Bennett may be the only way to prevent a disaster for thousands of residents of Metro housing co-operatives.

The meeting was called by the Metro Social Services and Housing Committee following a Sept. 27 appeal by representatives of eleven co-operatives and City of Toronto officials.

"Eleven co-operatives, four in the new St. Lawrence neighbourhood, will go bankrupt if Metro and the province do not complete negotiations soon on the subsidy agreement affecting non-profit housing co-operatives," Noreen Dunphy of the Co-operative Housing Federation of Toronto told the committee.

The subsidy agreement involves a rent reduction grant, which comes solely from the provincial treasury, and rent supplement payments, which come from the federal, provincial, and Metro governments.

Housing co-operatives use the rent reduction grant to repay their mortgage to Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, keeping monthly housing charges down for residents.

Rent supplement payments enable housing co-operatives to offer needy people lower monthly housing charges.

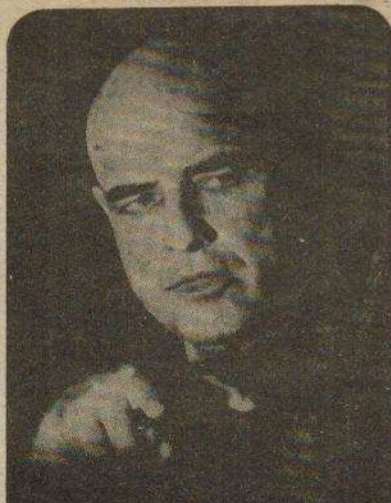
"Without an agreement, the co-ops will be \$2,000 to \$15,000 short of making the monthly mortgage payment," Dunphy

said. The result will be mortgage arrears. Co-ops will be forced to consider "asking people on rent supplement to leave, or covering the missing provincial money by increasing their rent by \$200 to \$300 a month."

Dunphy urged the Metro committee to "at least make sure the flow of funds is not interrupted."

Negotiations concerning the funding have centred around a dispute between the province and Metro over the cost-sharing formula. The province has threatened to cut off its share of the funding if the Metro

see PROVINCE page 2



A Vietnamese-Canadian looks at Coppola's *Apocalypse Now*. He can "almost smell the napalm" but finds the symbolism lacking.

See page 6



The Political Rights Working Group kicks off a series of articles on the attack on our few basic civil rights.

See page 10

Cindy Fortunata



Caught in the facts. Ontario's Consumer and Commercial Relations Minister Frank Drea saw a political ploy backfire the other day when he was handed a \$60 million lawsuit.

Earlier this year, he announced he was going to investigate the entire auto transmission repair industry. It would be good, of course, to eliminate abuses, but Drea, seeking headlines, sprayed everyone in the business. Cottman Transmissions was miffed enough to take legal action.

Mackenzie-Papineau meets Baader-Meinhof. There's another Tory minister who may come to wish he'd kept his mouth shut after an incident which has sent the quality of politics in this country to a new low.

A number of groups who are trying to get Ontario government assistance to help more political refugees from Chile settle here, succeeded in persuading a certain prominent Jewish citizen to speak on their behalf.

The Tory minister granted this gentleman an audience, but not for long. "Why should we help them," he said, on the subject of Chilean refugees. "We all know they belong to the PLO."

This bit of nonsense can't be excused as ignorance even for a Tory.

As a crass attempt to mute the concern of the Jewish community for Chilean refugees, this remark is the vilest form of political opportunism.

Clarion hit by free enterprise. One of the *Clarion's* green and white street boxes is being put to an unexpected use. A street kid is helping himself to bundles of copies and pocketing the money from sales to passers-by. His spunk is admirable, but we wish he would be a little more honest about it. We would not have discovered why our papers were disappearing from the box without returns were it not for a customer of his who phoned to say that the tyke was also charging two cents sales tax on top of the copy price.

We wish the kid would come in to talk to us about newsvending to mutual benefit. Of course, he can keep the tax.

Goin' round the bend. The revolving restaurant atop the CN tower has a charm all its own. It may not turn fast but you have to be quick when you get your bill or you'll stay up there — washing dishes.

The other day, a small party went up the Tower for a dinner to celebrate the birthday of a young son. It was a modest meal for five people. They took quite a turn, however, when the bill was presented for \$130.00.

The waiter had inadvertently charged them for all the drinks consumed at another table because, of course, the tables move around a lot, while the inner serving section remains steady (except in a high wind). And their table was where the other table used to be, or was it over here, or there . . .

What's in a name. Judge Philip Givens and other members of the police commission, and the police force, have shown in recent months an extraordinary insensitivity to cultural differences. They seem surprised and upset that certain minority groups have the nerve to get angry over incidents of racist behaviour by the police: incidents that increasingly seem to end in death or wounding.

Now, Canadian society has always had racist elements. Givens should know. He was born with the name Philip Givertz, later changing it to sound less Jewish. Does he now think that racism against visible minorities can be 'solved' as easily? Maybe he feels that if blacks and asians just painted themselves white, we'd all love one another.

But press releases are still free. This issue, our editorial demands a decent statute for disclosure of public information. It's hard not to be pessimistic. Ottawa is making what useful information they do let out more inaccessible.

On October 1, the prices of most publications of Statistics Canada went up to an average of five times the old prices. The weekly bulletin, *Informat*, which brings these tidings, goes from gratis to \$60.00 a year.

The person responsible is Sinclair Stevens, President of the Treasury Board. "Statistics-Canada," says Sinc, "is a source of valuable information on the structure and functioning of our society but there may have been a tendency in the past to take their publications for granted because they were vastly underpriced."

Shame on us for thinking that a necessary government service should be freely available to all!

One thing is certain. If Sinclair's reasoning is correct, then there is no danger whatever that we'll take federal politicians for granted.

Province squeezes housing co-ops

From page 1

government does not agree to continue to contribute 7 1/2 per cent of the rent supplement money.

Legally, the province can cancel the subsidy program with the Metro government as of December 31, 1979, if Metro does not agree to terms wanted by the province.

"Co-operative housing is caught in a squeeze play," Dunphy told the Metro Social Services and Housing Committee.

Verna van Sickle, speaking on behalf of the David B. Archer Co-operative, said the disappearance of subsidies would be "a disaster". "In some cases the monthly-housing charge increases for rent supple-

ment people would be more money than they make each month," van Sickle said. "Our co-op would definitely go bankrupt."

"The whole thing is the province's attempt to get the city and Metro into a confrontation over non-profit housing," Metro Chairperson Paul Godfrey replied.

Godfrey said that in general the province wanted to lock municipal governments into laws which would restrict their fiscal flexibility. He said he agreed that co-operative housing residents should not be forced to suffer from the inter-governmental situation, but added, "We're not going to be bulldozed by the province into an agreement."

"If we suddenly fold our tent on this issue, the province will take advantage of us in all areas," Godfrey said.

As part of the motion for a meeting, the committee invited Dunphy to join them in talks with the premier and housing minister.

Mayor John Sewell attended the committee meeting as a supporter of the co-operatives. "We've got to have good, strong housing co-ops in Toronto," the mayor said. "The matter being raised is of great importance and we are extremely worried."

Sewell also said, "We don't favour the option of the city paying the missing money, but we realize that we have to push the matter very quickly because the stakes are pretty high."

In addition to the eleven housing co-operatives affected by the subsidy program negotiations, there are five City of Toronto projects and three private projects involved.

The City projects are Crombie Park, Trefann Park, Campbell-Antler, 111 Stephenson, and Winchester Square-phase one, which include 700 to 800 units altogether.

The housing co-operatives affected include: Fred Dowling, Cathedral Court, Dentonia Park, Woodsworth, Harmony House, Arauco, Riverdale, David B. Archer, West Humber and Main Gerrard.

All of the co-ops have written

letters to Metro and the province, describing the problems they face because of the lack of success in the inter-governmental negotiations.

"If the province and Metro do not reach agreement by December 31, it is imperative that Metro be prepared to renew the subsidy agreement until such times as a settlement is reached," says Woodsworth president Arthur Hooker in his letter to the Social Services Committee.

Parkdale protests

From page 1

When Adams suggested the neighbours put the abandoned garbage on Liani's front lawn in High Park, some of the residents objected.

"Why do we have to go against a city's bylaw when it cannot enforce its own laws?" said Gus Debernitz of Elm

Grove Ave. "The absentee landlord is responsible for his property."

There was disagreement among a few people about dumping garbage but the neighbours decided to coordinate their protest. If a violation of a city bylaw is observed the neighbours will coordinate phoning a particular city hall department or if necessary the police and fire department.

"What we have to do," said John Friesen, an active South Parkdale resident, "is literally harass Liani. Force the city to inspect his place with a fine tooth comb."

"Put a big sign on his lawn, telling residents this property owner is a blight on the neighbourhood. Tell his phone number. Say he drives a blue Chrysler."

Adams promised the residents to call the heads of all city hall departments to set up a meeting with a delegation of people from Elm Grove and Gwynne Aves.

Robert Liani better be careful. Next time, the neighbours may meet on the front lawn of his High Park home.

Humanist in Canada

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In Memory of Joe Hill

Wobbly organizer and revolutionary syndicalist

Born: Oct. 7, 1879
Murdered: Nov. 19, 1915

*"The copper bosses shot you Joe
They shot you Joe", says I.
Takes more than guns to kill a man.
Says Joe, "I didn't die...."*

Don't Mourn; Organize!

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High rent hikes hit non-profit city homes

By Paul Weinberg

The touchy issue of rent increases as high as 33 per cent is on the agenda of a meeting between city non-profit housing officials and tenants on October 10 at City Hall. Non-profit housing tenants are not covered by provincial rent controls.

For city tenant and community activist Kay Parsons, the issue is the future of city non-profit housing and its 7,000 tenants in Toronto.

"People on moderate incomes in my project at Dundas and Beverley streets are talking about looking for different accommodation if the rent increases are implemented," she says.

Parsons and her daughter are faced with a 27 per cent rent increase for their \$303 two-bedroom apartment. Next year it could go up to \$385.

"I fought very hard to get non-profit housing into my area," says Parsons sadly. "But it could become the home for the rich and the very poor, who are on rent subsidy from the province."



Rents for a five-bedroom apartment at Dundas-Beverley will go from \$430 in 1979 to \$572 in 1980, if the increases go through. For a three-bedroom, rents would go from \$359 to \$450.

What particularly rankles Parsons is the refusal of the city board of directors — made up of Mayor Sewell and various aldermen — to allow tenants on September 26 to hear city housing staff explain their recommendations for rent increases.

"When I heard from a staff official that the first part of the meeting was to be 'in conference'," says Parsons, "I said, 'that's bullshit — that's my rent they're talking about.'"

When asked about the complaints by city tenants that they are not always consulted, city housing spokesperson Richard Griffiths said, "There is a limit to how much information we can give. We would end up spending almost all our time doing that."

Griffiths also says the new rent levels for Dundas-Beverley are still comparable to a "low market rent" in that project's neighbourhood.

City non-profit housing staff will urge the city non-profit housing board, chaired by Mayor John Sewell, to accept the recommended rent increases.

City housing commissioner Barry Rose says the increases will cover the non-profit corporation's total operating costs. He expects the corporation to have a deficit of \$30,000 for 1979 and the projected total



Lila Imeish, a counsellor with Employment Services for Immigrant Women (ESIW) works with a client.

ESIW met with Minister of Manpower and Immigration Ron Atkey Sept. 29 to discuss future funding. "Ron Atkey will get better value for his dollar if he shops here," says ESIW spokesperson Judith Ramirez.

ESIW received interim funding until March 1980 to continue counselling immigrant women in their own languages.

revenue next year to be \$12 million.

Financially stronger projects will in part help weaker projects such as the new location in South St. Jamestown, which includes flophouse units, says

Rose. The new project has a deficit of \$70,000.

Parsons objects to city housing's current policy of one overall budget to cover all the different projects and their 2,800 units scattered across the city.

This is a clear change, she says, from the policy enunciated by the city's first housing commissioner Michael Dennis when city non-profit housing got started in the early 1970s.

Richard Griffiths says the housing corporation set up a working capital fund to cushion projects that are not doing as well financially.

"We will not take all the surplus from each project. Any funds more than one-and-a-half per cent over a project's budget will go into the working capital fund."

Central control of finances by city housing has led to some waste and inefficiency, says Parsons. "I know, looking at the cost breakdown city housing gave our project of 100 units for 1980, there are some good examples — such as money set aside to hire more site staff than we need."

What frustrates tenants like Parsons is that non-profit housing was supposed to be different from the private housing market. The rents were supposed to be low and there was to be more participation by tenants.

City tenants see the city housing department as a centralized bureaucracy out of touch with the problems of the individual projects. In contrast, co-op housing projects — Bain Avenue Apartments east of Broad-view, for example — allow residents complete responsibility for their budgeting and management.

Several years ago, Bain Avenue residents obtained from the city complete ownership of their premises, notes Alexandra Wilson, a former Bain co-ordinator, who now works for the Co-operative Housing Federation of Toronto.

"I feel sorry for the city non-profit housing tenants," says Wilson, "because legally, except for political pressure, the city can make all the decisions."

News Update

No nuke notes

Opponents of nuclear power will be demonstrating their concerns at several upcoming events.

In Toronto, a candlelight vigil will begin on Wednesday, October 10, with a rally at the Ontario Hydro Building at 700 University Avenue, followed by a candlelight march to Queen's Park. Participants are asked to bring their own candles.

The following day, October 11, an anti-nuclear demonstration will mark the opening of the legislature at Queen's Park. It is scheduled to begin at noon and continue to 2 p.m.

A demonstration will also be held in Ottawa October 13 to urge the federal government to stop overseas sales of nuclear reactors and uranium.

Some of the speakers at the Ottawa demonstration are Sister Rosalie Bertelle, a nuclear researcher in low level radiation, Jean Dirkson of CUPE, Ken Whitely of the No CANDU for Argentina group, and Enrique Davale speaking on the Westinghouse reactor in the Phillipines.

Theatre, films and workshops will also be featured, as well as a 30-voice choir called Miners of the Deep. Daycare is provided.

Overnight accommodation in Ottawa is available. The buses leave Toronto on Saturday at 6 a.m. from 121 Avenue Road. They return to Toronto Sunday afternoon.

For more information, or to buy a ticket, call Energy Probe at 978-7014.

Not so handy Tandy



Turns Me Off!

The boycott of Radio Shack continues, with testimony at a recent Labour Relations Board hearing that shows just how far the company is prepared to go to prevent a union at the company's operation in Barrie.

A former Radio Shack security officer testified at a September 27 labour board hearing that the company hired former police informers to infiltrate the union and report on its activities. He also said the company hired a security firm to secretly photograph employees who attended union meetings.

As well, the security officer said Radio Shack's security chief told him that he had instructions from the firm's Fort Worth headquarters to get rid of the union — "even if it costs \$1 million."

The United Steelworkers of America, which represents 200 striking workers at Tandy Electronics Ltd., Radio Shack's operation in Barrie, complained to the labour board that the company has refused to bargain in good faith.

The union is asking people not to shop at Radio Shack until the Barrie workers have a contract. The Steelworkers also request people to tell their local Radio Shack outlets that a boycott is in effect.

Lead levels

A new liaison committee has been set up to look into the situation of lead levels in the community around the Canada Metal plant at 721 Eastern Avenue.

The committee, which will have representatives from the provincial environment ministry, the Board of Health, the community and Canada Metal, will hold its first meeting October 18.

Cathy Walther, one of two community residents on the committee, said people in the neighbourhood are upset about high lead levels. She said the committee will establish whether people should be upset or not, and if the levels are higher than they should be will attempt to change the situation.

The newly organized committee is the first such committee in the area in three years.

Old folks at home

Victory has come one step closer for the Beech-Hall senior citizens fighting eviction by the Borough of York.

A Sept. 24 telegram from the office of federal Regional and Economic Expansion Minister Elmer MacKay to Neill-Wycik Co-op said Ottawa had told York not to demolish the Beech-Hall buildings. Ottawa favours their transfer to "a co-operative or non-profit organization."

The telegram said the mayor had been told in a letter that "CMHC would consider the demolition of the project a breach of the operating agreement."

Neill-Wycik co-ordinator Bob Luker called the announcement "another small but great victory for the co-op movement and human decency."

"It was Glen Specht and Mike Audet of Neill-Wycik who sent delegations to the Borough of York," he said. "But it was the Co-op Housing Federation that was able to respond to things like the plight of Beech Hall seniors."

As we see it

Freedom of information

Ever since the Tories got elected, Joke Clark has been stumbling, sidestepping, and backtracking on various election promises.

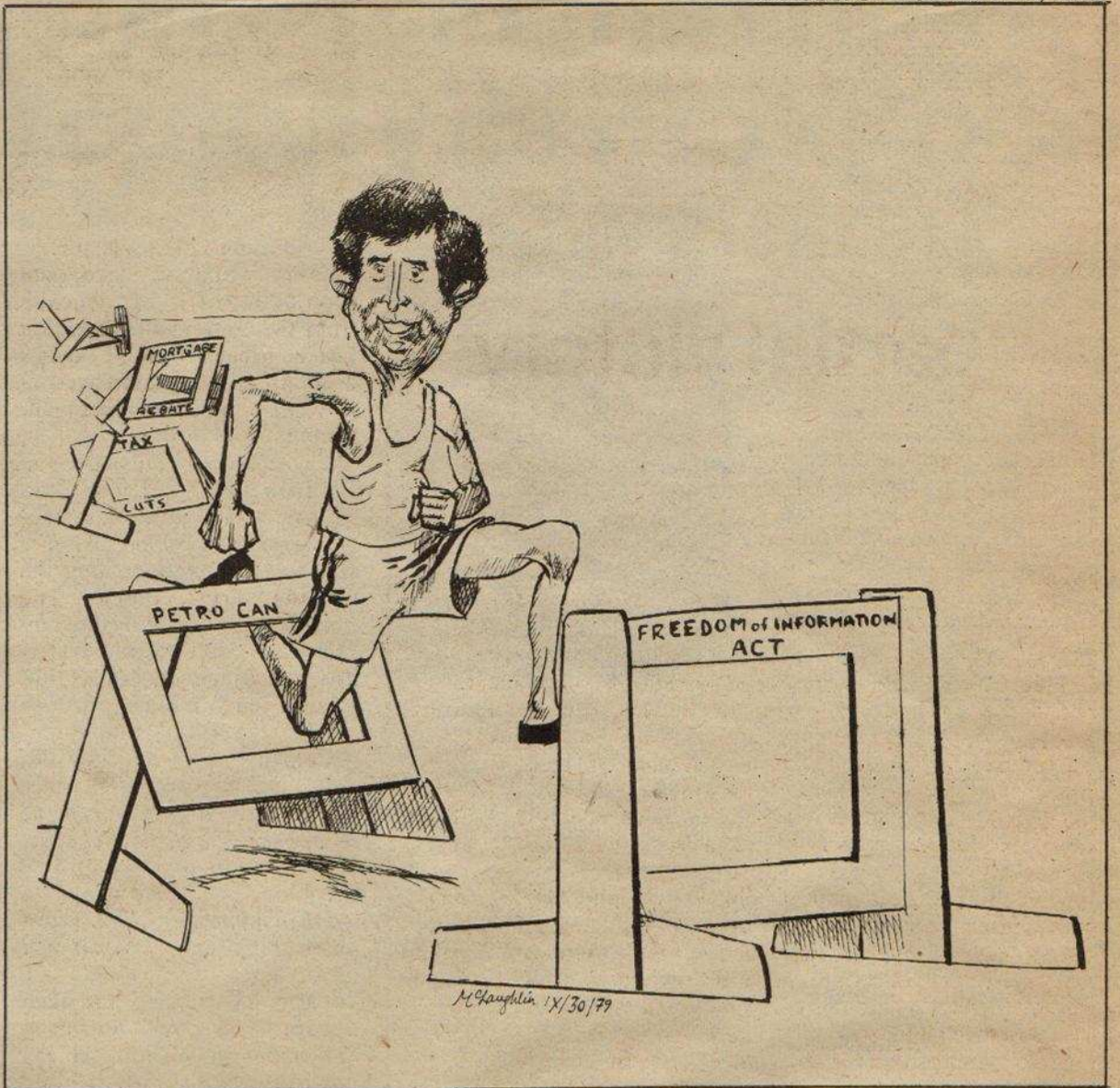
We are mostly relieved. We don't want Petrocan (or anything else, except maybe the Senate) thrown to big business. We don't see any point in moving our embassy in Israel to Jerusalem. But there is one pledge we do hope will be implemented.

Canada needs a tough, meaningful "freedom of information" act. And when they were in opposition, the Tories were loud in their demands for freer access to government information. But we're still waiting. It looks as if the Tory policy was more a way of grandstanding and attacking the civil service than an attempt to be "progressive" conservatives.

We need legislation clearly stating:

- that all government information will normally be accessible to the public except for personal data — and that must be available to the person concerned;
- that the government may withhold information only after convincing a judicial board that release of information would harm the public interest;
- that there be an appeal procedure and legal means of enforcing the judicial board's decisions.

Anything less — a law like the Liberals' Privacy Act, with its wholesale exemptions of files from public access because of "national security" — will be yet another sign that the Tories' populist rhetoric is just a cover for a party dedicated to business as usual.



The Clarion:

What's happening with us

Things are jumping around the *Clarion* these days, with all kinds of activities and events planned for the near future.

It's starting to look like home in our new offices, thanks to the chairs and couches and other things that readers and friends have generously given us. Many thanks.

We're expanding on other fronts as well. Soon, 15 more tastefully painted green *Clarion* boxes will be going out on the streets, offering more convenient locations for you to buy the paper. If you have time to help us paint and silkscreen the boxes, just give us a call.

Recently, city council gave us a break to help us keep the boxes on the street. The city has a little-known by-law that charges \$5 a year for each newspaper box on city property — a tax that large, commercial papers can easily afford, but one that is a large sum of money for a newspaper like the *Clarion*. We asked council for a \$200 grant to offset this tax. After several votes and a throng of committee meetings council agreed to give us the money — despite Ward 6 Alderman Alan Sparrow who was one of those who voted against giving us the money.

For those of you who'd like to get your *Clarion* delivered to your door every two weeks, we're offering a deal on new subscriptions (and renewals on existing subscriptions). Turn to page 12 for the details. We're trying to meet a goal of 250 new subscriptions by the end of the year.

★★★★★

Because we like to have fun as well as put out Toronto's only independent newspaper for social change, we're organizing a couple of fun events. We also hope they'll help pay some of the bills from our recent expansion.

So, mark these dates on your calendar.

Thursday, October 18 is *Clarion* film night at the Titania Theatre with two classics: *The Harder They Come* and *State of Siege*. Only \$3 for the double bill. Be there at 7:30 p.m. The Titania is at 147 Danforth Avenue, near the Broadview subway station.

Thursday, November 15 is *Clarion* benefit boogie night at the Maple Leaf Ballroom. (Yes, some of us are closet nationalists) Watch the paper for details and get ready to reserve your

tickets. \$5 will get you a good time, with all the dancing you can handle.

★★★★★

We are still, as always, looking for people to help us in our coverage. Our labour workshop is humming along, with a special feature on occupational health and safety coming up soon. But we can always benefit from new people with new ideas.

We're also trying to improve our coverage of community events and struggles. If you have ideas and are interested in helping, please give us a call. If you don't want to write, you don't have to: We need ideas and contacts as much as we need writers.

And if neither of those workshops are up your alley, we're also trying to pull together a workshop on women's issues. If you've noticed that our coverage of women's organizations and the issues they deal with has been weak, then help us improve it.

If you're interested in any of these workshops, call Sue at 363-4404. She can tell you when the workshops meet.

Bulk subscriptions for union locals

Do you belong to a union? Does it have an office where people meet? Do you think it should subscribe to the *Clarion* so people who visit the office could read the paper.

If the answer is yes, we'd like to help make it easier. The *Clarion* is offering a bulk rate discount to union locals which would like to have the *Clarion* on hand.

We think union members will benefit. Our labour coverage has been increasing, and improving. And we offer occasional features on labour issues which aren't covered thoroughly in other newspapers — for example, our spread on overtime, and an upcoming one on health and safety.

Because we want people in the union movement to read what we're writing, we're offering a special discount to union locals which order subscriptions of 10, 25, or 50 copies of each issue of the *Clarion*.

You can help us by speaking to people in your union local and telling them we'd like to make them an offer. We'll come to a meeting of the union local, and outline what bulk-rate subscriptions will cost and answer any questions people may have about us.

If you think people in your union will be interested, please call and tell us. Call Sue, Mark or Judy at 363-4404.

LETTERS

Racism

demonstration

To the *Clarion*,

I am writing on behalf of the Action Committee Against Racism. It's a representative of all of Toronto's Sikh Societies and other major anti-racist groups. We have joined together to voice our concern to what we regard as an increase in police harassment and violence towards the community. The recent death of Albert Johnson is a striking example of police attitude towards immigrants.

We are organizing a public demonstration on Oct. 14, 2 p.m. at City Hall, Toronto. We would like your support and messages of solidarity mailed to the Action Committee Against Racism, 269 Pape Avenue.

Kuldip Samra
Toronto

TORONTO clarion

The *Toronto Clarion* is owned and published by the Western Gap Communications Co-operative Limited, a non-profit co-operative. Individual mail subscriptions are \$12 a year.

Display and classified advertising are available on request. We reserve the right to refuse ad material we feel is racist, sexist or otherwise unpalatable.

Letters to the collective are welcomed but they must be signed for verification; names withheld on request.

The *Clarion* also operates a dynamite typesetting and graphics service.

The staff members are: John Biggs, Marilyn Burnett, Marty Crowder, Gerry Dunn, Mark Golden, Lolly Kaiser, Marianne Langton, Sally McBeth, Bob McGowan, Barbara MacKay, Tom McLaughlin, Alan Meisner, Anne Mills, Marg Anne Morrison, Rosalind Place, Elinor Powicke, Terry Regan, Norman Rogers, Peter Rowe, Carl Stieren, Wayne Sumner, Sue Vohanka, Bob Warren, Paul Weinberg, Abie Weisfeld, Ted Whittaker and Ken Wyman.

The following also contributed to this issue: Karen Brown, Brian Burke, Marg Bacon, Roman Smilka, Linda Kopochinski, Oscar Rogers, Richard Dahonick and Al MacMillan.

73 Bathurst St., Toronto M5V 2P6

363-4404

Labour notes

Trekkers won partial victory

The Depression of the Thirties hit Canadian workers hard. In November, 1932, 850,000 were on "relief". By February, 1935, the number had risen to 1,230,000. "Relief" was slight, \$10.00 a month plus 100 lbs. of flour for a family of five in Saskatchewan.

But workers hit back. Union organizing was strong. There were struggles and protests in all sectors, including the unemployed, supported by the communist-affiliated Workers Unity League, which fought evictions and struggled for more relief.

The Tory federal government, led by R.B. Bennett, went to work. It revised the Criminal Code and then set up "work relief camps" (labour camps) in desolate parts of the country, in 1932. Those who went to the camps were to earn \$1.20 per working day. Twenty cents of this was paid in cash, and the cost of food and lodging was to be taken back at a rate of \$1.00 per day! Tobacco allowance was 10 cents per week.

Vancouver became a focal point of struggle. The Workers' Unity League supported the growth of the Single Men's Unemployed Association and the Married Men's Association. But mass meetings and protests were broken up by attacks of the R.C.M.P., provincial police and mounted city police swinging lead-weighted clubs.

Strikes and protests in the camps grew. In December, 1934, there was a two-week strike in several camps. In April, 1935, all of the camps were on strike. Four thousand men travelled to Vancouver by freight. They demanded an end to the slave camps, wages of 50 cents an hour, the right to negotiate with the federal government, and abolition of military control.

In Vancouver, they set up a tight organization with three divisions of 500-600 men in each. They aided others in their struggles for relief, went into stores to talk to shoppers, took over museums, etc. But they knew the answer lay in Ottawa, not Vancouver.

On to Ottawa

Out of this background came the "On to Ottawa Trek", the most famous workers' protest of the "Dirty Thirties". The trek began on June 3. Men had already gone ahead to win promises of food accommodation and to get good publicity. Their aim was to protest conditions in the camps and to get government action for job creation. Stops of one or two days were made along the way. Local citizen committees were organized to take care of food, donation of clothing or tobacco, tag days, etc. Newcomers were incorporated.

On June 12, the RCMP got their orders that the trek must be stopped at Regina. Two thousand men arrived in Regina on June 14. On June 22, Arthur Evans led a delegation of the trekkers to meet with Prime Minister Bennett and his cabinet in Ottawa. Bennett called Evans a thief, Evans replied by calling Bennett a liar. There was no discussion of the trekkers' demands. So it was back to Regina, which was surrounded by military forces.

Mounties fight marchers

The trek leaders spoke to a mass meeting in Market Square. The RCMP and city police swung into action. A riot developed, with fighting lasting three hours. It left one dead and several hundred injured. Eight trek leaders and seventy-six others were arrested.

However, it was not over yet. The Saskatchewan government protested the action of the federal government and appointed a Commission of Inquiry. The commission put the entire blame for the riot on the Communist Party and upheld the action of the federal government, despite the fact that the provincial government was considering proposals from the trekkers that they would return home at the time the police had struck!

The trek was over. Most went home to Vancouver. Many returned to the work camps, once again under provincial control. The men got forty cents an hour, a partial victory, but the work was limited.

Tories turfed out

Later that year, the Conservatives, under R.B. Bennett, were thrown out of office. It would be 22 years before they would get in again. The trek was over, but not the struggle.

Even more significant was the effect on the box-car men who trekked from Vancouver to Regina. They knew what Bennett's twenty cents a day slave camps had offered and many went on with their struggle. Many were involved in later union and political organization. Some of them were found in the "International Brigades" in the Spanish Civil War, in 1937, and they returned to be welcomed by 10,000 people at Union Station in Toronto.

It's well worth our time today to study the "On to Ottawa Trek" and the Regina Riot.

Co-op may withdraw \$\$\$\$ in Cimpello fight

A housing co-op has threatened to withdraw more than \$150,000 worth of deposits from the Ontario Credit Union League because of the League's dealings with a controversial privately-owned development company.

The 260-unit Bain Co-op at 100 Bain Ave. voted at its Sept. 18 membership meeting to support Grange Area Co-op Homes Inc. in its attempt to buy the Canada Trust Block. The Grange Area Co-op is made up of tenants in the block, which is bounded by Beverley, McCaul, Phoebe and Sullivan streets.

Cimpello Charitable Foundation, a group set up by Del Zotto Enterprises in cooperation with members of the Ontario Credit Union League, is also trying to get control of the block. Cimpello plans to manage its proposed non-profit units itself, without significant tenant input.

"The membership (of Bain Co-op) voted to send a letter to the Ontario Credit Union League saying they should immediately sever all con-

nections with Cimpello", says Peter Tabuns, financial manager.

"If they won't, then we are going to reconsider our policy of investing our funds with the League."

Del Zotto faces opposition from numerous other co-ops over the Canada Trust Block dispute.



Paul Meehan

Del Zotto delayed

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) has delayed approval to fund a proposed non-profit housing project by Cimpello Charitable Foundation in Oshawa.

Cimpello's proposal involves the first application by a non-profit corporation backed by a private developer. Co-op Housing Federation activists are worried that the developer, Del Zotto Enterprises, could be using a federal non-profit housing scheme to make a profit. Del Zotto, primarily a construction company, would build Cimpello's units and manage the

property.

CMHC has told Cimpello it would prefer the foundation use existing buildings that the federal corporation has in Oshawa.

These are housing units previously funded by the federal Assisted Home Ownership Program.

"There is a difference of opinion," says Ontario Credit Union League loans officer Paul Meehan, who also sits on the Cimpello board. "They feel it would be more economical to use the existing buildings rather than let us build new structures."

Union charges elitism

YWCA faces strike

By Marg Anne Morrison

Local 2189 of the Canadian Union of Public Employees is currently involved in negotiations with the YWCA of Metropolitan Toronto over wages and their method of distribution. There may be a strike if no settlement is reached soon.

CUPE Local 2189 is asking for the same percentage increase for all levels of their members, from clerical, housekeeping, and maintenance to the higher levels of programme workers and directors.

However, YWCA management has offered a seven per cent increase for the lower levels, approximately \$500 per year, and a 13 per cent increase for the higher levels — \$2,200 per year.

According to Barbara Peltz, President of Local 2189, "The YWCA has offered more money than we had originally asked for, but their method of distributing it is inequitable. They just don't want to pay the

lower level workers any more money."

The matter went to conciliation in September. However, no conciliator's report was filed, since the conciliator was unable to find a settlement.

Local 2189 then agreed to compromise. They had originally requested an increase to bring all the salaries up to the same level — they are now willing to settle for the same percentage increase across the board.

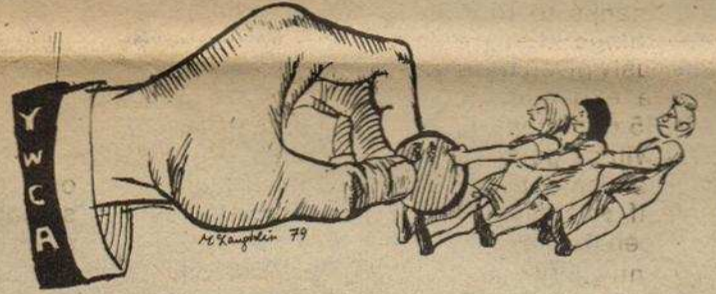
Isla Peters, who is on the Local 2189 negotiating team, feels that they will be bargaining right up to the last minute. "They just aren't prepared to

move," said Peters, "it is a kind of elitism; we're having a very difficult time."

The people who stand to gain 13 per cent are angry, according to Peters. "As many people in the higher levels as in the lower levels are very angry. There is a lot of anger around."

Peters says that the YWCA often goes for a long time without clerical help because of the low pay, while there is a glut of social workers around to fill the higher positions.

Local 2189 is in a legal strike position on October 10. "They are asking for trouble," says Peters. "It would be very serious if they were faced with a strike, very serious."



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Apocoppola Now



Captain Willard (played by Martin Sheen) stares in disbelief at the jungle outpost established by Colonel Kurtz (played by Marlon Brando) in Francis Coppola's *Apocalypse Now*. *Clarion* reviewer Nguyễn Văn Tâm calls Coppola's \$35 million blockbuster inconsistent and self-indulgent.

Nguyễn Văn Tâm is a Vietnamese-born Canadian citizen. He left Saigon for North America during the Johnson administration, when the B-52 bombings of South Vietnam were most intense. The *Clarion* talked with him about Francis Coppola's *Apocalypse Now*.

In what way did the movie seem authentic to you?

I felt very homesick during the first quarter of the movie — Coppola's attention to details, which I admired in his previous films, continues to amaze me! The visual and audio information, from the hotel room setting to the village attack, ensures the audience a very realistic environment. I could almost smell the napalm smoke.

What was lacking?

My initial reaction to this so-called Vietnam war epic was: Here goes another big-budget Hollywood western. How typical is the plot! A good guy cowboy risks his life in search for an outlaw whom he successfully "terminates" in the end.

But unlike the Wild West, the Vietnamese conflict, the last American full scale war, remains a complex mystery to the American public, many of whom, hawks or doves, still can't figure out why America did not win. Coppola's much-publicized \$35 million effort, I feel, fell short of enabling us to comprehend the tragedy any better than we could by watching all the CBS News war clippings during the late 60s.

Did you think The Heart of Darkness theme was appropriate to the movie's plot?

I found it quite embarrassing that Coppola based the film's political and moral foundation on a novel about Belgian imperialism in the Congo, set decades earlier. The outcome of that story differs tremendously from the Vietnamese war, to say nothing of the people and cultures involved.

The screenplay is also laced with ripped-off leaves from a brilliant photo journal: *Vietnam Inc.* (Collier, 1971), by Philip Jones Griffiths, a Britisher.

While Griffiths spends a major portion of his book describing the Vietnamese, their culture, their troubled history, their customs, their faith and their daily life, before giving an account of the war in which hearts and minds were fought for, Coppola leaves them faceless.

Borrowing the bit from *The Heart of Darkness* in which Kurtz is born again ("The diamond bullet in my forehead"), Coppola tells us the real truth about this war: The U.S. lost it because she failed to be as ruthless and savage as her enemy.

It's just so untrue and shortsighted. First, it's unbelievable that such vicious atrocity (Kurtz told Willard of a time when the Communists cut off the inoculated arms of children in a rural village, after they had been given polio shots by a U.S. army medical unit) would occur without the Pentagon's knowledge. The U.S. propaganda machine in Saigon would waste no time in trying to make the biggest counter-propaganda coup since My Lai.

This might have happened in the Congo, where the conflict involved numerous primitive

tribes. But the Vietnamese, whose culture and history is just as old as China's, are old hands at the guerilla warfare (against France and Japan, for example). You just can't expect to get food and help from people by maiming their children. The fact is that the National Liberation Front was known to distribute American medicine, obtained through the American P.X. black market, to wounded and sick villagers.

Sure the Vietnamese are capable of being as violent as anybody. But the NLF "terrorism" concentrated mainly on "traitors", such as SVN officials, village chiefs, advisors to the U.S. command, not on hacking off inoculated arms of children. In using this fabricated story Coppola, along with the Pentagon, endorses the old stereotype image of the ruthless Asian communists.

I found his politics naive. Is the U.S. warmachine less savage and ruthless, with its B-52 cluster bombings, total defoliation operations, forced urbanization of rural inhabitants? Didn't he research the Pentagon papers?

What about the increasing symbolism in the second half of the film?

It was nauseating. I felt let down after so much anticipation. I can't help but thinking Brando was indulged in an overpaid acting job. Coppola indulged himself as well. As an American guilt-ridden by the war, he intends also to be separated from the knee-jerk liberals. His effort is so inconsistent that I thought his scene of the Montagnards dropping their weapons for a new White God could only belong in a Johnny Weismuller Tarzan flick.

Although *Apocalypse Now* shows us no John Waynes or



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Audie Murpheys, except for some drugged-out crazies (growing up in Saigon, I knew of both), Coppola has unintentionally made a film which can be compared in part to *The Green Berets*.

Is it worth sitting through?

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White Niggers of Bond Street — St. John's, that is — (left to right) Andy Jones, Mary Walsh, Cathy Jones and Tommy Sexton bring broad Newfoundland comedy to the Horseshoe Tavern; they are presented by Theatre Passe Muraille.

Codco and co

By Jerry McGrath

Newfoundland's most recent export of humour has more than earned the CSA stamp of approval — coming as it did in the Horseshoe Tavern — where the audience brought their boots down hard on opening night, Thursday, Sept. 20.

Codco members, calling themselves Codco's WNOBS shared the stage with Figgy Duff, an equally well-known group of Nfld. musicians. Theatre Passe Muraille sponsored the show and it's to their credit that they housed it amid the noise and vernacular energy of the Queen Street tavern.

Figgy Duff, made up of Pamela Morgan, Noel Dinn, Dave Panting and Geoff Butler, did a balanced mix of sad and gay songs, most of them traditional Nfld. numbers, arranged in an electric, highly-percussive style.

Lead vocalist Pamela Morgan prefaced one number, "Geese in a Bog," with a request to the audience, "Imagine, if you will, a flock of geese in a bog."

That is the kind of typical, robust flirt with lyricism you're likely to hear in Nfld. But, the tin whistle tune that followed could make the wings

of those geese flutter inside you back.

Many of the tragic songs of the Fisherman who Died in His Bed, the long legacy of grief Newfoundlanders have to dwell how they have transformed resignation. Pamela Morgan had the support of comedians in her renditions of these tales. Codco's WNOBS (Andy Jones, Cathy Jones, Tommy Sexton) did not extract humour from it. One vigils wake. Two women, marathon around from one wake to another wakes during the war?" one of indulge in sexual jokes and seriousness while pretending it.

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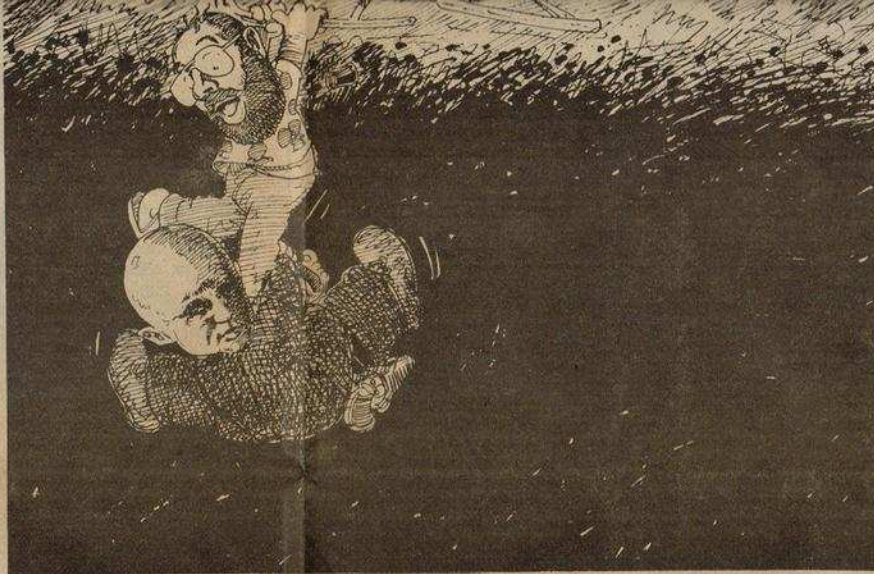
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Why were DEC and Film
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Any good organizer can get
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Codco and company mix mirth, mourning

By Jerry McGrath

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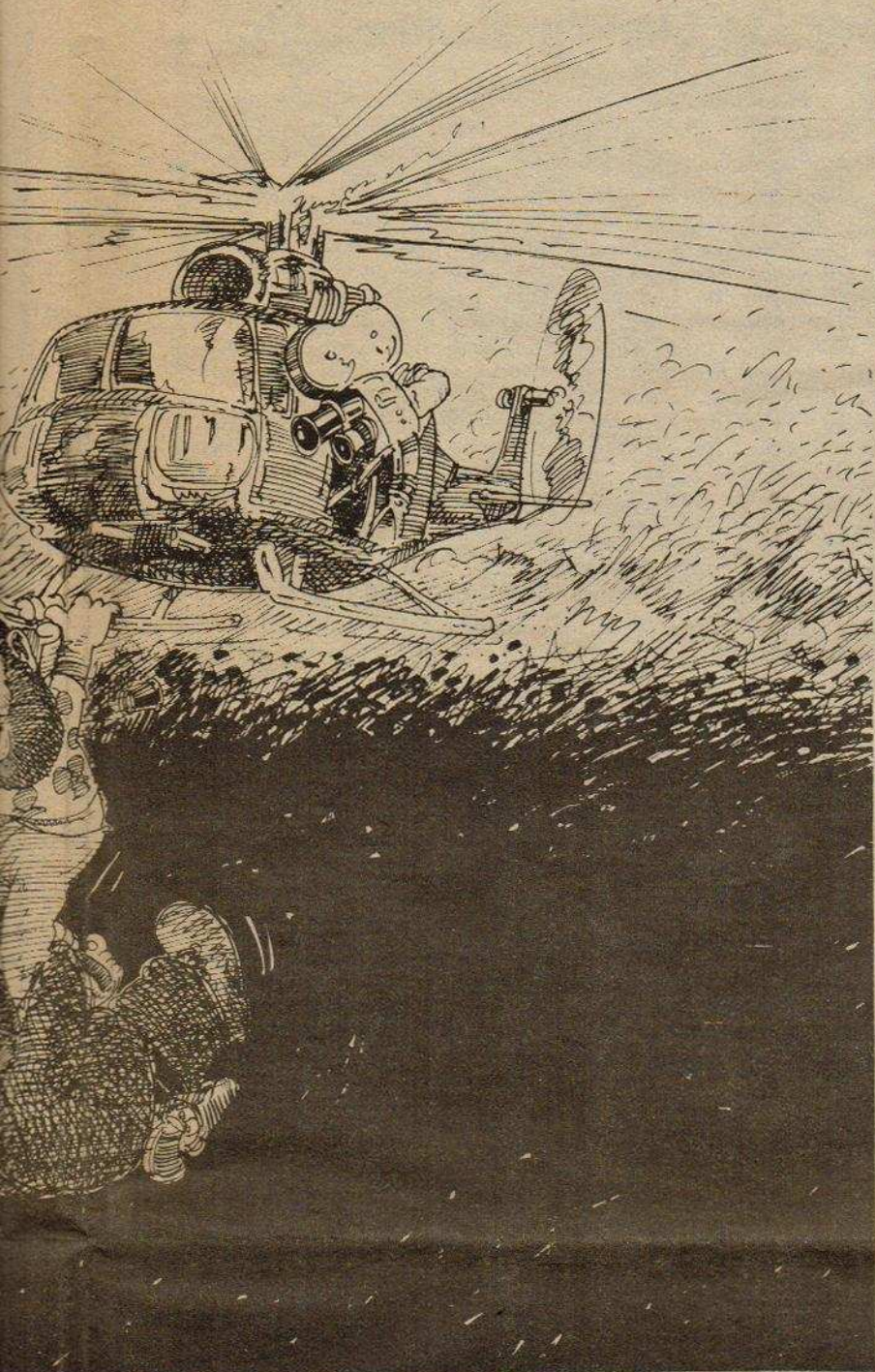
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Film on unionizing: Eaton dissenters

By Carl Stieren

In the 1940's Toronto saw the biggest organizing campaign T. Eaton & Company had ever known — the battle with Local 1000 of the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union, an industrial union of the CIO.

The union narrowly lost the election for certification. Today, Eaton's is still unorganized.

But if the new film *Up from the Bargain Basement* has any effect, the unorganized days may be numbered for Eaton's and other non-union shops in the retail and restaurant trade.

The film, produced by the Film League and the Development Education Centre (DEC) had a quiet premiere Sept. 23 at St. Paul's Centre on Avenue Road. It shows why bank, office and restaurant workers need unions. It is instructive and also entertaining.

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College radio show airplays politics

You have until October 11 to enroll in CJRT's new radio university credit course on city politics.

Urban activist and Ryerson political science professor Jack Layton and Glendon College historian Myer Siemiatycki have organized the program.

"We will be giving both the political theory and the practice behind how cities work, including how power structures and pressure groups influence decision-making," says Layton.

Layton himself has personal experience as a community organizer in the muddy waters of North York politics.

The course, to be called simply "City Politics", includes 48 one-hour broadcasts aired on CJRT(FM) at 91.1. Each broadcast will be heard three different times during the week. The course is part of CJRT's Open College program. The course costs \$110, including ba-

sic texts, course materials and tutoring.

"We have done 70 interviews with developers, community activists and academics," says Layton.

Each broadcast includes an introductory talk, a documentary portion, and a commentary on a particular issue. "We will be doing stuff from Metroplan to city non-profit housing to the history of Canadian cities," Layton notes.

Of course anyone will be able to hear the programs without having to enroll in the course and will be able to purchase a course outline for five dollars.

However, Layton hopes many people, including urban activists and real estate salesmen, will enroll and get the full benefit of the course.

"The Open College concept of a university course on radio is fairly new in Canada," says

Layton, who adds that in Great Britain, the idea is so advanced that it is possible for listeners there to take an entire university degree by radio. Last year's Open College, "Money Politics and Politics", attracted 20,000 listeners.

"Unfortunately we have only 23 applicants so far, which may endanger the future viability of the program," Layton notes.

However, he foresees more applications as the due date approaches.

Broadcast times for the show are Tuesday and Thursday at 1:30 p.m. Repeats are Tuesday and Thursday at 9:00 p.m. An additional repeat for both hours can be heard on Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m.



Marty Crowder

Sarah Power, co-ordinator of Primrose Housing Co-op, Bruce Woodrow, director of the Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada and Bill Orr of Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation discuss the aesthetic qualities of the colour primrose at the co-op's official opening.

Math prof's plea adds up to trouble

University of Toronto math professor David Anderson may think Toronto's cops are tops.

But the secretary of the department, who happens to be black, hasn't appreciated the way right-wing supporters of Anderson's views have expressed themselves in telephone calls she's had to answer.

The Toronto Sun carried a lengthy article in its September 13 issue which lauded Anderson and his attempts to start a committee called Citizens in Support of the Police. The article said Anderson wanted telephone response, and gave the math department's main information number as the number to call.

According to other professors in the department who don't agree with Anderson's views, the result of the article was "all kinds of calls from right-wing people, and some of them made very gross, racist remarks."

"There was a furor about it," said one of the sources. "Most everybody objected to it — even people who more or less support the police thought he shouldn't have used the department's phone number."

The upshot was that members of the department agreed the phone shouldn't be used for similar purposes, and Anderson agreed he was wrong to have done it.

Clearly most of his colleagues regarded Anderson's action as going off on a bad tangent.

Church charges Ford

Church leaders have condemned the Ford Motor Company of Canada for saying it cannot end its contracts with the South African police and military because it doesn't want to lose the money.

The Taskforce on the Churches and Corporate Responsibility, which had asked Ford to stop selling and servicing vehicles for the South African police and military, has released a three-page open letter rejecting the company's position.

A letter to the taskforce from the president of Ford's Canadian operations, R.F. Bennett, makes the company's position

clear: "Compliance with the proposal could damage our operations in South Africa. We would also be concerned about the economic consequences of losing the government market."

Bennett's letter continued: "A loss of government business could result in layoffs of Ford workers, most of whom are black. I believe these risks more than offset the perceived advantage of not selling to the police or military."

In their September 14 letter to Bennett, the church leaders replied: "The reliable supply by companies like Ford of vehicles to the police and the military provides the apartheid state with the means of controlling its

black majority population and the means of repressing its social, political and economic aspirations.

"The military and the police are the major agents responsible for brutal and arbitrary repression resulting in death, torture, imprisonment and the destruction of African family life," the letter adds.

The letter concludes that Ford "... far from being an instrument for the abolition of apartheid, is reinforcing the status quo."

Ford's operations in South Africa are directed by the company's Canadian subsidiary.

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Who really threatens our rights?

The state is the subversive

The following article is one of a series to be contributed by members of the Political Rights Working Group (PRWG), a group of individuals countering recent and continuing attacks on democratic and political rights. The PRWG aims to be part of a movement to maintain and expand the democratic rights which give working people the power to advance their interests and which are the basis for fundamental social and economic change. The PRWG may be contacted through Box 1970, the Clarion.

For the purpose of this series, "the state" is defined as the elected government bodies, the administrative bureaucracy, the courts, the armed forces and the police.



Item: 50 heavily armed plain-clothes police surround a building housing a meeting of a radical political organization, and isolate it for 12 hours. They withdraw without even answering requests from the frightened detainees to identify themselves. RCMP spokespersons later refuse to comment on the raid.

Item: The federal government introduces a bill to legalize mail-opening, after it is revealed that the RCMP has illegally intercepted mail for at least 30 years.

Make laws, break laws

Government spooks long obsessed with ferreting out subversion need look no further than their front steps! An impressive array of subversive acts by the state highlights a trend towards increased state repression. This trend has accompanied the development of Canada's economic and national crisis.

In 1970, MP's readily cast aside the things of youth — romantic attachments to the ideals of democratic rights and due process — in their rush to stifle militant Québécois nationalists during the October Crisis. Today's economic crisis has also provoked the government to pragmatic flirtations with anti-democratic behaviour.

Also various coercive measures (such as wage and "price" controls) are used to redistribute the economic pie in favour of capitalists. As working people feel the pinch and organize to defend themselves, the state moves to suppress or subvert such opposition.

The state casts a wide net. Groups frequently harassed have a lot of company: labour, minority groups, left political groups, Québécois nationalists, native people's organizations, poor people, community groups, farmers, students, and groups working for social change. These attacks seriously affect the victimized groups' ability to organize and defend themselves.

To give some sense of range and scale, here is a partial list of known abridgements of ordinary rights: theft, breaking and entering, arson, bombings, forcible unlawful detention, imprisonment without due process, spying on legitimate organizations, provocateur activities, spreading of false

information, intimidation, interference with the press and academic freedom, cut-backs in social services, wage freezes, strikebreaking, back-to-work legislation, prosecution of strikers, arranging for loss of jobs, deportation, illegal mail-opening, electronic surveillance and other invasions of privacy. There's enough subversive work there to busy an army of idlers.

Of course, repression is not merely a phenomenon of the 1970's. It's been popular with governments for a long time. Much of our current repressive legislation is a legacy of earlier days.

Rights won not given

The War Measures Act came courtesy of World War I. Britain innovated the special writs of assistance that now allow designated RCMP and customs officers to break into and search premises without judicial approval (Britain and the US both abolished these writs over a century ago.) The Official Secrets Act, Canada's counterpart to the US Freedom of Information Act, was kindly loaned by Britain until Canada got its very own act in 1939.

Despite efforts of those who would save us from democracy, we still have many rights worth protecting and expanding. These were won only as a result of long struggles. The basic rights we enjoy to a greater or lesser extent — such as the freedom of expression, communication, association, and movement, and the right to privacy and universal franchise — were not bestowed by some benevolent despot.

Protect rights

Similarly, Canadian labour history is largely the story of struggles for labour rights, major victories for working people in the battle to organize and to improve their welfare. Many Canadians do not yet enjoy those rights; the rest must defend them. They are vitally important protection for working people. You don't have to remind Chilean workers that to lose political rights causes a

drastic reduction in welfare. The question is not *whether* to protect those rights, but *how* to mobilize sufficient force to do so.

Whose security?

National security is the great Catch-22 in Canadian law. Our legal protection against those who ignore our political rights is largely inoperative when national security is declared to be in jeopardy. Then our most repressive legislation comes into force. Generally, the invocation and application of national security is left to one or a few people, whose commitment to democracy and due process is at best suspect.

Under these circumstances, even the protection that we might have been afforded by Parliament or the courts is not available. The secrecy surrounding national security prevents the public from knowing the facts, further weakening defence against arbitrary authority. A few individuals wield extraordinary powers through a broad interpretation of "national security," and are accountable to no one. These powers are used against anyone who challenges established order.

We're the targets

Canadian legislation grants sweeping discretionary powers when "national security" is at stake: freedom of information restrictions, exclusions from immigration or citizenship, electronic bugging and other invasions of privacy, the War Measures Act, the Official Secrets Act and the Federal Court Act.

National security is also used to justify clear violations of the law (such as illegal mail openings and the violation of confidentiality of health records). Illegal dirty tricks such as the disruption of groups and the creation of "enemies lists" are seen as a secret part of the mandate to defend national security.

But whose "security" is this? Right-wing elements are fond of dwelling on the threat of Soviet spies and international terrorists. Are we being defended against the agents from a foreign power?

No. The targets of "national security" precautions are overwhelmingly Canadian. Irrespective of how beneficial or harmful they would be to the general good, all victims of this repressive activity have one thing in common: the state perceives them as a threat to the established order.

Foreign agents, such as multinational corporations — who benefit from activities which subvert the economic interest of most of us — are not subject to state attacks. It is the interests of the economic elite that are protected by "national security" and it is the economic elite that is reaping the financial rewards of the recent rise in repression.



Prof. Allan Grant of Osgoode Hall Law School spoke late last month at a forum on the police, sponsored by the Civil Liberties Association. Mal Connolly, president of the Toronto Police Association, failed to appear at the forum.

Marty Crowder

What does Centerfold Magazine have to say about Immigration?

The reality of government attitudes towards immigrants becomes clear in Bill C-24, the new immigration law passed in 1977. Among its stipulations are the following: A new category of 'conditional immigrant', under which an immigrant has only temporary status and whose job is under the jurisdiction of the immigration department. The department reviews the case every six months to recommend or revoke its extension. Police can, under mere suspicion, search the home and arrest an immigrant without a warrant. Any immigrant can be deported for 'national security' reasons. This can include support for the overthrow of a foreign government, be it Chile, South Africa, or wherever. Such deportation can be based on evidence from secret (police) reports heard at secret hearings to which the immigrant has no access or process of appeal. A Canadian is subject to a prison term or fine for not informing on an immigrant's activities, and so on.

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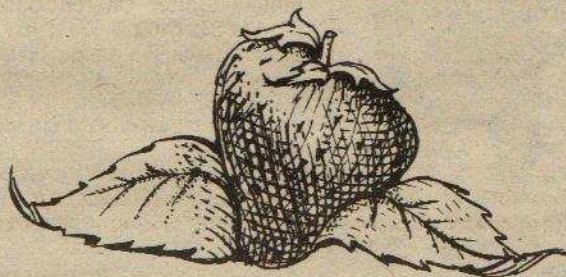
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Law Union promises posties support

CUPW chief urges unity

The Law Union of Ontario has pledged to support postal workers and their fight to have collective bargaining restored.

The motion of support was approved at the opening session of the Law Union's conference on September 28, after about 200 lawyers and legal workers listened to a speech by postal worker leader Jean-Claude Parrot.

Parrot, the national president of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers, was no doubt glad of the support. He had concluded his speech with a call for unity and support from all workers to help CUPW's position in upcoming negotiations with the government, which are scheduled to begin November 1.

"The government must be told to negotiate — and to negotiate in good faith," Parrot told the group, which was meeting at Hart House in the University of Toronto.

Rank and file support

"The government must be told that the rest of you are watching, and will not tolerate a repetition of last fall's denial of our rights," he added.

During a question and answer period, Parrot repeated the call for support. "If there is any chance to avoid a strike this year, it is to convince the government that we will not be isolated, and they must change their minds.

"You must make it clear to the new government that we are not isolated, not alone. Make the new government know that you are supporting us."

Parrot also downplayed the Canadian Labour Congress leadership's lack of support for CUPW during and after the postal strike, and instead emphasized the rank and file support the strike received.

Asked if the CLC's lack of support meant fundamental differences between the CLC and postal workers, Parrot responded that he didn't "want to go back to last year because it doesn't improve the situation now."

He added: "What is the CLC? Is it (president) Dennis McDermott? I don't think the CLC is Dennis McDermott any more than CUPW is Jean-Claude Parrot.

"Despite the stand of the CLC people in Ottawa, in the field the support we received was tremendous," Parrot said.

He pointed out that people from other unions had offered to replace CUPW members on the picket lines in the event of injunctions prohibiting CUPW picketing.

Parrot said it was "unfortunate" that CLC leaders didn't support postal workers, but added, "it didn't take away from the fact that we have tremendous support from the labour movement, especially at the local level."

Parrot said many sections of the labour movement are helping postal workers by distributing CUPW literature to their members.

As well, he said many unions have decided to show their members a 30-minute film produced by CUPW, titled *The Struggle Continues*.

In his speech, Parrot also emphasized that postal workers will not change their insistence on negotiations with the government, despite increasing pressure for a tripartite system of consultation instead of negotiation.

No to tripartism

Some employers favour consultation between management and top union officials, instead of negotiation, where union leaders represent the demands of rank and file members to management. Consultation limits the input of rank and file workers to decision-making.

Parrot said the push for consultation, or "industrial democracy" schemes, come from employers who want to increase profits and productivity, and turn unions into mechanisms for enforcing decisions essentially made by management.

"Too many people in the labour movement have bought the employers' view on industrial democracy," he said.

Parrot said the Conservative government is "just as determined to create tripartite structures as their Liberal predecessors were."

Consult members

But, he said, the effect of consultation is for union leaders to discuss things in a forum where they cannot be taken back to the membership for a vote.

"We're there to represent our membership, to represent their demands" he said.

"What can a union expect to win (in consultation) that they cannot win in negotiations?"



"Make it clear that we are not alone," CUPW president Jean-Claude Parrot told the Law Union conference.

Gerry Dunn

Fred Mooney



Once again, Americans have taught us what it means to be Canadian.

Usually, Canada is just the true north strong and freezing, defined by comparison with the U.S.: a blank space above the 49th parallel, populated by people who would be American if only they could learn to talk right. (Say "about"). But for a while there during the National League pennant race, Canada was the home of the Montréal Expos.

For many Anglos, the '79 Expos were the first reason since Expo '67 to admit that Montréal is part of Canada. And the big nationalist media gave them all the play they could.

The *Star* ran Expo exposés on page 1. The CBC, ever alert to fulfill its federalist mandate, showed the Expos on three Wednesday Night Baseball telecasts in a row: disappointed Blue Jays fans had to get their kicks eating nails or

sticking tiny replicas of the CN Tower under their toenails. (Can you imagine the Canadiens bumping the Leafs from Hockey Night in Canada - supposedly the showcase of our national game?)

The irony of course, is that American athletes playing an American game became a focus of the Canadian national identity. But then, with most of our natural resources, much of our manufacturing, and Lorne Greene in Yankee hands, we have little enough to call our own. And most of that is really in an Eaton's, a Richardson's, or (like the Expos) a Bronfman's.

And there is one truly Canadian twist that baseball could get an October World Series in Montréal. A new pitch: the snowball.

* * * * *

This may be the year to get the runs in the ravines.

As part of a plan to put the parks into year-round use, Metro Parks Department has decided not to hang "Closed for the Season" signs on the ravines' public washrooms this winter. Good news for those of us whose bladders don't fly south.

And former Ward 3 alderman Mike Goldrick (himself a jogger who runs up to 70 miles a week) has asked the Metro Parks Committee to keep the pathway through Serena Gundy, Seton, and Taylor Creek parks clear of snow. He points out that the National Capital Commission in Ottawa clears about 20 miles of park pathways during the winter. The Committee has asked Metro Parks for a report.

Goldrick's idea is a good one. If you don't want winter to put you out of the running, phone Metro Parks (367-8183) or write Committee chairperson Bob Yuill and jog them into approving it.

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