

# Inside the *Clarion's* extra big 10th anniversary issue

## The dangers of work.

The *Clarion's* labour workshop looks at the hazards of the workaday world, attempts to make the workplace more safe, and at Bill 70, Ontario's new occupational health act. See pages 12 and 13.

## Don't gobble that doughnut.

Breakfast as a reward for getting out of bed and on to the TTC on icy winter mornings, and more thoughts on the taken-for-granted meal. See page 7.



## The War Measures Act.

It doesn't take a war for the government to use this act, and the usual victims are workers, reformers, and in the past, Orientals. See page 11.

## Developer sues *Clarion* for \$250,000

Developer Myer Solomon is suing the *Clarion* and the *Ward 8 News* for libel.

In a writ of summons delivered to both newspaper offices on October 12, Solomon asks the Supreme Court of Ontario to award him:

- \$250,000 in damages from the *Clarion* and its publisher, Western Gap Communications Co-operative Ltd.;
- \$250,000 in damages from the *Ward 8 News* and its board of directors;
- Solomon's court costs; and
- "such further and other relief as this honourable court may deem just."

The writ says that Solomon "has suffered serious injury to his character, credit, and reputation, and has sustained substantial loss in the practice by him of his said profession as barrister and solicitor."

Solomon cites articles published in the *Clarion* in late June, and in the *Ward 8 News* in early June as libellous and as the source of his injuries.

After the *Clarion* was first notified several weeks ago that Solomon considered the article libellous, the *Clarion's* lawyer contacted Solomon's lawyer by telephone to ask what in the article was untrue or defamatory.

At that time, Solomon's lawyer refused to discuss any specifics of the article, and would only say the entire article was libellous.

Solomon currently faces a charge of conspiracy to commit fraud. The trial date on that charge is set for April 7, 1980.

TORONTO

# clarion

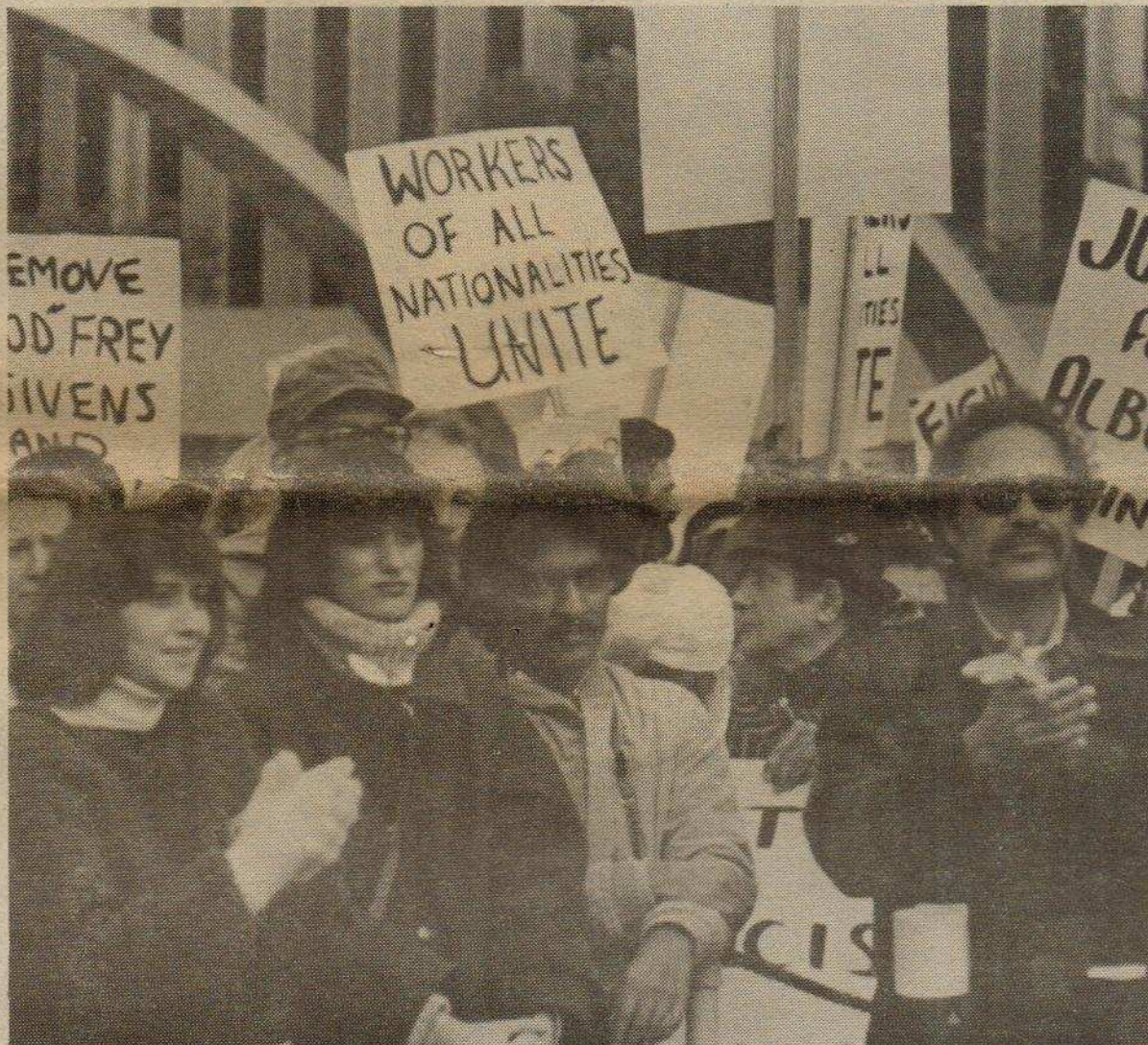
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Vol. IV No. 1

October 17 — October 30

Metro's independent newspaper for social change

## Rally attacks racism 'cancer'



Unity is the theme of the growing chorus of local ethnic groups and organizations demanding changes in the direction and training of the Metro Toronto police. Demonstration parade marshals on October 14 were aided by more than 100 plain-

clothes officers who kept watch on the 2,000 demonstrators to maintain the peace. As well, there were 20 uniformed police, a deputy chief, two staff superintendents, and three inspectors. The number of police photographers is unknown.

## Gays, natives join march on 'John Waynes'

By Paul Weinberg and Barbara Hurd

Toronto's downtown traffic was greeted October 14 by a snake-like parade of white signs and banners held by the 2,000 people who marched against racism.

"This is a multi-cultural rally. Whites, blacks, browns, yellows. Inside Queen's Park! Hear our voice," said Kuldip Samra, convenor of the Action Committee Against Racism, the organizers of the demonstration.

At the City Hall rally in the early afternoon, Dudley Laws, a leader of the Universal African Improvement Association spoke of the "racism and insensitivity that has taken control of the police in Toronto."

"Third world people are getting the worst of the oppression," Phil Biggin, president of the Union of Injured Workers, told the city hall rally.

"Racism is a cancer keeping us divided against those who control us. We must organize in the community and not just rely on the politicians to guarantee our civil rights."

"We are experts on police brutality," said Vern Harper, native activist and a teacher at the Wandering Spirit school.

"The police are just the tip of the iceberg. We are dealing with a John Wayne mentality — all of you are Indians."

The peaceful demonstration was marred by a minor fracas between Maoists and six taunting members of the white racist Nationalist party.

Eight people were charged by the police: two for assaulting police officers, two for common assault, and four for breach of the peace.

Despite the turnout, the growing protest against racism had its problems. Lack of publicity kept the number of demonstrators from being even higher.

Only one trade union organi-

See GAYS page 2

## Centre for jobless may shut

By Victor Schwartzman

Unemployment Help Centre staff, specialists in cleaning up troubled UIC claims, may soon have to take their own best advice. They will all be out of work if funding for the Bloor Street Centre runs out at the end of this year.

"At this point we're approaching every possible source," Wally Majeski of the Metro Labour Council told the *Clarion*. "We think the centre is more critical now than when we first set it up. The new PC government seems determined to wreck UIC, to dismantle the present system."

Since opening its doors in

January, 1978, the centre has helped more than 14,000 people. Aid is offered in several languages, and ranges from simple advice to the quasi-legal work involved in complicated appeals.

The recent Throne Speech mentioned further "tightening" of UIC rules to remove "disincentives to work." UIC is a continual victim of such attacks. Studies show many of the claimants themselves regard the scheme not as legitimate insurance but as "pogey."

But the idea that people are living high off the hog with their UIC is far from the reality. The average UIC cheque is only about \$100, and 80 per cent of

Ontario claimants receive less than four months of benefits.

UIC has been easily attacked because many view it as violating the "work ethic." Also, the unemployed are a difficult group to organize, because the population constantly changes. And when people get a job, they tend to forget about the problems they had when unemployed.

But this attitude may change. The latest in a series of harsh rule changes affect everyone for the first time. Married men, exempt from previous UIC "tightening," will now be hit hard by proposals to base UIC benefits on family income.

UIC usually goes after


women and young men as "high abuse" groups, although officials have never come up with any proof that these people abuse the system. Women and young men are subjected to extra benefit control interviews, and the latest changes hit 96% of the women on claim.

At one time the help centre boasted six staff and was open six days and five evenings a week. Now it is down to three staff, and is only open to the public four hours each weekday afternoon.

"There's nothing definite we can pin our hopes on at this time," wearily sighs Keith Oleksiuk, who has worked at the

See JOBLESS page 2

# Cindy Fortunata



**What if they don't like dogs either.** The Tories at Queen's Park have imposed a five per cent freeze on salary estimates for Ontario's 50 Children's Aid Societies. The consequence is hardly surprising. Seven of the 10 largest agencies have drawn up plans to lay off a total of 303 staff members. A number of societies have even threatened to turn in their charters complaining they can no longer operate under the budget restraints.

Only in the Year of the Child.

**Paranoia runs deep** in official circles in Ottawa. My source in the capital, Deep Nose, tells me that in the offices of the Department of National Defence Military Intelligence Branch, at 190 O'Connor, the typewriter ribbons are removed from the selectrics every night and locked in the safe. It seems that on fancy carbon ribbons which are only used once, you can read everything ever typed.

And that's not all. When masters inside photo copying machines are used up (after about 50,000 copies), they are stored under special guard in the Classified Waste Department, in case anyone can figure out a way to get copies of all the documents they once copied.

And I thought the left was paranoid!

**Escatological dogma.** Now it's time for "Sooper Dooper Pooper Scoopers," says the Toronto Humane Society, "for people who care about how they look." Of course (I hope) they're talking about pets and not about people. Otherwise we'd really have a problem in our parks.

Still, the society has some good suggestions to help clean up doggy-do. For sophisticates, they recommend a two-piece model: a long metal scoop with a long-handled, dainty spatula. For that special pet, I'm sure the spatula comes in silver. There's no undignified crouching for crap, and no offence to the nose.

For the sporting person, there's a skill-testing thing with a plunger down a long shaft with a bag at the end. And a device of cardboard with baggy insert is available for those who enjoy consumerism, since the whole package can be thrown away when it's filled — like Pampers, but this time you have to bend down.

Finally, there's the economy model you can make yourself: a tin can, open at both ends with a baggy stuffed inside.

**Here's mud in your ballot box.** Dennis "Tumbler" Timbrell, Ontario's Minister of Health, has announced a \$600,000 campaign to reduce alcoholism in the province. "There are an estimated 250,000 alcoholics in Ontario, more than double the number 15 years ago," Tumbler speeched.

Now, I don't doubt that there is a serious problem, but I wonder if the minister's concern now is sparked by the alarming increase in the number of politicians in the province who are being arrested for drunk driving.

**A lesson in economics.** Or, Canadians may be clean but they're still wet behind the ears. Multinational soap and detergent companies like Proctor and Gamble or Colgate-Palmolive get from 20 to 50 per cent more cash in Canada for their products than in U.S.

markets. But most of these items sold in Canada are manufactured here. Hence the fact that the Canadian dollar is worth less than the American, and the fact that there is a 10 to 15 per cent import duty on such items, do not explain the difference in price since these products do not cross the border.

Without regard to the actual cost of production — about the same in both countries — these multi-nationals are charging prices here that are slightly below the cost of importing them from the parent company in the States, and the profit statements show the results.

On the other hand, if our dollar were of a higher value, and if we had free trade with the U.S. as some Tories favour, then you can be sure that no soap or detergent would be manufactured here — it would all come from the States.

Either way, Canadians lose out. We pay artificially higher prices in the first case, or lose our jobs in the second.

**Paperchase.** On the third hand, when there is a price difference going the other way, you can be sure Canadian capitalists will take full advantage of it.

Currently, the price of newsprint is 20 per cent higher in the States than it is in this country. So, pulp and paper companies here, where most of the trees are cut, naturally prefer to export. As a result, there is now a 1,500-ton shortfall of newsprint in Canada. That's a lot of front pages. The shortage is felt mostly by newspapers serving smaller communities. Canadian governments are unwilling to ensure that the domestic market enjoys priority. Although governments give financial assistance to these companies to help upgrade their facilities, imposing priorities on their marketing would not doubt be interfering too much with free enterprise.

The *Clarion*, of course, doesn't worry. We don't use paper, we use shoestrings.

## Gays fight for right to speak



A scuffle occurred between Maoist and Nationalist Party demonstrators at the rally, resulting in eight arrests by police.

From page 1

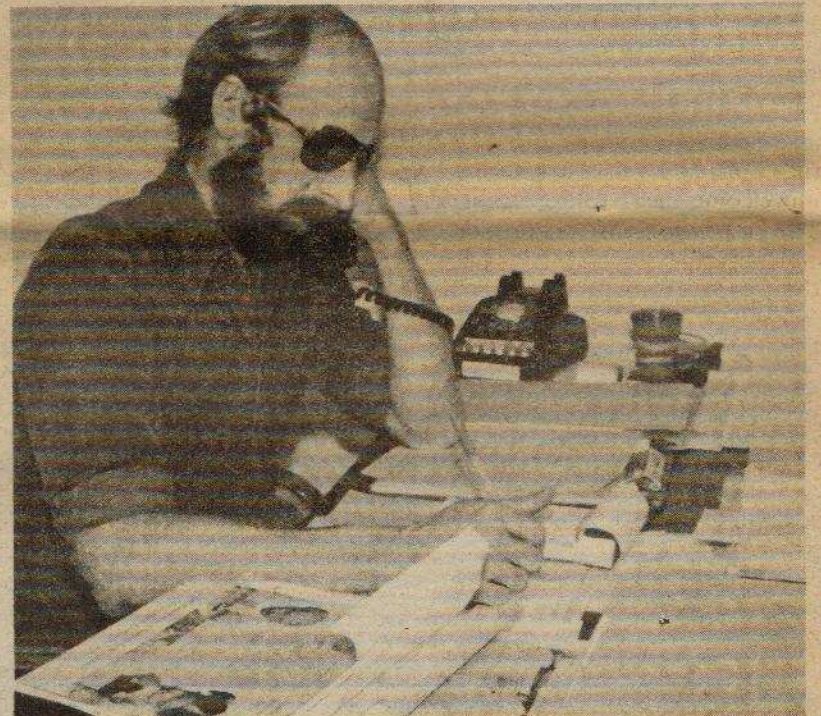
zation, the Union of Injured Workers, was officially present. Individual members of the NDP attended the protest, but the party did not endorse it.

And internal tensions festered behind the facade of unity. There were splits about the wording of slogans, the proper degree of militance and whether gays should be allowed to speak at the rally in Queen's Park.

"We had to fight for the right to speak," said an angry Rev. Brent Hawkes, gay activist and another member of the Working Group. He was one of the last people to be heard in the day's events.

"I'm going to speak for gays because they are my people. Gay men and women have been attacked and their clubs raided. But we will not be driven underground."

"We won't be satisfied until the power behind the structures at Metro Council and the provincial government is changed. I pledge to march. Your battles are our battles."



Keith Oleksiuk, help centre staff member, at work.

## Jobless centre may close

From page 1

help centre since it opened. "Budgets are being cut back everywhere. Money is harder and harder to find."

The centre is sponsored by the Metro Labour Council. Principal funding comes from a United Way "Special Projects Funding" grant.

"This is a special pot of money put aside for (non-United Way) groups in the community," explains Irene Harris, Director of Labour Participation for the United Way. "There's a two-year limit on these grants. We look on them as seed funding and they cannot be extended."

"It's a tough time," she acknowledges. "United Way members tend to be okay, but unfortunately community-based organizations are being forced to scramble for whatever they can get."

Brick walls have met centre attempts to seek out alternative grants. Ontario Legal Aid turned

it down because UIC was "federal," and because they claimed the centre duplicated services already provided by other Metro agencies.

However, no other agency specializes in UIC problems. The sheer volume of clients proves the need.

Feelers are out to the Ministry of Justice, but with no immediate results. Metro Social Services has also been contacted, but Alderman Dan Heap can't see much coming from Metro's limited coffers.

"I'd be surprised if the centre got a great deal from us," he told the *Clarion*. Metro has kicked in about \$16,000 over the last two years.

"But the centre does need support, especially now," he added. "The government is clearly following a policy of cutting back, especially on UIC. It doesn't make sense to attack the unemployed at a time of high unemployment and high profits."

## Humanist in Canada

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## CONNEXIONS

LINKING CANADIANS IN THE STRUGGLE FOR JUSTICE

Published five times a year, CONNEXIONS is an abstract service aimed at identifying and networking grassroots movements for social change. It presents summaries of the research and action of several hundred Canadian organizations and individuals. Special themes have included: native rights, unemployment, national security. There are regular sections on resources, the economy, labour and human rights. Indexed.

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An independent project with Church support.

# York bosses lose 'grounds'

By Judy Haiven

In a precedent-setting case before arbitrator P. John Brunner, York University Staff Association (YUSA) tested the strength of a new contract clause that states;

*"If an employee is required to perform any duties of a personal nature not connected with the approved operations of the University, he/she may file a grievance."*

On November 1, 1978, Ingrid Dagus, a York University secretary, was requested by her boss, the director of the York University Bookstores, to go to the cafeteria in the Central Square and buy coffee for him.

Dagus carried out the request then she took her complaint to YUSA, and the union launched a grievance on her behalf.

The arbitration board was composed of Louise D. Binder, the University's nominee; Michelle Swenarchuk, YUSA's nominee; and the chairperson, P. John Brunner.

At the arbitration hearing on

August 10, the University's lawyer D. O. Hersey insisted, "A secretary should carry out any order given by her boss except an order that is illegal, immoral or unconscionable."

The board saw a distinction between the secretary being required to purchase or serve coffee at meetings or conferences "...held for the purposes of facilitating and furthering the legitimate business interests of its Bookstores" and "the request by the Director of Bookstores to have the grievor purchase coffee at the cafeteria in question ... an attempt by him to require her to perform a duty of a personal nature ... because it was for the incumbent's own convenience and for him in his private or individual capacity ... It was not in any way related to the affairs or objectives of the Bookstores or the University."

YUSA is affiliated to the Confederation of Canadian Unions (CCU) and represents 900 secretarial, clerical and

technical employees, of whom 85 percent are women.

Lauma Avens, YUSA's president said, "This decision shows sex stereotyping can be broken down. It raises men's social awareness as well as women's."

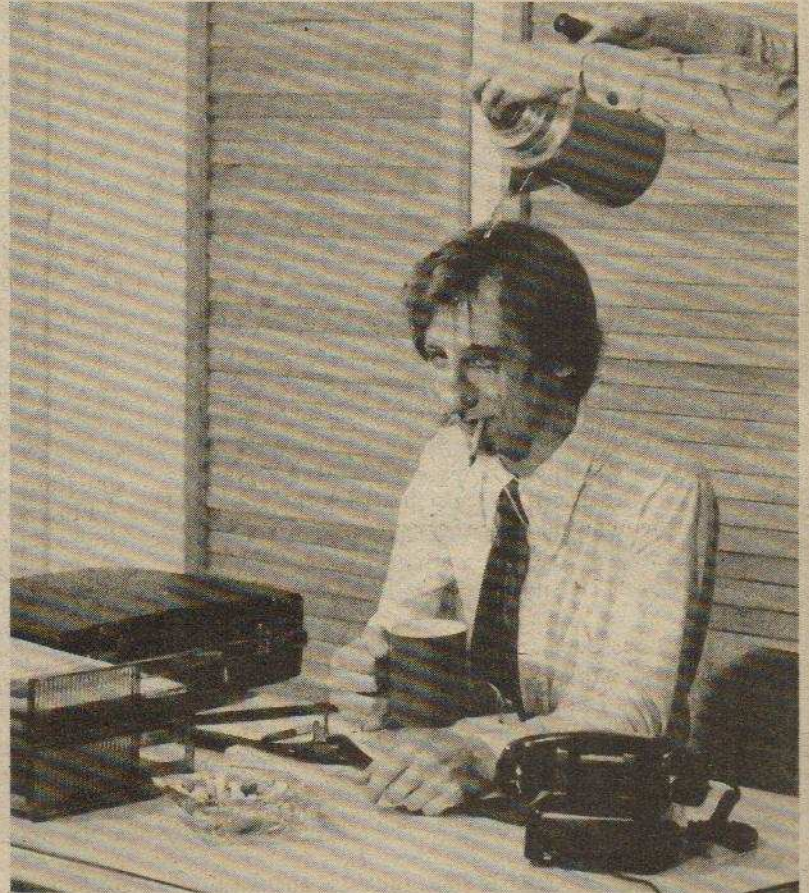
YUSA launched a bitter 16 day strike in September and October, 1978. They were the second union in Canada to win the contract clause that restricts bosses demands on secretaries.

The University's nominee to the Board, Louise Binder, wrote a dissenting opinion on the grievance.

However, both Brunner and Swenarchuk allowed the grievance.

The relief sought and ordered was "that the grievor not be required to perform duties of a personal nature which are not connected with the approved operations of the University."

After nearly a year the decision was handed down on October 11.



Dave Smiley

## Union busting AGOing concern

# Gallery staff gets brush-off

By Geoff Barnard

In the quite sanctity of the Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO), where the angels of eternal truth and beauty hang solemnly on the walls, politics is rearing its unwelcome head once again. The repercussions make for something less than a pretty picture.

The Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) is trying to unionize a diverse group of AGO workers ranging from kitchen staff and clerical workers, through security guards carpenters and researchers, to maintenance staff and photographers.

The basis of OPSEU's claim to representation of the workers is the fact that, of the AGO's



1978 revenues, \$4,085,153 of a total \$5,412,820 came directly from the Ontario government. Parity with other civil servants, (including the staff at the Science Centre) is the goal of the organizing drive.

Management response has in-

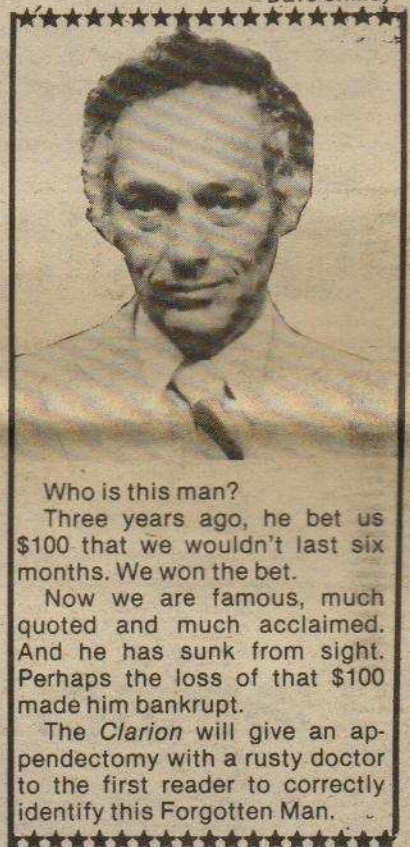
involved a host of time-tested union-busting tactics which display about as much creative ingenuity as a black velvet painting. But the AGO is also trying to sharpen the skills which turned back last year's CUPE organizing drive.

Gallery management has sought counsel from a company called AMR (Advanced Management Research), whose advertising brochure offers "How to use all your management rights under the Law", "Strategies for collective bargaining", "Arbitration tactics that will win", and "Grievance and discipline measures that are forceful and positive". The brochure notes that "atten-

dance is strictly limited to management and supervisory personnel."

The AGO management presently faces five unfair practice charges before the Ontario Labour Relations Board. These charges range from various forms of management intimidation to improper soliciting for an anti-union petition.

In light of costly labour board proceedings, Lawyers fees and "management rights" seminars, OPSEU organizers have urged people to write to Reuben Baetz, provincial minister for culture and recreation, protesting the use of public funds for union busting.



Who is this man?  
Three years ago, he bet us \$100 that we wouldn't last six months. We won the bet.  
Now we are famous, much quoted and much acclaimed. And he has sunk from sight. Perhaps the loss of that \$100 made him bankrupt.  
The *Clarion* will give an appendectomy with a rusty doctor to the first reader to correctly identify this Forgotten Man.

## CMHC chops Cimpello

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) has turned down Cimpello Charitable Foundation's request for financial help for a proposed non-profit Oshawa housing project planned for land owned by Del Zotto Enterprises.

Co-op activists believe that Del Zotto is trying to obtain easy government financing to set up non-profit housing units — and then make a quick profit from construction of the new units and from management fees.

CMHC will not help finance Cimpello to build the units from scratch. Instead, CMHC insists that Cimpello take over 86 empty AHOP (Assisted Home Ownership Program) funded projects.

Now Cimpello is focussing its attention on Del Zotto property in North York, near Jane and Trethewey Drive.

However, it may be opposed — for the wrong reasons. Local North York alderman Mario Gentile says he is not sure if he could support non-profit housing in his area.

## Canada Metal workers win

The 22-week-long strike by Local 2 of the Canadian Chemical Workers Union against Canada Metal in Scarborough has finally been settled.

According to union representative Bill Adams, the workers won an immediate 12 per cent increase (retroactive to February 1979). They will get a 7.5 per cent increase in February, 1980, with an additional

# News Update

raise if the cost of living rises by more than 7.5 per cent.

Originally the union wanted wage parity with the workers at the Canada Metal plant on Eastern Avenue. The new contract puts them slightly ahead.

Workers also won an increased yearly allowance for safety boots and glasses, longer vacations and a 40-hour work week for everyone. Maintenance workers previously had to work 42 hours per week.

## YWCA victory 'bittersweet'

The YWCA and CUPE Local 2189 have settled a dispute over wages, thus eliminating the possibility of a strike against the YWCA.

CUPE representative Isla Peters described the agreement as a "bittersweet victory."

"We didn't feel we could take the workers out on strike, due to the economic situation and the low salaries. The YWCA's monetary offer was more than we originally asked for," she said.

The wage increases range from eight to 10 to 12.5

per cent for the three different levels of workers, for a one-year contract, which expires September 1, 1980. CUPE asked for the same rate of increase for all levels of workers.

## Tories save slum servants

The provincial government stalled a move to guarantee the minimum wage and other basic labour rights to domestic workers, when it decided October 11 to table a private member's bill proposing that domestics be covered by the Employment Standards Act.

Conservative member for Sault Ste. Marie, R.H. Ramsey, said if the bill was approved, many working class people wouldn't be able to afford live-in domestic help, and working mothers would find it more difficult to use domestic help.

Alan Tenebaum, a spokesperson for Labour Rights for Domestic Servants, which has been lobbying for the bill, told the *Clarion* he doesn't know of any working class families who can now afford a live-in domestic.

"And if the government is so concerned about working mothers, they should improve daycare," Tenebaum added. "They think the solution to daycare is cheap, imported domestic servants instead of affordable daycare for every mother."

The group will be the focus of a public meeting at 6 p.m. November 25, at 33 Cecil Street, to discuss the problems of domestics and how to fight the government's reaction. Tenebaum said the group hopes to present a petition and a brief to the government in the early new year.

# As we see it Unemployed need organizations too

"I can hire half the working class to kill the other half." That was the boast of an American railway robber baron during a late nineteenth century depression.

The point of the boast was that unemployment was so high that the jobless would do anything — even hire themselves out as strikebreakers and gun thugs — to get paid.

Things aren't that bad - yet - in present-day Canada. But the story shows the need for common organizations for all workers — those who have jobs, and those who don't.

The Metro Labour Council made a small start in that direction when it sponsored the Unemployment Help Centre. The centre is now in danger of closing down because it is losing the funding it had from the United Way.

Ever since the centre opened, however, the labour council has limited its role to providing advice to the unemployed. Any attempts by people working within the help centre to organize the unemployed were squashed.

The centre did provide a useful service, but it was only band-aid help. The labour council refused to help people organize so they would be able to challenge the causes of unemployment, instead of merely deal with its effects as individuals.

The labour council's attitude is not an isolated one. The Canadian Labour Congress has been similarly blind to the importance of organizing the unemployed or challenging the present economic system in general.

Instead, the CLC proudly "unveils" new programs which sound like bonanzas for the bosses. For example, the congress recently announced its "Employee Recovery Program" which aims to improve production by taking care of workers who are "distressed" by alcohol, drugs, family matters and a host of other related social problems.

According to CLC executive vice-president Julien Major, "Our Employee Recovery Program is designed to help employees at all levels, be they plant workers or senior management."

That's all very nice. But is that what the labour movement really needs?

What we need these days is people within the labour movement to push their leadership to organize the more than 60 per cent of Canadian workers who are not in unions — especially women, immigrants, and the young.

We need trade unions, at both the national and local levels, to come up with new ways to include unemployed workers in their programs and campaigns.

That is another way of saying that we need a labour movement that is class conscious — that understands its allies include other, unemployed workers, not "senior management."

## Captain Boycott

The Captain's latest boycott targets are: lettuce that is not Canadian grown, or not bearing a United Farm Workers label; Hunt's or Woman's Bakery products; Nestlé's products; J.P. Stevens products; Radio Shack stores and products; and Welch's products. For details, call Captain Boycott at 363-4404.

## 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.

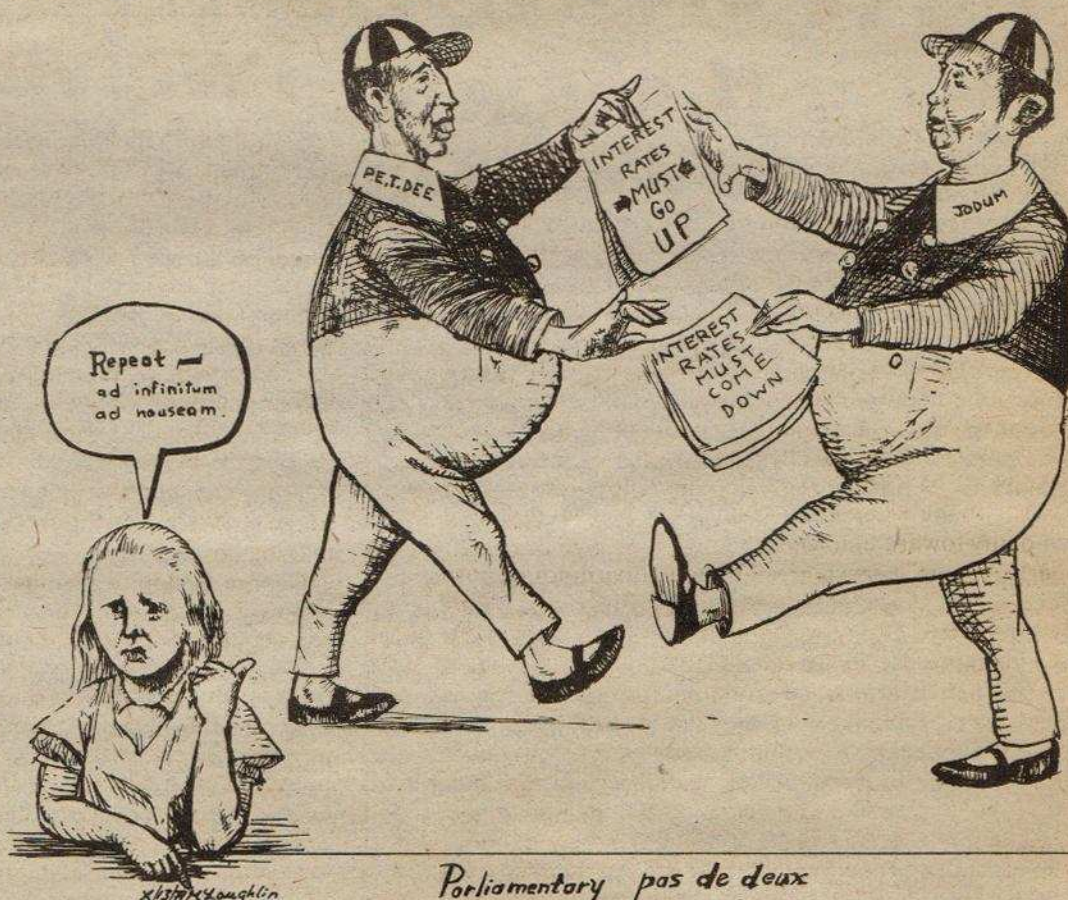
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The following also contributed to this issue: Catherine Berry, Doug Craig, Lyn Goldblatt, Marg Bacon, Brian Burke, Sharon Schachter, Judy Haiven, Al McMillan, Elaine Farrager, Ellen Davis, Larry Haiven, Elaine Foreman and many others.

Sorry we missed your photo credit last issue, Paul.

73 Bathurst St., Toronto M5V 2P6  
363-4404



## Bear faced lies



A comprehensive reform of the Post Office that will include its conversion to a crown corporation, the acceleration of automation, new hiring policies and an increase in the price of stamps was announced recently by Postmaster General John Fraser.

"We're looking at a price increase of 25 cents for the first two months to be followed by an increase of 50 cents over the next eight months," he said. "Probably we should just sell dollar bills with glue on one side so that they can be stuck on letters."

The Postmaster General quickly added that his last statement was a "joke." "Stamp prices will probably only rise to 75 cents by the end of this year," he said.

The stamp price increase will be necessary to pay for a vast program of automation in the Post Office. Sorting will be even more mechanized than it is now. As jobs become more simplified they will be performable by chimpanzees, although some of the more complicated tasks will require retarded adults.

"There will be many advantages to this new personnel policy," said Fraser. "Chimpanzees have a somewhat lower standard of living than our present postal workers. And they are much more docile and respectful of authority. This

means that we could cut the cost of wages down considerably. They are also more able and willing to perform tasks that our present staff might consider boring."

The Postmaster General added that his department plans to avoid any difficulties caused by clauses in the contract between the Post Office and CUPW by "contracting out." "This will be just another instance of an arrangement that has worked well and saved the taxpayer's money," he said.

When the Post Office has been fully automated and its presently unwieldy administrative structure has been streamlined in the form of a Crown Corporation, it is expected to earn a profit for the first time in 14 years.

"At that point there will be no point in the government running it, and we will be able to sell it to the private sector," Fraser said.

Although Post Office efficiency will improve in the long run, according to Fraser, there will still be delays in receiving mail. However, the Postmaster General gave assurances that letters will be received within one calendar year of mailing.

"To those who might complain that this is a long time to wait, we can only say anything worth having is worth waiting for," he said.

## Welcome to your new home!

The Clarion had an office-warming party recently. Pictured here with a couple of partiers is Clarion Typesetting's new process camera, a definite hit during the festivities.



David Smiley

## Fired by the boss, angry at the union

By Judy Haiven

It is not often a staunch unionist is more angry at the union than at the company — especially when the union has finally won certification for skilled workers in a printing plant.

But I am angry. I was fired by the company, but the union put the last nail in my coffin.

On July 3, I started a job as "art director" for an Etobicoke printing plant, Brown and Collett Ltd.

I had no idea an organizing drive was afoot at the plant. Had I known, I would have supported it.

Conversely, the company — celebrating its golden anniversary (50 years without a union in the plant) — had no inkling about my sympathy toward unions.

In early August, I saw a green Labour Board notice posted above the punch clock. The Printing Pressmen and Assistants Union Local 10 (a branch of an American "international") had applied to represent 15 production workers, 12 pressmen and three women in the composing room.

I was happy to know I'd be included in the bargaining unit, though I wondered why the union applied for only the skilled workers, leaving the 60 unskilled workers to fend for themselves.

The plant manager wasted no time in conveying his anti-union sentiments. He asked me to write a letter to the Labour Board objecting to the union's application on my behalf. He offered to let me use the office typewriter, gave me an envelope and even a postage stamp to expedite matters.

What was the hurry?

"Well," he said, "there's only seven days to reply to the application before the hearing at the Board."

I refused to write the letter.

Then the plant manager and the general manager got tough. They seemed to want to make an example of me.

They asked me two more times to sign a letter. When I refused, they grilled me about my reasons.

Wasn't it true I knew about the union organizing drive before the notice went up? Was it true my husband worked for a union? Did I know that if the union got certified, Brown and Collett would be forced to close the typesetting and art departments and two of us would lose our jobs?

The company continued harassing me in all the little ways companies have to make a worker's life miserable.

At first, the plant manager lamented, "You were such a nice, eventempered girl when I first hired you. Now you act differently."

When I told him I did not like being harassed and crossexamined about my membership in the union, or told to sign an anti-union letter, he replied, "You call my chats with you harassment? You'll soon see what harassment really is!"

Management began to find fault in my work; this escalated until the plant manager finally, in desperation, accused me of being incompetent.

I realized my days were numbered when I noticed my job advertised in the *Toronto Star*.

Union rep Bill Hall had guaranteed he would help anyone who lost his or her job because of the organizing drive. "After all," he said, "it's illegal to fire anyone for supporting a union, under Section 79 of the Ontario Labour Relations Act."

I contacted the union, but now Bill Hall said I ought to play it carefully, since the union did not want anything to jeopardize its case for automatic certification before the Board. After all, this harassment was all part and parcel of every union organizing drive he'd been involved in. I decided to grin and bear it.

Bill insisted that if I or any other member was fired, the union would protect me 100 per cent. He added, "Honey, you *do* seem overwrought about this matter. Do you have a sympathetic doctor?" He suggested that I ought to get a doctor's certificate to enable me to stay off work for a few days, so I could cool down.

When I was finally fired, my call to the union for help started an eight-week runaround. It became evident that the union never had any intention of launching a section 79 at the Board on my behalf.

After a lengthy battle with the company, the union finally won certification in a vote held at the plant October 3. The vote was 13-3.

But what kind of representation can the workers at Brown and Collett expect from the Pressmen's Union?

I got caught in the crossfire between the company and the union. The company decided to axe me, and the union decided that my case was too much bother to take on. The union probably thought it might lose the case. For many craft unions, representing the individual worker down to the wire is not necessarily their job.

I was expendable. A frequent complaint about craft unions is that they are little more than dues collection agencies; that they further divide skilled and unskilled workers in the plants; that their services for their membership are few; and that generally they earn the label of "business unions."

It seems to me when a sympathetic union member is "just another cog in the wheel", some serious questions must be raised about this particular union.

I hope the other workers have better luck — and can force the union to give them better support!

## Cops drub Hot Tub Club

# Twelve arrested after raid

One hundred angry gays jeered at a large squad of police officers who raided the Hot Tub Club on Isabella near Yonge Street on the evening of October 11.

It was one of five raids which more than 50 Metro police officers conducted simultaneously throughout the city. Eleven men and one woman were arrested on a total of 26 charges from keeping a common bawdy house to having illegal drugs to making obscene films.

George Hislop, a member of the Right to Privacy Committee, watched police raid the Hot Tub Club. The committee was formed after a police raid last year on the Barracks, a gay men's club.

"We were having a meeting at the 519 Church Street community centre when a young man came in breathless and told us of the raid."

The building was surrounded outside by about 14 uniformed police officers and inside there were about six plainclothes officers. Thirty officers raided the Barracks last year.

"What was interesting at the Hot Tub was that police charged about 12 people as found-ins and released them on their own recognizance with a promise to appear in court," Hislop says.

"The police decided not to take harassment of customers further because there was an unusually large number of



Aldermen Allan Sparrow and Dan Heap at Hot Tub Club raid.

angry gay people on the street. At one point, the police lost use of their paddy wagon."

There is no need, says Hislop, to take people to the police station and traumatize them. "That's what happened during the Barracks raid."

In the Barracks raid the police stretched the legal definition of common bawdy house to include homosexuality. There was no actual case of prostitution found.

The angry reaction by gays toward the Hot Tub raid

showed the lack of trust of Metro police by many gays.

"This particular case differs from the Barracks in that it involves drugs and prostitution. Nevertheless, word of the police on the street spread like wildfire among the gay community, Hislop says.

"They see it as another attempt by the police and the attorney-general to discredit the gay community. Generally, police raids are designed to drive frightened gays back into the closet."

## Tenants raise roof over 42 per cent rent increases

By Paul Weinberg

City non-profit housing tenants have fewer rights than tenants who have private landlords.

This was the message 100 city housing tenants from seven different projects gave to the city non-profit housing corporation board on October 10. City tenants are demanding a rollback of proposed 1980 rent increases averaging 14 per cent. Some increases go as high as 42.5 per cent.

"At least private landlords have to justify rent increases above the six per cent guideline," said Jeff Egner, a tenant from the phase two section of the South of St. Jamestown project.

"A notice of rent increase of 42.5 per cent is like an eviction notice for many of the working poor in our projects," he added.

City housing tenants are upset that the proposed rent increases were sprung upon them without adequate consultation or notice, said another tenants spokesperson, Kay Parsons, of the Dundas-Beverly project.

"Those tenants who moved into the Dundas-Beverly project expecting an opportunity for meaningful participation in the control and operation of the project may seek alternative housing," said Parsons.

Political pressure is the only lever city housing tenants have if they disagree with the policy of the city housing staff. In-

creased tenant participation is one of the tenants' demands.

Several tenants complained about city housing's lack of response to the maintenance problems of their particular projects.

Most tenant representatives did not have the time to respond in detail to the proposed rent increases at the board meeting. But Kay Parsons gave the board a detailed, five-page rebuttal.

"Budget data we have received are vague and lacking detail," said Parsons, particularly in costs projected for maintenance, insurance, management, mortgage, and energy.

## CUPE wins at YMCA

Chambermaids and janitors working at the Central YMCA at College and Yonge have won a battle with Y management and are now members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees.

Since the union organizing drive began in mid-September, the Y tried to fire chambermaid Connie Harrison, who signed up all the workers interested in the union. But management withdrew her notice of termination after CUPE took the case before the Ontario Labour Relations Board.

The 34 chambermaids and janitors were certified October 2. Harrison told the *Clarion* that workers were promised raises on October 1. However, on October 2, management

posted a notice saying that because of the certification, "salaries and other conditions of employment will have to be determined by means of negotiations with CUPE...Accordingly, salaries will not be adjusted until negotiations have been completed."

On October 3, CUPE wrote a letter to the YMCA, giving "its consent to you granting the wage increase as promised, also any other monetary improvements that the YMCA had intended and or indicated would be granted to its employees."

The YMCA, which is partially funded by the United Way, pays chambermaids \$3.10 an hour. Janitors earn between \$4 and \$4.50 an hour, Harrison said.

See RENTERS page 10



Injured workers demonstrating for increased benefits.

Ken Brown

# Harass union leader

Government harassment of the Union of Injured Workers (UIW) continues on November 2 when the Crown will appeal the acquittal of union president Phil Biggin.

The case may set a precedent which would have serious implications for all striking union members and for union leaders.

Charges against Biggin arise from a May 1978 demonstration at the Ministry of Labour to demand cost of living increases for workers receiving disability pensions.

In attempting to break up the demonstration, police attacked injured workers and then charged eight of them with assault.

Nine days later Biggin was charged with committing mischief in allegedly counselling others to take actions which resulted in access to the ministry being blocked. He was scheduled to appear in court on November 24, 1978. But the

Crown withdrew the charges — according to Biggin's lawyer, Paul Copeland, because it was not confident it had a legal case within the wording of the charge.

Biggin was re-charged upon leaving the court. The second charge was substantially the same as the first except that it more specifically stated the offence in terms of existing "rights of access" legislation.

Copeland argued that the Crown was treading perilously close to abuse of legal process as the second charge was laid almost six months after the event. Charges for summary offences must be laid within six months. But Judge Hugh Foster said that, although the police had waited excessively long before issuing their charges, the Crown had beaten the abuse of process charge by one week.

Biggin was acquitted of this second charge in June 1979 on the grounds that the owners of

the building had not laid the charges and that they were the only people protected by right of access laws.

The Crown, wanting to establish that employees of the building also have the right of access, is appealing the decision to the Ontario Supreme Court. If the Crown wins the appeal on this point of law, the case will go back before provincial court for re-trial.

This case has broad implications. If the Crown succeeds in setting a precedent, police could break up demonstrations and strikes on the grounds that they denied employees, including scabs, access to workplaces.

And if Biggin is subsequently convicted, any union leader would run the risk of being charged after the fact for recommending members' picket line actions.

For further information, call the UIW at 536-7224.

# Contempt charges used to intimidate?

By Paul Weinberg

For the coroner and the local media, the case of Buddy Evans is finished.

But the 19 contempt charges that Coroner Margaret Milton is citing against Evans' family lawyer Jack Pinkovsky before provincial court, has left activist lawyers from the Law Union worried about the future of advocacy lawyers.

Members of the Law Union see the contempt charges against Pinkovsky as a form of intimidation.

As one member, lawyer Bob Kellermann, put it, "Contempt charges can prevent a lawyer from doing his job. An attack on the lawyer is an attack on the people he represents."

"The one day that I attended the inquest hearing, I had the impression that there was a concerted campaign by the counsels for the officer, the police commissioner and the Crown to attack him. Pinkovsky himself was on trial."

Kellermann denies the accusation that Pinkovsky overstepped his bounds in the inquest by being abusive and at times unethical.

Coroners are not trained in legal procedure. Margaret Milton is a doctor and inquests normally lack the adversary elements of court trials, he says. An inquest is simply an inquiry

into the cause of an individual's death, not into his or her guilt or innocence.

"What was considered contempt by a coroner in an inquest, may not have been considered contemptuous in a normal court of law before a judge," Kellermann adds.

Unlike the Albert Johnson case, in which an OPP investigation led to charges against two policemen, Metro police investigated the Buddy Evans case themselves. Kellermann suggests that the coroner, because of her lack of legal training, was completely under the guidance of crown counsel and the counsel for the police officer throughout the hearing.

One definition of contempt is criticism of a judge's conduct during a case or after he or she has made a decision.

In the United States and Britain, contempt charges based on this definition are considered inconsistent with freedom of speech, and therefore are not often used against individuals, particularly lawyers, Kellermann says.

Unfortunately, the authorities in Canada still feel vulnerable about any criticism of the administration of justice that brings it into disrepute."

Pinkovsky entered hospital on September 29 complaining about chest pains, two hours after he was refused permission by coroner Milton to delay his final submission to the inquest jury. He had a heart attack in 1977.

Milton asked Pinkovsky's partner, David Martin, to give the final address on October 1. Martin said he was not familiar with the case and required more time to digest the hundreds of pages of testimony.

But Coroner Milton and counsel for police officer Clark identified Martin as acting for the Evans family along with Pinkovsky, saying he discussed the inquest at a Law Union conference seminar in place of his ill law partner. Martin denies that he was heavily involved with the case.

Coroner Milton was anxious to end the 49-day old inquest, which she described as draining. She denied Martin's request for more time to read over the testimony. In the end, Buddy Evans' mother, Doris Evans, was obliged to give the final address to the inquest jury herself.

Milton's refusal to adjourn the hearing to allow more time for the Evans' legal representatives, sparked an angry protest by 23 independent lawyers.

Michael Mandel, a criminal law professor at Osgoode Hall Law School, spoke for the 23 lawyers when he described the coroner's actions as "a blatant denial of basic rights."

After the inquest jury resolved October 4 that the shooting of Buddy Evans was justified under the circumstances, Milton said she would also report Mandel's statements to the Law Society for disciplinary action.

Mandel described this as an infringement on his own right to free speech.

**STIMULATING**  
**SOPHISTICATED**  
**"RESPECTED"**  
**"COURAGEOUS"**  
**"EXCITING"**  
**"WITTY"**  
**"PROVOCATIVE"**  
**"UNEQUALED"**

The Body Politic, Canada's national gay news-magazine, has been garnering praise since it first began publishing in 1971. And it's no wonder. Produced for gay people by lesbians and gay men themselves, TBP has always been in touch with the issues that really matter in our lives. With correspondents across the country and contacts around the world, TBP is the only consistent source of gay news published in Canada, and one of the best in North America. The magazine's "Our Image" review section covers everything from Village People to Michel Foucault with clarity and insight, and its features have earned it a reputation for intelligence, energy and — occasionally — daring. Community resources, classified ads, regular columns — we've got them all.

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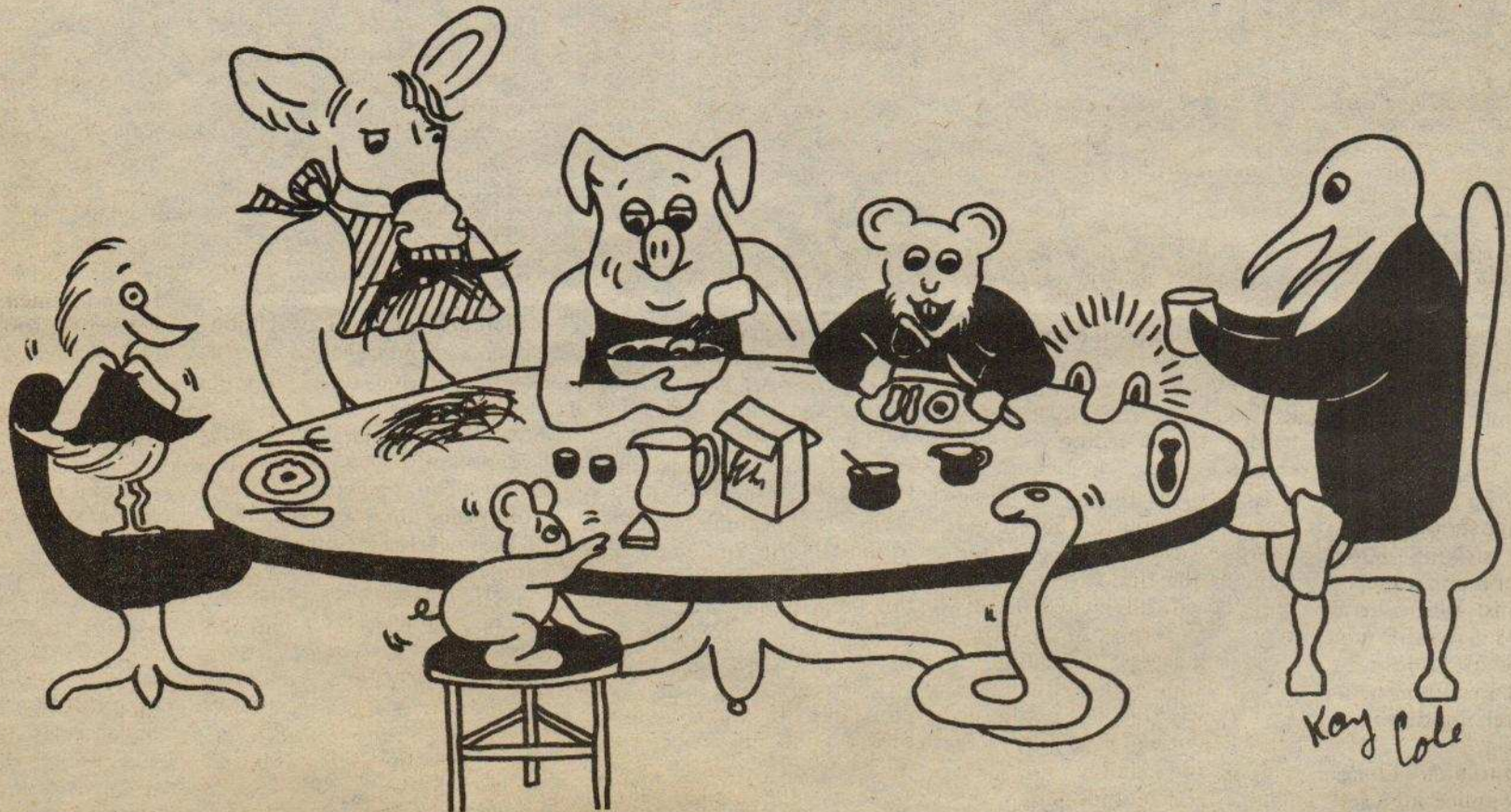
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## Morning meal should egg you on



By Joni Boyer

The low priority of breakfast is something that has always baffled me. I mean, most of us have to get up in the morning, right? And usually the reason we have to is that we have a job to do, right? And though, in many cases, we really do like this job, the transition from warm, cosy bed to the workday world is usually a painful shock to the delicate workings of the nervous system. Agreed?

I find that breakfast provides a civilized release from this relentless bludgeoning of the human spirit.

Though he's perhaps not Nature's last word, man has given us coffee, and for that we must be ever thankful. If there is a more effective means to convince body and soul to take that daily plunge than the aroma and taste of good coffee, I can't imagine it.

There are those who would allege tea, I suppose, and I won't argue, never having tried the stuff before noon. But coffee is by no means all there is to breakfast. There is the food!

But wait! You must never think of breakfast as some sort of health regimen, to be constructed of requisite proteins, vitamins, calories and so on. Perish the thought! Or stay in bed the extra half hour.

A serious breakfast functions as a reward, an incentive to getting up. There are those who actually view the success or (God help them) the failure, of this first meal, as a sort of augur or metaphor for the entire day ahead. For these people the components of breakfast must be of unimpeachable quality, prepared with quiet skill and eaten in complete comfort.

The chocolate doughnut and styrofoam cup of Maxim sick-lid o'er with petroleum by-product are contraindicated at breakfast time, as are the petrified remains of last night's pizza.

The Mars bran muffin, the precisely poached egg, the cool yogurt with fresh figs, the Dimpfelmeier's linseed rye, the perfectly ripened piece of Brie, the croissant from Cakemaster, the homemade preserves, the omelette aux fines herbes, the \_\_\_\_\_ (write your own fetish here); these are what's called for at this critical time of your day.

True, the nutrients thus absorbed will unavoidably increase performance and generally make you feel good all morning, but always remember

these are not the real reasons for taking the time for breakfast. You must think of breakfast as the real reason you're getting up, and then, when you finished, it will seem almost coincidental that it's time to go to work.

Breakfasting out is, of course, another matter. The serious feeder finds this an almost daring venture, for several reasons. First, there's the cruel assault on the senses, called upon to brave the elements without benefit of their usual caffeine medication. And what about

the incredible risk involved when someone else, often a total stranger, is poaching your eggs?

And did you notice that distressing lack of interest in your waitress as you outlined the way you would like your toast? The orange juice and coffee, those vital life-giving fluids, are frequently of dubious origin.

We won't dwell on the grim horror of powdered eggs, Tang, the aforementioned coffee "whitener" and Wonder Bread, all of which could easily end up

right there in front of you. Further, you would actually have to pay for these things.

So choose your destination with the utmost care. A little research into various facilities is not excessive. If you know a breakfast enthusiast, find out where he or she eats when forced to go out. That is where you will find some return on your investment.

But hey, look; I'm no fanatic; so don't ask me about it. Besides, I wouldn't dream of going anywhere before breakfast.



By Anne Mills

Amid the clinking of icecubes and fake-o Spanish stucco, a new cabaret has opened in Hot-town — The Black Cat. It is named after the infamous literary cabaret of Paris in the 1880s and it has found a home upstairs from the Café Madrid, at 42 Harden Street (near Yonge and Bloor).

The debut show is *Meaning-*

### Meaningful Relationships isn't

## Comics open cabaret

*ful Relationships*, a lightweight look at Toronto life, focussing on trendies, the CBC, singles and couples. The sketches were created by six writers, with the strongest material coming from Anne Game.

The Black Cat directors hope their cabaret will become a "late night meeting place for writers, composers, and all others interested in a comfortable environment where the exchange of ideas and dreams is not only possible but encouraged." Workshops in comedy writing will be offered. (We hope a line of credit is open for starving artists, to offset the \$9 for a litre of wine.)

Eleanor Goldhar and Bruce Harrott, YukYuk's alumni, are the creative sparks behind the cabaret. Goldhar brings a political interest to her work — perhaps in the future her influence will be felt more strongly. Harrott's best contribution seems to be as a lyricist, not as an actor.

Tickets are \$3.50 Wednesdays and Thursdays, \$4.50 Fridays and Saturdays. Call 922-3151 for information on the Dinner-Theatre package.



Libbie Lennie (left), Bruce Harrott (seated) and J.T. Bear appear in *Meaningful Relationships*, the first offering of the Black Cat Cabaret. *Clarion* reviewer Anne Mills calls the show "a lightweight look at Toronto life."

Arnold Mathews

# American Buffalo painfully probes a street peoples code of ethics

By Marty Crowder

Act 1

*American Buffalo* begins. Bob and Don. Father and child, master and apprentice. "You see what I mean, Bobby?" "You get my point, Bobby?" The point is the code of ethics that losers, winos, skid row people maintain and value. Bobby is beginning his apprenticeship under Don, the slow-voiced owner of a second-hand resale store.

Bobby wants to do the right thing, he's sorry when he doesn't do the right thing. Don patiently takes him from square one. "You see what I eat for breakfast, Bobby? You can't be right on top of things if you don't eat breakfast."

Bobby can repeat the advice but he doesn't seem to have fully grasped it. Don tries to make his point using another analogy. I get the feeling that this has been happening for years now,

progress seems to be slow, but there is no hurry. The diploma can wait.

And then Teach walks in. Teach is the speedy composite of so many street people. Paranoid and arrogant, all of it hiding his vulnerability and uncertainty about the rules. Not only the rules of straight life but also the rules of the milieu in which he supposedly is at home.

*These characters remind me of many people who passed through my life during my social-worky/reformist period. In a former incarnation, I worked in a storefront at Gerard and Parliament, when white-painters were outnumbered by the "locals". The locals filled the slum rooming houses and socialized on the streets, drank at the beginning of the month and passed through my office.*

*I still haven't figured out what I was trying to accomplish. Those two years are a painful*



Donny (played by Dan MacDonald, left, seated), powerful drama, *American Buffalo*. The Errant Teach (Wayne Burnett) and Bobby (Jim Warren) try Productions presentation is on till November 4 at the Adelaide Court.

*memory. Did I want to show by my example that there is a better way to live? And I know what it is and I can help you find the way?*

*Now, I have a much clearer perspective on the alienating aspects of work, the abuses the capitalist system/bosses perpetrate on me and the ones that I have internalized, like my own personal Christian Work Ethic.*

*Maybe it's time for the table to turn, maybe their shared code of ethics is what I can learn from.*

*Teach is on stage and he is talking for all the misfits. He's said the same words to me many times, trying to bridge his world and mine. I couldn't understand then; I also couldn't listen. In that job I related to these people as well as I do now, when I'm sitting in an audience and watching. Only this seems much more honest.*

*Now I really am trying to hear what he's saying: More ethics. "I thought they were my friends, friends don't treat you like that. I ask you now."*

*How can the rest of the aud-*

*ience laugh — have I missed the point? It takes quite a while to shake off the first act and adjust to lights and other people.*

Act 2

The deceit and duplicity begin immediately. Where is this code of ethics that Don was trying to instill in Bobby at the beginning? Teach crashes the bottle on Bobby's head; there's blood all over the place. Teach trashes the store. Don wrestles him down into a chair. *I open my eyes; all is quiet, despair. Head in hands, Teach looks up: "Are you mad at me, Don?"*

*I couldn't watch the violence; they are living their raw emotions, not hiding behind politeness. When I was ready to have Teach talk about what he had just lived, he had already moved on. The violence was over. Period. No hard feelings. Better clean this place up."*

Violence and emotion are terrifying, but they are the release and the profound statement.

*I think I'll go have a drink now.*

## Three new poems by Gail Fox

Gail Fox lives and works in Toronto. These poems are from her forthcoming book, *In Search of Living Things*, to be published in 1980 by Oberon Press.

### Mt. Alban, With a Line by Octavio Paz

Through a ruin of glyphs and weeds,  
things human/natural, what dark image  
of life do I find, what meaning,  
if any?

I loved you one afternoon, I thought of  
my childhood when I went on forever:  
*Fui un extraño entre las vastas ruinas  
de la tarde*

I live from day to day; straight to the  
core of death, you said, if you stay up  
all night and never sleep; how do  
I reply to this?

*I was a stranger in the vast ruins of  
the afternoon; a sad hunger sweeps through  
me; I live as others live, waiting,  
waiting, haunted by descriptions.*

### Gentle Fluid Through the Living Plant (M.A.F.)

You were a special man, reasonable,  
gentle, but critical of my fireGod;  
*teach me Centre*, I whispered to Him —  
insanity. In morning, there was a

Fierce electricStorm, you slept, easy.  
Fluid through the living plant, I rose, and  
lathered the willows with leaves of yellow,  
danced, O Master, marvellous.

*I have an illness that can only be cured  
by God*, I wrote in an imaginary letter  
to my mother. That moment of impact,  
feelings and conversations feared,

You suffered with my divine and frantic/mad  
discrepancies. *You want to suffer your  
way to greatness*, you said, as I left  
one January and found my Entrance, praise you, Michael.



### Untitled

In Mexico, trees speak if you  
go near them. And stones tremble  
with glyphs, each stone has  
been covered in Occult Secrets,  
and each stone is a small or  
larger receptacle of Knowledge.

Who reads stones now? Only a  
few scholars, poets and lunatics.  
Listen, I found this ring in  
the City. The stone was turquoise  
of the most dazzling blue. When  
the stone broke, I was less powerful.

I had read that stone. I had felt  
its strange vibrations through my  
fingers. I knew its words. Now  
I speak Spanish almost haltingly.  
Remembering sunset over Mt. Alban,  
and the ruins of Zapotec history,

The tunnels, the mazes, the ballparks  
of sacrifice. All around, a few  
trees spoke. But truly the language  
of the stones was powerful. They  
spoke a kind of broken-hearted language.  
Ay, they said, alas.

And the sad faces of the children who  
brought us things to buy was convincing  
proof that Mexicans are sorrowful.  
They cry with their stones and  
their beautiful leafing cacti for  
people are almost superfluous.

## Zappa a

By Anne Mills

Frank Zappa, *Joe's Garage: Act 1*  
(Zappa/Polygram SRZ-1-1603)

In an interview with *Musician* magazine, Zappa said, "People saying whether something is shit or it's wonderful is irrelevant to the thing being discussed . . . it exists because of whatever it is, you know. We are not really called upon to make these pronouncements on its value."

Stravinsky also held that music is an object with a life of its own, and has no meaning but the fact of its own existence. A view with which most artists would agree to some extent.

"And I think the idea that blues is this music of struggle and all that stuff is pure shit that white people figured out in order to make it okay to listen to. Because if there's one thing that all these white academic nerds have in common it's that they just can't appreciate balls . . . White people are not denoted by the colour of their skin. See, I'm not talking about pigmentation, I'm talking about the white person attitude . . . Don't they know how to have a good time?"

Fans, be assured that *Joe's Ga-*

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How can the rest of the aud-



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# Zappa at zappiest

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Fans, be assured that *Joe's Ga-*

rage sparkles with all the unusual rhythms, intriguing melodies, puns and musical jokes we can't live without. Vocal harmonies are stunning. The Big Voice, supplied in the past by George Duke or Napoleon Murphy Brock, among others, now comes from Ike Willis. The part of Joe's girlfriend, Mary, is sung by Dale Bozzio, some relative of F.Z.'s onetime drummer, Terry Bozzio. We'll hear more from them as other Acts in this opera are released.

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"Desperate nerds in high offices all around the world have been known to enact the most disgusting pieces of legislation in order to win votes (or, in places where they don't get to vote, to control unwanted forms of mass behaviour)." Thus speak the liner notes, and the unmistakable messages of Act 1 are: They're out to get you; don't trust anyone.

Root Boy Slim: Just a growing boy who needs his rest.

No pathetic mood pomes here! Root Boy takes on Amerika blow by blow. A sample: Root Boy on psychiatry.

Gave me thorzine, gave me stelazine / Gave me every 'zine they could think of / Kept 'em under my tongue, spit 'em out later on / I was crazy, not just on the brink of / I attacked a few of the guards, they made it awful hard / They ganged up & strapped me down / Got that needle in the thigh, then the time slowed by / By the time the doctor came around / I was dozin' and droolin' . . .

Here's a boss new dancestep: There's a dance you can do / If you're drunk like me / Get down and boogie / Horizontally . . .

Tune's called "Do the Gator" — and he did it impromptu one

night in June '78 at the Horseshoe Tavern. A sort of live break — pure anarchy. Great! Yes, there's a lot of swell dances you can do with R.B. Slim — or worse.

*Zoom* is unlikely to be released in Canada, but you can obtain it at the Record Peddler and other fine shops. If you dare.

★★★★★★★  
The Yachts, *S.O.S.* (Radarscope/Polygram Pd 1-6220)

Silly name for a band, but all right by me. What with so many of our brave new breed of movers, wavers and ravers crapping out nowadays, at this juncture of my patience I'm delighted to find four sporting types who just want to go bomp'n the night.

All songs on this debut release barrel straight ahead at a relentless, unhinged tempo on a wash

of twenty-one-not-yet-undone exuberance. All members throw themselves into singing nonce lyrics that don't so much suggest meaning as bring it down each time to just one thing: Drop everything, let's jump! Bob Bellis on drums and Martin Dempsey on bas sock away the backbeat; Martin Watson on guitar and Henry Priestman on keyboards swing between rhythm licks and jets of pretend-jazz doodling.

Side B's live closer proposes that these Liverpool (U.K.) lads are simple careening bashers at heart, but loads of fill in Richard Gottehrer's production of the ten preceding studio cuts create a four-dimensional barrage out of the Yachts' already strong material. I find the touches well-suited to the band's inclination to blow the lid,



with, show themselves to be inactive and promising not to worry, the Yachts helm.

★★★★★★★  
The Records, *The R* (Virgin/Polygram)

Note: this is a performance for teenies at heart (timers). Worthies of dards and properest best pass on this one. But for all you shanga well, well, there is some here. I myself am stru ro element in the The sound, not simply in the ments but in every d seems to veer towards Pops '65.

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# Root Boy Slim dares you to boogie horizontally the Yachts just want to go bomp in the night

By Al McMillan

Root Boy Slim  
& the Sex Change Band,  
w/ the Rootettes,

Zoom (Illegal Records ILP 004)

"This is a laugh," Steely Dan's dour Walter Becker said about Root and the band. Becker hung out with the boys and girls down in Jacksonville, Fla. for a while, and set up a deal for them with state-of-the-art sound by Steely Dan's favourite producer, Gary Katz.

Result, one of the most uproarious and most ignored releases of '78 (WEA BSK 3160), featuring roadhouse rousers like "(You Broke My) Mood Ring", "Too Sick to Reggae" and "Boogie 'Til You Puke".

R.B. Slim became the password down my block, though we never thought there'd be another elpee from the guy. But recently the band supported Dury & the Blockheads on an English tour — the sheer fact of a new release on a British label has got to mean they went over very big.

Powerful chemistry at work here, you understand. The Sex Change Band plays down-pat raunchy blues and their front man's something else. A lie-down-roll-around-get-up-stand-up comedian — a dead-on satirist who positively revels in the grotty atmosphere of his topics — a self-proclaimed prez'dent of Yankee glitz in impossibly tacky costumes and goggles that form the word "Root" — a one-man riot with a throat that could drive an airstrip through Times Square. With vocal backup from the lovely Rootettes, the overall sound is rude, ripe, and dangerous — timsids beware!



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*Gave me thozazine, gave me stelazine / Gave me every 'zine they could think of / Kept 'em under my tongue, spit 'em out later on / I was crazy, not just on the brink of / I attacked a few of the guards, they made it awful hard / They ganged up & strapped me down / Got that needle in the thigh, then the time slowed by / By the time the doctor came around / I was dozin' and droolin'...*

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Zoom is unlikely to be released in Canada, but you can obtain it at the Record Peddler and other fine shops. If you dare.

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(Radarscope/Polygram Pd 1-6220)

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All songs on this debut release barrel straightahead at a relentless, unhinged tempo on a wash

of twenty-one-not-yet-undone exuberance. All members throw themselves into singing nonce lyrics that don't so much suggest meaning as bring it down each time to just one thing: Drop everything, let's jump! Bob Bellis on drums and Martin Dempsey on bas sock away the backbeat; Martin Watson on guitar and Henry Priestman on keyboards swing between rhythm licks and jots of pretend-jazz doodling.

Side B's live closer proposes that these Liverpool (U.K.) lads are simple careening bashers at heart, but loads of fill in Richard Gottelher's production of the ten preceding studio cuts create a four-dimensional barrage out of the Yachts' already strong material. I find the touches well-suited to the band's inclination to blow the lid,

though you may find them just so much slag.

Still, with sound like this you can always play pin-the-taste-on-the-donor: here a touch of XTC's *White Music in the layers and layers of computer-assisted echo and reverb; shades there of The Cars' debut in the use of a compressor or something on the vocals; an Attractions chime in the keys, mixed high and hungry, and again in the cannonading tone of the drums.*

*But is it not the harbourmasters' fond hope that we Namericans will find enough cosy antecedents as to be instantly happy with the Yachts' sound and be forthcoming with the bucks? I don't mind. Production may be calculated to click, but the Yachts, with crashing drive and wit, show themselves to be a distinctive and promising band. So, not to worry, the Yachts are at the helm.*

★★★★★★

The Records, *The Records*,  
(Virgin/Polygram V2122)

Note: this is a performance strictly for teenies at heart (and two-timers). Worthies of stiff standards and properest taste had best pass on this one right quick. But for all you shangalanglers — well, well, there is some interest here. I myself am struck by a retro element in the The Records' sound, not simply in the arrangements but in every detail, that seems to veer towards Top of the Pops '65.

Weird? Not really — it's all in the game, isn't it? Every song is made in the shade for the jingling jukebox (though whether any of 'em get to the donut shop down your street is another question). It's like the Flamin' Groovies played straight, with extra sting from a lead guitar in place of doubled rhythm. In terms of amniotic package and the desired FX, this is the most attractive teenarama I've recently heard.

The band's vocals are a show-piece — simply fab-oh — and ahhh, had the lyrics been half as carefully pegged as the parts, some very catchy pop talk might have ensued. Unfortunately it's in the wordscape that the pinup boys go down for the count. "Insomnia" rocks hard and gets a heartsick message over; "The Phone" makes it on a snappy cameo from Jane Aire, but the other stuff clutches so cunningly at yet does not grasp the jittery pulse of teenage trepidation and delight so cunningly cuffed by such as Joe Jackson and The Knack.

Still, those tiptop tenor harmonies are bang-on — so good for those singalongs you must get in before your voice migrates for good to the nether end of your pipes!

Production is the work of many hands, as if the band felt a need to check and reaffirm its approach every step of the way, but the material comes out unified and passing sharp. Indeed the entire presentation is such a carefully defined exercise in playback logistics, I wonder if you'd ever bother to go hear The Records live?

## a at zappiest

rage sparkles with all the unusual rhythms, intriguing melodies, puns and musical jokes we can't live without. Vocal harmonies are stunning. The Big Voice, supplied in the past by George Duke or Napoleon Murphy Brock, among others, now comes from Ike Willis. The part of Joe's girlfriend, Mary, is sung by Dale Bozzio, some relative of F.Z.'s onetime drummer, Terry Bozzio. We'll hear more from them as other Acts in this opera are released.

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# CALENDAR

## Thursday, Oct. 18

**Café Soho**, 334 Queen St. W., hosts "To the Chicago Abyss", a play by Ray Bradbury; until Oct. 27; 8:30 p.m., Fri. and Sat. 8:30 and 10:30 p.m.; \$3.50. Call 862-0199 for more information.

**Colour xerography by David Anderson**: a show at the Funnel Gallery, ground floor, 507 King East, call 364-7003. Mon.-Sat. 1-6 p.m., Till Oct. 27

**A Single Fathers' Group** (Instructor David Yaron) will meet from 8-10 p.m. at the Jewish Community Centre for eight sessions, at a fee of \$35 for members, and \$40 otherwise. For more information call Georgine Nash at 636-1880.

**How to Be Your Own Doctor** (sometimes) is the title of another continuing workshop at the Jewish Community Centre. The workshop will run for 8 sessions and will be conducted by Earl F. Dobkin, M.D., family practitioner. Call 636-1880.

**Benefit for Us** (The Clarion): We're sponsoring two films *State of Siege* and *The Harder They Come*. Titania Theatre, 147 Danforth Avenue (near the Broadview subway station). Tickets \$3. First show 7:30 p.m. Call 363-4404 for more information.

**Equity Showcase Theatre** introduces Doric Wilson's *A Perfect Relationship*, York Quay Centre, 235 Queen's Quay West, till Oct 21; 9 p.m. Thurs and Fri., 6 and 9 p.m. Saturday and 6 p.m. Sunday. Free admission but reserve ahead by calling 364-5739.

**The Theatre Chamber Players of Kennedy Centre** from Washington, D.C., will perform at the Town Hall, St. Lawrence Centre, 8:30 p.m., 27 Front East. Tickets are \$6.50 and \$7.50. Call 366-7723.

**Centaur Theatre Co.** presents David Fennario's *Balconville*, at the St. Lawrence Centre: Mon.-Sat. 8 p.m., Saturday matinée 2 p.m. Call 366-7723.

**Solar Stage Lunchtime Theatre** plays Pinter's *Revue Sketches*, 149 Yonge St., \$2.50, seniors and students \$2. Curtain times are 12:12 p.m. and 1:11 p.m., Tues.-Fri; 1:33 Saturday. For further information call 368-5135. Show runs till Nov. 3.

**Latin American Literature** is the title of a talk, followed by a slide presentation about Latin American writers and poets, at the Centre for Spanish Speaking Peoples, 582-A College Street; for additional information call 533-8545.

## Friday, Oct. 19

**Experimental Film Theatre**, 8 p.m. at the Funnel Gallery, 507 King East; tonight Robert Ziebell will present a selection of films from

the Ann Arbor Cinema Guild. Admission \$2. Call 364-7003 for further information.

**Enamelling Workshop** (2 days), Harbourfront Craft Studio, 7-9 p.m. \$50; Alternate dates: Oct. 20, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Oct. 21, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

**Song of the Canary** is the Cinema of Solidarity offering at the Innis Town Hall (St. George and Sussex Streets). \$2.50. Students and unemployed \$1.75. Series of 8 movies \$16 and \$12.

## Saturday, Oct. 20

**Painting on silk**: a workshop on the use of dyes; today and tomorrow 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Harbourfront Craft Studio, 862-0199 for more details.

**Participation in Union Meetings**: a "how to" seminar will be offered at the Legion Hall, 49 Elm Street, 9-5 p.m., \$8; includes lunch. Day-care is provided. Register today (1 week early).

**Children's Parade of Nations**: an afternoon presentation by the Canadian Multicultural Dance Theatre includes stories, music workshops for children, dances from around the world, and a concert; 2-6:30 p.m., York Quay Centre. Free.

**Bernadette Devlin-McCallisky** lectures about The struggle in Ireland, Trinity Church, 427 Bloor West, upstairs, \$1, 7:30 p.m. For more information call 537-9747 and speak to Ms. A. Bakan.

**A seminar on intermarriage** sponsored by the Annex of the Japanese-Canadian Centre, at 1468 Danforth Avenue; the seminar is followed by a dance in the evening. Tickets are \$5 for the whole day, \$3 for the dance. For further information call Gordon Mizuyabu, 463-7441.

**The Black Box**: A Space, 299 Queen West, presents an installation, in conjunction with films and a seminar. Till Nov. 3. Has to be seen to be believed.

## Sunday, Oct. 21

**Aspects of Antique Collecting**: a series of lectures; this afternoon the topic will be "Bottles and Early Glass Houses". 2:30-4 p.m., 222 Queen's Quay West, free.

## Monday, Oct. 22

**Know Your Rights**: a seminar on human rights and employment, for residents, employers and community workers, sponsored by Parkdale Intercultural Council. Call 536-4420 for further information.

**Alternative Education**: a talk by Bereket Yebio, chairperson, World Student Christian Federation, OISE, 252 Bloor West. Call Margot for more information, at 534-1352.

## Tuesday, Oct. 23

**Neighbourhood Information Post** is holding an Open House to mark Community Information Week. Interested people are invited to drop

in between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. Refreshments will be served. For further information, phone 924-2543 or 924-2544. N.I.P. is located in Library House, 265 Gerrard East, corner of Parliament and Gerrard.

**Protest the cutbacks** by the Ontario Government on services to children. Join in a rally at Queen's Park at 7 p.m. today.

**Small Business Law**: a free course given by Community Legal Education Ontario (CLEO); 7:39-9:30 p.m. Call 363-4404 for the address of the course.

**Learning to Labour**: a Cross Cultural Communication Centre seminar held at OISE, 252 Bloor West, 7-10 p.m. Cost is \$10, \$5 for high school students. For more information call Barb Thomas at 653-2223.

**Poetry and Film**: *Wood Mountain Poems* and *Ladies and Gentlemen, Mr. Leonard Cohen*; also readings by Canadian poets. St. Lawrence Centre, 8 p.m., free. Questions? Call 366-1656, ext. 28.

**A Celebration of Liberation Struggles**: a talk by Emideo Campe, General Secretary of the World Student Christian Federation, 7:30 p.m., Trinity United Church, 427 Bloor West.

**City non-profit tenants** will meet with City Non-Profit Housing Corporation board members to discuss rent increases, City Hall. Call city clerk for time.

**Free noon hour Concert Series** at the Church of the Holy Trinity: today it's Trio Da Capo (violinist, cellist, pianist). One week from today, at the same time (12:10 p.m.), the Tapestry Singers will perform. Today's concert will be taped by CBC-FM (94.1) for airing Saturday at 2:05 p.m.

**CUSO information meeting** with focus on Nigeria, 7:30 p.m., International Student Centre, 33 St. George Street. Call 978-4022 for further details.

**United Nations Day** at City Hall; international concert at the rotunda. This happens at 7:30 p.m. and it's free.

**Slide Lecture** on new forms in art communication; by Dr. Klaus Groh. Theatre L72, Library Building, Ryerson Polytechnical Institute (Victoria and Gould); noon-2 p.m. 881-5423 for details.

## Thursday, Oct. 25

**The Curious Savage**, a play by John Patrick, is the first of a series of five shows at the Leah Posluns Theatre, 4588 Bathurst. Call 630-6752 for further information.

## Friday, Oct. 26

**Experimental films** at the Funnel. Tonight Eldon Garnet will show four films; tomorrow night, Paul Winkler, Australian filmmaker, will screen six films. Admission \$2; screenings start at 8 p.m.

**With Babies and Banners**: (U.S.A., 1978) is tonight's offering at Cinema of Solidarity. It's at Innis Town Hall, 2 Sussex, 8 p.m., \$2.50 regular admission, \$1.75 for students and unemployed.

**Cultural Pluralism and Canadian Unity**: a two-day conference at Stong College, York University; today and tomorrow. Call 667-3062 for additional information.

**Black Education Project's 10th Anniversary Celebration**: York Quay Centre, Harbourfront; wine and cheese party, children's activities, dinner, dance, adult entertainment (theatre and jazz jam session). For more information call 461-6318.

## Saturday, Oct. 27

**Skills Building For Union Women** is a workshop sponsored today by Organized Working Women; Legion Hall, 49 Elm Street (at Bay), 10 a.m.-5 p.m. (register at 9 a.m.), cost \$8 (includes lunch). Call 447-7462.

## Sunday, Oct. 28

**The Golden Nights of Panama City**: Factory Theatre Lab tonight and tomorrow night, 8:30 p.m., \$3.50, \$2.50 for students, seniors and the unemployed.

**English Pottery and Porcelain**: third in a series of lectures on antique collecting; free, 2:30-4 p.m., 222 Queen's Quay West.

## Monday, Oct. 29

**Photographs by Steven Niblock** at the Funnel. 507 King East. Till Nov. 3.

**Sex and the Status of the Contemporary Woman**: a lecture by Loran Marsden at the Leah Posluns Theatre, 4588 Bathurst St., 8-10 p.m., \$2.50.

## Tuesday, Oct. 30

**Buyer Beware: Reading the Fine Print**. This is a two-hour lecture (7:30-9:30 p.m.) given at the Centennial Library by Community Legal Education Ontario. Call 363-0466.

**Relevant Curriculum for Working Class Students**: A CCCC seminar at OISE; 7-10 p.m., \$10, \$5 for high

school students. Call Barb Thomas, 653-2223.

**The Artists and the Land**: Lecture Presentation at 8 p.m., St. Lawrence Centre, 27 Front St. East, free.

## Wednesday, Oct. 31

**Walsh**: a play about Sitting Bull in Canada, is opening tonight at Hart House Theatre, and running till Nov. 3, and again from Nov. 7-10. Admission is \$5, \$2.50 for students.

**Open screenings at the Funnel**. Free admission if you bring a film to show: like they say, "16 mm, super 8, colour, b & w, sound, silent, loops, dual projections, home movies, found footage, work in progress, etc."

## Thursday, Nov. 1

**Highway Traffic Law and How to Fight a Ticket**: a free short course given by Community Legal Education Ontario, at the Agincourt public library, tonight from 8:30-10:30 p.m. Call 363-4066.

**Equity Showcase Theatre** presents Bill Cameron's *Ramble Show*, till Nov. 4 at Harbourfront; 8:30 p.m., free admission but reserve ahead by calling 364-5739.

## Friday, Nov. 2

**South Africa: The White Laager**: (Canada, 1978); Cinema of Solidarity, Innis Town Hall.

**Women for Political Action** are running their fourth annual campaign school for women at the Plaza II Hotel, November 2-4. There will be various political skill workshops which would be of interest to women who wish to involve themselves in parliamentary politics. For more information contact Margaret Bryce at 465-3250 or Lindsay Ryan Nye at 482-1228 or 593-4236.

## Saturday, Nov. 3

**Weekend Matinée films**: the NFB wraps up the 10 week film series today and tomorrow at 2 p.m. at Harbourfront's York Quay Centre. Free. Call 364-7127.

## Have fun and help the Clarion

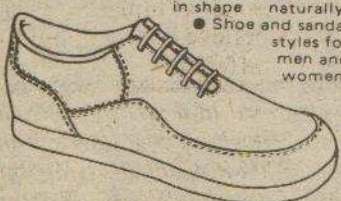
Benefit concert  
with The Doppler Brothers  
and  
Reggae sounds  
of Chalawa

at 8 p.m.  
Thursday, November 15  
at the  
Maple Leaf Ballroom  
665 St. Clair Avenue West  
Tickets \$5: to reserve tickets, call 363-4404

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Sunday Brunch Noon to 2:00

162 McCaul

## Renters raise roof

From page 5

Mayor Sewell then responded that there had been no change in policy.

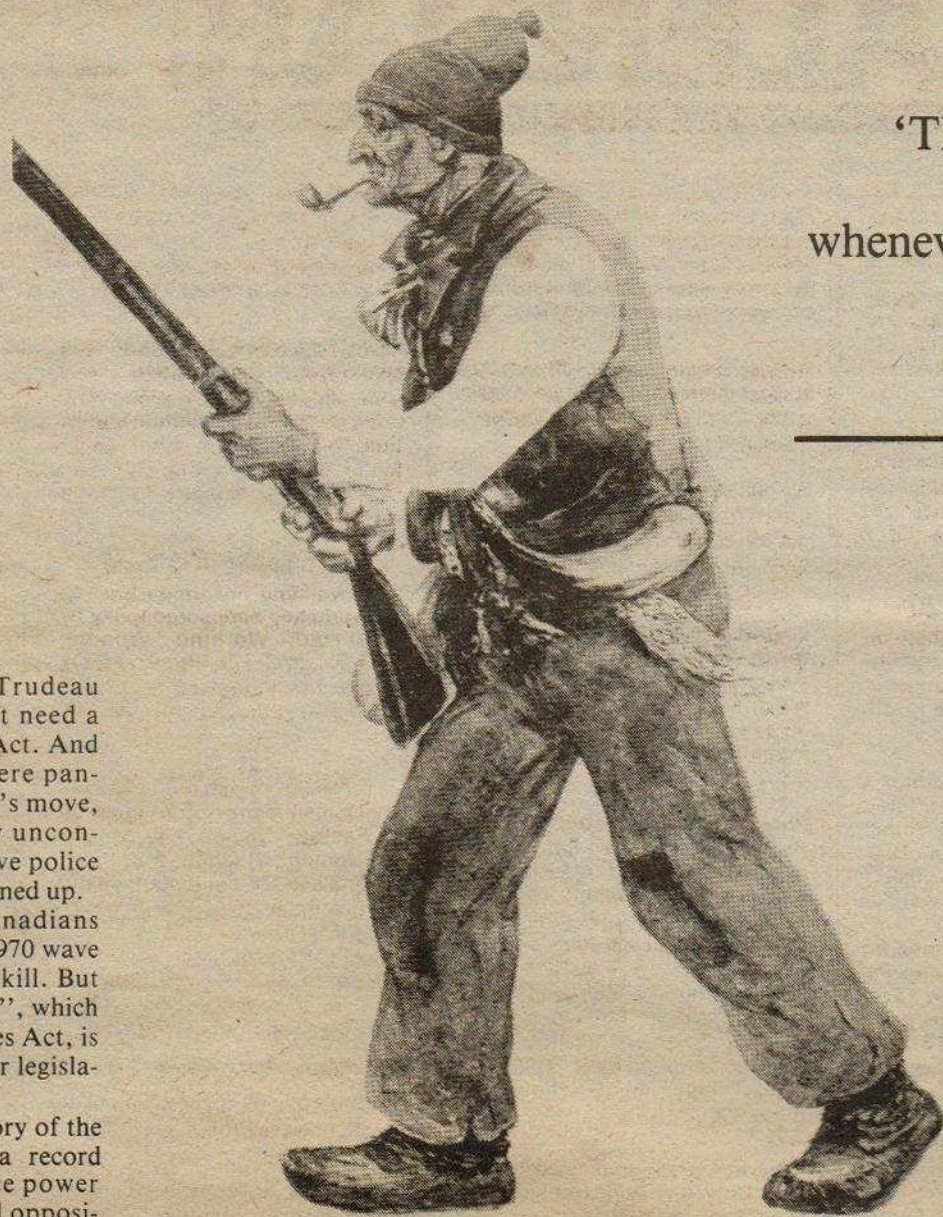
Sewell has asked for more

consultation between the city housing staff and the projects before a final decision by the board is made on October 23.

Sewell also asked city housing staff to report on how the sharing of deficits and surpluses among projects could be made more equitable.

City housing staff should try to recover the social costs involved in operating city-run rooming houses from senior levels of government, he said.

Finally, the staff has been instructed to study the legal feasibility of tenants participating on the city housing board.



**'The War Measures Act is still in the books. It can still be invoked whenever the government feels threatened — war or no war.'**

In October 1970 Pierre Trudeau showed us all that you didn't need a war to use the War Measures Act. And although many Canadians were panicked into supporting Trudeau's move, few could remain completely unconcerned in the face of the massive police power that was so easily summoned up.

Today, the majority of Canadians would probably recognize the 1970 wave of searches and arrests as overkill. But the excuse of "national security", which then justified the War Measures Act, is still being used to justify similar legislation.

Yet looking back on the history of the War Measures Act, reviews a record long on arbitrary use of police power against minorities and political opposition, political manipulation and violations of basic rights. There are very few convincing threats to Canada's national security.

The Act was drawn up in the humid summer days of 1914, just before the first World War. Prime Minister Robert Borden set his law officers the task of drafting a Canadian version of Britain's Defence of the Realm Act. The British Act was specific in the emergency powers it authorized, but Borden, indecisive even when not under pressure, gave instructions that the Canadian bill should allow him to decide which powers he might need as the occasion arose.

The result was the War Measures Act—a piece of legislation that can be invoked by Cabinet (without consultation with Parliament) whenever a war, invasion, or insurrection — real or apprehended — threatens the security, defence, peace, order and welfare of Canada.

The Act suspends the Canadian Bill of Rights and gives the government complete power to censor, arrest, detain, exclude and deport. The government may also take control of all transport, trade, exports, imports, production and manufacture, and can appropriate, forfeit and dispose of all property.

Together the Senate and Parliament spent less than an hour in debate before the Act became law. And not only did the new Canadian Act far exceed its British model in the totality of its powers: unlike the British Act it failed to die at the end of the fighting.

It was not long before the Act was put to use, although one would be hard pressed to describe its victims as a threat

## **War Measures Act. Workers, reformers and 'leering Orientals' are the usual enemies**

to the Dominion. Immigrants from Germany, Austria and Italy were required to register as "enemy aliens" and were disenfranchised. The government move gave the green light to the expression of anti-immigrant sentiment with all the usual kinds of victimization.

As the carnage in Europe progressed, working class opposition grew around the world. In Canada, the Act allowed the government to ban a number of radical organizations. As the Russian Czar toppled, all meetings conducted in the Russian, Finnish or Ukrainian languages were declared illegal in Canada.

Finally, the Act was used against opponents of the government's conscription policy. In 1917 and the first three months of 1918, 3,895 people were arrested on charges connected with anti-conscription activity. Most were trade unionists.

The next year, troops were sent into Québec City and placards were posted warning citizens not to attend "unlawful assemblies" connected with the anti-conscription movement. In one incident, four civilians were killed when troops

fired on demonstrators. The War Measures Act drew its first blood.

On September 1, 1939 Mackenzie King proclaimed an "apprehended war" and declared that he intended to make use of the War Measures Act. When Japanese planes attacked Pearl Harbour in December 1941, Canada declared war on the Japanese even before the Americans did, and the Japanese minority in British Columbia found itself defenceless before racist politicians and the state.

Army, navy and RCMP officials agreed with Lieutenant General Ken Stuart, Chief of General Staff, that the Japanese on the west coast did not constitute "the slightest menace to national security." But several MPs who partially owed their seats to their astute use of racist and jingoist rhetoric ("A vote for the Liberal candidate is a vote against the Oriental . . . Look behind a CCF candidate and you will see an Oriental leering over his shoulder with an eye on your daughter" — 1935 election poster) pressured the government to move against the "yellow peril."

Twelve hundred fishing vessels were

impounded and 59 Japanese language schools closed. On December 16, 1941, all people of Japanese descent — including Canadian citizens — were required to register themselves as enemy aliens. In February the round-ups began.

Twenty-one hundred people — men, women and children, many of them Canadian citizens — were sent to prison and work camps in the interior. All their property was confiscated and sold. Yet, during the entire war not one Japanese immigrant was even charged with any act of sabotage or disloyalty.

The powers given to a racist cabinet by the War Measures Act were responsible for the largest single breach of civil and human rights in Canadian history. Even after the war, under an extension of the special powers, Japanese were threatened with deportation unless they "dispersed" east of the Rockies. Only a massive campaign by Canadian progressives in 1946 stopped 10,000 people from being deported to a country many of them had never seen.

In October 1970 the Act was invoked for the third time. Nearly 500 Québécois were thrown in jail and held incommunicado, some for weeks. Thousands of homes were ransacked. Many prisoners were threatened and beaten. Others were interrogated for up to 10 hours at a stretch regarding their attendance at what had once been perfectly legal meetings. Upon their release, many found that they had lost jobs or were demoted.

A civic reform movement which was offering the first serious challenge to the corrupt Drapeau administration was thrown into disarray as many of its leaders were arrested and its candidates accused of terrorism. A panicked citizenry voted as troops policed the streets.

The War Measures Act is still on the books. It can still be invoked whenever the government feels threatened — war or no war.

It could mean that the meeting you attended last night or last week could be illegal — retroactively. Your opposition to government policy could land you in jail without a right to stand on.

What will the next threat to "national security" in Canada be? Native land claims in the North? A "yes" vote in the Québec referendum? A general strike? It is clear the War Measures Act is a permanent danger to minorities, immigrants, organized labour and anyone who opposes the status quo in times of crisis.

In the past, use of the act has given a handful of men with vested interests the power to trample our basic rights and commit shameful acts of injustice. There is no reason to believe its use in the future will be any different.

*This is the third in a series of articles on the state's attack on civil liberties and democratic rights in Canada, contributed by the Political Rights Working Group. Earlier articles dealt with the McDonald Commission on the RCMP and with the background to the state's repressive practices.*



**'The act suspends the Canadian bill of rights and gives the government complete power to censor, arrest, detain, exclude and deport.'**

# Union inaction angers worker

By Jim Peters

I work in the finishing department of a metal processing factory in Toronto, organized by the United Auto Workers.

Before the metal is given its final inspection and shipped, it is degreased to remove the oil and dirt that has accumulated during processing. This degreasing is done by dipping the metal into a 500-gallon tank of Royalene for two or three minutes. The Royalene is very powerful, and its odour is powerful too.

When the guys walk past the tank, which is equipped with a ventilation system and cold water rings to prevent the vapour from escaping, they often turn up their noses and comment on how strong the chemical is.

The two or three inspectors and packers who degrease metal all the time cannot just walk past the tank. The inspector on my shift says he has not felt right since he began doing that job three years ago.

Many of the workers believe the chemical should be kept in a special room outside our work area. One inspector said, "I am sure it's against the law to have this tank in here, and if this company ever does anything dirty to me, I'll call the department of health and then they will be in trouble."

There was a public inquiry into the chemical used by the dry cleaners a few years ago, and since the chemical we use is similar, the workers were aware that it can cause dizziness, and kidney and liver damage.

A friend went to the industrial health conference sponsored by Organized Working Women last December. She got some information about trichloroethylene, a degreasing chemical that her husband uses at work. He suffers some bad effects such as red blotching of the skin, shortness of breath, and a fast heart rate for about one hour during supper.

I showed the articles — published by

the UAW Industrial Health Department and the Metro Toronto Labour Council—to the inspector on my shift. He was very interested in reading them. "I don't want to cause trouble, but I do like to be informed," he said.

The articles are very clear. Trichloroethylene may cause dizziness, shortness of breath, cancer, kidney, liver and nervous system damage as well as skin disease. Because there is no known way to improve a cancer-causing agent, it must be replaced by an alternative.

The inspector, who has 22 years seniority, wanted to be polite about the whole thing and show the articles to the foreman. After all, he said, maybe they just aren't aware of the bad effects.

The next day, the company safety man and the foreman came to the inspector to say he was in fact using trichloroethylene. But, they added, it is harmless because of the ventilation and the cold water rings. The alternative, wiping the metal with coal oil (which is four times as dangerous) would mean hiring 20 more men. The chemical saves our company millions of dollars.

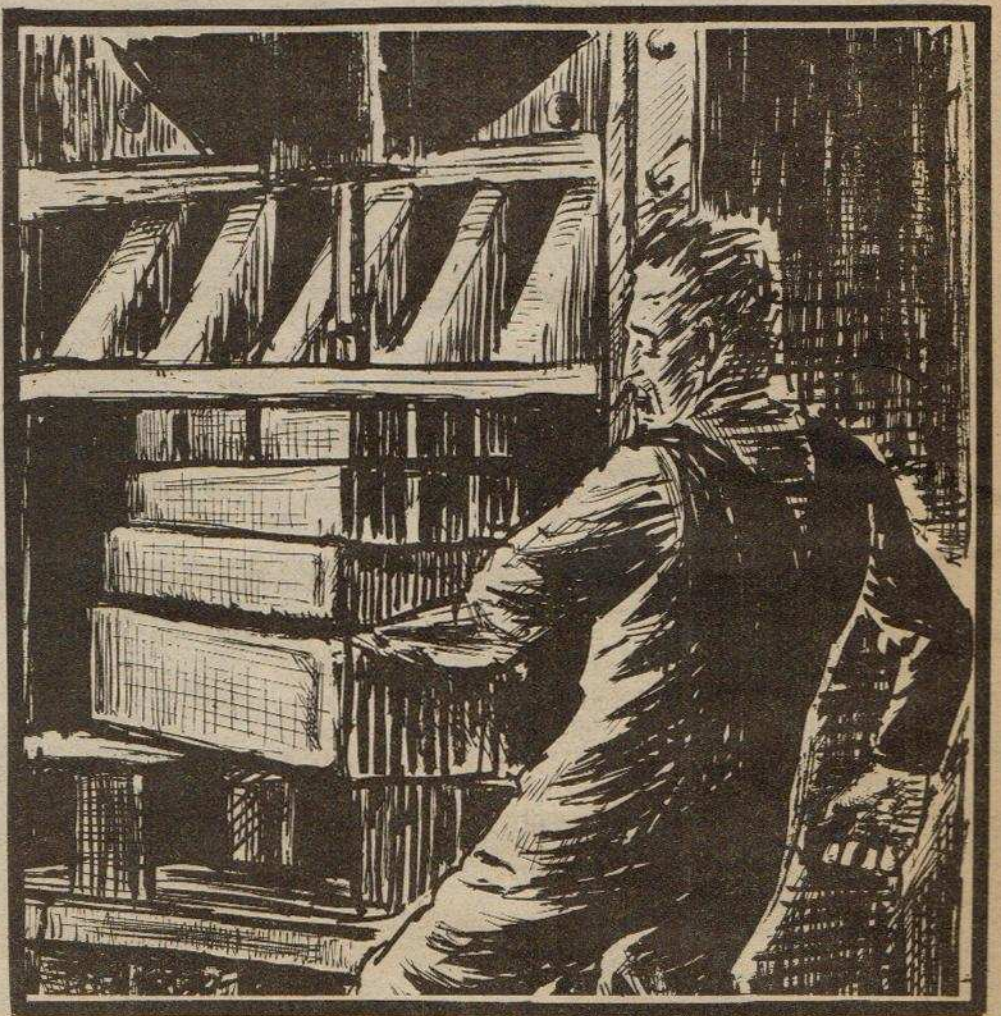
I then contacted the author of one of the articles at the Humber College Centre for Labour Studies. He told me that if you can smell the chemical, it is 10 times too strong.

When I told him the name of our factory, he said the president of our union local was just on a three-week industrial health course sponsored by the federal government.

The course spent an entire day studying trichloroethylene, and our president had written a major paper on the chemical. The whole class had toured our plant the week before my call, and the degreasing tank had been one of the points of interest.

He also urged me to contact the union president to find out what was being done and to offer my help.

At the same time I passed out copies



of the articles to 15 other workers in my department. They were very interested in the information, and said, "This is good to know in case anything ever happens."

The union president said he had been to the course and was very concerned. He said the union would push for an improved ventilation system. When I asked about an alternative chemical, he said he would contact the college professor again about a new chemical. When I offered to help, he said it was in the hands of the ministry and there was nothing I could do.

I got the same reaction from all the workers when I told them about my discussion with the union president. "Bullshit! I'll believe it when I see it. I have been here too long and I know him too well." But at the same time, none of them would go and talk to the union president or attend a union meeting.

The inspector didn't want to com-

plain, because the company might put him on a shit job. He asked what I would do if I was the company. And he said, "Wherever there is industry there is pollution, and even in the streets it is bad for your health. If you want to take away all of the pollution, you will take away all the industry and there will be no more civilization. You are going too far: don't make waves."

Two weeks later I saw the union president again. He said they were still working for an improved ventilation system, but he denied saying he would contact the professor about an alternative chemical.

At least some workers are better informed as a result of this action. But we have not changed the serious health problem at our factory.

The union president was recently made an international representative of the UAW.

## Increases worker control

# New Act halfway there

By Shalom Schachter

The Occupational Health and Safety Act which was passed at the last session of the legislature puts all the legal rights and obligations in occupational health and safety in one law and responsibility for its administration in one government department.

The government can no longer escape liability for failure to enforce the law by having one government department claim that not it but another government department was responsible.

The law permits the creation of joint worker-management safety and health committees in many workplaces with 20 or more workers, and the appointment of worker representatives. This will allow workers and their unions to not only have access to health and safety information, but as well to have an equal say in what measures should be taken to improve workplace safety and health.

The law now clearly sets out the duties of management to take every reasonable precaution for the protection of workers. The law permits the government to control the use of toxic substances either through outright prohibition or strict regulation.

Workers and their representatives are given the right to accompany govern-

ment inspectors and to receive copies of inspection reports. Workers and unions have the legal power to pursue the enforcement of the law by appealing inadequate orders issued by inspectors and even the right to appeal the failure to issue any orders at all.

Most importantly, the law recognizes the economic power of workers to demand a safe and healthy workplace by refusing to work in unsafe or unhealthy conditions.

However, there are serious limitations. The law ignores many workers; domestic workers, farmers and teachers are not covered, and neither are inmates or mental health rehabilitation patients.

The law also restricts the possibility of creating joint safety and health committees in office buildings, commercial stores, residential buildings, cultural facilities, restaurants and social clubs.

The right to refuse dangerous work does not apply to police, firefighters and prison workers. Health personnel are also excluded when patient safety and health is in imminent jeopardy.

And far too many of the government's enforcement powers don't have to be exercised if the government wants to ignore the law.

In addition to the defects in the law, there is a trap that workers can easily fall

into. Management may try and use the joint safety and health committees as sweet talk sessions to co-opt the union into accepting management's view of what is a safety and health problem, and its causes and solutions. If management succeeds in co-opting workers, they will put all the blame for accidents on "dumb workers" and their bad attitude.

Notwithstanding these problems, the law does provide a potentially strong basis for collective action to improve workplace safety and health, and it should be used as much as possible as one of worker's weapons against management.

Workers in workplaces without an automatic right to joint safety and health committee should pressure the provincial minister to require one to be established. The government should be pressured to enact regulations setting out that teachers and farm workers are given full protection. The minister should be lobbied to exercise fully his responsibilities in regulating the use of toxic chemicals.

Most importantly, workers should ensure that their unions hold education sessions so that all workers will become familiar with the right to refuse to perform dangerous work and all the other rights that exist under the law.

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## One worker disabled every 16 seconds

# Work: a danger to health

By Larry Haiven

Work is dangerous to your health. Just a provocative teaser of a title for a book? Not at all. If anything, it's an understatement about the maiming and slaughter of workers that goes on every day around us.

In Canada, the incidence of industrial accidents and disease is among the highest in the industrialized world. In the last 10 years, one Canadian worker has been killed on the job every two hours of every work day. Every 16 seconds, one Canadian worker suffers a disabling injury on the job.

Unlike other epidemics and scourges of modern living, such as alcoholism, cigarette-smoking, obesity or automobile accidents, the victim doesn't have a lot of choice. And the isolation of a single culprit is easy: corporate profits.

Even the most cynical industrialist would be hard-pressed to deny that safe-

ty in the workplace could be vastly improved — *if*. If the right equipment to remove safety hazards were installed where available and where affordable. And *if* the right equipment were developed where not available. And *if* management's major concern was safety first and foremost and profits later (or not at all). And *if* the individual worker were educated to the point that he or she were aware of all hazards and knew the precise method to avoid or reduce them and had the practical license to employ these methods without fear of reprisal.

But all of these "ifs" cost money — either in the spending of it or in the not-making of it. Is it not reasonable to assume that a society can, or must, afford to produce what it needs without killing and maiming workers in the process?

Of course, if it were not imperative that each enterprise not only make but maximize profits. But in a system where

capital is produced communally yet appropriated privately, the safety of the worker cannot but come second or third or fourth or worse in the priorities of the boss. And in a system where unemployment and economic insecurity haunt every worker, his or her own health and safety on the job cannot come first.

What's more, in "free" enterprise, it is entirely possible that the individual owner, especially the small one in a labour-intensive industry, simply cannot afford to protect his workers. To do so could not only stop profits, but the business as well.

But even the large corporations scream poverty and beg for time and rattle the cup for handouts when ordered to clean up.

Does this mean nothing can be done? Of course not. It simply means that mere tinkering with the system will not substantially change the root cause of industrial maiming and poisoning. Nothing short of a complete reorienting of the economic base of our society can remove the cause.

Yet the situation is so bad that the possibilities for improvement even under the present system are almost limitless. Nevertheless workers and unions and other interested persons must grasp and claw their way, constantly fighting against a determined enemy.

It is, in the truest sense, a life and death struggle. The key to winning in the fight for safe and clean working conditions is not primarily in technical knowledge. It is first and foremost a question of attitude, of perspective.

The only practical way to look at industrial safety and health — that is, the only way that will do us any good in the long run — is in black and white. Industrial accidents and disease are either the worker's fault or the company's fault. There is no in-between.

Before you complain about the outrageousness of this statement, consider two points. First, anybody who has dealt with companies on the question knows that when it boils right down, they contend that it *is* the worker's fault in every simple industrial accident and disease. And second, they are right — aren't they? Whether it involves agreeing to work

overtime despite being dead tired in order to make some more money; or failing to complain about that unsafe piece of equipment because the other workers would make fun of you; or drilling twice as much rock without waiting for reinforcing beams because you get bonus money on those extra tons — or continuing to work in the silica dust because you're only receiving 25 per cent disability pension for your silicosis; or forgetting to cut out an electrical switch while doing maintenance because you're thinking about leaving this dusty hell-hole for the cottage in an hour; or tossing 60-pound ingots into the furnace all by yourself because you're proud you can still do it at your age; or simply being in the wrong place at the wrong time when that load drops from the crane (after all if you hadn't come to work this morning, none of this would have happened): The worker is always at fault.

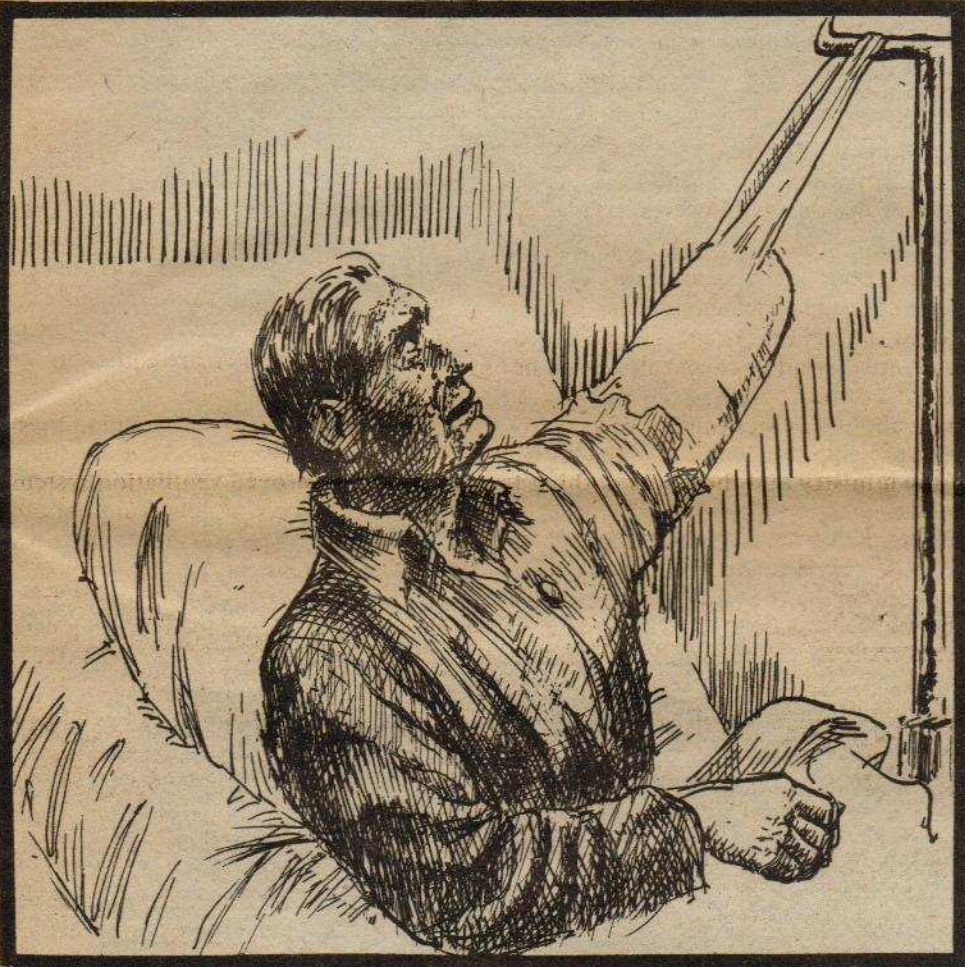
Some of this sounds uncomfortably true, doesn't it? That's why anyone seriously interested in industrial safety and health must start from the exact *opposite* viewpoint. It is *always* the company's fault. To think otherwise would be to allow the disaster to continue. To fall for the excuse of the culpable victim is to disarm ourselves right at the beginning.

Few people are aware that one of the legal doctrines that the new Bill 70 has removed from the law books is the doctrine of absolute liability, wherein a company is always responsible for the death or maiming of one of its employees on the job. It is now a defence for companies to prove that "every precaution reasonable in the circumstances was taken." (A step backward.)

But despite the change in the law, we *must* continue the doctrine of absolute liability. Does this remove any responsibility from workers or their unions? No, in fact, it increases it. You must still fight for a safe workplace. What this viewpoint does is to put you in a position to do just that — to fight.

But the company *is* responsible — because it and it alone has the real power to increase or decrease the risk of ac-

See WORK page 14



## Asbestos white gold for industry

# 'White lung' for Quebec's miners

The ancient Greeks knew it, and called it "asbestos", meaning "unquenchable". Modern industrialists know it, and recognize it as "white gold," the mineral of 3,000 uses.

A third of the world's asbestos is produced in the Eastern townships of Québec. Six companies (five American and one British) exploit Québec's asbestos and miners. These companies made \$250 million profit between 1961-1966.

In November 1974, a team of eight doctors from the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York began a study on the lungs of miners from the Thetford Mines-Black Lake area (about 140 miles from Montréal). The results were devastating.

Sixty-one per cent of workers who have spent 20 years in the mines had lung abnormalities, and 52 per cent had asbestosis, a crippling form of lung scarring known as "white lung". Usually, asbestosis is hidden for a long

time. But after 10 or 20 years, its victims get tired and short of breath. It's too late then. The asbestos fibres have got into the lungs, changed the cell tissue and hardened the lungs.

Lung and chest cancer are other effects of breathing asbestos.

The results of this study triggered a seven-month strike by the asbestos miners. On March 16, 1975, 97 per cent of the miners voted strike.

There were three areas of strike demands: control of asbestos fibres in the air, wages and holidays.

Two unions were involved — the Confederation of National Trade Unions (CSN) which represented 2,500 of the 3,000 strikers, and United Steelworkers of America (affiliated with the FTQ/AFL). They formed a common front on wage and holiday demands, but not on the issue of fibre concentration.

The average level of fibre concentration in the six mines was 18 per cubic centimetre of air. Three mines had levels of 30-50 per cc. In US and Ontario

mines, the maximum permitted is five; in England, the maximum is two. George Formby, leader of the research of the medical team, said that such high levels of concentration are "almost equivalent to genocide".

The health demands put forward by the CSN were:

- that the asbestos companies free an employee, chosen by the union (full time and on full wages) to monitor the air;
- that employees be able to *stop work* when the fibre concentration reaches five fibres per cc with no loss of wages;
- that the level be reduced to two fibres within two years;
- that employees who go for medical examination at the company's request not lose wages;
- that any worker afflicted with asbestos-related disease who cannot return to his job continue to receive his full wage and that his wage not be lowered if he has to take another job in the mine;
- that asbestos-caused disease be recognized by the Workmen's Compensation

Board, and that the Board pay the afflicted worker a full salary if the company could not offer a safer job.

Shocked by the Mount Sinai Medical Team's report, almost the whole population supported the striking miners. Women, students, shopkeepers, other workers, local community television were all mobilized. Support committees were organized.

A central support committee collected and distributed gifts. A popular action committee organized solidarity marches and petitions. A support committee distributed sandwiches on the picket line and got students involved in making placards, printing leaflets and a number of technical services.

And a women's support committee brought information to women. A committee of twelve women organized information evenings for women (600-800 attended each time), telephone teams to call and inform women, and women's demonstrations. In all, 80 women were

See LUNGS page 15

# Workshops waffle on ways to aid Third World women

By Barbara MacKay

Feeling a lot like Huntress Thompson at a cop convention, I quietly slumped into the back row of chairs at the Match International Centre Convention in Toronto September 30.

The room abounded with upper-middle class, middle-aged women, tossing off "Madame Chairman's" with all the skill of Wednesday Afternoon Women's Club members.

Match-International, as its letterhead says, is an "international centre matching

women's needs and resources in Canada and the Third World." It has been operating for the past two years out of Ottawa and is incorporated with and co-financed by the Canadian International Development Agency.

The centre aims to improve conditions in developing countries from both the grass-roots approach of improving living conditions of women, their families and their communities at a rural level. The center has supported programs in more than 120 countries and currently has 50 projects in progress.

Development programs conceived by women in Third World countries are proposed to a board of directors in Canada. If accepted, the programs — which range from agriculture and nutrition programs to clean water projects — are aided by Canadian women with skills, equipment and/or funding.

The centre's purpose is to "listen to the voices of third world women," because they know best what aid they need or want.

A noble enough sentiment. However, the voices being heard by Match are, like their Canadian members: middle-class.

A member of the board of directors explained that although the developing country members are for the most part middle-class, they are the links that connect the indigenous, rural groups in need of aid with the Canadian resources.

Match members hoped the second annual conference would be a good way to generate new ideas for action, particularly in the workshops held on food and agriculture, health and paramedical services, women and the economy, and women in community development.

One of the most interesting and recurring discussions heard was about the need for Canadian women involved in international development organizations to remove their "judgemental attitudes" toward many cultural aspects of developing countries.

"Western women are too

quick to judge," said Marie-Angelique Savane of Senegal. "They say, 'You can't do that, it's wrong. Do this, it's right.' We want to be able to make our own decisions about what is right for us."

Savane attended the workshop on health and paramedical services where the topic of female circumcision and infibulation was raised. She said that "circumcision is only one of the many violences done to women throughout the world... and each woman suffers alone."

However, Savane said she resented the workshop's emphasis on the issue because she felt the practice was being discussed outside a context of overall cultural oppression. It is just one example of a much larger issue, she said.

**'We as world citizens believe that it is every person's right to autonomy, dignity and self-esteem.'**

Anthropologist Wanda Joy Hoe also broached the issue of culture, saying that westerners must be careful to avoid "cultural imperialism," or trying to impose their cultural values on another culture in the name of aid. However, she also said that in stepping around cultural practices "it is important to determine who is defining this culture."

As one board member said, "We as world citizens believe that it is every person's right to autonomy, dignity and self-esteem." If this is a Match belief, then cultural imperialism can be avoided by helping women from developing coun-

tries define their culture themselves and gain these three basic rights

The caution about cultural practices was unfortunately also applied to women in the economy and in community development.

Workshop leaders stressed the need to emphasize education about the economy as it acts on women, often without their knowledge of how or why. But they also emphasized working within existing structures and incorporating women's needs within established systems.

That approach seems exceptionally conservative. It puts women in the traditional, manipulative position of trying to work within a system that is not designed with women in mind and generally oppresses them.

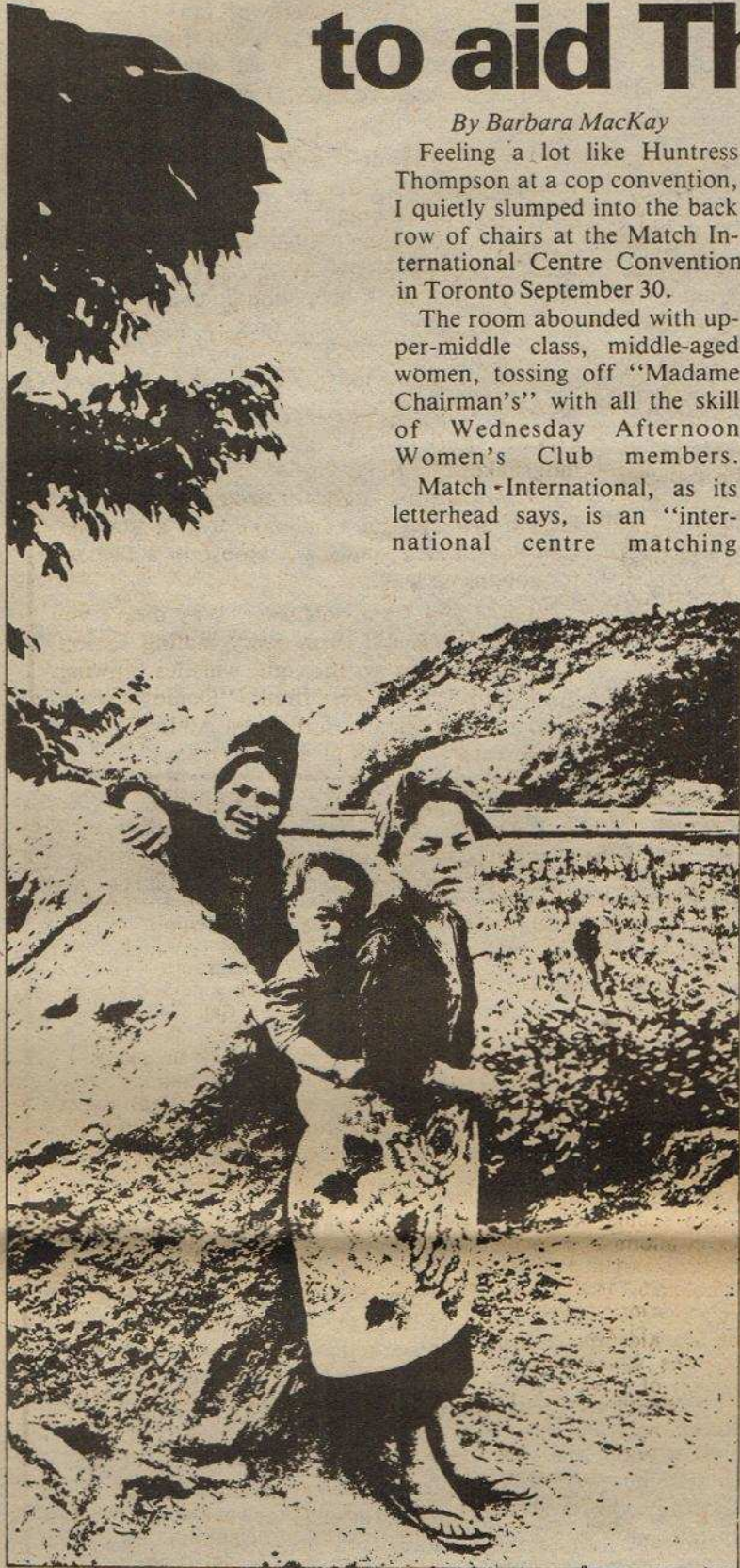
Two other controversial ideas were discussed but not recommended for action.

One suggestion was to initiate Match projects within Canada, in poor rural areas which could also use middle and upper class aid. The suggestion was discussed, but no agreement could be reached.

A potentially dangerous recommendation from the floor was that Match should help women in developing countries be elected to governmental positions. The idea was given strong support from some members, but equally strong disapproval because it would require consensus on which political party to support. On the last day of the convention, this can of worms was passed over in favour of a coffee break.

As an international development agency, Match has good ideas about whose aid requests should be supported. And their grassroots approach is probably better than CIDA's usual "tied-aid" types of programs.

However, western women must deal with the problem of avoiding "cultural imperialism" but still helping to change oppressive cultures, and they must also overcome their reluctance to help women in developing countries make radical changes to economic and societal structures.



## Work is dangerous

From page 13

cident or disease in its facility. It alone has the power to save or to spend money, to alter working conditions, to purchase equipment, to test it and make it safe. And it alone, through example has the power to stress and to enforce safe and sanitary working procedures — in short

— to get results.

Life is work and work is life. To a far greater extent than we care to realize, our whole lives are affected by the jobs we do. And though we toil together, we suffer the consequences alone. That should be enough to convince us to get together in this important battle.

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# 'Keep Petrocan — Cut CANDU' Anti-nuke groups unite against sales

By Carl Stieren

Exit the "hippy anti-nuclear movement" with the same few hundred people in hiking boots and down-filled parkas.

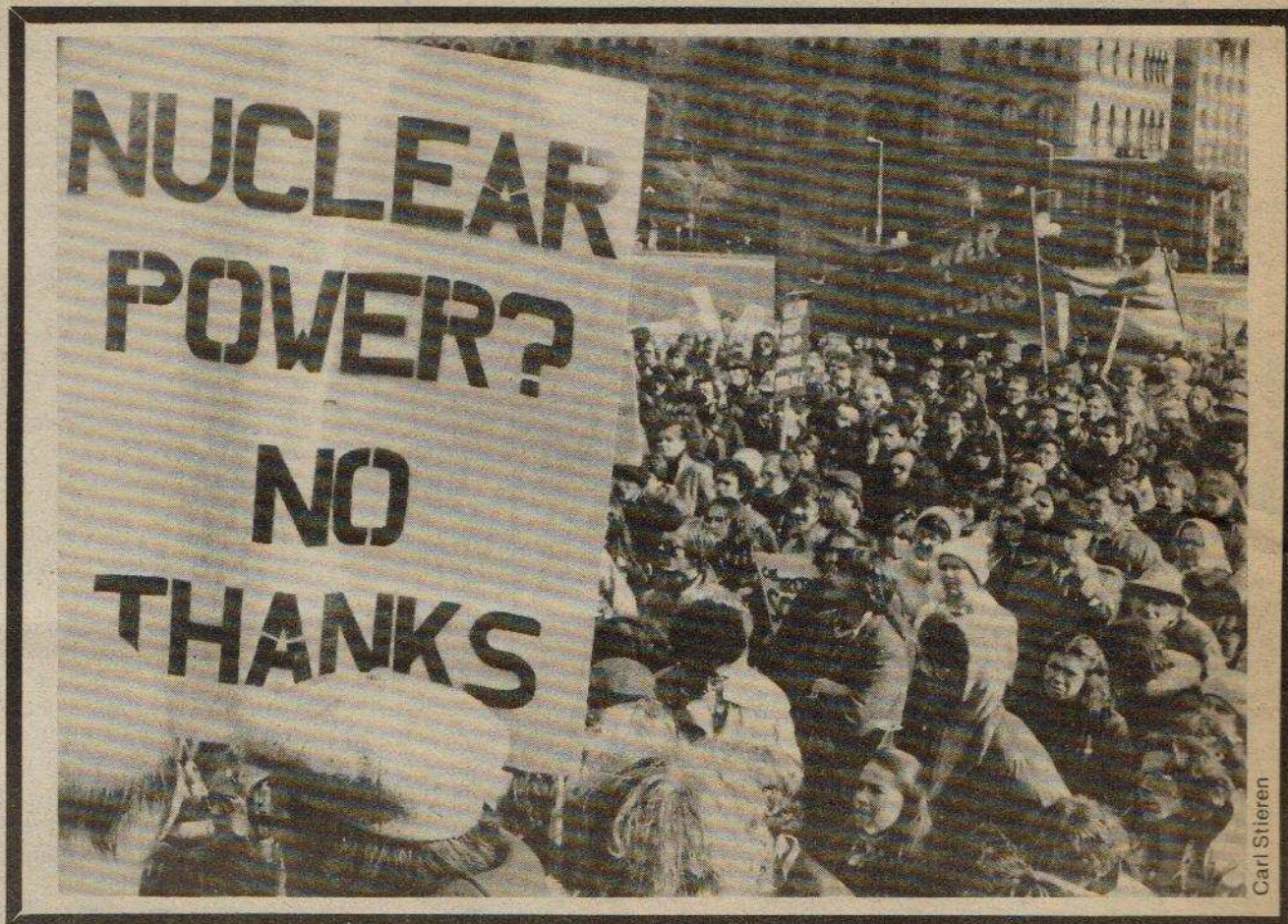
Enter more than a thousand opponents of nuclear power from Winnipeg to Newfoundland — little old ladies from Montreal, kilted Scots-Canadians from Cape Breton, complete with bagpipes, rank-and-file unionists and organizers from Toronto and the Maritimes.

They all came to protest on Parliament Hill on October 13. They came in buses, on trains, in car pools and on bicycles, and the rain in Ottawa didn't stop them.

The coalition uniting them all was called SOS — Stop Overseas Sales. It had come together on Grindstone Island last August during the Non-Nuclear Power conference, when activists from the Ontario Non-Nuclear Network patched up their differences with the public educators from the Canadian Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility. Groups from Quebec, the Maritimes and the west were recruited to the coalition.

Speakers supporting the demonstrators included New Democrats like Inuit MP Peter Ittinuar, scientist Gordon Edwards, union activists and church workers.

In July 1979 a hundred dock workers in the port of St. John honoured a picket line set up by the local labour council, and delayed the shipping of heavy water to a CANDU reactor in Argentina.



Carl Stieren

"This action led to the release of seven political prisoners in Argentina," said labour organizer Don Lee.

Surprise last-minute speakers kept cropping up. NDP MP Bill Blaikie of Winnipeg told the crowd that a majority of his constituents responding to his last newsletter were opposed to nuclear power.

But the surprise of the whole day came afterwards at a rally at a local church, when scientist and CBC broadcaster David Suzuki made his first public statement on nuclear power.

"I'm still an agnostic on nuclear power," he began, but there will be accidents in nuclear plants and I say that with absolute certainty; because there is no absolute certainty in technology.

"We would laugh at an airplane manufacturer who said he would build an airplane that would never crash.

"But if there is a massive infusion of money into nuclear technology, (to make it safer), it will inhibit or prevent the development of alternative technology."

The purpose of the demonstration was to coincide with the opening of Parliament and to demand that the government put a freeze on building new nuclear power plants and stop export sales of reactors.

But when Ontario NDP MPP Evelyn Gigantes urged the crowd to send Joe Clark postcards saying "Flora was right on candu" — referring to the external affairs Minister's hesitation to sell CANDUs to dictatorships — Gigantes got opposition from some of the audience.

Some of the demonstrators argued that such support for Flora Macdonald would imply that her general moral stand was justified — a stand cutting off most development aid to Africa.

The group was united, however, on its main goals. "We don't want to be the trigger for World War Three," said Gordon Edwards, chairperson of the Canadian Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility.

"We don't want to prop up a few dictators so a few Canadian nuclear companies can make their profits."

The demonstrators marched from Ottawa University to Parliament Hill, performing guerilla theatre and carrying hundreds of handmade signs, banners and pictures. Some of the signs read, "Keep PetroCan, Cut CANDU", "Nuclear Power Equals War Preparations," and a slogan made famous since the Three-Mile-Island, "Hell No; We Won't Glow."



David Smiley

Demonstrators at an October 10 Candlelight Vigil. They marched, with candles in the rain, from the Hydro Building to Queen's Park.

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**Leonard Hutchinson: Ten Years of Struggle**, reproductions of woodcuts from the 1930's.

**Fallout**, a novel by Peter Such.

**Following the Red Path**, a pictorial account of the 1974 Native Caravan by Vern Harper.