

TORONTO

## clarion

Vol. III No. 8 April 18—May 1, 1979

Metro's biweekly alternative 25 cents



Unemployed youths attracted to Yonge strip find pin ball and prostitution. A special feature on page 9.

# OHIP tax scheme Hurts 'working poor'

A provincial government discussion paper has proposed to abolish the present OHIP premium assistance program and replace it with a healthcare tax credit.

If adopted, the proposal would require people now receiving partial premium assistance to pay their premiums in full, and wait for a rebate at income tax time. Currently, people receiving premium assistance only pay the portion of the premium they need to pay, based on their income.

The 13-page government document was published as background information to the 1979 Ontario budget on April 10.

A few days after the budget was released, provincial treasurer Frank Miller said establishment of the tax credit had "high priority" on the list of government projects.

According to the proposal, people who have paid for OHIP coverage during the year could apply for a credit when filling their income tax returns.

For example, family subscribers with a taxable income of \$4,100 would be eligible for a credit of \$260 after paying a total premium of \$480 a year — or \$120 every three months.

However, Mike Rachlis, a doctor at the South Riverdale Community Health Centre, questioned whether people would be able to afford paying the full premiums through the year in order to get the tax credit.

In the case of the family with

\$4,100 taxable income, he pointed out, the proposal would mean "you've got to put out twice as much money — an extra \$240 a year — and then wait to collect back on it."

Rachlis added: "That extra \$240 a year might have been going toward other things — like food, for example."

He said that working poor people would face a "severe financial strain" to come up with the full OHIP premium every three months.

But Rachlis said the impact of a tax credit plan couldn't properly be judged until it went into effect, and the number of

people benefiting from tax credits was known.

The health care tax credit idea stemmed from the Report of the Select Committee on Health Care Financing, released last October. The tax credit was the only proposition which gained unanimous consent from the committee.

The committee discovered last summer that at present, about 600,000 Ontario taxpayers in the low income bracket are entitled to total or partial OHIP premium assistance. However, only one-third, or about 200,000 of these are actually claiming assistance

from the ministry of health.

The background paper noted: "This shortfall is particularly evident in the area of partial assistance. In 1978, only 2,000 people filed for partial assistance."

However, Rachlis noted that many people who are eligible now just don't know that partial premium assistance is available, because very little publicity has been given the plan.

He said that at the South Riverdale health centre, "Very often people are eligible for premium assistance, but they

See OHIP: Page 2

## Police push pasta picket

By Ellen Davis

Despite an around-the-clock picket line at the Lancia Bravo factory on Hook Ave., strike breakers wearing masks have managed to get through on three separate occasions to empty out the warehouse.

Two hundred and sixty workers have been on strike for the past four weeks. Vince Gentile, a strike officer, said that the strike breakers were from Centurion Investigation Ltd., a security company hired by Lancia Bravo.

On Tuesday, March 27, and again on Friday, March 30, at 3:30 A.M., the strike-breakers arrived in a convoy of eight trucks. Each time they were preceded by the police by five to ten minutes.

The scabs reappeared at noon on the Friday, again accompanied by a large contingent of police. On this occasion, they brought with them paddy wagons and ambulances. When the picketers attempted to march peacefully in front of the driveway, the police, who outnumbered the strikers, pushed and kicked their way through, injuring three women in the process.

Centurion has been involved in other notorious anti-union practices in the past.

Last year Centurion was charged in connection with the attempted bombing of a union information trailer, and with threatening to blow up union leader Archie Wilson of United

See BRavo: Page 2



Norma Rae is a winner — for the most part. Despite Sally Field's fine performance, the movie about organizing a Southern textile mill is curiously incomplete. Turn to page 7 and see if you can answer some of the questions Hollywood doesn't deal with.

\*\*\*\*\*

Toronto's gigantic first Parents' Convention was the beginning of an organizer's dream. A lot of parents spoke out about what they wanted the schools to do for their kids. What comes next — positive action or the nightmare of apathy? See page 5.

\*\*\*\*\*

**CAUTION**  
ALL CALLS:  
subject to  
RCMP interception

Ma Bell cares! These little stickers have been found on pay telephones throughout Metro, obviously to protect our civil liberties. But in these days of devalued currency, would Musical Riders bother listening to conversations we think are only worth a dime? See page 3 for the straight poop.

\*\*\*\*\*

Toronto poets Sara Spracklin and Mary di Michele battle stereotypes, especially as they affect women in the family and in the workplace. Look at page 6 for a sample of Mary's art and for further information about their upcoming reading at the Toronto Poets' Co-op.





# Cindy Fortunata

## Give me a break!

Once again we've been plunged into the election hohums and as usual, the season brings out a collection of wing-nuts. My current *médaille de dindon* goes to Ronald Rodgers. He's running in Spadina Riding for the Déteute Party of Canada. One splinter in his platform is a plan to establish a "Canadian Identity" by creating a "Union of Canadian Socialist Republics," in which "THE WORKING CLASS IS THE LEADING FORCE."

The country will be divided up into separate regions in which the "various Canadian groups (Negro, English, French, Italian, Portuguese, Jewish, Native Indian, Inuit etc.) can preserve and enrich with their respective Republics."

Each Autonomous Socialist Republic or Autonomous Region or Area "shall elect a predetermined number of members to a unilingual, and highly centralized Parliament in Ottawa."

Ronald doesn't mention it but I suspect that the language in this unilingual Parliament may well be Georgian — and I don't mean Georgian Bay.

Mr. Rodgers also favours full employment



and an end to the welfare state, but he admits that "there is much more to be worked out in detail."

As for me, I'm sure it will be a 'wonderful day in our neighbourhood' when we're all carted off to our respective autonomous, socialist collective, peace-loving reservations.

## Mind games

"Don't think inflation!" the government warns us. The inflation mentality, which always assumes that prices will rise, will push prices even higher, they say.

I think we should also be on guard against the government's social service cutbacks mentality. Witness a recent statement from the federal Ministry of Indian and Northern Affairs: it announced that training allowances will not be reduced this year, in response to pressure from the National Indian Brotherhood.

Never forget that government departments blithely assume social services will be cut back unless otherwise pressured.

Don't think cutbacks!

## Penalty Killers

Well, it seems that the bully and goon squad of the police force, otherwise known as the Emergency Task Force, may not be all that it is blown up to be.

The E.T.F. hockey team finished a poor seventh out of ten in the Metro Police East Division Hockey League. They had a record of six wins, two ties and ten losses.

And while Imray Welles may be pretty good at blocking strikers and demonstrators, he seems to have a lot of trouble with hockey pucks. The E.T.F. goalie finished well down the list in net-minding statistics.

## Moosejaw, Arkansas

McAinsh and Company, a periodical subscription wholesaler with an office in Toronto, has given us a taste of where things really stand in the North American culture business. Canadian nationalists on guard!

In a form letter, McAinsh asked US publishers for updates on their subscription policies and rates. Included was the request, "please indicate in your reply whether you consider Canadian subscriptions as domestic or foreign."

## Return of the Prodigal

Norman L. Wolfson has come home! For the past two years, Wolfson has been press advisor to General Somoza, the dictator of Nicaragua, through a contract with a New York public relations firm. For Wolfson's advice, the firm was paid up to \$30,000 a month.

Those press releases must have been masterpieces indeed. I wonder though if their value to Somoza increased in proportion to their untruth in the face of mounting guerilla attacks.

Poor Norman. He called it quits after he was forced to sleep cradling a machine gun to protect himself from the people.

"I was never so happy to get back to American soil," Wolfson declared on his return.

This presidential advisor has now joined another US firm that shows banks how to make profitable loans for cars, boats and planes. Should be a piece of cake after successfully selling terror in Nicaragua.

## INFORMATION IRAN

Monthly report published by the Committee to support the struggle of the Iranian People

no. 1 February 1979



## History of the mass movement

The bourgeois press, the huge press agencies act as a clear echo of imperialist propaganda centered on the so-called "liberalization" promoted by Carter: great defense of human rights as we know. So they try to make us believe that in Iran everything started with Carter's liberalizing campaign and also that the movement was badly directed by the religious forces and "backward" masses. That would explain the changes in government: the substitutions of civil and military prime ministers etc. up until the day when suddenly the armed masses rose up to profit from a stupid mistake of the army to dump the Shah-Bakhtiar regime.

The misleading vision of the revolution is proven by the facts: in fact the Iranian mass movement was never distracted by the changes in the government, which were ignored in the demonstrations. The masses concentrated their attention on the Shah and his regime, massed or not. Under Prime Minister Amouzegar who replaced the Hoveyda government that had lasted 13 years to create a so-

called "more open political atmosphere, the regime once again showed its real face of ferocious repression by organizing in August 78 the fire at the Rex Theatre in Abadan where 730 people were burned alive. The aim of the fire was to put an end to the uprising by accusing the progressive forces to thus divide the mass movement. But the people weren't fooled. On the contrary, it gave new spirit to the mass movement. So then the Shah wanted to give a new face to the so-called "liberalization". But the demagogic of democratic concessions was to be again defeated.

When the new Prime Minister Shari' Emami (August 78) — one of the principal Shah's leaders in Iran during the Second World War, now presented as a pious Muslim — promised free elections, the revolted masses held on to the same target. Down with the Shah. There were no questions of free elections before completely overthrowing the regime and all its pawns.

At the beginning of August 78, in Isfahan, an important working-class city, the regime was shaken for the first

time for several days, in spite of the curfew and martial law. Numerous street fights became the people's assault to destroy the State apparatus. This movement was to increase and develop to spread throughout the country. By the millions, Iranians poured into the streets shouting: "Death to the Shah! Down with the Pahlavi dynasty! and Long live the democratic republic."

Monday, September 4, 78, half million demonstrators in Tehran, three million altogether in the country. September 6, the regime, scared, declares all demonstrations illegal. Right away, 12 million demonstrators pour into the

See page 6

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• History of the mass movement  
• Why the report? platform of the committee  
• Canada in Iran  
• A religious movement?  
• In Iran these days.

# Bravo line 'second to none'

From Page 1

Auto Workers local 1967.

Although this will be the union's fourth contract with Lancia Bravo, the first three were each one-year agreements, concluded under the auspices of the AIB. Thus, it is the first real opportunity for the union to deal directly with the company.

The strikers, most of whom belong to the Canadian Food and Allied Workers union, are demanding a one year contract which includes provisions for union security, a dollar an hour

raise across the board, better health care benefits, including a dental plan, and a revision of the seniority system.

The company has countered with an offer of a two year contract and an eight per cent a year raise. The average wage is now \$4.85 an hour.

This is the first strike for the workers here — most of whom are immigrant, and they're determined to win the struggle. The strike leader, Lorne Kenney, describes their mood as "cheerful and positive" and

says that their picket line is "second to none."

## OHIP

From Page 1

don't know about it. A lot of people we serve fall into that category. When people come in, they have no idea about it."

He suggested that the bureaucracy involved in getting partial assistance also deters people from taking advantage of it. "You have to send in the first form, wait four to six weeks, and then fill out another form," he said.

Although the health centre now carries the forms for people to fill out there, he said the centre "had to go through contortions to get the forms in our office."

The background paper claimed that a health tax credit would improve administration of premium assistance and "could be used to alleviate low-income people from all or part of their premium burden".

Under the proposal, persons on social assistance, those over 65, families where one or both spouses are over 65, and people receiving veterans' pensions would not be eligible for a tax credit because they would be fully exempt from premiums.

# The Real Iran

The Committee to Support the Struggle of the Iranian People\* has begun to publish an Information Bulletin to tell Canadians about what is happening in Iran and why.

The first issue of **Information Iran** outlines the real nature of the revolt as a political struggle of the working people, rather than a "religious revival"; analyzes the state of that movement today; and details the role of the Canadian government in Iran.

**Information Iran** is available in single copies or in bulk from:

**THE SPARK BOOKSTORE**

2749 Dundas St. West, Toronto (763-4413)

Hours: Wed-Fri 7-9 p.m.; Sat 10a.m.-5p.m.

Write, phone or drop in!

(Suggested donation 25 cents per copy)

ALSO AVAILABLE: Buttons: "Support the Just Cause of the Iranian People" (with graphic). Suggested donation \$1.

\*Members of the Committee include: Confederation of Iranian Students, National Union; Movement of African Students in Montreal; En Avant (Haitian); and In Struggle!

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# Rule change means loss of jobs for Canadian truckers

By Ray Kuszelewski

Ontario Transportation and Communications Minister James Snow recently announced the beginning of reciprocal benefits for commercial vehicles travelling between Ontario and New York state.

Specifically, the provincial government is now allowing

New York trucks to travel here without having to purchase Ontario plates.

Snow claims that this "constitutes a major step forward for any business using Ontario trucks to transport commercial goods in and out of New York state." He neglected to explain, however, that as a whole such

deregulation will hurt Canadian truckers, since we import much more than we export.

In the past, New York trucks needed Ontario plates to drive in Ontario. Due to higher safety standards in Ontario, it was cheaper to transfer the goods to a Canadian truck and driver than to license their vehicles in Canada. The original regulations were to ensure that Canadian truckers benefitted from imbalance in trade between the U.S. and Ontario.

With this first step toward cross-border deregulation, companies are in a better position to weaken truckers' unions. International companies no longer have to negotiate with unionized Canadian truckers, but can simply drive across the border.

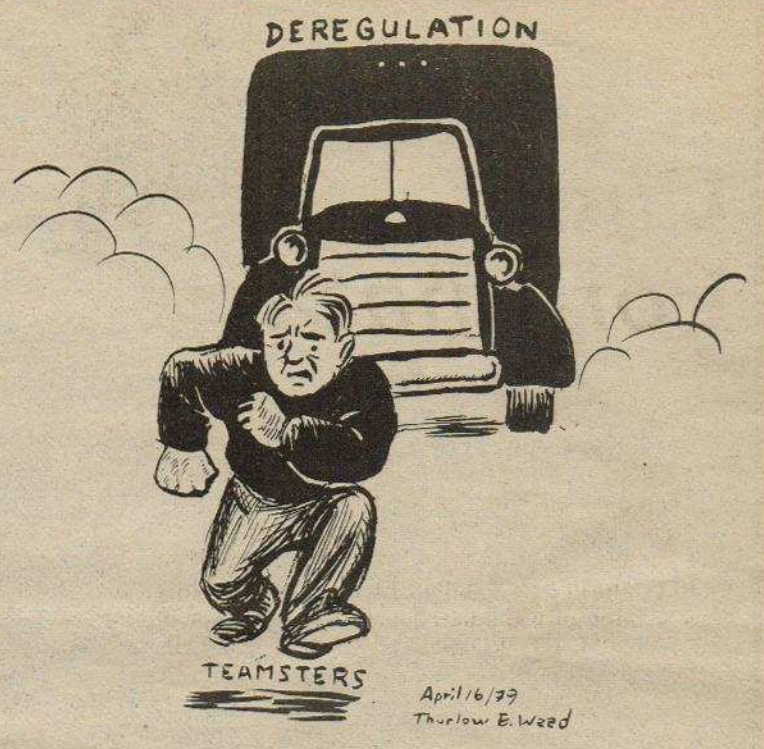
The companies' profits will now decide whether an American driver takes his cargo straight through to his destination or transfers it to a Canadian truck and driver.

Canadian and American drivers are now being played off against each other for jobs, to the benefit of the companies, while union officials sit back and ponder the situation.

As one Buffalo driver aptly put it, "The border will dissolve. The companies will run free."

Deregulation has already hurt Ontario workers, forcing one large hauling company out of business. Other Ontario companies are laying off workers and selling trucks to avoid a similar fate.

The threat of national deregulations has been used in the U.S. to try to bring Teamsters into line during the recent strike there. President Jimmy Carter told truckers they would face deregulation if they did not accept the seven per cent wage ceiling. Trucking safety and licensing standards are closely monitored by the federal government in the U.S.



## Will Bell tell?



Bright red stickers have been appearing in Toronto telephone booths warning that calls are "subject to RCMP interception."

The Clarion has not yet been able to determine whether this is an official Bell Telephone sticker.

## Government policy.....

# Women's job ghettos

March figures from Statistics Canada show that the "official" unemployment rate for women 25 and over is 7.3 per cent, whereas the comparable figure for men is 4.7 per cent. Our Ottawa correspondent looks at the government's failure to deal with this issue.

By Peter Birt

OTTAWA—"We deeply regret the misunderstanding of our policies and programs on women's employment," Bud Cullen, minister of Employment and Immigration, told women in February.

Those "misunderstandings" were the series of cutbacks, barriers and myths the government has been putting between women and economic equality.

Protests against the unemployment insurance cutbacks, the elimination of funds for women's career counselling services, lay-offs in the public service, and reduced training allowances all focus on the

government's attempt to push women out of the labour force.

That push, however, will not go smoothly.

"In 1945," a spokesperson for a December protest here said, "a potential unemployment problem was averted by legislating women out of the work force into the home. It won't work this time. The government must create jobs for women — instead of pretending that we are not workers and ignoring the fact that we're unemployed."

But the government insists on pretending. In February Cullen said that women were no longer a target group for employment programs "Because they can usually benefit from regular Commission programs and services."

The reality is, however, that women remain the "last hired, first fired." Unemployment among women, even officially, 30 per cent higher than among men.

Mary Eady, of the Canadian Labour Congress, told the B.C. Federation of Labour last fall, "The federal government seems determined to discourage women from remaining in the labour force or re-entering it. Training opportunities that would enable women to upgrade their skills are being cut back as well. These kinds of cutbacks will force women to seek social assistance, or at the very least keep them in the low paid jobs, where they already make up the majority."

The cutback in career counselling services will have a similar effect on helping women to get and keep these jobs.

Typical of the government mentality is its position on UIC cuts. One of the changes will eliminate benefits for people working less than 20 hours a week. Most part-time workers work less than 20 hours a week; and the vast majority of part-

See Myths: Page 10

## Update

### Crothers Caterpillar lockout continues, but morale high

The lockout at Crothers Caterpillar is continuing, but morale on the picket line is high since an April 3 mass picket.

According to Joe Flexer, a spokesperson for the 185 locked-out members of United Auto Workers local 124, the mass picket has forced management to meet with the union and begin bargaining in good faith.

The mass picket completely shut down the plant at Jane and Highway 7, until police broke it up, Flexer said. About 80 non-union office workers had been crossing the UAW line until then.

Flexer said the union has recently held successful information pickets at other Crothers Caterpillar operations in London, Ottawa and Hamilton.

The company, which distributes Caterpillar heavy industrial equipment throughout the province, has 10 branches in Ontario. The locked-out plant is the only one which is currently unionized.

### Federal government stalls Outreach funding information

Outreach projects spokespeople who recently met with Bud Cullen in Ottawa were assured they would have an answer by the first week in April. But Monday, April 9, found them still wondering if their agencies' funds will be cut off.

When a call was placed to Ottawa, Cullen was unavailable, but his office said a letter had been posted the previous Friday. It had not arrived when we went to press.

The chairperson of the national review board said a decision had been made but he couldn't tell them what it was.

Clients and agencies who had written letters of support for Parkdale Jobs Office, one of the threatened agencies, received letters this past week informing them that the local Manpower office was capable of handling the work that PJO is now doing.

Meanwhile PJO has only two weeks of funding left, while the government stalls on their response.

### Nuclear construction slows

Ontario Hydro will continue—on an extended schedule—construction of the Atikokan coal-fired plant in Northwestern Ontario, the Bruce and Darlington nuclear stations.

The decision was reached on April 9 following a meeting of the Board of Directors of Hydro, despite growing public awareness of the dangerous consequences of building nuclear-powered plants.

Hydro had to revise its \$7 billion expansion program downwards in the last few months because of an anticipated twenty percent surplus of electricity until the 1990's.

The new schedule anticipates that the two coal-fired Atikokan units will come into service in 1984 and 1988 respectively. Original in-service dates were 1983 and 1984.

At Bruce B, the final two units are each extended a year to 1986 and 1987.

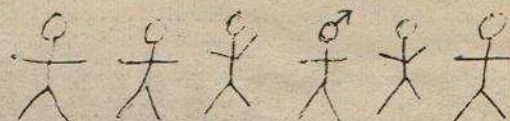
Greenpeace, as part of the Ontario Non-Nuclear Network, will occupy the Darlington site in Newcastle on June 2. For information call 922-3011.





Cloud?  
rush to go nuclear

Dave Smiley



Yes there are feminists on the *Clarion* staff... However, because we aren't cartoonists some people think we don't have a sense of humour.

Can you help us? If you want to do feminist cartoons please drop by our office at 96 Gerrard St. East in the basement of call 363-4404 or Tom at 531-6834.

### Something for everyone

If you are involved in something that might be of interest to the *Clarion*, come and talk to us. We hold workshops to discuss issues and how we cover them; and also new story ideas.

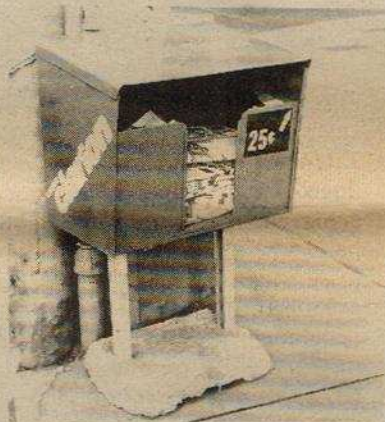
The Labour Workshop is Tuesday April 24 at 7 p.m. Community Organizing Workshop is on May 15 at 7:30 p.m.

General writing and production workshops are continuing. Phone 363-4404 for dates and times. These workshops meet in the *Clarion* office at 96 Gerrard St. E. Bread and Roses, the cultural side of the paper will be meeting April 30 at 7:30 at the Clinton House (upstairs), 693 Bloor St. West.

If Fantasy is what you are after, the next Emma's meeting is in the basement of 121 Avenue Road on April 26 at 8 p.m.

## The safest investment this year —

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No, you haven't heard it all. Here's another way the *Clarion* needs you. The paper wants to get 20 more street boxes. We know where to get them for \$200 and we're looking for generous people to buy them. We'll pay back your

front money within two years (no interest).

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To adopt a box, call 363-4404.

## TORONTO clarion

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

The following also contributed to this issue: Oscar Rogers, D. Kidd, Hellen Humphries, Susan Friesen, Dave Smiley, Ruth Brock, Bart Kreps, Emma Pike, Hugh Westrup and many others.

96 Gerrard St. E. Toronto M5B 1G7  
363-4404

### The pot calling the kettle black

To the *Clarion*:

In the last issue of the *Clarion* there was an article on religious sects. I find it amusing that an eminent "progressive Catholic theologian" and a Mennonite should be on the panel tut-tutting the dangers of "unethical or dictatorial religious groups".

Just as monopoly capitalists deride small-time newcomers to the business world, so too do the successful religious cults (like the Catholics and Mennonites) stomp upon up-start competitors trying to muscle in on a very lucrative market.

Large churches are every bit as despicable as the Moonies or P.S.I. They've just done a better job on P.R. and have a longer history of exploitation.

Norman Rogers  
Toronto

### Avoid the usual media trap

To the *Clarion*:

It is good to see that the *Clarion* has not been sucked in by the current nonsense about the revolution in electronic communications. Lots of other newspapers, TV shows and radio programmes have recently been gushing about new two-way cable systems, briefcase TV's, instant video newspapers, electronic shopping and a plethora of similar baubles.

All this is a familiar re-run. Capitalism is merely discovering more ingenious ways to super-saturate consumers with flashier packaging for the same old stuff. The packaging, of course, is commercially just as important as the goods from the point of view of establishing a false need to buy.

If anything is new, it is that with these "scientific and technological breakthroughs" a consumer is no longer encouraged to inspect products directly; it is buying at a distance. The attractive aura (the packaging, both physical and ideological) now does not have to suffer from close inspection.

The ability to judge what is truly useful to us suffers another debilitating blow. Manipulation of our lives becomes more entrenched. In this electronic bedazzlement, we trade the freedom of autonomous human beings for the illusion of choosing

spurious life styles that have already been chosen for us.

Joe Acres  
Toronto

### News and abuse

To the *Clarion*:

The tirades in the police gazette *News and Views* (otherwise known as *News and Abuses*) have confirmed my long held inclinations to believe that no man, however low he sinks, can reach the police.

Guy Pelletier  
Toronto

### Vacation in Ontar-i-ar-i-ar-io



item: acid rain killing our lakes



# Parents unite against school cuts

By Alan McAllister  
and Tony Woolfson

On March 31st, over two years of preparation culminated in the Toronto Board of Education's Parents' Convention.

After a hectic day of running from forums to discussion groups to workshops, parents settled down to hear resolutions brought forward from each of the parents meetings at the convention. While many parents had the impression that the plenary session would vote on these motions, this was short-circuited by the organizers. Probably this was a wise decision since there were over 50 different resolutions, many at

cross-purposes.

However, there was a major thrust to the resolutions, which was summed up by the main parent organizer, Marilee Houston. "I have heard parents say that they want more money for the education of their children, more autonomy for the Toronto Board so that it can deal directly with the Province, an end to teacher lay-offs and programme cutbacks, and merit

## Merit or seniority

rather than seniority being used as the criterion for hiring, firing, and promotion of teachers.

Except on the issue of seniority, the parents' convention had fulfilled the hopes of many that there was a possible unity among teachers and parents on the major issues facing the school system.

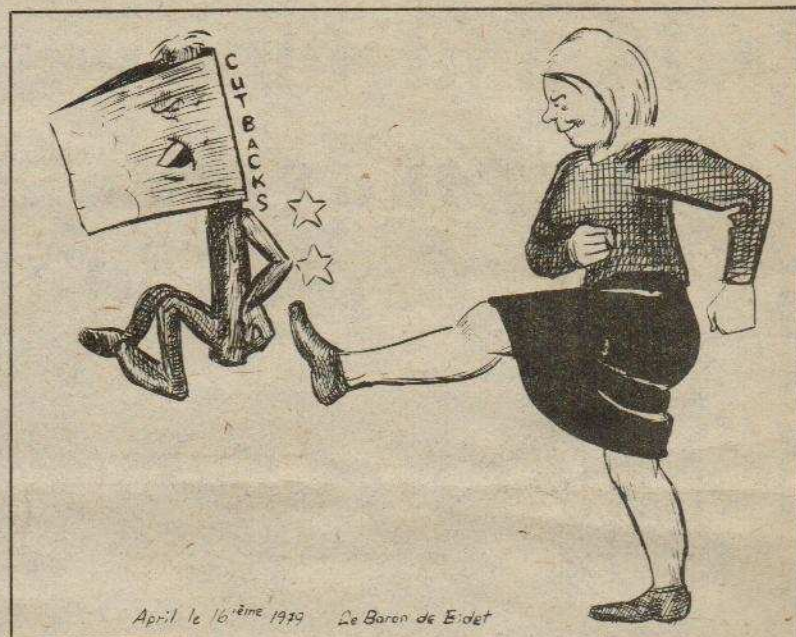
## Parent position

The "parent position" on seniority could be the fly in the ointment in parent-teacher union. Bob Buckthorpe, president of the secondary school teachers' union, said it was an "uninformed opinion" and that the seniority versus merit issue is a "convenient distraction" from the real cause of lack of quality in education. He sees the need for parent education on the issue and will be attending parents' meetings to discuss the issue.

The resolution on seniority was brought to the floor of the convention by the Area 6 parents, many of whom come from North Toronto schools, not noted for sympathy with workers' rights. But the resolution hit a responsive chord in the convention—even Mrs. Houston and former Board Chairman Dan Leckie, both NDP activists, applauded the resolution with what looked like approval.

## Groups form

The positive outcome of the convention was the determination to continue organizing parents. Several parents' groups were formed, most notably area committees which parallel the administrative organization of the schools. These groups can be expected to act as a voice for parents' interests and will be meeting in the next month to deal with such issues as this year's crop of teacher firings, euphemistically referred to as "declaring teachers surplus".



## Opinion

# Can convention spark real action?

By David Reville

The community convention of parents on March 30 made Toronto Board of Education history. Never before have so many parents of so many ethnic backgrounds met in one place to discuss so many educational issues.

The scale of the convention and the diversity of its delegates demonstrated that parents want to and can have an impact on our educational system. And the final plenary session, as well as the day's workshops, sent an unambiguous message to teachers, trustees, and administrators: "Stop program staff cutbacks."

Thus the convention could mark the beginning of a unified parents' movement for educational reform, a movement with a solid underpinning of local democratic organization.

One of the achievements of the convention was that it introduced many parents to educational politics. But that very achievement pointed up one glaring weakness—so much time had to be spent sharing information that very little time was left to decide on action.

Indeed, plans were made to pursue crucial issues identified at the convention. Representatives of each of the six school areas in the city will meet to carry on the work that the convention began. But if no action grows out of these meetings, then the convention format itself could prove to be a way to defuse parent anger and diffuse parent energy.

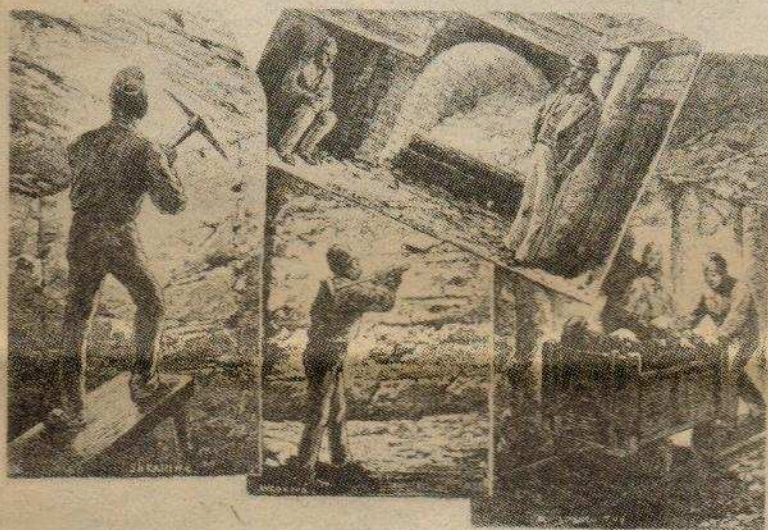
It would certainly make life much easier for the administrators if parent activists spent all their time organizing polite meetings. If that is the case, the very success of the convention will contribute to the failure of the movement for educational reform.

A motion by the Board of Education's right wing to fire 100 "surplus" elementary teachers is expected to make the May 3 board meeting a major confrontation. The meeting is seen as a major test of

the leftwing coalition's ability to prevent such cutbacks. Many parents and up to two thousand teachers will be on hand to witness the outcome.

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## Labour notes



# Cape Breton miners join UMW

In the last issue of the Clarion we described the first efforts to organize the miners of the Cape Breton coal fields. By 1909, many workers had joined the United Mine Workers union to oppose the coal company giant, DOSCO. But during that year the UMW struck, fighting the powerful combination of the company, the armed forces and the company union and lost.

## Still determined

Despite the failure of the strike, the miners grew more determined during the war years to have a strong union. By 1916, more than half the mine workers had signed up with the UMW. DOSCO management was scared. It didn't want interference with the high war-time profits. Hoping to prove there was no need for a union, the company gave two unexpected wage increases in 1916. The workers were not taken in. Quite the opposite: they became more convinced that if they stood together, the company would be forced to meet their demands.

The company resorted to intimidation. When union activists were fired, the miners staged a mass walkout. At this point the provincial government stepped in because a halt in coal production would "endanger the war-time economy". The government called for an immediate pay increase and told the UMW to amalgamate with the much less militant Provincial Workmen's Association. The miners interpreted this as recognition of their own union.

The Amalgamated Mineworkers of Nova Scotia was formed in June, 1917. Two years later, it entered the United Mine Workers of America as District 26. The workers decided to join an international union which appeared more effective than Canadian unions in the struggle against the powerful coal monopoly.

There were many more struggles after the war, and during the twenties and thirties. The workers had to combat wage cuts, poor working conditions, red-baiting, the suppression of their newspaper, the company itself and problems with the international union. But they kept on fighting.

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# CIA and mind control: the ironies and failure of a sinister global design

The Search for the Manchurian Candidate, by John Marks, Toronto, Fitzhenry and Whiteside, 1979, 242 pages, \$12.95. Reviewed by Jeremy Hole

"People are manipulated; I just want them to be manipulated more effectively."

B.F. Skinner, behavioural psychologist  
"I toiled wholeheartedly in the vineyards because it was fun, fun, fun. Where else could a red-blooded American boy lie, cheat, steal, rape and pillage with the sanction and blessing of the All Highest?"

George White, former CIA operative

In 1943 — the same year that a Swiss chemist named Hoffman stumbled on various dramatic properties of a substance known as LSD — the U.S. government began to try to develop a "truth drug". After the war, covert research in this area was largely taken over by the CIA, rapidly becoming an intensive, far-ranging effort to evolve efficient techniques for the manipulation of human behaviour. Hoffman's accidental discovery was to become an important factor in the CIA's program — with startlingly unexpected repercussions.

## "Caught in the muck"

In this meticulously researched and documented study, John Marks traces the CIA's involvement with mind control, from the beginning of that involvement to the present day. There is little doubt that the quest for such control continues, despite official assurances to the contrary.

Since the passing of the Freedom of Information Act in the U.S., grim exposés of CIA activities have become commonplace. There is even a danger that such revelations may become so familiar as to lose their capacity to outrage. However, the prospect of the organization's power-junkies achieving a dominance over individual minds — and, by extension, the actions of entire populations — is peculiarly gruesome.

The original intent of the truth drug program was to eliminate from espionage the unpredictable human element:

"Caught in the muck and frustration of ordinary spywork, operators hoped for a miracle tool. Faced with liars and deceivers, they longed for a truth drug. Surrounded by people who knew too much, they sought a way to create amnesia. They dreamed of finding means to make unwilling people carry

out specific tasks, such as stealing documents, provoking a fight, killing someone, or otherwise committing an antisocial act."

Marks describes how, in pursuit of these aims, vast sums of money were made available to individuals, foundations and universities, to be used for research into hypnosis, sensory deprivation, depatterning, electroshock, and particularly into the effects of a wide range of drugs, including marijuana, mescaline and LSD.

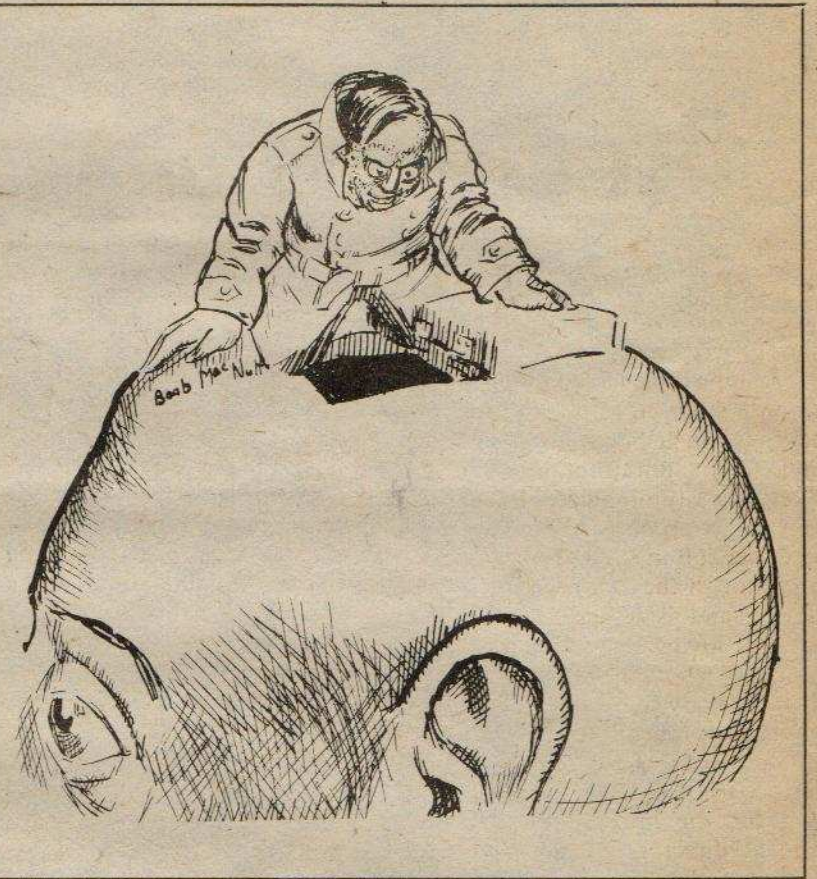
## Shameful co-operation

Experiments were carried out on "mental patients, prostitutes, foreigners, drug addicts and prisoners, often from minority ethnic groups." (Especially shameful was the ready co-operation of segments of the academic and scientific communities whose willingness

to ignore ethical and legal boundaries cannot be justified, even when the people concerned were ignorant of the precise source of their generous funding.)

## Disastrous error

We learn how agents sought tirelessly for new and better drugs, finding the "magic mushroom" in Mexico long before Carlos Castaneda appeared; introducing LSD into the States, and attempting to exercise control over distribution of these celebrated hallucinogens. This attempt was to fail spectacularly, due to what became known as the "trickle-down phenomenon": LSD was supplied to university teachers from whom it passed to post-graduates, undergraduates and experimental volunteers. Among those who first sampled the drug supplied under these circumstances were Timothy Leary, Allen Ginsberg and Ken



Kesey ("Six weeks later I'd bought my first ounce of grass").

Marks succinctly summarizes the results of the CIA's disastrous miscalculation:

"No one could enter the world of psychedelics without first passing, unawares,

through doors opened by the Agency. It would become a supreme irony that the CIA's enormous search for weapons among drugs... would wind up helping to create the wandering, uncontrollable minds of the counter-culture."

# Women poets break mold

By Gwen Hauser

On April 23 at the 519 Church Street Community Centre, Mary di Michele and Sara Spracklin of the Toronto Poets' Co-op will show those with eyes to see and ears to hear, what women poets are all about.

Sara Spracklin, as her fans know, is a gutsy zany feminist punk poet and a fantastic musician; a Sara Spracklin reading is a treat that no one will want to miss

and it is worth hearing her read just to watch her perform her "Vogue" poem.

Mary di Michele, author of *Tree of August* (published by Three Trees Press) is likewise a feminist working-class poet audiences enjoy. She has been vastly underrated by both her reviewer in *Books In Canada*, who dismissed her poetry simply as "women's poetry," as well as by the jackass who wrote the blurb on the back of her book, describing her as "a would-be feminist" and "a romantic-existentialist".

Mary di Michele is a feminist and there is very little "romantic" about her work. Most of it consists of agonizingly realistic, precise portraits of the sufferings of women in a male-dominated immigrant family and of the exploitation of women in the work-force. She is one of the finest work-poets in Canada, much lauded by Tom Wayman, publisher of an anthology of working poems, *A Government Job At Last*. (Vancouver, McLeod Press).

The selection of poems generally to be found in *Tree Of August* is narrow skimpy missing many of her best poems — "Pomegranate", for one (published in the Women's Anthology, *Landscape* — Toronto, Women's Writing Collective) and the poem published here, "Company Time". In fact, most of Mary's starkly realistic work-poems were eliminated from *Tree Of August*, thus failing to represent this aspect (the working-class aspect) of her poetry.

We see once again the excellent job of white-washing and misrepresentation that make editors are capable when they handle women's poems. A tough realistic poet capable of powerful political statements (such as those found in the Steel Rail anthology, *Poems For Sale In The Street*) becomes "a romantic-existentialist" and the work of a feminist immigrant woman writer was described to me as "portraits of home-life in little Italy".

The necessity to see women as romantic middle-class sex objects culminates in the distortion of their work. To see the real Mary di Michele, then, see her in person.

★★★★★★★★★★

Other up-coming TPC readings in May: Leona Gom & Maria Jacobs, May 7; Deidre Gallagher & Gwen Hauser, May 22; Gala Goldflower Benefit, May 31.

## Company Time

By Mary di Michele

Paper cuts nicely,  
the skin catches  
her barbed breath,  
draws a thin crimson line.

2 a.m.  
the hands of the stars are bleeding,  
the moon, a golden nude  
has sold a million calendars,  
you steal a view on company  
time.

The stars stamp pock marks  
on the negroid face of night,  
your hands pluck fragrance,  
make a bouquet of black  
roses of the minutes,  
you gather them to your nose  
and your mouth savours  
silk petals sleek.

Out of doors  
you can breathe for yourself.  
Your lungs are not too busy  
bartering the hours for a cheque.  
Here you are engaged,  
sitting on night's lap,  
brushing his thick lips  
with your lips.

Within doors  
the hands of the clock,  
nailed to the wall,  
perform the death jerk  
each minute.

Your card,  
a life in effigy,  
sleeps in its slot,

as your soul breaks a  
way past the parking lot  
into the freed night,  
your pockets inside out,  
your heart quickening.



## Hurray for *Norma Rae*!

# But can the union match the movie's myth?

By Ted Whittaker

Is *Norma Rae* too good to be true (or vice versa)?

It's impossible to be unmoved by this story of triumph over adversity in a Southern textile mill town: untutored worker meets big city organizer, learns how to get up on her hind legs, loses her job in the fight of her life (though the union gets certified), and is left in the end with a loving but unexciting husband who's gonna see her through everything.

Director Martin Ritt, whose former successes with *Sounder* and *Conrack* showed his attraction for the moral film, and who as director of *The Molly Maguires* showed his affection for the depiction of strictly working class struggles, has ably combined these two interests in *Norma Rae*, which, though flawed, can be understood as a fable for our times.

### Uneven realism

Fables are moral and at times moralistic. To get at the truth of the motives and actions of people, fables often dispense with subtlety. Characters do not usually act in unexpected ways or for reasons that are not readily apparent. Good is very, very good and bad is horrid. Also, the setting serves the moral, not the moral the setting.

We always live in evil times. In *Norma Rae*, director Ritt has chosen the fable as form to point to the human need for selfless conduct, to demonstrate the faith that people can take control over their lives, together, for their common good.

Some realism is essential, however, and the question remains; does *Norma Rae* have enough of it to hang the moral on?

The situational realism of the sweatshop is there, all right. Norma Rae's father (played by Pat Hingle) has a fatal heart attack and, falls heavily and headfirst into a bobbin cart. Nothing better for showing how destructive a speed-up can be,



especially when the immediate victim's daughter has been the time-and-motion inquisitor.

But what about the realities of union organizing? In the interests of most effectively showing off human altruism, why would Ritt or his story editors allow the Textile Workers Union of America to send one mouthy New York organizer to preach to the unconverted in a small suspicious beatenback Southern community?

### The "fish" to catch

We admit one pares away the nonessentials, but there has to be a minimum of credibility here and there, if we are watching a realistic movie.

And what about Norma Rae (played by Sally Field, who should be an Oscar shoo-in)? The traits that Reuben the organizer (played by Ron Leibman) sees in her that make her

the "fish" he wanted to catch — her honesty about her faults, her ability to say (and mean) "I started this and sure as hell I'mna finish it" — are these traits the norm, available though perhaps untapped in citizens throughout a democracy, or are they doled out just one to a factory?

Important to the film is the message that the idea of unionizing can cause people to act, probably for their collective betterment. Just Norma Rae's gesture of scribbling UNION on a card and holding it up before her fellow workers (after the sorrows of low pay, hard work, death on the job, divisive company propaganda) inspires her fellow workers to down tools.

### After the movie ends

In Hollywood, the land of dreams, the first ballot brings certification, and the end of the movie. For her pains, though, Norma Rae has lost her job. And as Reuben drives away to slay the dragons of capitalism elsewhere, Norma Rae is left with the chance to make something of her life.

But what, given the treatment of the central themes so far, are we to think about the possibilities of her reinstatement? Is the union going to last till the first contract? How is it going to deal with continuing oppression on the job? Does the word UNION printed on a card deal with those realities? Are they too strong and too complex for the form in which the powerful story has been told?

Some other quibbles: What can we learn to improve our working lives from the movie?

ter things can begin, with a handsome (and intelligent) man and a pretty (and intelligent) woman (whose kindly and incomprehending husband washes up and looks after the kids while she's breaking the colour bars like toothpicks and is keeping the union strong).

### Addiction to heroines

The Hollywood addiction to heroines destroys the effectiveness of the final scene. As Norma Rae watches Reuben leave — he apparently takes the files of the struggle, by the way; what does that leave the local organization to work with? — we wonder whether she will find "true happiness" much more than we wonder whether the workers will be able to take on the bosses (there's more than one of them and they're not going to fire themselves) and whether they're going to keep rising above their racial differences to true solidarity.

Will Reuben, with whom Norma Rae has not slept, though she admits, "he's in my head," return to sweep her off her feet; or will her union support its workers, no matter who or where they are, once it starts collecting dues?

The faults of *Norma Rae* are perhaps unavoidable, given the limitations of the fable as form, and given the ideology and economic strictures of Hollywood film-making. If we set these limits aside, however — that's possible; and they do not cripple the film — *Norma Rae* is an arresting piece of work which awakens us to the possibilities for excellence in human conduct.



The union's first battle won, Reuben (Ron Leibman) says goodbye to Norma Rae.



Norma Rae (Sally Field) and her parents (Barbara Baxley, Pat Hingle): hard times in a southern mill town.



# CALENDAR

For free listing of your upcoming events send advance notice to Clarion calendar editor

## Friday April 20

**Solar Stage Lunchtime Theatre** presents *Private View*, an amusing drama by Czechoslovakian playwright Vaclav Havel. Tues. — Fri., 12:12 and 1:11, Saturday 1:30. 149 Yonge St. Admission \$2, students and senior citizens \$1.50. Until April 28.

**Funnel Film Theatre** features independent/experimental cinema by Canadian and International artists. Tonight, Monday and Tuesday, a special program of French experimental films and a related photography exhibit organized by Pierre Rovere in collaboration with the Paris Film Co-op. 8 p.m., 507 King St. E., first floor. Call 364-7003.

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**Missing Associates**, co-directed by Lily Eng and Peter Dudar is presenting *New Dance* at 15 Dance Lab, 155A George St. Tonight and tomorrow night. 8:30, admission \$3.

**Experience Theatre** will feature Harold Pinter's *The Dumbwaiter*, performed by Collective Memories. 8 p.m. Flemingdon Park Worship Center, 150 Gateway Blvd., Don Mills. Admission \$3. Call 534-3034.

**Labour Solidarity Night** featuring the film *Controlling Interest*. Guest speakers from CUT (Central Workers Union Chile) and SACTU (South African Congress of Trade Unions). 280 Queen St. W., 8:00 p.m., cash bar, admission \$1.25.

**Ontario Film Theatre** presents *Blue Collar* at the Ontario Science Centre. 7:30 p.m., Adults \$2, students \$1, children 50c, seniors free with government card.

## Saturday April 21

**South Riverdale Community Health Centre** celebrates the opening of its newly renovated facilities at 126 Pape Ave., from 1:30 to 6:00 p.m. John Sewell opens the facilities officially at 2 p.m. Entertainment and Refreshments; all welcome.

**West Indian Carnival** featuring island foods, crafts and dances today from 1 to 10 p.m. at Vaughan Rd. Collegiate Institute, 529 Vaughan Rd. Admission is \$2 for adults, \$1 for children. A dance will be held from 9 to 1 p.m., admission \$3. Tickets available at all York schools and libraries.

**Women Times Five**, a day of workshops focusing on women's issues, sponsored by Beaches/Woodbine NDP. 9:30 a.m., Hope United Church (Main and Danforth). Topics to be covered: rape, sexism, women in the workforce, and pensions. Guest speaker is Michael Cassidy. Free lunch and daycare provided. Cost of day is \$2, registration at the door. For further information Viv Young 691-4368.

**East York Symphony Orchestra** featuring the *Elizabeth Paterson Dance Company* performing a children's Ballet. 8 p.m. East York Collegiate Auditorium (Coxwell at Plains Rd.) Admission: Adults \$3.50, students and senior citizens \$2, children 12 and under \$1. For ticket information call 653-4116 or 422-1334.

**Intercultural Exchange Symposium** sponsored by the Multicultural Committee for National Unity. The symposium will investigate strategies to promote national unity through intercultural interchange and understanding. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at York Quay Centre.

## Sunday April 22

**French Baroque** concert by the Trion Ensemble, from Kingston Ont. Walker Court Art Gallery of Ontario, 3 p.m., admission Free.

## Monday April 23

**Toronto Public Libraries** are sponsoring income tax clinics at Bloor and Gladstone, Gerrard/Ashdale, Locke Library, and Main St. Library. Free consultations by appointment only; please call the branch.

**Los Compañeros in Concert** at Trojan Horse Coffee House, 179 Danforth Ave. 8 p.m. An auction will also be held to raise money for Canadian Tribune. Admission Free.

**E.S.L. Classes**, a continuing service offered by the Unemployment Help Centre, every Mon., Tues., and Thurs., 9:30 - 11:30 a.m., at Bloor Gladstone Library, 1101 Bloor St. W., 536-3402.

**English as a Second Language**, a continuing service offered by the Unemployment Help Centre, every Mon., Tues., and Thurs., 9:30 - 11:30 a.m., at Bloor Gladstone Library, 1101 Bloor St. W., 536-3402.

## Tuesday April 24

Film evening sponsored by the

Chinese Caribbean Association 8:00 p.m., Bendale Branch Library, 1515 Danforth Rd. Scarborough. For more information call 431-9141.

**Bias in Children's Literature**. The first of four discussions on selected topics concerning children, at the Cross Cultural Communication Centre, 1991 Dufferin St. 7:30 p.m.

**Ontario Film Theatre** presents Greek cinema. Tonight: *The Colours Of The Rainbow* at the Ontario Science Centre. 7:30. Admission: \$2 adults, \$1 students, 50c children, senior citizens Free with government card.

**Black Theatre Canada** presents *Miss Lou Lou meets Mr. Tim Tim*, every Tues. and Wed. in April at the Parkdale Library. 8:30. Tickets \$4 for adults, \$3 for senior citizens and students and \$2 for children.

## Wednesday April 25

**The Risks of Nuclear Power**, an educational forum sponsored by Development Education Centre. A film, *Sentence to Success* will be shown; discussion afterwards. 8 p.m. St. Paul's Centre, 121 Avenue Rd. Admission Free.

**Brando film!** *Viva Zapata* (1952) 7:30 p.m. at York Quay Centre, Admission Free.

**CLEO** (Community Legal Education Ontario) is holding a program on Small Business Law tonight and tomorrow night from 7:30 - 9:30. Jane Dundas Public Library, 620 Jane St. Free.

CLEO will also hold a program on Small Claims Court from 8-10 p.m. at Bathurst Heights Public Library, 3170 Bathurst St. Free.

**O.I.S.E.** films presents two Bogart films: *Casablanca* at 7:30 and *The African Queen* at 9:30. \$2.50 for the double bill \$2 for the second show. 252 Bloor St. W.

**Ontario Film Theatre** presents Greek films, at the Ontario Science Centre. Tonight: *Mondello* (1974) 7:30, adults \$2, students \$1, children 50c, seniors Free with government card.

## Thursday April 26

**Ontario Film Theatre** features the last in a series of Greek films. Tonight *Attilla '74* (1975) 7:30, at the Ontario Science Centre. Adults \$2, students \$1, children 50c seniors Free with government card.

**A Free Lecture** at the Palmerston Library, 560 Palmerston Ave., on

*How to renovate a house*. 7 p.m.

**Funnel Film Theatre** presents *Two Meditations on Experience in Non-Verbal Space*, by Villem Teader, 8 p.m., 507 King St. E., first floor \$1.50

## Friday April 27

**Ontario Film Theatre** presents the last film in a series on industrial America. Tonight: *Days of Heaven*, 7:30 at the Ontario Science Centre.

## Saturday April 28

**Los Compañeros in Concert**. 7:30 at the Titania Music Hall, 147 Danforth Ave., Tickets \$5 in advance, \$6 at the door. Available through Trojan Horse Coffee House, C.C.C.C. and all BASS outlets.

## Monday April 30

**Funnel Film Theatre** is having an open screening. Bring your Super 8 or 16mm films for viewing, 8 p.m., 507 King St. E., first floor.

## Tuesday May 1

**Buying and Selling a Home**, a free evening of information prepared by C.L.E.O. (Community Legal Education Ontario), tonight and tomorrow night from 7:30 to 9:30 at Main Library 1745 Eglinton Ave. W. Free.

**The Cross Cultural Communication Centre** is having a discussion on Children and the Law, tonight at 7:30 at the Centre, 1991 Dufferin St.

## Wednesday May 2

**C.L.E.O.** (Community Legal Education Ontario) is holding a program on *Consumer Protection Law*, a free evening of information tonight from 8 to 10 p.m. at Bathurst Heights Public Library 3170 Bathurst St., Free.

**Black Theatre Canada** presents *Dem Two in Canada* at the Palmerston Library Theatre. Admission \$4 adults, \$3 seniors and students, \$2 children.

**Two Polanski movies** at OISE: at 7:30, *The Tenant* and at 9:45, *Cul de Sac*. \$2.50 for the double bill. \$2 for the second show. 252 Bloor St. W.

**Harbourfront** is showing *One Eyed Jacks* (1961) with Marlon Brando. 7:30 at York Quay Centre, Admission Free.

## Thursday May 3

**Two French Flicks** at OISE: *Shoot the Piano Player* at 7:30 and *Le Petit Theatre de Jean Renoir* at 9:30. \$2.50 for double bill, \$2 for the second show, 252 Bloor St. W.

## Saturday May 5

**Inti-illimani** in concert (Chilean political folk group). At Convocation hall, 31 Kings College Circle. 7:00 p.m. Tickets available at the Centre for Spanish Speaking People, 582A College St.

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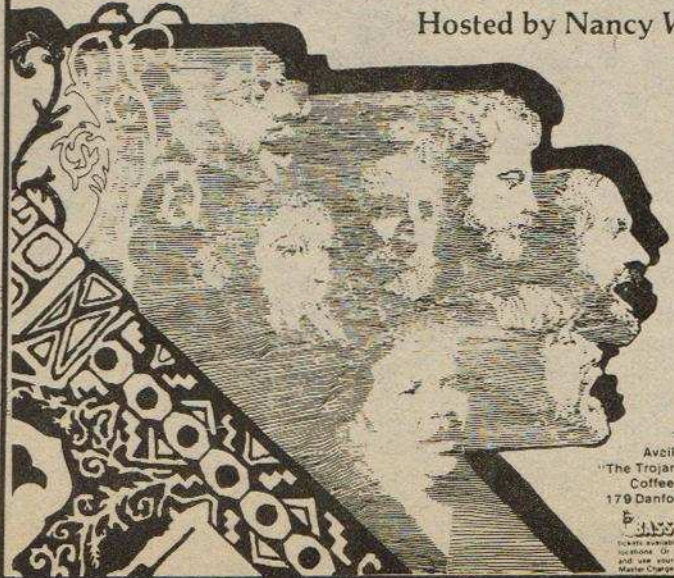


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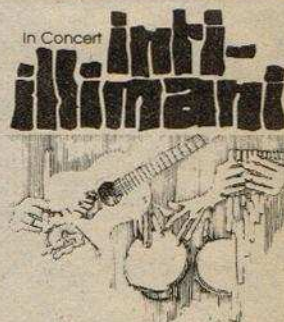
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# Yonge Street strip is only home for growing number of young people

By Paul Weinberg

The Year of the Child meets Desolation Row head-on along the Yonge Street Strip.

First of all, Connie is not like the average unemployed young person on Yonge St. At 21, she is considered old by her peers. She has been married twice, first to a man who built illegal bachelorettes. Her second husband, who Connie says fell in love with the idea of marrying a prostitute, is a member of the far-left International Socialists.

Turning forty dollar tricks with strangers is becoming more dangerous, says Connie, who only hooks when she is short of money and her welfare is not coming in. She uses no pimp to sift her clientele.

She had one scary moment with a trick wielding a knife: "My adrenalin was a lot stronger than his pleasure," she recalls.

Married for the first time at 16, she has been on and off the street since she was 15. Forget about the stereotype of the pale make-up-laden hooker. Dressed in a jacket and corduroy pants, Connie could be anybody's daughter.

Connie is unusual in another way. She calls herself a communist (with a small 'c') and was a member of the Revolutionary Prostitutes League. In fact, having grade 11 and being able to read, causes her to be seen as a bit of an intellectual among her friends on the Strip.

Connie's only straight job skill is domestic work. She gets welfare, but \$111 every two weeks buys only the necessities.

"One reason why I hook is so I can afford to buy political books at places like the Third World book store on Bay St. and satisfy my appetite for reading," she says.

**"It's lonely being a street kid in a large city . . . That's why having a gang of friends is so important."**

Connie is a lot more fortunate than her street pals. With the help of a community worker, she might have the chance to escape the scene.

"I'd like to get some upgrading this summer in my education so I can go to a community college this fall and take some courses in community work," she adds.

"I've always loved the people on the street and I want to go back and help them as a streetworker."

Strip joints, fast food outlets, and pinball may be desolating the Yonge St. Strip between Wellesley and Dundas, but it's home for an unknown and growing number of unemployed street kids.

Sitting one night at MacDonald's just north of Yonge and College, you can watch kids no older than 16 and 17, dressed in dusty denim, swallow the cheapest meals they are ever going to find in this city. They know the MacDonald's manager will kick them out af-



ter 20 minutes, particularly if he believes they might drive away more respectable customers coming downtown for a movie or to visit the posh new furniture store at the corner of College St.

Connie Good and I sit talking in McDonald's. We are distracted by two police cruisers whirling up and down the side street like brightly-coloured starships, circling the pulp food palace for a spot to land.

The kids continue to eat nervously. Cops as big as houses walk in slowly. A little drama unfolds at the counter. A tall adolescent is accused of spilling pop on the floor and over extending his stay in the restaurant.

The two cops interrogate the kid and confirm the information with the manager. Finally the boy is confronted with exile. He is barred from McDonald's and sent off with a stern warning by the cops.

Toby, a young man sitting at our table, is an experienced street person. He too has been barred from McDonald's driven out of McDonald's restaurant at Yonge and College, and a fast food manager can deprive a kid of a good hang out.

"Somebody is going to smack out that manager, if he is not careful," mutters Toby.

Dick Nellis, director of the Downtown Youth Centre, which is on the Strip, says businesses on Yonge St. should accept the reality of a growing street population. "It may not be pleasant but it is a fact of life today."

"Our streetworkers a while ago had to use some skilful diplomacy," Nellis says, "to prevent a potential fracas at the Eaton Centre. The kids who hang out at the Centre were confronted with another group of kids who had been driven out of MacDonald's restaurant at Yonge and College."

"In the last three and a half months," adds Nellis, "I'd say we have seen over 4,000 kids which is a hell of a lot. I don't know yet what it will be like this summer, considering right now we get 30 contacts a day."

Toby has only one set of clothes, which he washed practically every day. When he first left the "Aid" (Children's Aid) at 14, he bummed around for four months on the street, virtually penniless, sleeping in stairwells.

He finally met a middle-aged sugar-daddy who took him in. Toby traded sex for food and shelter, maintaining this relationship off and on for four years.

While most female prostitutes have been driven off the Strip by the "cleanup," the street is still a market for middle-aged married but closet gay males from the suburbs seeking out male prostitutes.

Toby hates talking about the times he had to hustle his ass for bucks across the street from Woolworths store at Yonge and College. To escape the trap of being unskilled, he took a few upgrading courses at George Brown. However, his education ended abruptly when his sugardaddy got tired of him, and Toby

was forced back into exile on the street.

Presently he is 17 and unemployed, having been recently laid off from a job as a material handler.

It is lonely being a street kid in a large city, particularly if you have just run away from a foster home. That's why having a gang of friends and a place to hang out is so important.

T.J. a boy of 16, is what you'd call Toby's partner. A partner is more than just a close friend. You look out after

**"They have no alternatives but to travel to find work, go on welfare, hustle, or turn to petty crime."**

him and he looks out after you. If Toby finds some dope to sell and T.J. is short of funds, Toby will share some of his financial returns with his partner. T.J. must do the same.

The new generation of street people is poor, unskilled, marginally employed illiterate, and without home or family. There is the older more experienced individual who may enjoy his lifestyle, and the younger runaway who never quite adjusts.

"A kid might come downtown for the thrill and the excitement, but the experience ends up scaring the hell out of him," says Dick Nellis. "We have had kids who come into our youth centre who want to go home and don't know how to do it."

Youth unemployment is double the average unemployment rate in Metro Toronto, and the growth of a young street population is symptomatic of that.

Nellis is blunt about the need for local job creation: "Look! If we had 800 jobs being offered tomorrow downtown, I could guarantee there would be 800 kids out there applying for them. Those kids have no alternatives but to travel to find work, go on welfare, hustle, or turn to petty crime."





# More gov't. myths

From Page 3

time workers are women.

The minister replied to these charges in a February statement by saying that the UI changes will mean "the establishment of a new minimum UI insurability provision." Minimum insurability provision? That was his way of saying that part-time workers, women in the work force, should stay out.

Recent information shows that the situation of women in the labour force is continuing to get worse. March unemployment figures, released in mid-April, show that even seasonally adjusted, the official

unemployment level for women 25 and over increased by 4,000 to a national average of 7.3 per cent, while the rate for men 25 and over remained at 4.7 per cent.

Continuing cutbacks in the government itself will further erode the position of women. In one category, technical staff, only 10.2 per cent of the employees are women. But 53 per cent of those laid off, and 25 per cent of those declared surplus, were women.

The Ottawa Women's Lobby agreed with the federal Advisory Council on the Status of Women that "Women are so

under-represented in most occupational areas in the public service that each woman cut will disproportionately affect the distribution by sex and further retard the process of equality."

Time and time again, however, the government has referred to non-existent legislation that was supposed to aid women. Marc Lalonde, the federal minister responsible for the status of women, told the House of Commons in March that "We have translated our philosophy into action through major changes to our programs and to basic legislative amendments."

Yvette Rousseau, chairperson of the Canadian Advisory Council, says, "After considerable study, consultation and discussion, I have come to a tragic conclusion: not only Canadian women are excluded from the employment strategy proposed by the Canadian government, but they are suddenly evicted from the labour force."

"When we dissect official statements made in time of economic ill health, we are appalled to see that women are consistently held responsible for the high rate of unemployment, though they fall victim to it more than other groups. Consequently, they are used as scapegoats and as a screen for a chronic inability to redress the economy."

## LAWLINE

*In this issue we begin a series on the new Family Law Reform Act. This Act came into effect on March 31, 1978, and has created some very far-reaching changes in Family Law in Ontario.*

*Right now, we will give only a general introduction to this Act. Future issues will answer questions on support, family property, and marriage breakdown.*

*What is the Act all about?*

The Basic theme of the new Act is that people in marriage, or in other family relationships, are equal.

The purpose of the Act is to recognize that spouses, as individuals, are equal, and to recognize marriage as a form of partnership. It provides for a number of important points such as:

- the joint contribution of spouses to financial support, child care and household work; and
- the fair settlement of property rights and support obligations for each spouse and their children, in the event of a breakdown of the relationship.

To help in settlement, it recognizes the right to support in common law relationships which are of a permanent nature. It also recognizes the right of a couple (married or living together) to make contracts which deal with their rights and duties in the event of a breakdown of their relationship.

*You mentioned property rights. What does the Act say about family property?*

This section applies to married people only. It defines family assets as the matrimonial home and property owned by one or both spouses and normally used by both spouses or their children while the spouses are living together.

During the marriage each person owns his or her property, and may dispose of it as s/he wishes. However, if the marriage breaks down, each spouse is entitled to have the family assets divided into equal shares, unless this division is shown to be unfair.

*What about the "matrimonial home" that you just referred to?*

The section on the matrimonial home applies only to married people. It deals with the right to possession (not ownership) of the home. Until a marriage has ended, each spouse has an equal right to remain in the family home (no matter whose name is on the title). However, after the marriage has ended, the court has the power to decide that only one person is entitled to possession.

*Does the section on support include common law relationships?*

Yes, it includes common law relationships of five years or more, or those in which a child has been born to the couple, provided that the couple lived together within the preceding year.

Spouses have a duty to support themselves and each other to the extent that they are able, regardless of the conduct of either person. The court has the right to order support payments.

*How does the Act deal with contracts?*

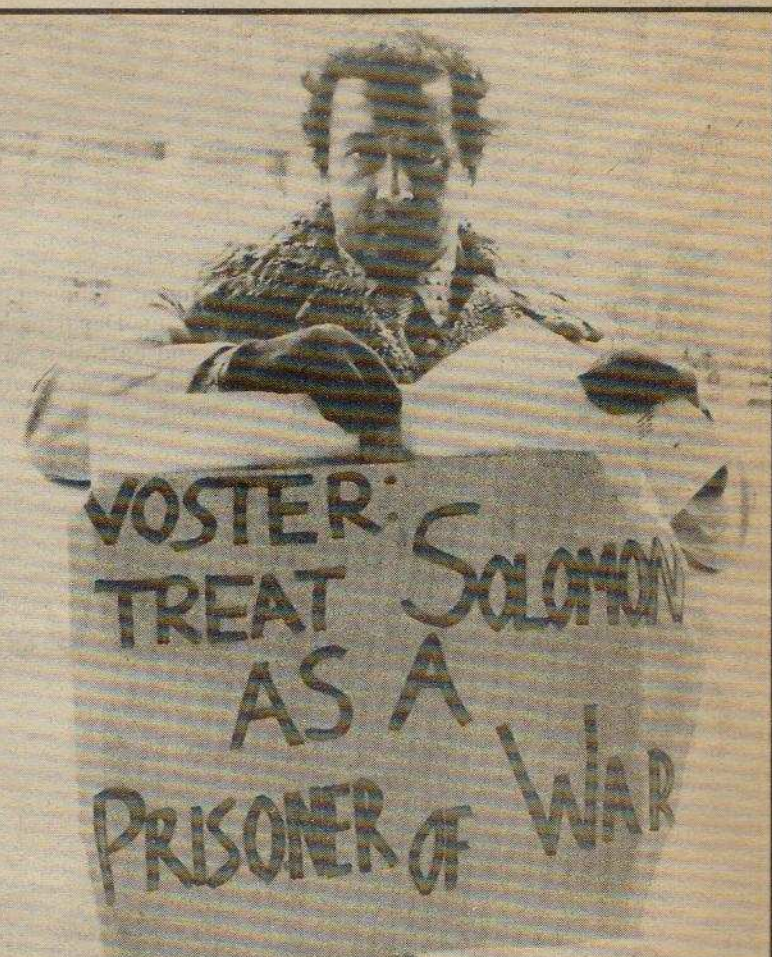
The Act provides for three major types of domestic contract:

- marriage contracts drawn up by the couple during the marriage, or before marriage in preparation for it;
- cohabitation contracts drawn up by couples in common law relationships;
- separation agreements drawn up by a couple when they are separating, or have separated.

Married couples, and couples living together, have the right to contract between themselves in regard to domestic responsibilities as well as in the settlement of their affairs if they should separate. This contract may include points such as provision for the division of property, financial obligations and support.

However, custody of children and access to them may only be dealt with in a separation agreement. Even in a separation agreement the courts have final jurisdiction in the matter of child custody. When the courts are making decisions about child custody, they take into account any provisions of a separation agreement.

*As we mentioned already, this Act is very new, and all aspects of it have not yet been interpreted by the courts.*



Marty Crowder

## S·A· Protest

At City Hall a member of the African National Congress (ANC) protested the execution of Solomon Mahlangu earlier this month in South Africa.

At the height of the demonstration, which included an overnight vigil, 150 people stood together in protest.

Mahlangu was a South African freedom fighter arrested, condemned and executed as a common criminal. The ANC demanded he be treated according to the Geneva Convention, governing prisoners of war, as a political prisoner.

## Womens Federation Questionnaire sent

Work is continuing toward the formation of the Ontario Federation of Women. The co-ordinating committee is preparing for a May 12 meeting to refine goals and structure of the federation.

The committee is distributing a questionnaire to women's groups throughout the province asking for their views about the federation. They hope the questionnaire will facilitate discussion at the May 12 meeting, which will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at St. Paul's Centre, 121 Avenue Road.

The first major step toward forming the federation was a Feb. 24 meeting, attended by 125 women representing 32 women's groups.

At that meeting, participants agreed that a federation of feminist groups would "maximize our collective strength to bring about the liberation of women and the eradication of sexism."

The aim of the federation will be to provide a mechanism for communication, education and mobilization to overcome the physical and cultural isolation which women face.

The co-ordinating committee questionnaire includes a list identifying a wide range of areas in which the federation may decide policy at a founding convention planned for this fall.

The list is introduced with a definition of the goal of feminism: "to create a society where women are free, full, self-defined human beings, sexually,

economically, politically and socially."

Among the areas listed are women and work: "Women as a cheap work force have been manipulated to meet the demands of a capitalist market place which supports the social and economic position of a small elite."

"Within this work force women's work is low-paid, given low status and usually considered low-skilled.... Since significant social change is not in the interest of patriarchal capitalist society, strategies to promote the organization of all working women must be seen as necessary to the elimination of an exploitative economic system."

The section on health points out that women are affected by the prevailing sexist attitudes in health care, which emphasize sickness rather than preventive care.

"This medical hierarchy denies control, individual responsibility and self-knowledge. We must have the knowledge and decision-making power to make choices which affect the well being of our physical and mental selves."

That means, the section adds, that women must have access to abortion regardless of economic or geographical status, that alternative birth control methods must be studied because of failure rates and side effects of existing methods, and that childbirth must no longer be considered an illness.

The section on mental health says that all mental health

workers must recognize the harmful effects of sex role stereotyping on women and the implication of sexism in society:

"Women's mental health problems are too often treated as internal, unnatural depression rather than the result of an unhealthy sexist society in which women are expected to fit a prescribed role and subsequently made to adjust our behaviour so as to function within these stereotyped roles."

More information is available from Judy Lynne or Anne Gibson at 696-6861, Elizabeth Bohnen at 533-2445, or Stephanie Holbik at 921-5856.

## Grange

From Page 11

retain and renovate the existing houses and build a four storey 198 unit apartment building in the vacant lot. The developer also says it is interested in a non-profit co-operative set-up, which would include single, two and three bedroom dwellings.

However, block resident Ceta Ramkhalawansing is skeptical, even after personally speaking to the architect a week later.

"I don't know how they expect to obtain funding from Central Mortgage and Housing Corp. if they plan to have some housing for single people in half the apartment building."

"We have had an absentee landlord before," she says, "and Cimpello as a new landlord is not going to change anything."







# Players may strike Kicking up a storm

The Toronto Blizzard players have had conflicting team votes about whether to support the North American Soccer League Players' Association (NASLPA) strike. In a vote sponsored by a NASLPA rep

the players voted in favour of the strike. A vote conducted by Blizzard management produced a negative tally.

The NASLPA has been accepted by the National Labour Relations Board in the U.S. As

sole negotiator for the players but NASL management has refused to negotiate. The NASLPA has organized a strike for this season to force the owners to the negotiating table.

The Blizzard and other Canadian based NASL players must file separately with their respective provincial labour boards to attain status as local bargaining units of the NASLPA. The Blizzard players filed an application with the Ontario Labour Relations Board (OLRB) early in April. Until the OLRB accepts this application the Blizzard players are not allowed to join the strike.

John Kerr of the NASLPA stated that the union will use the result of the vote by the union, in which the Blizzard players voted in support of a strike. Kerr said, "I suspect management interference in the other vote."



## Sports shorts, Sports shorts

The Edmonton Oilers, one of four WHA teams that will play in the NHL next season, have signed a five year, \$3 million advertising and promotion contract with Molson Breweries. The contract calls for Molson, which owns the Montreal Canadiens, to give the Oilers \$2 million in cash and \$75,000 annually for the next five years. The company is also trying to negotiate a similar deal with the other three ex-WHA teams.

One of the big factors that convinced Molson's Canadiens to back the inclusion of the four teams into the NHL was the boycott of Molson beer in

Western Canada. Previously, the Canadiens had blocked expansion bids by the ex-WHA teams.

In the agreement signed between the NHL and WHA, the present Canadian NHL teams blocked access to Canadian national TV rights for the new Canadian NHL teams for the next five years.

### Frank Shorter signs with Hilton

The Amateur Athletic Union (A.A.U.) of the U.S. has accepted \$25,000 to permit long-distance runner Frank Shorter to make a TV commercial for Hilton Hotels Corp. Shorter is

the first amateur athlete in the U.S. to do a private TV commercial and still retain his amateur status. Canadian athletes have been involved in such ventures for a while now and are pressured more and more to do so by Iona Campagnolo, federal minister of Fitness and Amateur Sport.

This is a result of relaxed rules for amateurs established in 1977 by the International Amateur Athletic Federation, the world body for track and field.

Shorter has also signed as a fitness consultant by Hilton. His first task is to help write a booklet entitled, "How to Win on the Road", a training booklet for business executives trying to stay fit while travelling. The booklet will be placed beside Gideon in every Hilton hotel room.

### Boston Bans South Africans

Five South African runners have been barred from competing in the 1979 Boston Marathon after the race organizers received a warning from the Amateur Athletic Union (A.A.U.) of the U.S.

Ollan Cassell of the A.A.U. said "If they had been allowed to participate, all other runners would be ineligible for any subsequent A.A.U. sanctioned event." The five S.A. runners had filed entries, leaving blank the section for home addresses and listing their occupations as students.

### Two Chinas to Compete in Moscow Olympics

The International Olympic Committee (I.O.C.) voted April 7 to recognize the Chinese Olympic Committee in Peking while at the same time retaining Taiwan as a member. Lord Killanin, I.O.C. president, said he understood that Peking would accept a separate Olympic committee from Taiwan, "as an interim solution."



## Tom Mooney

That new job that Consumer Relations Minister Frank Drea announced last month for retiring *Globe and Mail* sports editor Jim Vipond isn't quite what it's cracked up to be. In fact, it may never materialize.

According to Drea, on April 16 Vipond will become the new Ontario Athletic commissioner and will be "a pipeline for athletes and coaches to the provincial government".

But as this goes to press, the office of the Athletic commissioner remains in the hands of the Ministry of Culture and Recreation, and the arrangements to have it transferred have yet to be completed.

"Drea jumped the gun on the Vipond announcement," an aide to Culture and Recreation Minister Reuben Baetz told the *Clarion*. "Although we want to get rid of the responsibility for professional boxing and wrestling, it's a long way from being settled. And there's no way we're going to give up the responsibility for amateur sport, including amateur boxing and wrestling."

"What pisses us off is that Drea's announcement gave the impression that Vipond is needed because we're not listening to athletes. That's one thing we've been doing pretty well."

If Vipond does get the boxing and wrestling job, one person likely to be replaced is Tony Canzano, the longtime University of Toronto boxing coach who at present selects and certifies referees, checks contracts and generally runs the boxing show. "Tony is one of the few honest men in what is a very crazy game," the official said.

\* \* \* \* \*

No sport is as dependent upon beer as baseball. "Let's go get 'em and then pound some Budweiser!", Joe Schultz, Jim Bouton's favourite manager used to say, and although his teams rarely got 'em, they always pounded the Bud. It helped them forget how the owners screwed them. Many teams and half the broadcasts are owned by the beer companies.

So it's not surprising that when it comes to a competing drug, one which stimulates rather than depresses, the baseball establishment takes a hard line. This week Bowie Kuhn announced that Expos lefthander Bill Lee has been placed under close surveillance for admitting he uses marijuana. "Even if it were legalized he would be subject to discipline," Kuhn stated, "because we believe marijuana is harmful to an athlete's career."

\* \* \* \* \*

Three cheers for Junior OHA coaches Bob Ertel, who quit, and Bill White, who was fired, because of their opposition to the growing violence — i.e. illegal assaults — in hockey. It takes courage to speak out against the hockey establishment, especially now that the NHL has swallowed the WHA. But that's the only way change may be initiated.

What's less encouraging is the announcement that the Ontario Ministry of Culture and Recreation is conducting another study to determine the extent of the "win-at-all costs" approach and to recommend ways to reduce the violence that goes with it. The problem has already been well studied. The Attorney General's own brother Bill conducted a special inquiry just five years ago. One of the most comprehensive studies, by Mike Smith of York University, is summarized in the current issue of *Canadian Dimension*.

Smith found that the prime cause of amateur hockey violence is the commercial game. Seventy-six per cent of players on select teams and 55 per cent of players on house league teams agreed that "if you want to get recognition it helps to play rough. People look for this." Fifty-six per cent said they learned to hit other players illegally by watching the pros. Smith also found that most players believed that their parents, coaches and fellow players approved of illegality.

Although the Ministry's new study will sample many more people — questionnaires have been sent out to 150,000 parents — I doubt that the results will be any different.

One agency which could significantly change the nature of the commercial game is the CRTC. If the Commission ordered the networks to broadcast Hockey Night in Canada themselves, instead of abdicating control to MacLaren's Advertising as at present, and if the CRTC threatened licence terminations, unless the celebration of violence ceased, the NHL might be forced to change its tune.

Imagine what would happen if the CBC announced it could no longer broadcast the games of certain teams because they were not prepared to play hockey, just "roller derby on ice".

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