

A cryptic Christmas greeting from the staff of the *Clarion*

See page 10



The OFL convention at the Sheraton Centre: lots of talk, under cover cops and even a couple of strongly worded resolutions. See pages 5 and 9

The *Clarion*, Toronto's little paper that's still growing, introduces a new life style column. Fashion writer Mai Sham looks at what the well-dressed socialist is wearing. See page 11



Tenants on rent strike face 20 per cent hike

By Paul Weinberg

In exchange for major repairs, the new owner of 40 Earl Street in the North Jarvis area is asking tenants to accept a 20 per cent rent increase and to sign an agreement not to appear before the provincial rent review board.

While tenants appreciate the major repairs, says Sean Goetz-Gadon, a community legal worker with the Metro Tenants' Federation, they do not like the "take it or leave it" approach of Frank Moran, the new owner.

The tenants were holding a rent strike against Sam Warner, the previous owner, for neglect of his building, when Frank Moran and his numbered company 431606 Ontario Ltd. purchased 40 Earl Street for \$100,000 down. Warner will be holding a \$325,000 mortgage on the premises. As well, Moran promises that at least \$36,000 will be spent on the major repairs.

The rent strike continues under the new owner until an agreement is worked out between Moran and the 40 Earl Street tenants.

Moran told tenants in his first meeting with them on December 6 that the 20 per cent rent increases are justified because his company will be losing two per cent in the first year of ownership after the sale and renovations are completed.

"Even with the rent proposed, the owner will not make a profit on his investment."

Moran said about \$400 in repairs will be spent on each suite to bring the whole building up to standard.

"The company hopes to make its money down the road. We want to redo the building completely in a 1930s art deco style", said Moran at the meeting.

Tenant organizer Sean Goetz-Gadon, See Art page 2

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Vol. IV No. 4 December 12 — January 8, 1980

Metro's independent newspaper for social change

Government documents burn



See Nexus supplement

inside

Sawmill strikers blast bruisers in cruisers

'Stop strikebreaking cops'-OFL

By Sue Vohanka

The increasing use of police forces "as a private army at the disposal of management" during strikes drew loud and angry fire from delegates at the recent Ontario Federation of Labour convention in Toronto.

The convention condemned police actions in strikes and called on Attorney-General Roy McMurtry to order police to stop all anti-union activities.

It also resolved to make every effort to get legislation approved during the current session of the legislature to eliminate the use of strikebreakers and police

power to break strikes.

Fred Miron, a representative of Lumber and Sawmill Workers local 2693, which is fighting a 17-month strike against Boise Cascade in Kenora and Fort Frances, described his union's strike as "a nightmare of police brutality."

"I can see we're not alone," Miron added, pointing out that hundreds of police were also called in during strikes at Fleck in Centralia last year and at Radio Shack in Barrie. "One of the things that worries me is that it seems to be becoming the norm rather than the exception," he said.

"I don't think every time there's a strike you need an army of occupation. That's what it's been for us," he added.

OFL president Cliff Pilkey described his recent visit to the Radio Shack picket line, and police actions there. "I saw pickets thrown to the side, I saw scabs and strikebreakers pushed through. If that isn't strikebreaking, I'd like to know what the hell is," he roared.

"We don't want our tax dollars to be spent for that kind of police protection. We don't want to pay our tax dollars to be spent on strikebreaking as they are at the present time," Pilkey

added.

Marlene King, of Wives of Strikers, a group involved in the Boise Cascade dispute, described the relief that many people felt when police first appeared on the picket lines at Fort Frances and Kenora. People were naive and believed that the police would protect the strikers. "We've learned a lot since then," she said.

In a written statement circulated during the convention, King said: "We've watched helplessly as our men have been unjustly jailed and given criminal records for being strong-minded and fighting for what

they believe in.

"We have seen our men off to the negotiating table full of optimism, only to have them arrive home more bitter and militant each day."

While other speakers were describing their disillusionment with the police during other strikes, Roy McMurtry was telling the justice committee at Queen's Park that statements about OPP officers being used as strikebreakers "are not only the height of irresponsibility, they are also a crock of sheer nonsense."

McMurtry said police inter- See Cops page 9



Cindy Fortunata

McDimwit Dummies Up

"If these people are on the march, we are going to have to put them to death."

Tough talk by CLC president Dashing Dennis McDressup, threatening the "leftist lunatics" who "took over" the CUPE convention and persuaded 999 of the 1000 delegates to vote for his resignation.

And did Dennis then carry the fight — caused by his betrayal of striking postal workers last fall — to the federal NDP convention? To the OFL convention? To the Québec Federation of Labour Convention? To the BC Federation of Labour convention?

He did not. Labour's elected leader laid low in Madrid, at the annual meeting of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions.

Like they say: If you can't take the heat, stay out of the convention.

Dennis The Red Menace

But as soon as the heat was off — when the crush of lunatic conventions was over — McDressup went on the offensive.

Dennis recently mailed "ranking officers, executive council, federations of labour and labour councils" a copy of the *In Struggle* booklet "Dump McDermott! Dump the Bourgeois Policy in Trade Unions". He included a covering memo.

McDressup's memo refers to *In Struggle's* "vicious, unwarranted and unsubstantiated accusations" and says, "I am providing the book to you so that you will recognize the symptoms" (of growing dissent and sympathy for *In Struggle's* attack).

"I urge you to take the necessary action", Dennis concludes.

Dennis sent a lot of memos, mailed out a world record number of *In Struggle's* booklets. And his crusade has brought the small Marxist-Leninist group more than its ordinary amount of attention.

Why is McDressup providing his so-called enemies such a valuable platform? Is Dennis McDermott a wolf in \$300 sheep's clothing, a secret sympathizer or even member of *In Struggle*?

The *Clarion* calls on Dennis McDermott to come out of the closet and make a clean breast of his real relationship with the Marxist-Leninist movement in Canada.

Invasion of the HorsePeople

Rumour has it that the Mounties are busting their buttons in the fortress on Jarvis Street they call home, so they're expanding into the Manpower and Immigration Office at Dundas and Jarvis. More space to store all that info on subversives, MPs and the incendiary potential of dried grass storage edifices.

As UIC cutbacks and other restrictions on assistance continue apace, it seems appropriate that the Mounted Police take over a Manpower office. Force has long been the government's final answer to the unemployed.

Sussexful Savings



These are Tough Times.

All Canadians (except bankers, Eatons, oil company directors, and other minority groups) must tighten their belts. Pull up their suspenders. Zip their jumpsuits. Whatever.

Even PM Joke Clark.

Boasting about Tory restraint, Joke let a recent Calgary fund-raising dinner

in on the hardships he faces back home.

"We've even been able — and I have to give credit to Maureen for this — to keep the redecorating bill at 24 Sussex Drive down to \$15,000."

Let's hope Maureen will pass on her Super Savings Secrets to the rest of us who can't afford more than 15 big ones to make our homes livable.

Whip-Off

Another bum deal for Canadian consumers.

First it was E.B. Eddy toilet tissue. Produced in Canada, it cost 63% more in Southern Ontario than in Buffalo.

Now NDP MPP Mel Swart (Welland-Thorold), the man who flushed out the bathroom boondoggle, has another smelly story.

A 17.6 ounce jar of Canadian-made Kraft Miracle Whip sells for \$1.05 at Dominion Stores. 32 ounces of Miracle Whip goes for just \$1.07 in US supermarkets. The provincial Tories response? A promise to "monitor" grocery prices.

During the first nine months of 1979, the net income of the Canadian food processing industry was 90% higher than the year before. Retailers didn't do badly either: Loblaws' profits for that period went from \$17 to \$24.6 million.

Meanwhile, Statcan's reports that the average Canadian income rose only 6% in the last year. Quite a whip-off.

Art Deco decor may raise rents out of reach

From page 1

however, said later that the landlord wants to do more renovation than is wanted by the tenants. As the building is redone, its status as a low rental old apartment building will end — the rents will keep rising and the class of tenants will change.

"Builders like Moran have whitepainted a lot of buildings in the area," says Goetz-Gadon. Moran's company also owns 181 Gerrard St. E., 95 Pembroke St., 88 Carlton and 90 Carlton.

Low rental old apartment buildings are an endangered spe-

cies in North Jarvis and the tenants, many of them of moderate income, are concerned that their building is next on the road to extinction.

After the meeting, one of the tenants, Patrick Maher, said, "The 20 per cent rent increase he asking is illegal because the

landlord under rent review is only allowed six per cent per year." Tenants are paying on average \$172 a month for a one-bedroom. Under the new owner, the rent would increase to \$225 for a one-bedroom.

"We are paying for the repairs that should have been done by the previous owner, Sam Warner."

Toronto City Council is on the side of the 40 Earl Street tenants. Upon recommendation of the city executive, city council is freezing the rents and disallowing any evictions for three months, to force the owner of 40 Earl Street to do the major repairs.

This was in response to former owner Warner's neglect of basic maintenance. Forty Earl Street has outstanding work orders that go back to 1968. The premises have also been referred to the Toronto board of health.

Cockroach nests, bad wiring, unsanitary storage of garbage,

and the lack of fridges and stoves in some of the units were among the complaints.

One tenant, Kathy Neal, had to go to the hospital when she was almost electrocuted when she backed into bare wiring while painting a wall.

Forty Earl Street has had three superintendents in one year. The tenants are insecure about their apartments because the master keys usually kept in the superintendant's apartment are missing. One woman says she has seen rats in her unit. Most tenants have cockroaches and mice.

"I tried to send the former landlord a registered letter with a list of complaints, but he would not accept it. He sent it back", said tenant Derek Rainer.

Thirty-seven units in the building are participating in the rent strike. It is a building that houses both moderate-income young people and elderly people.

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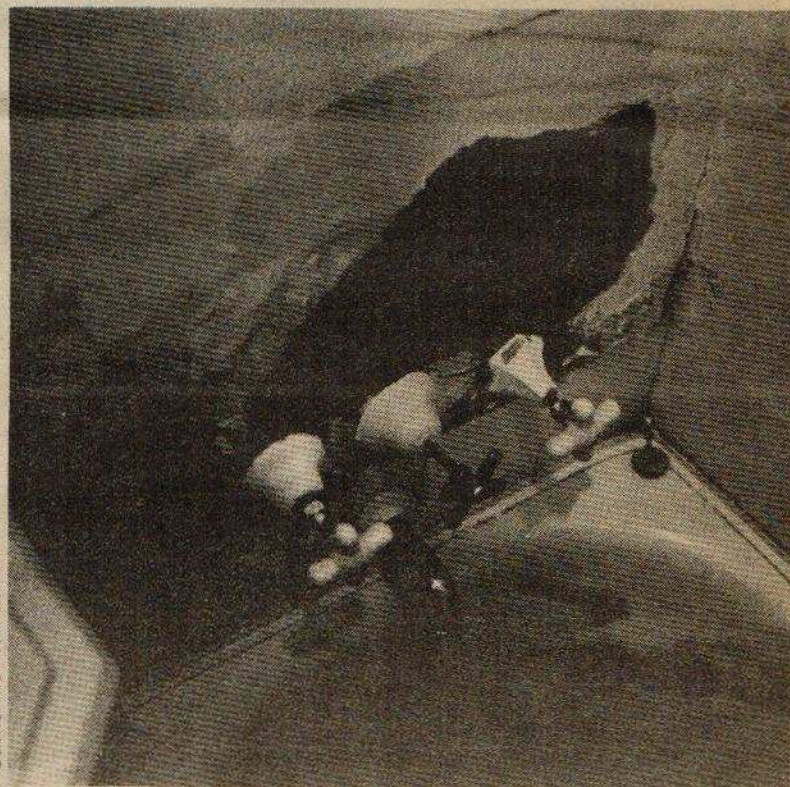
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Catherine McPherson



Tenants fight for repairs at 40 Earl St.

Credit union dissidents claim co-op over-priced

Co-op housing activists at the December 8 convention of the Credit Union Central of Ontario (CUCO) distributed leaflets attacking a private developer now trying to break into the co-op construction market.

Cimpello is a joint project of CUCO and Del Zotto Enterprises. It aims to set up non-profit housing projects using Del Zotto-related firms for construction and management.

The leaflet expresses concern about private developers obtaining a monopoly of CMHC funding slated for non-profit housing.

"Housing co-ops suffer because the private real estate firms have the desire and ability to use all the limited federal funds. Legitimate co-operatives will be squeezed out if Del Zotto is successful."

CMHC has recently approved funds for a 319-unit Cimpello non-profit housing project on Del Zotto land in North York.

(There is already a struggle over the Cimpello-owned Canada Trust block in the Queen-Spadina area. Tenants there have organized as Grange Area Co-op Homes; they want to take over and own the land themselves.)

The leaflet challenges the choice of the North York Del Zotto site; it was planned originally for a condominium but then the market for that sort of housing went soft.

"Its density, design, and location are such that no housing authority in Canada would consider this building a suitable family social housing development," the leaflet claims.

The leaflet compares Cimpello's involvement with a private developer and the arrangements between CMHC and private entrepreneurs in the Rochdale student housing co-op fiasco.

"Without close and skillful scrutiny during construction by a concerned owner, the final project will be overpriced and of poor quality."

Condominium owners in Ontario have had serious maintenance problems with their premises. "If the Cimpello method is followed, local credit unions will likely end up as landlords of

inferior buildings," the leaflet notes.

"The developer can walk away when the heat rises from unhappy tenants, but a credit union with staff and/or members involved is not free to leave."

The leaflet was signed by Don Altman, Peter Tabuns, Bob Luker, and Peter Holland, all active members of the Co-op Housing Federation of Toronto.



Spying, 60-hour week spurred drive

Union wins at York Steel

By Mike Doesburg

In spite of fierce resistance on the part of management, the employees of York Steel obtained certification as members of the International Association of Bridge, Structural and Ornamental Iron Workers Local 834 on November 30.

York Steel workers organized in response to "appalling working conditions," said rank and file member of Iron workers Local 721, Mike Doesburg. According to former employee Paul McIsaac and former plant manager Gary Thompson both discharged during the organizing drive, management was forcing overtime by terminating employees who refused. Workers were under electronic surveillance and forbidden to talk to each other unless conversation was necessary for the job. Afternoon coffee breaks were not allowed, in contravention of the Employment Standards Act. They were working a six day, sixty hour work week. Management timed employees using the washroom and required some of them to wear work boots in different colours to make them identifiable in washroom cubicles. Two workers reaching retirement age were humiliated and

harassed into leaving so that a full pension would not have to be paid. Wages were at least \$1.50 an hour less than comparable union shops."

Plant Manager Gary Thompson approached Ironworkers Local 721 president John Donaldson for organizing assistance. Because 721 is a construction local, they lack authorization from the International to organize a fabricating shop. For this reason the Ironworkers shop local 834 was contacted. Volunteers from both locals, the majority from 721, repeatedly contacted York Steel employees both, at their homes and at the factory gate. Six information picketers were arrested on petty trespass charges. (see the *Clarion*, Nov. 28-Dec. 11)

Even at the Labour Board Certification vote, the company was still trying desperately to stop the union. York Steel, located on Ingram Drive in the borough of York is owned by Joseph Tannenbaum. Tannenbaum also owns a wire mesh manufacturing shop on Wilson Avenue called KVN Contractors which employs 13 people. He tried at the last minute to have the Labour Board recognize the KVN employees as part

of the York Steel work force. KVN is not near York Steel, nor does it use the same personnel, nor is it engaged in a similar business activity.

On these grounds John Donaldson, the union representative at the hearing, put forth a strenuous objection. The union had not even had a chance to approach the KVN employees, who could have been heavily influenced by management. The objection was partially overruled, but as a compromise it was agreed to allow the KVN and York employees two separate ballot boxes, although the total would be counted together.

In spite of all this, the union won eighty-seven of the total one hundred fifty-one York and KVN votes for certification.

What are the chances of securing a first contract? How

does a guy with a track record like Tannenbaum instruct his people to bargain?

A couple of factors are in Local 834's favour. The recent Labour Board ruling against Radio Shack for bad faith bargaining could set a precedent with positive effects on Local 834's efforts to negotiate a first contract. In the past many companies have delayed signing the first contract one year and thus caused the union to be decertified by the Labour Board.

Another plus for the York Steel workers is that all York Steel structural erection is done by construction Local 721 of the Ironworkers. Local 721 has exclusive hiring hall rights, supplying all York Steel construction projects with Ironworkers. This could add some leverage in securing a respectable first contract.

Solomon: if the suit fits...

Myer Solomon, lawyer, bachelorette developer and money-lender, is suing the Toronto *Clarion* and *Ward 8 News* for libel claiming his reputation has been besmirched to the tune of a quarter million dollars by each paper.

Solomon, currently facing criminal charges of conspiracy to commit fraud worth about \$3 million, has also been the target of numerous civil actions over the last few years.

In preparation for a vigorous defence of this libel action, *Clarion* researchers have been delving deeper into the murky financial and legal involvement of Solomon and his family.

The accompanying list of actions filed against the Solomons over the past three years gives a taste of what we are finding. Any one of these suits could make a story in itself.

At a December 5 meeting, the Parkdale Working Group on Bachelorettes discussed a report on Solomon's action against the *Clarion*.

As a result, the working group unanimously decided:

- that the Parkdale Working Group on Bachelorettes send a letter to the Law Society encouraging them to investigate Myer Solomon.

- that the Parkdale Working Group on Bachelorettes supports

the Toronto *Clarion* and its work.

In the months to come, the *Clarion* will be approaching other community groups as well as unions and individuals for financial and moral support.

Action No.	Case	Nature of Case
13672	Kuzmich vs D. Solomon and others	bachelorette conversion of 72 Spencer Ave.
14050	Ontario Masonry vs S. Solomon, D. Solomon and others	mechanic's lien
14052	Ontario Masonry vs D. Solomon and M. Solomon	mechanic's lien
15058	John Ziner Lumber vs S. Solomon, D. Solomon, M. Solomon and Modern Holdings	mechanic's lien
15263	Sas vs D. Solomon, M. Solomon and S. Solomon	fraud, misappropriation of funds, breach of trust, etc.
17544	Clarke vs S. Solomon and DSS Financial Services	breach of contract
20867	Jomar Electric vs D. Solomon and others	mechanic's lien
22050	Sas vs M. Solomon, D. Solomon and others	unknown
22130	Alumex vs S. Solomon and others	mechanic's lien
28756	Koledin vs M. Solomon, J. Solomon	unknown
29452	Koledin vs S. Solomon and others	unknown
31837	Sterling Trust vs J. Solomon, M. Solomon and others	fraud, negligence
58067	Tsimenidis vs M. Solomon, J. Solomon and T. Marceta	breach of contract

News update

CUPE organizes

Chambermaids and janitors working at the Central YMCA at College and Yonge are still trying to win a first contract from stubborn Y management.

Chambermaid Connie Harrison, who organized the 35 workers who were certified in early October as members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees, says management is using "horrible intimidation" on workers.

"They are using the same tactics that have been used in other places — like the Art Gallery of Ontario and Radio Shack," Harrison says. She says that management is promoting favouritism, encouraging tale-telling and using other divisive tactics to break the union.

"It's like serfdom or something. It's just awful being here," she adds. 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.

Radio Shack

In a precedent-setting ruling December 5, the Ontario Labour Relations Board set the stage for negotiations to begin again at Radio Shack. However, Board chairperson George Adams did not demand that a collective agreement be signed.

"The Board directs the respondent to bargain in good faith and make every reasonable effort to make a collective agreement. To this end the Board specifically directs the respondent on the receipt of this decision to convene forthwith a series of bargaining meetings between itself and the complainant with the assistance of a Ministry of Labour mediator, and at the initial meeting, to make a complete proposal that the respondent is willing to accept as a collective agreement."

A spokesperson for the United Steelworkers of America said that the boycott of Radio Shack stores and products will continue until a contract is ratified.

As we see it

Public control should be focus of energy debate

The major oil companies — called the Seven Sisters though almost all of their top executives are men — are out of control all over the world. And they've been that way since the first John D. Rockefeller set his sights on expanding Standard Oil worldwide at the beginning of the century.

The ink used on the activities of Alberta and of Iran under the Ayatollah Khomeini camouflages the real villains in the oil prices scam: the Seven Sisters and their hunger for still more profit and power.

Sure, it's the governments of Alberta and the Oil Producing and Exporting Countries (OPEC) that have to announce price hikes, but in the end it's the oil companies, with their global dominion in the fields of locating, refining, shipping and retailing energy sources like oil, gas, coal and uranium, who get most of the money.

Not that governments don't make useful allies. The present plan to raise the price of Canadian oil to "world" levels is such a blatant rip-off that a new-born bat could see through it.

Are we to pretend that Alberta and Saskatchewan oil really gushes from the ground halfway around the world in Saudi Arabia — and to pay for it accordingly, imaginary transport costs and all? A bit like charging Canadians a lot for ice because it's scarce in Tahiti.

But this little game of make-believe will make real riches for the oil companies. Economist John Helliwell estimates that oil industry profits will rise 1,000 per cent between 1974 and 1985 under present federal tax legislation.

Raising oil prices \$4 a year will hand the giants over \$50 billion by the end of the 1980s, money which would be better spent developing energy alternatives and supporting a Canadian industrial strategy that would free us from dependence on foreign manufactures.

Bogus energy policy

The rest of the government's "energy policy" is equally bogus. Both the old Liberal and the present Tory governments have pushed an expensive hunt for new oil and gas sources in the Alberta tar sands, offshore, and in the high Arctic. Despite their prodigious profits, the Seven Sisters say they can't afford to undertake the search themselves. So they get gargantuan tax concessions to finance exploration schemes from which they will be the biggest beneficiaries.

Yet there is no evidence that previous price hikes and tax write-offs have persuaded the oil companies to develop new supplies. In fact, "our" oil companies — 90 per cent foreign-owned — have been sending hundreds of millions of dollars earned (or handed out) in Canada south to their American parents.

And then there's conservation.

This latest "energy crisis" has given Joe Clark yet another chance to practise his favourite political ploy — blaming the victim. One virtue of higher oil prices, we are told, is that they will force us — or at least the poor among us — to mend our wasteful ways. Save your copies of Clark's speeches to fuel the fire for the cold winter nights ahead; they'll be a lot cheaper than heating oil — and just as compassionate.

Not a word from Joe, you'll notice, about industrial abuse of energy. Yet highly industrialized Northern European countries like Sweden use only two-thirds as much energy per capita as Canada — at least partly because companies in these countries recycle their energy. For example, they use heat produced in industrial processes to power in-plant generators, thus reducing reliance on outside energy sources.

And not a word about the most important conservation question of all: what is energy used for? It makes little sense to recycle industrial energy and then watch benignly as factories churn out patty stackers, electric back scratchers, jet fighters and other necessities of life and death for which advertising and propaganda create a market.

Rube Goldberg economics

In the end, there is no point in trying to solve energy problems with such pie-eyed premises. High oil prices, tax concessions, the production of unnecessary goods, all poured together to produce, as an end result, the national urge to turn down the thermostat two degrees before bedtime: that's some Rube Goldberg fantasy, not an economic strategy.

Surely the simplest and most sensible solution is this: to make sure all our sources of energy are controlled, publicly and democratically, by Canadians as a whole, to decide our individual and collective needs and wants, and to allocate energy accordingly.

We at the *Clarion* don't pretend to know just how a democratic, socialized energy system would operate, or just what we all need and want from our resources. We do believe that these things — and not how to bribe oil companies to keep us from freezing — are the real subjects of a debate on energy. To that debate, we welcome contributors to these pages.



As you see it

Clarion of the North?

To the *Clarion*:

I recently received a letter from you suggesting that I might want to renew my subscription to the *Clarion*.

I have been living in the Yukon for about two and a half years. During the first while I was here I was still receiving the *Clarion* under my old subscription. As I read each paper I felt more and more remote from the issues of Toronto. Eventually I decided that I should be getting a publication that dealt with the north the same way that the *Clarion* deals with Toronto. The choices are limited up here but I decided to subscribe to the *Yukon Indian News*.

So — I'm writing to thank you for reminding me — it's time I got that subscription. Also I wanted to tell you why I'm not renewing my subscription to the *Clarion*. Keep up your good work with the *Clarion*.

J.R. Constable
Carcross, Yukon Territory

10 is sexist fluff

To the *Clarion*:

I too enjoyed Blake Edwards' *10* and was pleasantly surprised to see a review of the movie in the Nov. 28-Dec. 11 issue's Bread & Roses section. I was not pleased with the conclusion of the reviewer, however.

Robin Wood spends a good many words trying to support his thesis that *10* is "the funniest and most progressive" in a string of Hollywood films dealing with the "contemporary crisis in sexual relations" but I think he vastly overstates his case. The movie is a prime example of sexism and Hollywood fluff.

Anything more is just an acci-

dent. It is precisely because the various themes running through the film have been over-worked and are so well known by the viewer that there is humour. We know exactly what to expect.

We know from the beginning, despite her token display of fledgling feminism, that Julie Andrews is going to take back her man, on his terms. We know that Robert Weller, as the older homosexual, is going to receive a broken heart from his young beachboy lover, despite his being "allowed intelligence and dignity." He's gay, the formula has no other options. We know that when Dudley Moore stops fantasising and comes face to crotch with the reality of Bo Derek that he and she will not live up to his expectations and he will go running

home to the warm bosom of Julie Andrews. He does, she accepts him, and as they sink slowly into the west at the end of the film we know that they are going to live happily ever after... until the next time.

To say that the film has an "ending whose keynote is tentativeness," is a vast understatement. Absolutely nothing is resolved and no suggestion of a direction is given to any of the characters. The film is a Seventies potboiler. It has every element in it except the kitchen sink, and in the tradition of the 70s, it tries to appeal to everyone and offend no one. The film is slickly and professionally produced, directed, written and acted. It is very pleasant and enjoyable. It is

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TORONTO
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The staff members are: John Biggs, Marty Crowder, Gerry Dunn, Lynn Goldblatt, Mark Golden, Marianne Langton, Sally McBeth, Bob McGowan, Barbara MacKay, Tom McLoughlin, Alan Meisner, Anne Mills, Marg Anne Morrison, Elinor Powicke, Norman Rogers, Carl Stieren, Wayne Sumner, Sue Vohanka, Bob Warren, Paul Weinberg, Abie Weisfeld, and Ted Whittaker

The following people also contributed to this issue: Elaine Farragher, Al McMillan, Oscar Rogers, Joan Tracy, Linda Kopochinski, Francis Fuca, Jim Campbell, Dave Smiley, Rob Harris, and many others.

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Politics play part in Parrot appeal

Judges juggle to justify jail term

By Oliver Law

Political issues like the right to strike were not far below the surface of the legal arguments when the Ontario Court of Appeal heard the case of the Queen v. Jean-Claude Parrot in October.

Its 29-page decision, released November 22, upholds Parrot's conviction for contravening legislation sending striking Canadian Union of Postal Workers members back to work in October 1978. Parrot is now free on bail, awaiting leave to appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada.

The government recognized the political nature of the case. The lawyer representing the Attorney General of Canada said in his opening remarks that the issue was, "Who runs the country: the government or the postal union?"

Parrot's lawyers, Aubrey Golden and Paul Cavalluzzo, also dealt with political issues. But the appeal was brought on legal grounds because, according to Cavalluzzo, the Court of Appeal "is a court of law and not a political forum."

Law discriminates

Cavalluzzo argued that the back to work law deprived CUPW members of the right to strike after they had complied with negotiation and conciliation provisions of the Public Service Staff Relations Act. They were



therefore refused the same rights as other citizens: a denial of equality before the law, guaranteed in the Canadian Bill of Rights.

The Court replied by citing Supreme Court of Canada decisions saying that a law which applies to some individuals and not others does not violate the principle of equality, as long as it was passed for a "valid objective".

Because postal services are under federal jurisdiction under the BNA Act, the law passed to assure continuation of postal services was passed for a "valid objective" and did not violate the Bill of Rights. The Court thus upheld the government's "Right" to pass discriminatory laws in any aspect of its jurisdiction.

Golden argued that the judge at Parrot's trial should have al-

lowed evidence of the circumstances surrounding his failure to order CUPW back to work. Parrot has said that he knew he would lose the case as soon as the judge decided to exclude this evidence and to refuse to give the defence a chance to cross-examine post office management on the history of the negotiations.

The Court of Appeal said that this cross-examination would not have affected "issues which could provide a valid basis for the defence of 'lawful excuse'". In other words, no matter how dishonest the post office may have been in negotiations leading up to the strike, there was no possible justification for union members to defy the back to work law.

No jurisdiction

The other two grounds of appeal centred on the fact that the government did not use the back to work law, the Postal Services Continuation Act, to prosecute Parrot. Instead, it used a section of the Criminal Code which makes it an offence to violate any act of Parliament. (This makes Parrot's conviction more serious and made him liable to a greater penalty at trial.)

Parrot's lawyers argued that the Attorney General of Canada had no right to bring the charge; only the Attorney General of a province can lay a charge under

the Criminal Code.

But the court said that it was enough that the government *could* have put the same section of the Criminal Code into the Postal Services Continuation Act, or any other law it chose to pass: the Attorney General of Canada would then have had jurisdiction to lay the charge.

This seems to mean that since there was a correct procedure Parliament *could* have followed, the conviction stands — even though Parliament didn't follow it!

Whatever the quality of the Court's reasoning, its make-up shows the case's importance. Five judges heard the appeal — the largest possible number — including the Chief Justice and

Associate Chief Justice of Ontario. (Three judges hear most cases.) And the decision was written by the Court as a whole.

"This will give it more weight than if it had been written by one judge," says Cavalluzzo.

Parrot's sentence was not under appeal, according to a decision taken by "myself, co-counsel, and the client," says Cavalluzzo. If it had been appealed, the Court could have increased it.

If the Supreme Court, not known for its pro-labour views, agrees to hear Parrot's appeal, there are three possible outcomes: Parrot's conviction may be overturned, he may be given a new trial, or he may go to jail for the 90 days of his sentence.

Won't challenge McDermott

OFL backs Parrot

Delegates to the recent Ontario Federation of Labour convention in Toronto voted full support for the Canadian Union of Postal Workers and its president, Jean-Claude Parrot.

More than 1,600 delegates voted unanimously in favour of a resolution calling on the OFL to "do all in its power to defend Brother Parrot and his union in their present struggle" and to "condemn any government's attempts to deny workers the right to strike."

But delegates then voted overwhelmingly against a resolution calling for the OFL to vote non-confidence in Canadian Labour Congress president Dennis McDermott's leadership and to ask for his resignation because of his public criticism of CUPW.

During debate on the non-confidence resolution, put forward by the Toronto local of the Letter Carriers Union of Canada, Metro Labour Council president Sam Fox warned that attacking the CLC leadership was "both dishonest and harmful to support for the postal union" within the labour movement.

Other delegates also spoke against the resolution as divisive and counter-productive.

A letter from the Canadian Union of Public Employees to McDermott, which was read out during the debate, summed up the convention's mood of wanting to avoid confrontation within the labour movement.

CUPE, at its October con-

vention, voted 999-1 to call for McDermott's resignation over the postal workers issue. But the CUPE letter of November 16, signed by national president Grace Hartman and national secretary-treasurer Kealey Cummings, made it clear that CUPE's national leadership is initiating steps to heal the breach with McDermott.

"CUPE has no desire to cause or encourage splits among affiliates of the CLC. We just want to get on with the job of serving our members at the bargaining table and protecting their interests at the workplace. We feel by continuing public name calling we will only be diverting attention from the very real problems that beset workers in Canada today," the letter said.

Hartman and Cummings

made it clear in their letter that CUPE's resolution calling for McDermott to resign "was not sponsored by the national leadership — was an isolated instance and should not be construed as a 'call to arms.'"

The letter continued: "Once again, CUPE is in no way interested in putting the labour movement into two armed camps... Let us get on with the job."

The theme of solidarity within the labour movement surfaced at other points during the convention. In a speech to delegates, CLC executive vice-president Shirely Carr emphasized that: "If we have problems in the house of labour let us keep them there and deal with them there as trade unionists. Our movement has a heart and soul and no one has the right to destroy us."



Rob Harris

The alliance of Non-Zionist Jews picketed the Israeli consulate at 102 Bloor St. W., on Dec. 8. They were protesting the Israeli government's colonizing of the West Bank of the Jordan River. They were also supporting the mayor of Nablus, Bassam Shakaa who was elected as a Palestinian nationalist. Attempts by the Israeli authorities to have him deported were recently dropped after a general strike of Palestinian shopkeepers on the West Bank and a campaign of international pressure.

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Bread & Roses

Chilean folk group brings a message of hope

By Maria Vasijs and
Pam Oxendine

About 500 members of The Latin American community in Toronto took the opportunity December 8 to hear Ortiga, one of the first Chilean musical groups to play outside of Chile in some time.

The music is in the current folk tradition of the people — a blend of native Andean instruments, classical guitars, and choral voices. The melodies and rhythms blend Indian, Spanish and Black influences.

Ortiga is seven men aged twenty-two to twenty-nine who have been working together since 1975. All the members of the group study at the Conservatory of Music of the University of Chile. The group spends its time doing concerts in schools, churches, and in the most economically deprived neighbourhoods of Santiago.

What has allowed the group to survive has been the support it has gained from students and, through the trade unions, the people. The Toronto concert was part of a tour that has taken Ortiga through Europe — and now across Canada — for the past two months. It is the first time the group has played outside of Chile.

Sensitive balance

Marcelo Velis, Ortiga's director, says the group's music tries to reflect the popular culture of Chile, the progression of the nation's modern folk music.

The aim was clear in the concert itself. Tucked into Ortiga's definite Chilean folk style was a repertoire including a Yugoslavian and various Latin American folk songs. Some songs touched the universal experience of all people: like the song of an old man becoming humiliated and useless because he has worked too hard all his life, with its fascinating rhythmical perspective of the "tic tac" of time sifting away.

The group's strong point is its perfect cohesiveness, perhaps a reflection of what it has most needed to develop in these last years in Chile. All members are articulate musicians in sensitive balance with each other. The flawless consonance of the Andean flutes, guitars, and voices contrasted to the informality of the jokes and warmth flowing between the audience and the group.

Ortiga brought the message "much love from home" to all Chileans in the audience, and updated them by teaching us all "A Song of Hope", one of the most currently popular songs being played wherever folk musicians are allowed to perform.

Before the military takeover in 1973, contemporary Chilean folk music was a deeply rooted expression of the Chilean people's struggle for liberation. After the coup, musicians reverted to playing all types of classical music because the public playing of folk music was prohibited and association with folk music was dangerous.



Six members of the seven-man Chilean folk Group Ortiga (one was ill) gave an exciting concert at Jarvis Collegiate on December 8.

After a few years, as support for artists grew, folk and progressive art slowly began to emerge again. The government reacted by taxing 28% of all artists' salaries. In a country with a destroyed economy, this tax made it impossible for most artists to exist.

At this point, the Roman Catholic church began giving increased protection and support to artists. Therefore, musical

groups dared to give concerts and began to move out to the people more, which previously had been impossible.

Groups have to get a government permit before they can give a concert. To apply, one must let the government know the type of concert and list the songs to be sung. Permits are often withheld, for no reason. Journalists are not allowed to publicly interview artists.

The current Chilean government appears to have no specific cultural aims other than to stamp out "subversive" artistic expression. By comparison, the music heard through the media in Chile today has often been described as foreign, very commercial and of low quality.

A mood of good cheer was aided by the exuberant applause in response to the reading of

greetings to Ortiga from Toronto Mayor John Sewell. It is rare in this city to attend a concert which ends in a sloppy, happy singalong and at which, when the audience gives its last, long, loud applause, the musicians themselves are enthusiastically applauding the audience.

Perhaps the amount of suffering and need for persistence experienced by artists who must struggle constantly to exist and to perform brings a love for and an intimacy with the audience. Such love and intimacy is not general in American concerts.

For gringo or Latino there is no reason why history won't repeat itself; everybody seemed to walk away very satisfied.

More to come

The Ortiga concert was the first of a series of two concerts about the music of Chile today. We suggest you go to the second concert being presented on January 12th, at 7:30, at Central Technical School, 725 Bathurst St. Illapu, another Andean folk group will be playing.

Tapes of Ortiga are available. Call Fernando at 960-4697.

Play puts police on parade

By Jerry McGrath

"Carnival War A Go Hot," by the British playwright Michael Hastings, is currently making its Canadian debut under the direction of Pam Brighton at Toronto Workshop Productions. It is a fine and timely treatment of a subject that has ripened in the context of present day life.

The subject is the policing of a large parade, in this case, the annual Caribbean Carnival at Notting Hill Gate, London. It is divided into two parts: the farcical preliminaries and the aftermath of police containment and infiltration into the parade crowd. All of the action takes place inside a bus where the forces of law and order dress up their agents as marginal and deviant figures.

There are three police women. Beverly (Carol Ann Francis) trades her scrubbed matronly look for a day-glo, swastika-sporting punk on roller skates. Alice (Gail Stewart) becomes a touring tease in tight pants; her rookie naivete will surely attract pickpockets to her expensive camera. And Raine (Nicky Guadagni) drops her mannish brogue to become a Hare Krishna, letting her sergeant stiffness pass out of her to sway and chant her way through the crime-prone mob.

Early in the play these forces are supplemented by three soldier types with duffel bags of riot gear. They have all the bravado of male bonding. Darryl (Angelo Rizacos) and Gary (Sean T. O'Hara) pull puppet strings on the bullish and fomenting Kevin (John Jarvis) until his extreme outbursts threaten the break these strings and catapult him into dangerous abandon.

Kevin's self-confessed feelings that set him apart from other guys warm Alice to him; they begin a shy and virginal romance. This is a delicate and delightful subplot. Alice is the kind of girl whose chest breaks out in a rash when she fancies a bloke.

Law and disorder

The only indication of the carnival crowd is a tape of music heard from a distance. This crowd is the focus of the bigotry and misgiving of Driss, the director of operations. Kenneth Pogue does a lovely job of him, using facial expressions and hesitations to show us a man im-

perfectly covering fuming prejudice with the formal recital of procedure. The hatred keeps breaking through but he returns to civility with a request for tea.

Hastings' script catches the tone of indignation as the "colonial" masses parade their own floats and figures through imperial streets. Driss sees Firestone (Calvin Butler), a black policeman who joins them, as another concession his own idea of Commonwealth could scarcely permit. His curious logic describes the crowd as an obstacle to the smooth doing of his duty. The only person he doesn't treat as subordinate is Doug (Pierre

Tetrault), an undercover cop whose own disguise is that of a shabby and lethargic hippie.

Of course, nothing in any manual on procedure prepares the characters for what happens, as we learn in the aftermath of their foray into the parade crowd. Driss goes out with the only key that will open the bus and he does not come back. All but Driss, Doug and Firestone are locked inside and their off-duty behaviour is the kind that could hardly be condoned in the streets.

The production is well-cast. All the actors and actresses fill out their characters authentically. The women talking about underwear, the soldiers with their clowning fixation on sex, Driss caught up in the litany of crowd-control — these testify that Hastings has truly heard the spoken word and felt its energy.

Michael Eagan's stage set, the bus interior, is bare and undecorated, but very fastidious at the same time. He uses the broken yellow line of the street to form a kind of frame for the stage.

At a time when people here in our own country warn against the influx of refugees and when economic recession tests our expansive liberalism and our supposed global good-will, "Carnival War A Go Hot" is an impressive play to see. In Driss, it shows us a man who is a poor candidate for anything exemplary and good, listening for the dying echoes of white supremacy and trying to fit them into a programme of law and order. It shows us a hilarious team which cannot live up to any such conceit. It does all this with skilled satire serving the interests of drama.



Driss (left, played by Kenneth Pogue) addresses one of his men in TWP's current production of the Michael Hastings comedy *Carnival War A Go Hot*.

Themes and treatment support status quo

Wood tells why *Best Boy* is boffo

By Robin Wood

Ira Wohl's documentary *Best Boy* is an interesting film in its own right — more interesting, perhaps, than is immediately apparent: its wider implications transcend the limitations of its ostensible subject.

But what is most interesting — what most demands to be critically accounted for — is its extraordinary popular success.

Documentaries, unless they are about rock groups, do not draw lineups outside downtown theatres (few, indeed, are ever given the chance to do so); the commercial potential of a documentary about a mentally handicapped 52-year-old man (his name is Philly) would appear to be nil.

Is the film's success the proof that members of the public are much more responsive to quality than producers and distributors give them credit for? A simple affirmative answer would have to be very heavily qualified.

For one thing, the opposite has been proved too often. For another, it is precisely with commercially "difficult" films that the mediation of the press becomes important, and it is useless to expect journalist-reviewers like Clyde Gilmour and Jay Scott to transcend the ideological assumptions of a medium dedicated to the perpetuation and reinforcement of that ideology. Finally, though one might not have propesied the success of *Best Boy*, it is not difficult to account for it retrospectively, in quite specific terms.

Superficially, the film leaves those ideological assumptions intact and undisturbed, which is why the bourgeois press has been able to give it such a generous reception. It is a success story, based on notions of the sanctity of the individual. In



Mentally handicapped Philly (left), the star and namesake of the prize-winning documentary *Best Boy*, and his cousin Ira Wohl, the film's director: The movie charts Philly's growth toward relative independence from his parents, in middle age.

other words, it is like *Rocky*, but ratified by all those documentary signifiers of "truth" and "reality" ("This really happened") that are at once so seductive and so problematic.

Most don't make it

Like *Rocky*, by concentrating exclusively on an individual who "makes it", *Best Boy* actually distracts attention, however inadvertently, from all those individuals who don't. On this level, the film's effect is to reassure, hence to strengthen the *status quo*.

Whether or not a documentary tells "the truth", it is never the whole truth. A conspicuous absence in *Best Boy* supports my claim: we are given very lit-

tle information about the economics of Philly's situation. Is the pleasant home he enters, as a relatively autonomous individual, at the end of the film, a state-financed institution? If not, where is the money coming from?

The reassuring effect depends partly on the implication that the solution open to Philly is open to anyone in his situation, but whether this is so, or not, is far from clear.

(Beside *Best Boy* should be placed another documentary that, significantly, did not achieve a "commercial" release: Wiseman's *Titicut Follies*.)

My colleague Richard Lippe has brilliantly suggested a further reason for the film's popu-

larity: there is a sense in which Philly is a perfect identification-figure. He is a little boy in a man's body. As an apparent adult, he recapitulates all those disturbing experiences (what Yeats summed up as "the ignominy of boyhood") that live on somewhere in all of us, and he comes through them successfully: the first day at school, the first holiday at summer camp, the move out from home.

A complex relationship

The relationship of Philly to the spectator, in other words, is complex and equivocal: he is a figure for whom we can feel (from our position of superior good fortune) concern and compassion, but he is also ourselves

as we were once and on certain psychological levels still are. Either way, the principle of reassurance operates.

The relationship of *Best Boy* to the dominant ideology is not, however, as simple as this account suggests. As the film progresses, beneath its overt concern (the training of Philly for autonomy) there develops a subsidiary and less explicit concern: a critique of family structures.

The film's starting point is the anxiety of Ira Wohl — the director, and Philly's cousin — as to what will become of Philly when his parents die.

Sick dynamics

But we gradually become aware that Philly's dependence on them is not merely neutral. The insights we are allowed into the parents' marriage are crucial here: the mother has no life of her own outside the family, and expresses her sense of total dependence on her husband in her assertion, when he dies, that her life is over.

Yet the relationship, as we see it, is mechanical and loveless; in one revealing scene, the mother deliberately uses Philly to provoke her husband, on the grounds of his inhibition of physical demonstrativeness. Her reluctance to accept Philly's need for independence is not merely protective: she needs him as a baby, to justify her own existence.

In several scenes — most notably that in which the news of his father's death is broken to him — we become aware that socially "correct" emotional reactions are being forced on Philly, just as they are forced on children.

Death of the family

Incidentally, perhaps, to Wohl's conscious concerns and intentions, the film raises the whole question of the "socialization" of children — a term that too often means no more than their conditioning for predetermined roles within the existing social structure, a conditioning achieved primarily through the family, though endorsed and reinforced by our educational system.

The family of *Best Boy* seems more prison than protection. The pleasure shared at the end between characters and spectators is the pleasure of release. Philly patently wants to leave home, having discovered (on whatever level of consciousness) that it is only outside it that he can be a person.

What is even more remarkable is the sense that the mother — for all her protestations that her life is over — is happier than she appears anywhere earlier in the film, actually making little jokes to the inmates of the "home" ("Be good — and if you can't be good, be careful") that seem directed at herself as much as at them.

Beyond any statement about the dignity of the mentally handicapped, *Best Boy* seems to wish to communicate the sense that the collapse of the nuclear family will be a relief to everyone.

China book breaks little new ground

China: The Revolution is Dead — Long Live the Revolution,
Edited by The 70's,
Introduction by Kan San,
Montreal, Black Rose,
2nd edition revised, 1979
247 pp., \$5.95 paperback.
Reviewed By William Young

The Devil is dead — long live the Messiah. Except, in this case, not only Lin Piao (the Devil), but Mao Tse-Tung (the Messiah) have both departed.

With the exception of a promising paper by Yu Shuet, an activist who fled from China, most of the contributions to this collection hold to the Devil theory of history, in spite of frequent invocations of historical objectivity. The one piece which goes well with Yu Shuet's work is from the Situationist International in Paris.

The papers in this collection add up to a repetitive analysis of the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution of 1966-67 in China.

This is in part unavoidable as there appears to be few on-the-spot reports to use as a starting point.

One that is included is an outcry from a Hunan rebel group, Sheng-Wu-Lien. It's anybody's guess whether they're quoting the Messiah against himself, or have moved beyond Messiahs. They seem also to have moved beyond dialectical materialism as a mystical force operating within history, to a re-affirmation of the value of utopian vision.

The book offers an explanation for the ability of the U.S. to hold on in Vietnam despite its long overseas supply line while China shared a common border at Kwangsi Province. Mme Mao and others reported that armed rebels in Kwangsi captured more than one munitions train.

The Revolution is Dead is worth study. It deserved better editing too.

Christmas 1978

The warmth of friendship climbs and urges on the fire of love upon the Christmas belfry, so pale in the December sun — I think of Buddha with his enormous belly and compassion.

I think of Buddha with his long long life and helping all who chose serenity and I wonder whether Christ the King was pure imagination

Or whether Love that Christian idea means anything at all as men huddle to keep warm right now, in Paraguay, Chile, or the fastnesses of Argentina

For if this solid state of love were absolute, then would not love itself declare (by now) a moratorium on war and murder?

Still often in the still of dark when my mind does not bristle with the sight of Jesus dying on the cross, a bird sits on my hand and whispers a small prayer into my heart like this:

I am God, I give you silence and work, that is all. I can give you nothing more. I am that small weak love of Quakers. I am that mutiny of ice that breaks through the pond in spring. I am that life ahead alone. I, your friend, can do nothing, for Jesus Christ, our hope and lunatic, takes that in, reads that, and forgets.

Gail Fox



CALENDAR

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

Continuing

Aggregation Gallery, 83 Front St. E., hosts an exploration of various aspects of Canadian printmaking from December 1 to January 2, 1980, phone 364-8716.

The Gallery, the newsprint voice of the Art Gallery of Ontario, notifies the public of travelling exhibitions now on display:

The Bartered Bride: Stage and Costume Design by Walter Trier, Walter Trier Anteroom, through Jan. 2, and:

Inuit Art: Selections from the Klamer Family Gift, in the Walter Trier Gallery.

Thursday, December 13

Theatre du p'tit bonheur continues with *L'utopie d'isotrope* at the Adelaide Court Theatre, to December 21, Mon.-Sat. at 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Information 363-4977.

Children's Art Exchange Exhibit (Canada & USSR): The Toronto Public Library continues hosting this exhibit as part of the International Year of the Child festivities. The exhibit will be on display till December 31 at the Sanderson branch of the TPL, 725 Dundas West. Publicity Office is 484-8015.

Public Forum on Discrimination in Ontario Housing, 519 Church St., 7:30-9:30 p.m. Contact Lillian at 961-2625 for further information.

Ontario Film Theatre at the Science Centre. Showings at 7:30 p.m.; admission adults \$2, family rate \$4, students \$1, children \$1.50 and senior citizens free. Current series is *The Film Legacy of Howard Hughes*: Dec. 13, *Sky Devils*; Dec. 18, *Mad Wednesday*; Dec. 19, *The Conqueror*; Dec. 20, *Jet Pilot*.

Renata Wendler's WATER-COLOUR PAINTINGS, AT THE Funnel Gallery, 507 King east, 1 p.m.-5 p.m., today and tomorrow.

Maggie and Pierre, starring Linda Griffiths, is now showing at Theatre Passe Muraille; Tues.-Sat. 8:30 p.m., Sun. 2:30; 363-8988. TPM's address is 16 Ryerson Avenue.

Christmas Craft Sale: hand-painted silk shirts, scarves, jewellery and ceramics; Community Gallery at York Quay Centre; all designs by Harbourfront's resident craftspeople; open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.



Bah humbug...

Friday, December 14

Festival of Lucia, a Scandinavian candlelit procession, celebrates the longest night and shortest day of the year, Harbourfront, 7:30 p.m. For further information phone 364-5665.

Malcolm Le Grice, a British avant-garde filmmaker, will be present for the screenings of his six early films, tonight. Their names are: *Talla* (1967), 20 min; *Berlin Horse* (1970), 8 min; *Whitchurch Down* (Duration), (1972); *After Lumiere — l'arroseur arrosé*, 17 min; *Academic Still Life (Cézanne)*, 6 min; *Time and Motion Study* (1977), 19 min; and his latest film, *Emily — Third Party Speculation* (1979), 60 min., will be shown Saturday, December 15. Time and place for both screenings are 8 p.m. at the Funnel Experimental Film Theatre, 507 King Street East, 364-7003.

Light 4 Play — a four-man show, runs in the Harbourfront Art Gallery, York Quay Centre, December 14 to January 13. Martin, Hirschberg, Don Jean-Louis, Craig Tandy and Jeff Johnson display their light and multi-media work. Gallery hours are 12:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. weekends, and 12:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday to Thursday, at York Quay Centre, 235 Queen's Quay West.

Leather Craft Meeting: The Canadian Society of Creative Leather Craft holds its monthly meeting tonight at 8 p.m. at Harbourfront. Topic of discussion: Purse Pattern Making.

Saturday, December 15

A musical tribute to the late **Morris Surdin**, Canadian composer, arranger, and conductor, as part of the **Annual Concert of the Shevchenko Music Ensemble**. Massey Hall, 8 p.m., call 532-4428 for tickets.

Christmas in Cabbagetown '79 — as a tribute to the International Year of the Child, Santa Claus will appear in various places around Parliament and Carlton, between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. For more information on Santa's timetable and whereabouts phone 489-3777 or 924-2543.

Xmas Dance — The Coalition for Usable Transportation (C.U.T.) will hold a dance with refreshments, at 519 Church Street, from 7:30 to 12:30 p.m. Phone Adair for details, 923-2778.

Children's Holiday Concert: The Canadian Hearing Society is sponsoring an afternoon of folklore and dance; it will be performed by children 8 to 10 years old, at a Christmast get-together at 1 p.m. at York Quay Centre, Harbourfront.

Sunday, December 16

Chanukah celebrations at the Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Avenue, 12:30-4 p.m., main auditorium, free admission, 924-6211 for more information and/or to help with the celebration.

Ontario Hostelling Association announces a day hike in the King Side Road area today at 9:45 a.m.; assemble at Eglinton/Duplex.

East York Symphony's Christmas Concert tonight, with the York Choral Society, St. Anne's choir and St. Cuthbert's choir, at 1399 Bayview Avenue, 8 p.m., adults \$4 and students and seniors \$2. For further information call Elliott Feldman at 653-4116.

Another Christmas Concert, this time with the Elmer Iseler Singers, the Toronto Brass, and organist George Brough, marks the end of the CBC Concert Series in honor of the 60th anniversary of Hart House. Call 925-3311; Extension 4835, for further information.

Rock Against Racism — First Toronto concert. St. Paul's Centre, 121 Avenue Road, bands, speakers, and tickets \$4 (general admission), \$2 (unemployed). Questions? Call Dave at 463-0786.

Lectures on Antiques, at 222 Queen's Quay West, 2:30-4 p.m., free. Today's topic: "Canadian Paintings of the 19th Century", by Helena Ignatieff, from the R.O.M. speakers' bureau.

Monday, December 17

Cuban Film Series — this continues Monday and Tuesday evenings at Harbourfront, 7:30 p.m. Presentations are as follows: Dec. 17, *Rio Negro*; Dec. 18, *The Adventures of Juan Quin Quin*; Dec. 24, *The Last Supper*; Dec. 25, the same program as for the 24th; Dec. 31, *Godfather 2* and *El Brigadista*; and Jan. 1, *Memories of Underdevelopment*.

Tuesday, December 18

The Nutcracker, at O'Keefe Centre, is scheduled for fourteen performances, at 7:30 p.m., today through December 29th, with matinees at 2 p.m. December 20th-29th. Tickets priced from \$4.50 to \$10; call 923-3080 for more information.

Wednesday, December 19

Mariposa Mainland, 8:30 p.m., Harbourfront's Brigantine Room, features Michael, McCreesh and Campbell. Come and dance to old-time stringband music for \$3.50.

Wednesday Night Films: Canadian Film Institute productions: Tonight's screenings are dance films and here are their titles: *Art Scene USA*, *Dance: New York City Ballet*, *Rocka-My-Soul*, *The Body as an Instrument*, *Solo for Four People* and *Western Symphony*. Screenings at 7:30 p.m. at York Quay Centre. Admission is \$1.

Thursday, December 20

Art's Sake lecture series presents Tim Whiten, sculptor and Associate Professor, York University, lecturing about his own work. Call 363-9811.

All For The Best, a musical performed by the Red Mill Theatre. 7:30 p.m. Tonight through Sunday in the Studio Theatre, Harbourfront. Adults, \$2.50; children, \$1.50. For advance tickets phone 364-5739.

Friday, December 21

Agatha, a movie about the mystery in Agatha Christie's life; 7:30 p.m., Ontario (Science Centre) Film Theatre. Ticket information 429-4100.

Saturday, December 22

Harbourfront Weekend Matinee Films: AT 99: *A Portrait of Louise Tandy Murch*; *Steve's Violin*; and *Yoshiko the Paper Maker* are the Deepa and Paul Saltzman shorts featured today. 2:30 p.m. at Harbourfront, free.

Sunday, December 23

Lectures on Antiques: This Sunday it's "The Joys of Plate Collecting" by Ken Richardson. Harbourfront of course, 2:30-4 p.m., free.

Scarborough Sunday Concerts present Jerry Jerome and the Cardells Caribbean Christmas Show, 2-4 p.m., free admission at the Scarborough Civic Centre. Call 438-7212 or 438-7216.

Ontario Hostelling Association announces a special pre-Christmas hike in the Humber Valley at 9:45 a.m.; assemble at the Keele Street subway station (Keele exit).

The Maple Leaf Jazz Band brings dixieland to Molson's Harbourfront Jazz Club tonight at 7:30 p.m., York Quay Centre. Admission free.

Monday, December 24

Christmas at Collingwood, for hostellers: four nights and twelve meals for \$40 (members). Phone 1-705-445-1497 for details

Wednesday, December 26

The Toronto Central Red Cross will be hosting the annual Mayor's Boxing Day Blood Donor Clinic at New City Hall, from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Free parking, T.T.C. tokens and babysitting included.

Thursday, December 27

Gulliver's Travels (film version), at the Ontario Film Theatre, tonight and tomorrow night, 7:30 p.m. Film times and ticket information are available from 429-4100 or 429-8888.

Nurse Jane Goes to Hawaii, by Allan Stratton, previews today and tomorrow, opens Dec. 29 and plays Tues.-Sun. until February 3. This new comedy, directed by Gordon McCall, is at the Phoenix Theatre. Call Ann Antkiw at 922-7835, for details.

Saturday, December 29

New Year's at Collingwood for hostellers. Phone 1-705-445-1497 for details.

Monday, December 31

Sixties Revival Party with a sixties D.J. at St. Paul's Centre, 121 Avenue Rd., from 8 p.m. Sponsored by the Friends of Grindstone Co-op. Tickets (includes food) \$6 at door or from Carl Stieren, 923-1012.

Tuesday, January 1

Ontario Hostelling Association's Toronto Islands Hike — if you want to come along, meet at the ferry docks at the foot of Bay Street, 10:45 p.m. Cost is \$1 for the ferry.

Wednesday, January 2

The Matchmaker, Thornton Wilder's comedy, is presented by the Toronto Arts Productions company, at the St. Lawrence Centre. 366-7723.

The Great Walk, noon, Senior Citizens matinee at the Ontario Film Theatre, free, call 429-4100.

Pinocchio — The Ontario Film Theatre presents the original Walt Disney flick at 7:30 p.m., running for 3 days at the Ontario Science Centre. Phone for tickets: 429-4100.

Children's Art Exchange Exhibit — Canada & USSR — until Saturday January 12 at the Main Street branch of the Toronto Public Libraries. Call 484-8015 for details.

Sunday, January 6

Lectures on Antiques — Helena Ignatieff will focus on "Canadian Silver" in the main market hall at 222 Queens Quay West; 2:30 p.m.; free.

Thursday, January 10

Art's Sake features the painter Rita Letendre lecturing on her own work. 284 King St. W., phone 363-9811 for more information.

Saturday, January 12

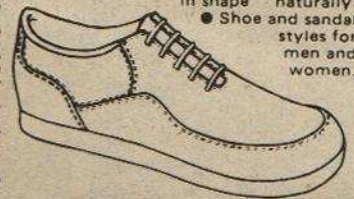
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Labour meet votes for women's rights



Women's rights in the labour movement got a supportive push when the Ontario Federation of Labour vowed to push an affirmative action program that includes support for a hiring quota for Stelco of Canada Ltd.

In the resolution, the OFL urges affiliates to negotiate affirmative action programs as part of collective agreements.

The resolution also calls for the OFL to push the provincial government to implement a mandatory affirmative action program. The resolution points out that the government's program has failed to improve women's access to jobs or promotions even within the civil service, and that voluntary programs for employers have been "a complete failure."

It also notes that although Stelco's Hamilton plant has hired 33,000 men since 1961, not one woman has been hired.

The resolution was amended at the last minute to call for support of Steelworkers Local 1005 at Stelco attempts to compel Stelco to hire women to fill at least a 10 per cent quota.

Other resolutions on women's rights:

- Demanded that changes in unemployment insurance benefits be repealed and further cutbacks opposed, including proposed cuts for women on

maternity or pregnancy leave. The resolution pointed out that increasing unemployment rates hurt women and young workers the hardest.

- Encouraged active participation by women at all levels of unions, by establishing women's committees in all OFL affiliates, opposing all forms of discrimination, and demanding full equality in wages, hiring and access to jobs.

Gordie Lambert, of the St. Catharines and District Labour Council, told delegates: "Our sisters in the trade union movement have proven without question that they share the same responsibilities as men in the trade union movement."

"Cops don't discriminate between men and women when they are pushing them around on picket lines. They don't discriminate against them giving them criminal records, as they did to the wives of the lumber workers near Kenora. Women are entitled to the same rights as men in the shop," he said.

Our cops are scabs

From page 1

ventions in strikes are costly and often dangerous to officers. "The police are there for one reason only — to preserve law and order. They are there to protect the rights of both sides and, in most cases, they do so with a patience and dedication which deserves the respect of us all."

The OFL resolution which was adopted described the police role during strikes as "to intimidate and brutalize the strikers, scab-herd strikebreakers and generally to take the side of the company by their actions in displaying their full arsenal of guns, billy-clubs, vicious dogs and by filming the strikers and their activities."



Sgt. Grant (L) and Sgt. Gaylor.

Amid the OFL convention's heated discussions of the role of the police during strikes, and a delegates accusation that an RCMP officer with press credentials was in the room, the presence of two Metro Intelligence officers went unnoticed.

The two — Sergeant Gaylor and Sergeant Grant, the labour liaison officers of Metro Police's Intelligence Bureau — were seen outside the hall socializing with delegates and observers.

According to Staff Sergeant Sterritt of the Intelligence Bureau, the role of the labour liaison team is to "advise both labour and management about their responsibilities during strikes."

Grant's predecessor Sergeant Patterson, and Gaylor, have been familiar sights on picket lines in Toronto in recent years.

MORE LETTERS

From page 4

sociologically profound not for what it says, but for what it doesn't say. And speaking of not saying, there are an awful lot of naked women running about in this movie. Come on, Robin, fess up, you liked the tits and ass, too.

Mark C. Hurst
Toronto

Left caucus tactics

To the *Clarion*:

When Dan Heap at the NDP convention said that, "We made progress. I would say we're as strong as we were in 1969, and perhaps a little smarter. I don't think we're going to make the same mistakes as the Waffle," he was right.

What concerns me is that we don't develop a new set of mistakes to replace the ones we've left behind. *Clarion* coverage indicates how close we were to winning various important motions and resolutions. The vote on procedure giving the panel/workshops the right to alter the priority of presentation of resolutions was narrowly lost, by a vote of 278 to 314.

The social ownership/left caucus fell into some problems when resolution discussion lapsed into a debating game of how one reform is better than another reform, forgetting that a reform that wins tends to be bet-

ter than a reform that loses on the convention floor.

The final vote to include a stronger wording to the leadership's resolution on an industrial strategy, placing greater priority on socialization of production, lost by 357 to 570 delegate votes. The vote on the referral could have been much closer or could even have been won but the wording used by John Rodriguez and Jim Turk in a panel which successfully amended the leadership's resolution was not used. The original wording, previously defeated in two panels, was again used in the plenary session, and defeated without any extensive discussion.

Ego-tripping became a prob-

lem also when grandstanding tactics without any responsibility to other members of the caucus, made on behalf of the caucus, undermined the caucus tactics.

Challenging the chairperson without justification and provoking a defeat, together with hostile interventions, treating the delegates as if they were puppets of the leadership, are the types of infantilism that do nothing to build the left caucus.

Correct tactics have their place alongside strategy and doctrine, if a movement is to be built. And criticism can be as important as doctrine; ultimately it is doctrine.

Abie Weisfeld
Toronto



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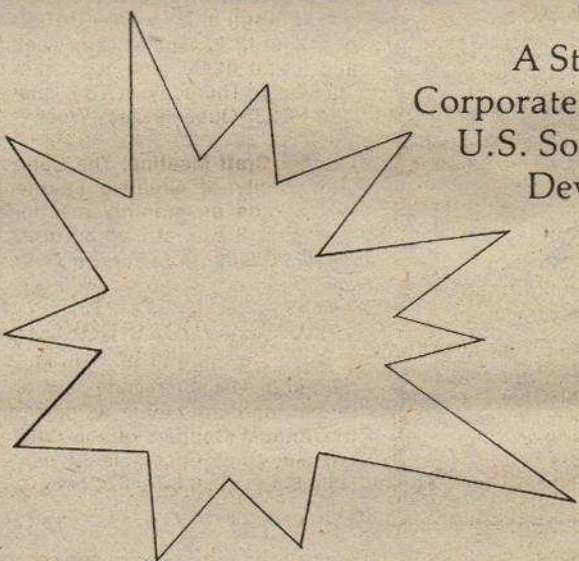
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Vaginal sponges: the inside story

By Barbara MacKay

I feel like I'm always the last person to hear about neat stuff like this. But for the rest of you who haven't heard, there is an alternative to tampons. It's called a sponge.

Many tampons are advertised as "safe, hygienic, sterilized and comfortable". But the ads say nothing about ecology or expense. Even tampons' safety

has been questioned by various women's groups.

There have been rumours of carcinogens, and although this has not been proven, you can bet there are lots of other chemicals like bleaches and deodorizers in most tampons. However, we may never know for sure, as those great gods of the tampon are keeping pretty mum as to exactly what goes in-

to the making of one.

The sponge, on the other hand, is portable, comfortable, ecologically sound, inexpensive and natural.

Unbleached, natural sea sponges, also known as Mediterranean sea sponges, are best because they have the smallest holes and therefore greater absorbency. (Although a woman at *Upstream* says she

has been using a polyurethane sponge for over a year with no ill effects.)

Natural sponges can be purchased in a variety of places: natural body and bath shops, art stores, ceramic stores and the occasional natural foods store, or you can mail order sponges being marketed especially as tampons. (Even *MS* magazine has a sponge ad

in the classifieds.)

Sponges should be washed before use to get rid of salt, sand and other sea stuff that they may contain. You can boil them to sterilize, but this isn't really necessary. And if you boil them for more than ten minutes, they will shrink and become hard.

Vinegar may be added to the wash water for a natural rinse, as it does not alter the natural Ph balance of the vagina (unlike most soaps). Other substances which are safe for sponge rinses are lemon juice, limewater, acigel, K-Y jelly, peroxide (10% solution), or chlorophyll.

The size of the sponge depends on you. I have heard suggestions from the size of a small egg to the size of a lemon.

To insert your sponge, wring out its excess water and pat it dry. You can fold it into a smaller piece if you want. Some women also sew a piece of dental floss (waxed or unwaxed not specified) to the sponge to make removal easier. Sponges are soft and comfortable and not difficult to remove. Wash and/or rinse and reinsert.

After your cycle, you should wash the sponge thoroughly. You can also use any of the solutions mentioned above for a rinse. Let the sponge dry in the open air for at least a few days before storing until the next month. A writer at *Upstream* suggests hanging it in a clean cloth bag to let the air circulate around it. Unbleached, natural sponges last several months before deteriorating.

Reinserting or changing your sponge in public washrooms may be a problem for some women. I carry a spare in a small film canister, because I haven't yet summoned the courage to rinse it in a public washroom sink. But the film canister is air tight so it's not a good idea for long term storage. Another method for public washroom changing is to wring the sponge into the toilet before reinserting it, although this is a bit messy.

I can't wait until the next time I go camping without a box of *Tampax* strapped to my back. Just me and my sponge, from sea to me.

I also think I'll carry an extra in my purse so the next time a woman asks me for a tampon I can happily say "No. But would you like to try this sponge?"

Information for this article from: *Wimmin Take Back Control*, New Orleans; *Upstream*, July 1978; *Eastwest Journal*, January 1979.

Nuclear energy

'Any radiation unsafe'-M.D.

By Dave Gunn

"Medically, there is no safe level of radiation exposure." So says Dr. Helen Caldicott, pediatrician and a leading voice in the anti-nuclear movement. In a speech before a full house at the St. Lawrence Hall, November 29, she described how radioactivity can mutate cells, causing cancer of various sorts, sterility, nervous and mental disorders and a host of other nasty ailments.

Radioactive wastes

Caldicott is president of Physicians for Social Responsibility, based in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She began her career in Australia, where she played a large role in successfully alerting trade unions to the medical dangers of nuclear energy-related work.



Dr. Helen Caldicott

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She told how a town in Colorado was partially built with radioactive tailings and reminded her audience that radioactive debris has been found throughout Port Hope, Ontario.

Caldicott stated that nuclear power is only a sophisticated means of boiling water to produce steam for electric turbines. Yet the problems nuclear power creates extend from the disposal of old reactors and other radioactive hardware to the creation of radioactive gases released into the atmosphere around power plants.

The Presidential Report on the accident at Three Mile Island, she contended, glossed over serious health problems. 48,000 gallons of highly radioactive water was released into the Susquehanna river and quantities of highly dangerous isotopes were released into the air. A Hershey's chocolate factory, one of the main consumers of milk from local farms, is located just 12 miles from the nuclear plant, she added.

Today, the radioactivity of one thousand Hiroshima bombs remains inside the ill-fated reactor.

Access to information

A meltdown of that nuclear plant, Caldicott said, would have contaminated an area the size of Pennsylvania, killing hundreds of thousands of people and rendering the area uninhabitable for generations.

Even now, Caldicott maintained, problems of waste disposal and leakage persist at the site, posing health hazards she believes the government simply doesn't know how to deal with in a serious way.

Caldicott urged the audience to act. "We are on the edge. Apathy is one of our enemies." Political pressure is vital, she said.

She believes that Joe Clark's much-vaunted Freedom of Information Act is actually blocking access to information about the nuclear industry in this country, on the grounds of national security. "We must stop this madness," she concluded.

The Toronto chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility, who organized the meeting at which Caldicott spoke, invite enquiries about their activities. Write Suite 406, 360 Bloor St. West, Toronto M5S 1X1.

The University of Toronto Anti-Nuclear Group (UTANG) is now forming and can be contacted through Dave Martin or Colleen Heffren, at 537-3646.

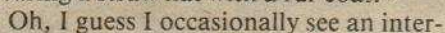


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But it's not just the lack of fashion that ruffles my fine feathers. It's the all too frequent denial of any awareness of what one puts on when one gets dressed in the morning; the suspicion that the well-dressed are sheep in lambs-wool clothing; and the fact that the 'left-look' isn't even politically sound.

Who knows, you might become eligible for the Best-Dressed Marxist of the Year contest.

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Critical comment marks Queen's conference

Modern sports supports the state

By Bob Beamish

A recent Queen's University conference featured some unusually critical comment on Sport, Culture and the Modern State.

The biological and physiological dimensions of sport have been studied for many years. Indeed, "scientific training" programs are the result of this research. But it was not until the campus unrest of the '60s had spilled over onto the playing fields that people began to be interested in studying sport as a social and cultural phenomenon.

of exposés written by athletes themselves and by sports journalists. Dave Meggysey's *Out of Their League*, Gary Shaw's *Meat on the Hoof*, Bernie Parrish's *They Call It a Game*, Brian Conacher's *Hockey in Canada: The Way It Is*, and Leonard Schecter's *The Jocks* are a few of the studies that emerged from within the athletic arena.

At the same time, university enrolments increased dramatically and a demand grew for new courses in physical education. The sociology of sport was introduced as a subdiscipline within sociology.

Sport sociologists engaged in rigorous study of athletic institutions and applied theoretical frameworks to sport. But the questions most often asked had a conservative bias.

The study of sport was therefore split into two streams: one critical and populist, the other conservative and systematically analytic. The Queen's conference was the first synthesis of the best of these two trends.

Richard Gruneau of Queen's began the conference with a paper that drew out pivotal themes in any study of sport and its relation to the state. Gruneau reviewed the theory that the state is an embodiment of the will of the people and showed how the current system of government in Canada fails to fit that theory.

Ian Taylor, best known for his book *Critical Criminology*, examined the role of the state in trying to curb soccer violence in Britain. Taylor showed that this violence was related to a deeper problem, the conditions of most members of the working class. But the state's response — increasing the police pressure at



Competition and marketability have become central to modern sports

soccer matches and on trains and buses going to the games — ignored the social roots of the problem.

Rob Beamish of the University of Toronto analysed sport as social labour. According to Beamish, sport in the mid-twentieth century has developed into a form of commodity produc-

tion. Sport is no longer just a game-form which is more highly organized than most: it is dominated by the marketplace. Sport has become a bureaucratically administered activity which is tailored to meet profit demands, rather than player and participant needs.

John Hargreaves, a professor

of political science at Sheffield University, outlined how sport functions as a vehicle of ideology. Sport, Hargreaves argued, serves a very important role in maintaining the *status quo*: it transmits concepts that serve to bolster current social relationships, rather than exposing them to critical analysis. Notions like consensus, teamwork, and respect for authority are internalized through sport.

One session was devoted to an analysis of sport in the USSR. Henry Morton, author of *Soviet Sport*, posed the dilemma now facing the Soviet Union. The Soviets use sport to boost their international image. But they are now being challenged by other East European countries — East Germany, for example. Will the Soviets engage in a head-on confrontation with their allies? Or will they reduce their massive spending on sport — spending which might otherwise go to housing and light industry?

Queen's professor Hart Canelon's discussion of the emergence, growth, and con-

solidation of the Soviet bureaucracy suggested an answer: the Soviets will not curtail spending on sports and begin to redistribute social services away from elite and privileged groups, but will increase efforts to maintain supremacy in international sport.

The final paper of the conference was by Bruce Kidd, one of the few athletes to make the transition from being critical in the '60s to developing a thorough analysis. Unlike other speakers, Kidd emphasized the positive. Sport, despite its present problems, should not be jettisoned completely. If sport is "de-commodified", if state policy is fitted to the real needs of the people, sport can contribute to national solidarity.

The problem now, Kidd implied, is that sport does not serve the interests of all Canadians, but only of a very small minority.

Rob Beamish will be contributing a series of articles on some of the main issues raised at the Queen's conference.

Fred Mooney



The Olympics are still a few months away. But already politics is centre-stage at the five-ring circus.

• For the first time, the US Olympic Committee is about to grant accreditation to Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty, which will allow them to cover the Games.

The Munich-based stations broadcast to the "Socialist bloc" countries of Eastern Europe. Until 1971, they were partly paid for by the CIA. They are now operated by the US State Department, and are still considered propaganda organs by the Eastern European governments.

Both East Germany — the stations' main target — and the Games' host the Soviet Union, strongly oppose their presence at the 1980 summer games in Moscow.

"Everything will be done to prevent their being here," said Soviet Minister of Sports Sergei Pavlov last January. "We make no secret of that."

• A British amateur rugby team, the Lions, plans a tour of South Africa next spring. The result: perhaps an International

Olympic Committee (IOC) ban on all British participants in the 1980 games.

IOC pressure has already led the French to cancel a South Africa visit and a number of British athletes are presently pushing the Lions to play it cagey too.

• Meanwhile, back in the Land of the Free, the Athletes' Village for the Lake Placid, N.Y. winter games has been built by the US Bureau of Prisons and will be used as a gaol after the Olympics. World-class athletes will give way to working-class inmates.

A broad coalition is trying to reserve the Village for better uses — say low cost housing. For more information, write: S.T.O.P., 324 C St. SE, Washington, DC 20003.

Does all this sound a long way from the ancient Greeks, a betrayal of the Olympic ideal?

It isn't. The city of Ephesus bribed a Cretan runner to represent it after his second Olympic victory. And an army once attacked the Olympic sanctuary during the pentathlon (and was pelted by spectators from the top of the Temple of Zeus).

And Baron Pierre de Coubertin, the French aristocrat most responsible for the Olympic ideal, sponsored sport — and revived the Games in 1896 — to help train an elite to recover the national prestige shattered by the Franco-Prussian War of 1870.

Moral: politics has always been a part of the Olympics, and of sport in general. We should waste no time lamenting our lost (and illusory) innocence. Calls to "keep politics out of sport" are almost always covers for jaunts to South Africa or Chile — very political attempts to make racist or reactionary regimes respectable.

Let's deal with the political issues that arise on their own merits, and not as improper intrusions into a pure and privileged part of life.

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Root for the Ravens
Poems for Drum and Freedom
by Charles Roach
Illustrated by Hugh Williams



Root for the Ravens, poetry by civil rights lawyer Charles Roach.

And the Rivers Our Blood, a news-journal about mercury pollution in northwestern Ontario, by Joseph McLeod.

The Island Means Minago, poetry by Governor-General award-winner Milton Acorn.

Stratford Under cover, by Grace Shaw.

The History of Painting in Canada, by Barry Lord.

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.

NEXUS

Volume 2 Number 3

December 1979

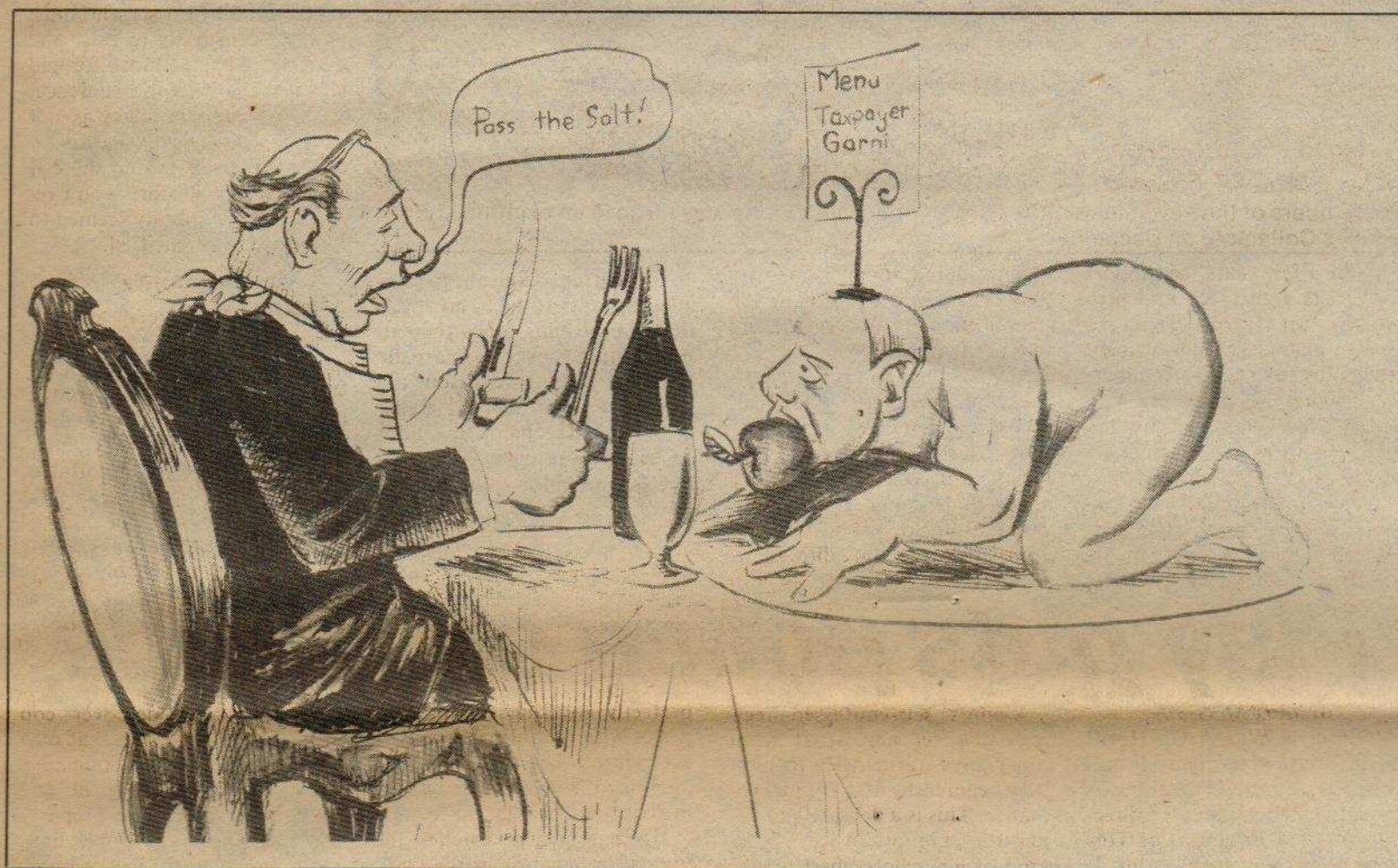
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Queen's Park gobbles \$\$



By Tom Smith

There are civil servants sitting up in their beds. They are unable to sleep. Their task must be completed. They are reading Volume 3 of the annual Public Accounts which they bought for 50¢ earlier in the day.

The next morning they will arrive at work informed. At your service. At 9:15 a.m. the action begins.

While brushing the Coffee-mate off his tie, Harry relates to Sylvia that their creepo supervisor, Thornton, made \$39,493 in the last fiscal year. Other relevant figures are quickly absorbed by conscientious civil servants throughout Queen's Park.

But there are some people, regrettably only a few, who are more anxious to know information which is not published.

One of the mysteries at Queen's Park, never examined by the Public Accounts Committee, is the amount spent on entertainment, liquor and dinners.

The internal accounts of the government are, of course, secret but the annual published public accounts can give us a small insight. Unfortunately some of this requires guesswork.

For example, there are dinners for senior and retired civil servants of the "Quarter Century Club". The public accounts mention "Skyline Hotel

Limited, 15,055" under "Management Board of Cabinet". Is this connected?

All government hospitality, liquor and entertainment should come under a single account. It does not. If it did, we would have an insight into whether or not our money is being squandered. There is, however, a unique account which gives details.

Unlike the other accounts which show you who got the money, the "Hospitality Fund" under "Government Services" will show you who was entertained. For instance, the 1975-76 record shows a dinner for the president of Indonesia at \$12,025. What firm received this money? And was it one thousand people at \$12 or twelve people at \$1,000? I should have a seat in the opposition!

The Hospitality Fund averages \$240,000 per year, but here again it is just one account.

Is it only the prerogative of the federal government to handle diplomatic receptions? There are those who frown on the friendly relationship between Quebec and France. Is this frown justified? Ontario has marketing interests abroad and is also involved in foreign affairs. Ontario, like Quebec, is very much part of the diplomatic scene — within the framework of the British North America Act.

Greetings are extended to officials of Cuba and the USSR, to Kuwait, Egypt and Israel, and a dozen others. Generally the cost of a reception is moderate but there are some exceptions.

In the 1972-73 fiscal year, a luncheon for Luis Echeverria, president of Mexico, ran \$3826. For his wife, a modest \$740.

In 1973-74 the ambassador of the People's Republic of China was entertained at \$3544. The following year, a dinner for the prime minister of Iran ran \$4035.

My fellow royalists were delighted by the luncheons and dinners held a couple of years ago for the visiting King and Queen of Belgium. Grand total, \$13,135.

Politicians must make friends with everyone, so the wine and cheese budget extends to literally everybody. Astronomers, musicians, the temperance union, the Knights Templar (they still exist!), poets, dramatists, ethnic groups, fire chiefs, sportsmen, doctors and business people. Their value to society is not questioned.

But I question their need for wine and cheese. It does not help them perform better. The professionals are paid well enough and hardly need their get-togethers subsidized. I am tempted to utter an old David Lewis line but this article is limited to the topic of

diplomacy.

Between 1972 and 1978, four dinners for members of the Central Canada Broadcasters' Association cost us \$9250. During the 1976-77 fiscal year the Society of Industrial Accountants of Canada ate up \$2576.

In 1973-74, tribute was paid to the veterans of the Dieppe Raid and to prisoners of war, with a \$7383 reunion dinner. And that year the mercenaries were included — \$1,000 for the Gurkha Welfare Appeal luncheon.

Two trusts total \$900 million-merger planned

The majority shareholders of the embattled Sterling Trust Corporation have reached an agreement with Montreal based Trust Général du Canada. (See *Downtown Action* vol. 2, no. 1.) If the deal goes through the combined assets of the two companies will be about \$900 million.

Sterling Trust has been up for grabs for the last year. Rumours of take-over attempts include Edmonton-based Peter Pocklington in an alliance with the mysterious Karsten Von Wer-

A fine tribute was paid to His Honour Ross MacDonald, Lieutenant Governor. As a monarchist I found \$18,065 cheap at twice the price!

Speaking of the monarchy, 1974-75 saw a \$5983 dinner for the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire. As Canada will always be British, I suggest it is unnecessary for the government to subsidize them further.

A rough spot check of the period 1972-77 finds religions are covered. National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, \$1838; Campbell African Methodist Episcopal Church, \$1913; Greek Orthodox Churches of Canada, \$1035; American Society of Church History, \$703; Order of St. Lazarus, \$2336; and Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, \$1799.

It is difficult to describe the average group entertained by the Hospitality Fund. There is the British North American Philatelic Society munching on \$802. I find it always refreshing to hear Canada occasionally being referred to as British North America. Then there is something called the Canadian Firefighters Curling Championships at \$2522.

The valuable services of the Order of the Elks are remembered to the tune of \$2643; the Grand Orange Lodge rates \$1014; and to balance things, the Knights of Columbus get \$1170.

That winds up an analysis of the Public Accounts, 1972-1978. Because there are hundreds of listings in the Hospitality Fund, there is no doubt I have forgotten to offend somebody.

sebe of York-Hanover.

Another take-over by Maxwell Rotstein was aborted early in the year for lack of funds.

The Intercorporate Ownership Guide indicates the Investors Finance Corp. (the holding company of Sterling's Peterson family) Sterling Trust Co., Pony Sporting Goods Ltd., (see NEXUS vo. 1 no. 1) and Unity Bank (See *Downtown Action* vol.1, no. 3; vol. 1. no. 4 and vol. 2, no. 1.) are related corporations.

Hmmmmmmmmmm???????

Ministerial Vandalism

By ministerial order and vandalism, records of Ontario corporations on file with the provincial government have been destroyed during the last few years. There have been no resignations, no arrests and no sign the destruction is about to stop.

These documents, which indicate control of Ontario's corporations, may be the most vital collection of commercial data the province has. It is the type of material the Ontario government has maintained since Confederation.

With rare exceptions, every corporation which operates or is incorporated in Ontario is required to file an up-to-date information return listing its directors and officers. The returns are held by the Companies Division of the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations at the ministry's building, 555 Yonge Street, Toronto.

The Story Begins

On the morning of July 27, 1976, a researcher from Downtown Action, a non-profit research group, arrived at the public search office of the Companies Division. Downtown Action was able to keep its finger on the province's commercial developments largely through the Companies Division data.

Documented were the names of the corporate officials. Files were compared, interlocking directorships noted. Supplemented with land title searches Downtown could see who was developing what — who was associating with whom. Very, very sensitive information.

Service would be delayed, the researcher was told, because someone had set a fire in the building hours before.

In vain Downtown tried to get CTV News to the scene. Downtown Action's manager, Anne Mason-Apps recalls, "After CTV checked with police, they phoned me back to say there was no report of a fire."

Jock Ferguson of CBC-TV lost no time in getting film footage in the ministry's basement. The arsonist had set fire to a row of files in the storage area; the damage was limited to the files and contents. The film was aired on CBC-TV that evening.

Barry Powell of the Fire Marshall's Office found the fire had occurred about 3:00 a.m., when an Olympia and York security guard was in the front lobby. The alarm sounded automatically and a warning light lit up on the security guard's panel. The guard proceeded to the file room, saw heavy smoke and an activated sprinkler. He called the fire department.

"You didn't tell me it had to do with government documents," the fire investigator said.

Olympia and York's resident superintendent was asleep in his apartment when the fire broke out. The only other people in the building that night were the cleaners.

The building owner, Olympia and York Developments Ltd., did not manage round-the-clock security. Due to the importance of the ministry's records, the government contracted Atlas Protection Services Ltd. to provide security until 11:00 p.m. After 11:00 p.m. entry into the building required clearance from the resident superintendent.

Charters Burned

The fire damaged or destroyed 4,118 files of corporations incorporated between March 18, 1975 and June 28, 1976. Charters were primarily involved. Fortunately these were microfilmed but unmicrofilmed files were stored in the same room.

Second and third floors were ransacked but nothing seemed to be taken. The public search office was located on the second floor.

The vandals were never caught. Did they escape with an unmicrofilmed record? If it were a corporation information return, say prior to 1972, the name of the corporation could be detected after a rather lengthy search. My conclusion is based on an examination I made several years ago of corporations in default of filing returns. The lists of corporations gave the year of each return in default — the balance of unlisted corporations having completed files.

A process of elimination to detect a missing record was possible as long as the corporation records were all retained. They had been since Confederation. There was an intergovernmental agreement on records management protecting the information forever.

Was It An Inside Job?

I was intrigued to know precisely what happened on July 27. I told Barry Powell I was doing a story on records management and he referred me to Ken Pipher, senior fire investigator. Pipher explained I was entitled to the first page of the fire report but not to a copy of the remainder. Instead I would be permitted



Ed Ziembra

to meet with him with the complete report before him, to ask questions and to take notes.

At his office I mentioned the burnt files. "You didn't tell me it had to do with government documents," he said. Emphatically, he refused to co-operate. I could try "higher authority," he proposed; but he refused to say who that might be when asked.

I turned to my MPP, Ed Ziembra. Through his efforts the Fire Marshall's Office issued a new report on July 6, 1979, revealing that because of the "unusual nature of the fire, an investigation was requested." The motive factor was discussed "at length" but it was

decided the fire was not likely to cover up "wrong doing".

Was it an inside job? There was no evidence of a break-in. Perhaps a door was not properly closed. The report suggested the vandalism may have been at random — not appearing to be "directed at any particular person."

It was directed at the Companies Division, intentionally or not. The police, who were also brought into the affair, would not have known, and the Ontario Archivist certainly did not know, that several months later there would be a massive destruction of unmicrofilmed Companies Division records, in violation of the government's explicit records management policy.

Tradition And A Piece Of Paper

Under the Archives Act, the Ontario Archivist is duty bound to collect "all documents having in any sense a bearing upon . . . its (Ontario's) agricultural,

Who ordered the vital Ontario corp

Researcher Tom Smith unco of destruction in the Companies

industrial, commercial or financial development."

Documents cannot be collected if they do not exist, so the Archives Act made sure civil servants were prohibited from destroying them without the archivist's approval. If the archivist agreed they were of no value — out they went.

It was assumed the law was tough enough to prevent the elimination of important data — the "importance" being defined by the archivist and not a minister or civil servant. Section 6 of the Act reads: "Subject to the regulations, no official document, paper, pamphlet or report in the possession of any department or branch of the public service or of the Assembly shall be destroyed or permanently removed without the knowledge and concurrence of the archivist."

Tradition Destroyed

After the fire, a series of events began to slowly unfold at Queen's Park which would lead to the further destruction of corporate records — this time unmicrofilmed information returns listing directors and officers of companies. The traditional rule that the archivist would study the value of the documents first was put to rest. The archivist would not know the information was being removed.

With the participation of the archivist, an intergovernmental body called the Advisory Committee on Records Management (ACORM) established schedules for handling documents to be retired. In 1972 ACORM agreed original information returns would be retained by the ministry for five years and microfilm copies for sixty. After that, the microfilm copies entered the Archives.

The microfilming program was underway so certain data was forever protected. Unfortunately the procedure was slow and those bent on destroying the documents were moving fast.

In December, 1976, the Ontario legislature approved an addition to the Corporations Information Act under which the files were kept. In part it read: "The Lieutenant Governor in Council may make regulations . . . respecting the form, period of retention, and destruction of any document required to be filed under this Act or a predecessor thereof."

The same month the government issued Regulation 975/76. (By procedure the Legislature is not consulted on the wording of the regulations; it learns of their content after they are published.) It appeared on page 5308 of the 1976 *Ontario Gazette*. Section 9: "The Ministry may destroy any form, notice or document received in his office under the Act or a predecessor thereof that has been endorsed with a memorandum of



the date of receipt or is dated at least five years preceding the date of destruction."

Theoretically the minister could have destroyed every corporation charter five years after the date of incorporation.

Civil servants began stripping the files of information returns over five years old. Several months passed. Most of these records — a huge chunk of Ontario's corporate history — was permanently destroyed. My estimation is that it exceeded 100,000 documents. All this was done secretly.

Trial And Detection

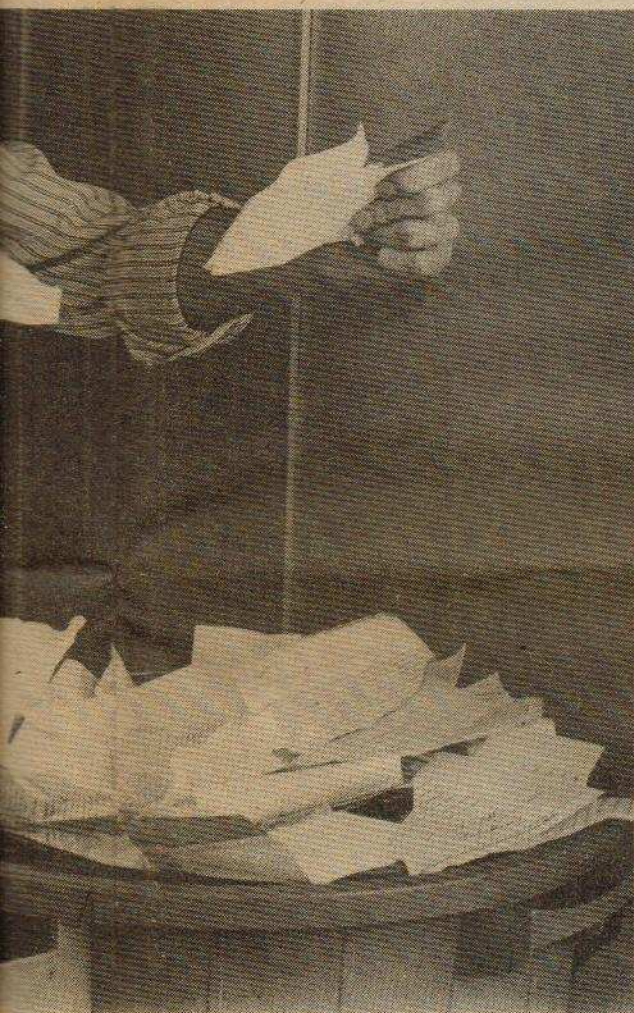
When Downtown Action noted a few old returns were missing, a clerk explained this was a result of a ministerial directive. The significance of this struck Downtown Action when it reviewed the trial of John Pullman.

Pullman had been involved in a stock promotion syndicate in Monaco until 1975 when he was expelled by Prince Rainier III. Shortly afterwards, he was arrested in Toronto in connection with the Aquablast Inc. stock-fraud case. Two others pleaded guilty but Pullman was acquitted in May, 1977.

By coincidence the ministerial order coincided with the Pullman trial. The file of Pullman Holdings Ltd. showed it was incorporated in November, 1953. The earliest return, 1972, referred to a few earlier returns filed, but which were

the destruction of corporate records?

*uncovers a shocking scenario
Companies Division at Queen's Park*



David Smiley

McOuat would publicly admit he had launched an investigation.

It may never be known how high tempers soared within the civil service but one month later, Section 9 of Regulation 975/76 was revoked. It is now illegal to destroy documents filed under the Corporations Information Act without the archivist's approval.

Author's Question: Was an offence committed under the Archives Act? The regulation, 975/76, which empowered the minister to destroy records, did not state it was exempt from the Archives Act. The Archives Act seems to be directed at public servants in a position to destroy records.

Firm Names Vanishing

In 1978 a Companies Division clerk mentioned to me that expired corporate division names were being removed from the registry of business names. It is common for corporations to operate under other names.

It has long been established that where a person traded under an assumed name or added the term "and Co." to his name, it was to be publicly declared. This was so creditors could trace and sue the proprietor for debts. When his firm expired he was still liable for debts he incurred when the firm existed.

In 1971, for the first time, the Ontario Corporations Information Act required the filing of a corporation's assumed name or style. Styles were filed for Global Television, Smith-Corona Marchant, Global Creative Services and so on. For \$10 the corporation obtained a registration valid for five years. Upon expiry it was to be renewed, if applicable. The corporation did not acquire any right to the name it did not otherwise have.

The assumed name or "nick-name" of a corporation may be completely different from the official corporate name. When the corporation drops the

profit, voluntarily registered under the Partnerships Registration Act. In 1933 the United Church of Canada registered the firm The Ryerson Press.

The present registry stems from the 1967 interim report of the Committee on Company Law, headed by former MPP Alan Lawrence. The committee recommended a central registry to assist where "a member of the public wished to take legal action or process against a business not being carried under its correct corporate name."

A Foundation Disappears

A copy of the style registration was also placed in the corporation's file. Another copy appears on a master microfilm not available to the public. To locate the style on the master microfilm, the date of registration must be known.

In 1972 Glennson College School Foundation was registered. In 1978 a Companies Division clerk informed me there was no record of the name on any files. Also, there was no record that the registration ever took place. There was no partnership registration as there was only one owner.

There was no method of determining the ownership of the business through government records. That seems to apply to every such business where the style registration card has expired or the corporation through negligence or otherwise has not renewed it.

It is astonishing that non-action on the part of a corporation can cause a public record — created for the benefit of creditors — to vanish!

Creditor At A Loss

A creditor must be able to search the expired names to see who owned the firm or division at the date the liability took place. In a case similar to that of Glennson, if a creditor wished to question a two-year old account or liability, and to do so, required the name of the corporate owner, he would receive no help from the registry. It is irrelevant that the style is mentioned in the corporation's own file. To find the corporation's name you need to see the style registration card.

The ministry's action implied to me that the civil servants presumed the proprietor's liability for debts expired when his firm expired. The assumption seems fantastic!

Although I could find the information I wanted from researching private sources, I was determined to see that a member of the public should receive the same information inexpensively from the government.

Ministerial Comment

I ordered a copy of the Glennson registration directly from the minister, Frank Drea. Back came an unsigned (gasp) note quoting a \$2 fee and mentioning "Our files go back to October, 1973." (From a private source I found the Glennson style expired in January, 1977.) I ordered a copy but nothing happened.

In February, 1979, I pressed Frank

other government department."

An inquirer would be told there was "no record" of the name. There was no index of expired registrations — recent documents of immediate commercial value. Amazing — the Ontario Archives has a complete index of sole proprietorships and partnerships registered under a county system, from 1870 to 1973.



Larry Grossman

To The Archives For Help

I phoned W.G. Ormsby, the new Ontario Archivist. He knew civil servants had destroyed some unmicrofilmed records in 1976 but knew nothing of the fire that year. After checking he found no sign of the style registration I was after.

On visiting the archives at 77 Grenville Street I was easily distracted by a sense of history. Here the story of commercial control can be traced from 1909 back to Confederation. Surprisingly, stockholders and the numbers of shares held by each are listed in the information returns.

A tattered submission painstakingly handwritten in 1867 from a Johnstown Oil Company brought to mind that south-western Ontario was once a main source of petroleum.

It Seems Strange

One archivist mentioned a detailed search by the staff could not turn up the document I wanted. "It seems strange," he said. When I mentioned having documentary proof of the registration he suggested I show it to the Companies Division and ask them to account for it.

But at the Companies Division there was no mystery. "We can't keep records forever," a secretary stated.

Mrs. C. McKittrick, registrar of partnerships, explained the facts: When a corporate style name expires its original registration card is removed from the registry. There was the high cost of filing equipment and not to remove them would require hiring extra staff.

When I mentioned my letter from Ozolins in which he said no documents had been removed from the department, she replied, "He meant unexpired records."

She added a copy of the registration should be in the corporation's file. But I tried, not too successfully, to explain the purpose of the registration was to find the corporation's file. If you knew the corporation's name you wouldn't need the style. She repeated expired records were not kept.

Royal Commission

What is the purpose of the registry? The interests of creditors are secondary to budgetary considerations. Perhaps the government merely regards it as a scheme for collecting revenue.

I conclude that the government has no respect for the commercial or historical importance of the documents filed in its Companies Division.

Considering the damage done, and the damage still being done, I urgently recommend that a Royal Commission be appointed to review the division's function and the legislation relating to its activities.

**"We can't keep records forever,"
a secretary stated.**

assumed name, persons may wish to later contact the corporation. This is a problem if the corporate name is not known. The reasons for finding the corporate owner of a firm of division are varied — collecting bills, claims arising from damages, patent or copyright infringements or to check employment records.

In the days when corporations were not required to register their assumed names some, both business and non-

Drea in a letter to explain where exactly the missing registration went. In reply Henry Ozolins, companies service branch director, stated his branch had "no record of a name or style registration under the above name." Without hinting at destroying records, he concluded: "The Registrar of Partnerships is the custodian of all names or style registrations under the Corporations Information Act and none of these documents have been transferred to any

now missing, and that Pullman was appointed director in 1969.

Was he not a director in earlier years? There was a note in the file from Pullman, prior to incorporation, stating he was to have a substantial interest in the company. Who were his associates? All returns between 1954 and 1971 had been wiped out!

Archival Uproar

Downtown arranged for questions to be asked. On December 9, 1977, Ed Ziemba sarcastically asked minister Larry Grossman in the House if his ministry had ever heard of microfilm. Had the Companies Division changed its policy? Grossman responded that companies were required to "only let us know with regard to their up-to-date information" and reminded the member that what was done was authorized by the Act.

But the heat was on from the Ontario Archives. Unknown to Downtown, an Archives employee made the same discovery it did, about the same time, during a routine inspection of the Companies Division. Tens of thousands of documents were gone.

Law or no law, the minister's action disregarded the ACORM schedules and belittled the role of the archivist. By tradition the archivist decided the importance of information. Now that the matter was raised openly Archivist D.F.

Files too costly to keep

By Paul Weinberg

Cost is the major factor behind the provincial government's decision, taken in 1975, to destroy expired partnership and sole proprietorship registration records in the Companies Division of the Provincial Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations.

These are records of declarations of unincorporated businesses. A sole proprietorship has one proprietor; a partnership has two or more.

"Millions of partnership and sole proprietorship records including dormant copies, were being kept for years to the detriment of the taxpayer," says H.H. Ozolins, director of the company services branch. He could not estimate the exact cost in terms of dollars and cents to the taxpayer.

In a legislative amendment in 1975, the provincial government changed its registration procedures for partnerships and sole proprietorships in the new Partnerships Registration Act.

Registrations for the two categories are valid for five years; all registrations before July 1, 1973 have a period of



Frank Drea

grace until 1980.

When a firm registration expires, the owner or owners of the firm are given three months to a year to renew, says H.H. Ozolins. Failure to renew in time, results in the destruction of the firm's records.

Ozolins was asked if the destruction of the records would hamper the ability of creditors to trace former partnerships or sole proprietorships. Debts do



Catherine McPherson

not end with the demise of the firm. "I really couldn't tell you," Ozolins said.

The Ontario Archives has the final say in the legislation on what government records can or cannot be destroyed. J.J. Mezaks, Supervisor of Government Records in the archives, says all partnership and sole proprietorship files prior to 1973 were transferred to his department.

Mezaks did not know that

partnership and sole proprietorship records registered after 1973 are being destroyed.

"I don't think they have been destroyed," he kept saying.

The destruction of the partnership and sole proprietorship records is part of a continuing scenario of disappearing records in the provincial government.

The mysterious 1976 fire caused by an unknown arsonist in the basement of the building at 555 Yonge St., where the

Provincial Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations is located, is still a mystery for provincial officials, the Ontario Fire Marshall's office, and the Metropolitan Toronto Police Department.

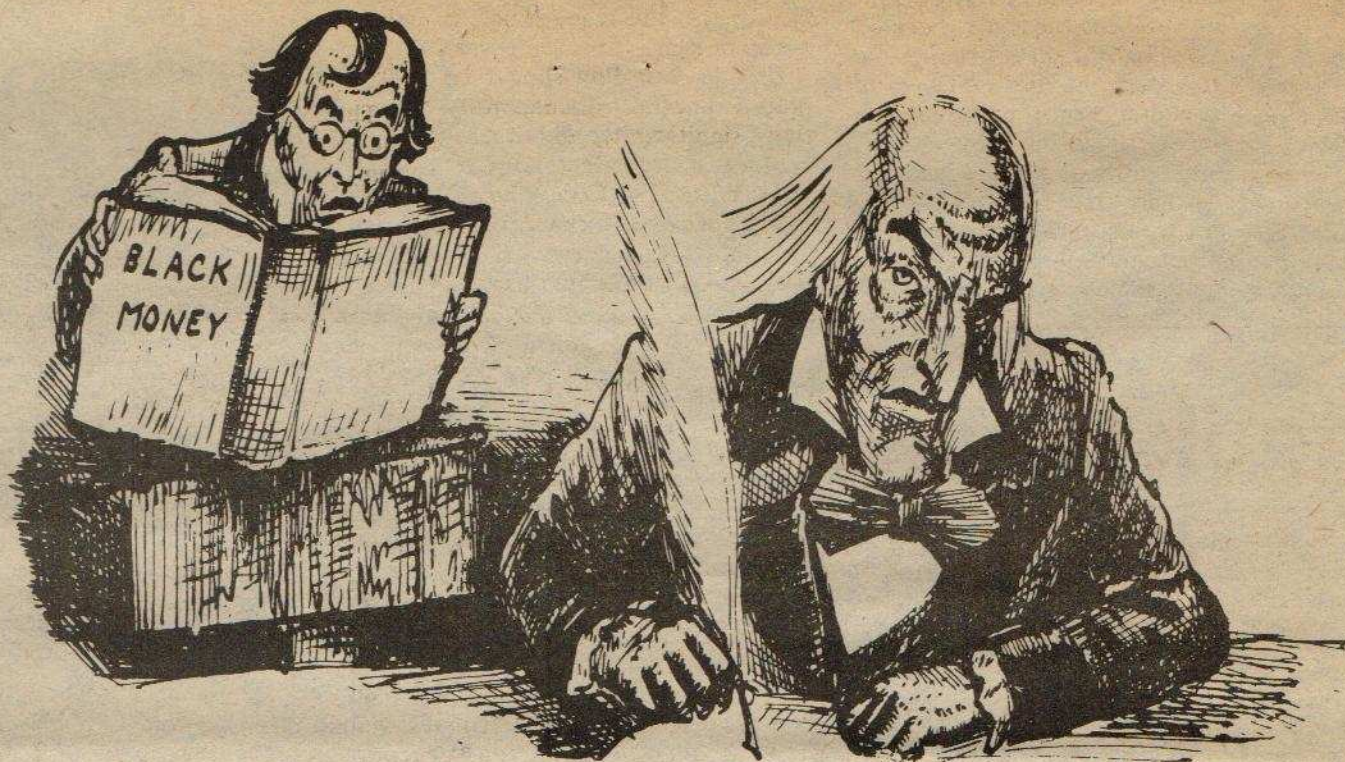
An estimated 4,000 incorporation records on paper were burnt, but Frank Drea, the Provincial Minister for Consumer and Commercial Affairs, says the fire is a "non-issue" as all the records destroyed had already been microfilmed.

MPP Ed Ziemba (NDP—High Park Swansea) asked Drea on Oct. 12 during an estimates discussion of the administration of Justice committee, about the disappearance of some of financier John Pullman's corporation records from the Companies Division.

Drea assured Ziemba that the corporation information returns for Pullman Holdings Limited between the years 1954 and 1972 are available on microfilm.

However, Downtown Action has found that the Pullman returns are among the thousands of company files that were ripped up. (See Tom Smith's piece on page N2.)

ACTION DOWNTOWN



"Bob, I've just been hit by the Spirit of Christmas. Please send a \$20 cheque to Downtown Action so they can research the hell out of Queen's Park."

Downtown Action has been performing a unique service for the people of Toronto since 1970. Our work shows up in tenant and community organizations, city, provincial and federal debates, media investigative news reports, and in our own magazine, NEXUS.

Downtown Action acquires information from land title searches, corporate ownership and directorship searches. We also keep track of bankruptcies and Ontario securities investigations.

Research files dating back ten years, have now been donated to the City of Toronto Archives which is located in the basement of City Hall. They will be available to the public as reference material for research.

Downtown Action is a registered charitable corporation which will provide a donor with a deductible charitable receipt for income tax purposes. Send your donation to Downtown Action, 165 Spadina, Suite 26, Toronto M5T 2C4.