



Photo by Charlotte Sykes.

## TENANT UNION HOLDS OPEN HOUSE

by John Nevarc

The South of St. Jamestown Tenants Association held a happening on Bleecker Street on Sunday, Oct. 10th. Coffee and cookies were served with equal amounts of propaganda.

The area was crawling with people and it was impossible to turn around without falling over a politician or a t.v. cameraman. Some 200 visitors were taken on conducted tours through "Meridian Country".

Frankly, I was sceptical after reading the lurid accounts of tenant-developer confrontations in the daily press and I tried to be objective, though when I left I too had become a believer. The tour only served to reinforce the validity of the Tenants Association stand.

Blowups of diagrams and the very excellent photography of Charlotte Sykes were used to

tremendous advantage. The pix depicted area buildings and some very natural unposed shots of local residents. The photos of the older people were superb in capturing their innate dignity and character.

Meridian country to the immediate north is a frightening and oppressive concrete jungle. The buildings are elongated shoeboxes reaching into the sky. South of Wellesley the ruthless demolition of housing appears to be an act of vengeance and has left great open scars of muddy wasteland. That this wholesale destruction was permitted by the Beavis's and Rotenberg's and Dennison's on the city council is incomprehensible. Meridian has stated it will not be ready to build for at least eighteen months.

It is admitted that some houses should be replaced but those that are structurally sound should not

be demolished. The Provincial Government should take over all Meridian's land holdings and redevelop the area in a manner that is consistent with good planning. The developers are profit motivated and do not "really" care for people.

The developers say they are performing a very necessary function. The inflow of people into Metro necessitates the building of hi-rise accommodations. The planners say 'partially true', but let's not perpetuate and compound bad planning. If we are going to copy the U.S. then let's copy all that is good.

What we should be building is satellite cities within a 30-mile radius of Metro. We should not be cluttering up the inner-city with architectural monstrosities. We should have a network of rapid transit service. The family car could then be put to the use for which it was intended - pleasure.

## TREFANN HOLD-UP

by L.A. Brodeur

After a year of meetings the final planning document for the whole of Trefann Court has been completed and is before the Trefann Court Working Committee to be approved and passed on to the municipal, provincial, and Federal governments for their approval. However, for the last two meetings the time passes but the document does not. The people of Trefann as represented by their three associations' voting delegates are holding out on one last issue with the City before they pass their planning document on.

The outstanding issue is in principle: Do the people have a right to help choose the senior city staff who work full time in their area? ... This encompasses city staff such as planner, implementation officer, and community workers. The planner for the area, Mr. Howard Cohen was chosen by the people and the senior planning staff together, and during the last year has proven

very successful. By allowing the people to help choose their own staff, the Planning Department has enjoyed a year of responsible and productive effort from the people's Working Committee. The people in turn, having seen the positive results in working with staff they have a rapport with are eager to enter into implementation using the same process.

However, when their request for continuance of this method of hiring was submitted to U.R.F.O. it was returned to the Working Committee for reconsideration. It is untenable to the author and the rest of the Working Committee why a proven process that worked with planning staff would not continue to work with development department staff as well. The hesitation of the City to reaffirm its confidence in the people is only rekindling a once waning distrust of city officials. The longer the time that passes the greater the distrust that will emerge. We must hasten to end the passing time.

## Creative Job Search

Need a job?

Got a job and want a better one? Creative Job Search (CJS) begin on Tuesday, October 19 at 6:30 at WoodGreen Community Centre, 835 Queen St. East. CJS is a new programme designed to help people find jobs for themselves. If you really want a job, Creative Job Search will show you how to get one.

The programme involves two sessions designed to show the participants how the labour market works, how to evaluate their vocational potential, and how to sell their skills to employers. The classes will be taught by two trained professionals. There are no admission costs and no fees.

Creative Job Search was designed by a job counsellor in Portland, Oregon. It was first tried in Canada in 1969 in Vancouver. CJS has since then been tried in Victoria, Calgary, and Hamilton. Its success rate has been AMAZING: 73% in Victoria, almost 85% in Vancouver. Because of the high unemployment rate in Metro, a

## RADICAL GROUP MOVES IN WARD

by Norman G. Browne

"Red Morning", a militant communist youth group, is trying to infiltrate the West Don area of Ward Seven.

The first indication that the group was in the area came when the residents of Don Vale awoke one morning to find that revolutionary slogans had been spray painted in large red letters on walls, sidewalks and streets in Don Vale.

The significance of this inflammatory graffiti did not become apparent for a couple of weeks until a number of residents and working people in the area began reporting frequent encounters with the "Red Morning" organization.

Irene Lee, who is a worker at the Don Vale Teen Drop-In reported that they showed up at the drop-in one night asking permission to show revolutionary films and give revolutionary talks to the teens at the drop-in.

Mrs. Lee told the communist group that neither she nor the teens at the drop-in wanted anything to do with the Red Morning group. She asked them to leave the premises and leave the local teens alone. She added that if they wanted to use the Community Centre for any purpose they should clear it first at a general meeting of the Community Centre.

However, on a few subsequent evenings when the Drop-in was open, they again showed up and became very intimidating in their efforts to spread their propaganda and "convert" the staff and members of the drop-in.

Their main tactic was for three of them to "box in" a victim and then, with his back to a wall and unable to politely leave their company, they would bombard him with slogans and dogma. On a number of occasions when their actions became too threatening, Mrs. Lee intervened to rescue the "victim" and tell them to leave the people at the Drop-in alone.

It is known that one member of the Red Morning group did attend a Thursday night general meeting of the Don Vale Community Centre. However, that particular evening was tied up discussing a constitution for the Community Centre organization and no time was allotted on the agenda to hear outside speakers. It is not known if the Red Morning member would have made a request to use the Community Centre if he had been allowed to do so.

Glen Blovin, one of the co-owners of the Cabbagetown Cobbler Shop on Parliament Street, reports that the Red Morning group came into his store a couple of times. On these occasions, they gave out with their propaganda line, left a copy of their newspaper and then left the store.

Mr. Blovin is a former hippie who still wears his hair shoulder length. He is now an active, knowledgeable business man. "I consider myself very broad-minded," he said, "but this Red Morning group leaves me completely cold."

On Wed. Oct. 6th, signs went up in the middle of the night in the Don Vale-Parliament area announcing a meeting of the group at the Parliament Library the following Friday.

On that Friday afternoon, when asked about the meeting, Mr. Bruce Geddes, the Community Librarian for the Parliament Street Library stated that no such meeting had been cleared through him.

Mr. Geddes then gave instructions to his staff to lock the doors of the Library House if the group tried to come in "and call the police if they try to meet out on the lawn."

However, on Friday night, only two members of the Red Morning group were seen in the vicinity of the Library. No one joined them for a "meeting" and after a few minutes, they left.

## 7 NEWS DONATIONS

SEVEN NEWS wishes to thank the following wonderful people who have made recent donations to help make the paper bigger and better: Alan Calder, F. Millen, Dorothy Wallace, Ted Plantoos, Ernie Baker, Mary Douglas, Harold Deneau, Don Weitz, Jeanne Wells, M. Babineau Lacroix, Clive Grout, Paul E. Vance, Alf Jackson, Mr. Schuknecht, Mrs. Gisele Rioux, Ruth Osler, Mrs. E. Saunders, Staff of All Saints Church, Mrs. Rose Moir, S. Ridgley, Mrs. Peggy Specht, L. Smirik, Mrs. Jean Vealland, Mrs. Prue, Bobby Cheak, E. Morosnuk, Gord Cressy, Rev. James Harvey, Rev. L. McGough, John Maly, Bill Teskey, Jerome Murray, Paul Barnard, Ron Shirliff, Norman Marks, Nina Herman, D.B. Macarthur. Also to our many anonymous donors - THANKS!

success rate of 50% is expected. The programme is open to anyone in the East End. To register and for information, call 461-1168.

## Copy Wanted

SEVEN NEWS has a problem. This time it's not lack of money or lack of advertisers or lack of donations. The problem is that SEVEN NEWS wants to go 8 pages but we haven't enough good copy to fill 8 pages.

So start writing! We need articles, news items, features, columns, letters-to-the-editor, book reviews, meeting notices, etc., etc. Your material will be printed with your byline if you so desire - or with a pen name, of your choosing - or with no name at all.

Letters-to-the-editor should be short, to the point and contain your name and address. For long articles or columns, please phone 368-5101 and check with the editor so as to get a priority on space and avoid duplication.

Deadline for copy is November 1st. Copy can be dropped off at 265 Gerrard East, 80 Winchester or 297 Carlton Street.



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## Don Vale Elections

The annual meeting and election of officers for the Don Vale Community Centre will be held on Thursday Nov. 4th starting at 8:00 p.m. at the Don Vale Community Centre, 80 Winchester Street.

The meeting will devote itself exclusively to the election of a chairman and a 16-man board of directors. Following the elections, a social evening will be held with free coffee and cakes to be provided by the Don Vale Food Co-op.

Nominations for chairman and board of directors will close at 8:30 on the election night evening. Nominations may be made up to that time either in writing or before the election starts. The Board of Directors will serve for a term of one year with meetings to be held twice a month.

Preliminary nominations for Chairman are John Barber, Hugh Taggart, and Roy Bowler.

Nominations for the Board of Directors, so far include: Mary Agnew, Carol Shore, Leith Piper, Marg Taggart, Marg Halliburton, Peter Akehurst, Bill Lee, Skip Hambling, Pam Dufresne, Jeremy Carver, Allan Chapple, Allan Samuel, Steven Chambers, Glen O'Bretch, Barry Morris, John Piper, John Metson, Dorothy Bushy, Norman Browne, Jim Price, Dave Totdman, Ernie Stanton, Marion Thompson, Harry Wilson, and Florence Burke.

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Are you concerned with the state of your health? Perhaps your friends' health, or even the community's?

Did you know the Riverdale Community Health Committee after much research and soul searching have developed a very fine and comprehensive concept for health services. Their proposal is now ready to be sent to the Ministries of Health, both Provincial and Federal, for action and necessary funding.

A meeting will be held at the Wood Green United Church, Logal at Queen East, on November 11th, at 8 p.m. Please come along and bring a friend, then listen to the proposal and give your views. A board of Directors will be elected at this meeting.

## "UNFAIR ATTACK ON SEWELL"

by Mrs. Donna Howe

The last edition of Seven News contained an unusual piece of journalism, to say the least for a paper purporting to be a "fact sheet". This is in reference to Ingrid Smith's article on Mr. Sewell and the proposed Sherbourne-Dundas development. The article is obviously an attack on Mr. Sewell at the expense of this development issue. One who has been involved in this issue realizes that Mrs. Smith has very little knowledge of the subject on which she reports.

The article gets off to a grand start with a blatant error in the first sentence. This project had already been approved by the Building and Development Committee on June 7, contrary to Mrs. Smith's statement that this approval was sought on September 27. A quick call to the city clerk would have told the reporter that on that date the committee was only officially noting objections to Bylaw No. 185-71, which council had passed to permit the erection of the new buildings.

The article goes on to discuss the decrepit condition of the houses to be torn down for the project. Other homes of the same era in the same district are in sound structural shape and have been kept up to modern standards. Why, then, are these houses in such a state? It should be obvious that the developer who has been buying them up over the last 10 years has been indifferent to their condition. One can only wonder if he was intentionally engaging in "block-busting" tactics.

Mrs. Smith then treats us to the crass generalization that hundreds of people are pouring into the inner city each week. The fact is that hundreds of people are pouring into Metro each week, but, the percentage of those that end up in the inner city is relatively small.

Wherever did Mrs. Smith get the idea that "local merchants, businessmen, families, roomers and homeowners" all accepted the planned development positively? At the time of the public meetings held concerning the issue, the local merchants were polled, with the majority expressing disquietude regarding the proposed shopping complex within the development. Most feared a loss in clientele. Mind you, there were a few who had been offered space in the new complex, so they were in favour of the project. Certainly, the resident community was split on their feelings, with a wide divergence of opinion being expressed. It was due to a significant opposition that the developer felt he should attempt to deal with the displacement of the 250 roomers presently occupying the houses to be torn down. Part of the solution is, of course, the highrise rooming house mentioned. This can hardly be considered a "huge success", however, relative to these roomers as only 11 people moved over, according to the developer's own figures. Small wonder, when the move would have increased their rent from approximately \$10-\$15 per week to \$12 to \$16.50 per week. One can only guess if the second highrise rooming house proposed will be the same "huge success".

Mrs. Smith proceeds with some suggestions on how she feels Mr. Sewell can help the developer. These suggestions prove very interesting, since some of them have indeed been recommended. For example, Ontario Housing has been approached not once, but twice, concerning financial assistance toward this project; and the developer has already been asked by the people of the area to include some larger units. The developer, however, certainly does not need Mr. Sewell's help, as he has the assistance of lawyers, architects and money. Mr. Sewell advocates getting the politicians, developers and people together to plan developments. It is the involvement of the people in planning that is necessary, rather than the people always having to accept the developers' handouts. It is easier "to be a gentle, quiet Good Samaritan" healing some surface wounds and accepting the praise, while others are giving all their energy to catching the robber-developers and having to put up with factless criticism.

## ONTARIO LEGAL AID PLAN PUBLIC NOTICE

### Legal Assistance Service

A lawyer will be available to provide legal assistance for members of the community who may need legal aid help at:

### WOODGREEN COMMUNITY CENTRE

835 Queen Street East  
Toronto 8, Ontario  
461-1168

every Wednesday between 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

### AND AT

### DIXON HALL NEIGHBOURHOOD SOCIAL AND FAMILY SERVICE CENTRE

58 Sumach Street  
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863-0499

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