



NEWS

WARD 7 COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER
265 Gerrard St. East 920-8632
Office at 80 Winchester St.

FEBRUARY 26, 1977 VOLUME 7, NUMBER 17

FREE



Two of man's best friends keep an eye on things. For more see page two!

Eviction notices sent

Bain Co-op OK's evictions

By ULLI DIEMER

Tenants in the Bain Avenue apartments who are continuing to take part in the rent freeze that began on February 1st have been served with eviction notices.

The notices went out on February 18, three days after a general meeting of tenants authorized them in a 56 to 17 vote. Ten apartments were served the notices: they are the only ones remaining on the freeze, which mustered the support of 29 of the 260 units at Bain at its peak.

Tenants served with the notices have two weeks in which to pay their full rent; if they do not, they then become liable for eviction.

The decision to evict if necessary came at a lengthy and sometimes emotional Tuesday night general meeting in which both sides argued their cases at length.

Supporters of the freeze, who have been paying rent at the old rate, withholding the 18% increase that went into effect February 1st, escalated their opposition to the rent hike into a challenge to the whole concept of co-operative ownership of the project. Supporters of the hike justify it on the grounds that it is necessary to ensure the transfer of ownership to the tenants, and that co-operative ownership would save tenants money in the long run.

Supporters of the freeze dispute the benefits of ownership; they advocate ownership by the City, with tenants banding together in a strong tenants' union. They are demanding a referendum on the issue of ownership, as well as another referendum on the rent freeze issue.

However, supporters of the co-op idea dismiss the call for a referendum as a "red herring", a delaying tactic. They maintain that community general meetings are more representative and more democratic, and point to the fact that recent general meetings have had better turnouts than past referenda have had.

Tenants on the freeze charged that the Residents' Council was out to drive anyone who disagreed

with the co-op concept out of the project. Co-op supporters, on the other hand, say that the rent freezers are out to sabotage the desires of the majority. They are especially incensed by the fact that a representative of the rent freeze committee sent a letter to the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation asking it to hold up the transfer of ownership to the tenants, and claiming that tenants did not really support the co-operative idea. According to members of the Residents' Council, this letter, and another appeal to the Board of Directors of the City Non-Profit Housing Corporation, indicates that the rent freezers have had to turn to outside help after being unable to mobilize significant support for their actions at Bain itself.

Nevertheless, people speaking at the general meeting of Bain tenants on February 15 stressed that they did not want anyone to be booted out. Rather, they hoped that the eviction notices would force people to pay up and thus end the rent strike and the division it has brought.

Several speakers expressed sentiments such as "You don't have the right to impose your will on the majority," and "I respect the right to dissent — the minority has rights — but not when it jeopardizes my home when I am in the majority."

Co-op ownership was once again discussed at the meeting, which again voted support for the concept. The rent freeze people characterize co-operative ownership as a way of exploiting yourself for the government's purpose. The co-op supporters see it as a means of gaining greater control over their community. They see the rent freezers as "playing to people's fear of controlling their own community", going back instead to asking for "handouts from the government."

Reconstituted FODARRA presents agenda

FODARRA, the reconstituted Federation of Don Area Residents and Residents' Associations, will hold the first of its area-wide community forums on Saturday, March 5, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., in the basement meeting room at 155 Sherbourne Street (just south of Shuter Street).

Any resident of the Ward 7 area can attend by right and bring with them problems or issues they feel will be of interest to the entire Don Area.

Issues already placed on the agenda are:

1. City's new Central Area Plan now being considered at the Ontario Municipal Board. The Residents' Advisory Committee is asking FODARRA to support its opposition to the plan.
2. Don Area (Ward 7) Health Task Force:

Some people want support in taking action on

- the lack of detox beds in the area
- the appalling lack of nutrition courses in the area
- preventive community health education

- confusing, intimidating healthy bureaucracy (hospital, government, etc.)
- response to the Board of Health "Issue Paper"

3. Organizing a steering committee for the next Forum in June.

FODARRA was reformed at the Community Evaluation Conference on January 29th this year to

provide a structure through which concerned individuals as well as associations could deal with problems that affect large numbers of people across neighbourhood boundaries. Delegates agreed to hold Forums every three months.

Coffee and tea will be provided at the Forums, but participants are asked to bring their own lunch.

Quilters Common opens

By LIISA BUNDOCK

Quilter's Common has just opened for business at 326 Parliament Street, (just above Dundas).

A local undertaking, Quilters' Common is a non-profit business run by six women from Moss Park and Regent Park. The enterprise will produce hand-made goods for sale. All goods produced are to be sold on a consignment basis, whereby the producer is paid when the item is sold. The producer receives 60%, minus the cost of the materials.

In order to build up their stock

and supply, Quilters' Common are currently looking for any adult, male or female, with skills in sewing, cutting, drafting, embroidery, needlepoint, crocheting, knitting, or related areas, who wishes to make some extra money and become a producer/participant in Quilters' Common. If you are interested, call Carol Baker at 961-7087.

In order to get this novel project underway donations of sewing materials, scissors, notions, sewing machines, etc. would be gratefully appreciated by the group. Just call 961-7087.

Central Area Plan: goodbye green space, hello high-rise

By LAURA MORRISON
and TOM CORBETT

Mayor David Crombie is enthusiastic in his support of the New Central Area Plan (C.A.P.), which he describes as very realistic.

Others, however, such as Alderman Allan Sparrow say "the whole thing is a fiasco from beginning to end."

Who are we to believe?

C.A.P., the 25-year guide for the growth of Toronto, is the result of David Crombie's promises to the electorate in 1972. The plan was passed by city council last year, following weeks of bitter debate between old guard supporters and the reformist aldermen who criticized it.

While the reformers agreed with many of the plan's objectives, they felt there was a discrepancy between what it hopes to ac-

complish and what will actually happen.

The plan claims to slow the commercial development of the city, encourage downtown housing and provide more public parks.

Although C.A.P. calls for a slow-down in commercial development, it actually allows the present office space to double to 88 million square feet from 44 million square feet.

Mayor Crombie admits this is the case, but says the plan still limits "potential" growth. The fact remains however, the set limit allows a doubling of present commercial development.

If this type of development occurs, Toronto's transportation facilities will face serious problems. It has been estimated that when development reaches 70.5 million

continued on pg 5



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Fido no longer hunts the meat He lets us bring home the bacon

By HOWARD HUGGETT

When the wild ancestors of our present dogs first crept around the camp fires of our cavemen forefathers they had a lot to offer mankind. Cave people did not know how to domesticate animals, so they had to hunt to find meat. The wild dog, with its keen hearing and sense of smell and its fleetness of foot, could help greatly in hunting. Furthermore, dogs were used to running in packs and following a leader, so they learned to follow men and the long association of man and dog began.

My, how times have changed. Almost nobody lives in caves anymore. When humans go out to stalk a steak today they are armed only with heavy purse or wallet, and the sign in the supermarket tells them to leave the dog outside. Fido no longer hunts the meat, but the supermarket has a special aisle to make sure that he does not starve. So the dogs, now unemployed, are very much with us. Since most of us now live in cities, so do they. Those cities are not only crowded with people, they are crowded with dogs. They tear apart garbage bags, dig up gardens, foul our streets, lawns and parks, frequently make a lot of noise, and sometimes bite, particularly children. All in all, they are quite a problem. Has the dog had his day?

Before a posse of dog-lovers comes to tar and feather me, let me hasten to say that the dog is my favorite animal. I never pass one without a greeting, because they are usually more friendly than many people. But, there are too many of them in Metro, about 45,000 according to the Humane Society. This is a case of too much of a good thing. For dogs are a benefit to mankind, no doubt about it. In this rapidly changing world, with its highly artificial values and amusements, there is so much simple old-fashioned pleasure in the companionship, the affection and loyalty that you get from a canine pet. Well, if we are going to keep our dogs we had better start thinking about how we are to keep them.

Let's not leave it all to the Humane Society. They have to operate on a budget, and they cannot patrol the streets every day to look for stray dogs. You might be interested to know that out of about 9,000 dogs picked up by the Society last year 3700 were turned in by the owners and another 2700 were classified as strays. No doubt many of the latter group were handed over by the real owners who did not wish to accept responsibility for them. So you can see that the Humane Society can do more to get abandoned or ownerless pets off the streets. About half of the dogs turned in are adopted by someone, and that's a pretty good average.



Did you know that about half of the 45,000 dogs in this city do not have a licence? The cost of a licence varies between five and ten dollars, which is not much, compared to the cost of buying a dog, feeding and caring for it. It is obvious that a lot of people are not willing to pay for the privilege of owning a pet.

Then there is the matter of training. When you recall that dogs can be taught to retrieve birds, lead blind people and track criminals, it's hard to believe that their toilet habits can't be improved. For city life we need smarter dogs and smaller ones. Mankind has managed to develop about 130 different breeds of canines, some of them big enough to rescue travel-

lers from mountain snow drifts or hunt wolves or guard old castles. You can see their descendants walking our streets, often with a human in tow not much bigger than they are. It's time we thought about developing some breeds that are best suited to city life.

As for birth control, the Toronto Humane Society is about to open a clinic at which dogs and cats will be spayed for \$25 or castrated for \$15. That is much cheaper than the price charged at animal hospitals and it is now up to pet owners to show responsibility and do their share. If they don't want to pay even those modest charges a leash costs even less.

Actually, there is no dog problem. It's a human problem.

Good time had by all

Seven News held one of its most successful general meetings in recent memory on February 18, with over 50 people participating in the evening's potluck dinner, meeting, and informal discussion.

One of the highlights was naturally the wide variety of delicious food brought by 7 News volunteers, board, staff, and friends, but many people came away with the feeling that the real highlight of the evening was the lively interest shown by so many people in the paper.

After the dinner, those present heard and discussed reports from board and staff on past activities and future plans concerning the

management of the paper, fundraising, distribution, and editorial content.

Those in attendance seemed to think the meeting and dinner was a worthwhile experience: at any rate, they voted down a proposal from the 7 News Board to reduce the number of compulsory general meetings to only one a year. A number of people, in fact, suggested there should be more of them, especially if the food is as good as all of them!

The meeting also passed a motion thanking former 7 News editor Norm Browne for his contribution to the paper over the years.

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Rooming house project helps "hard to house"

By DAVID VEZINA

There is a small neat house at 20 Spruce Street that means a lot to many people in the Ward 7 area.

To those who are "hard to house", those people most land-

lords would prefer not to have on their property, it offers hope for a possible solution to a grave problem in their lives — where to live.

To those working out of it (the staff of the rooming house project)

it's a new base to work out of after years of hard and sometimes frustrating work.

It's symbolic of a culmination of effort that began back in November 1975 when Jeanette Keenan and others like her who were working in the neighbourhood independently, came together and formed the Rooming House Tenant Project.

With a grant from the Local Initiatives Program they began to work together in the community on a direct street level. However, execution of the idea ran into serious problems. Response to the group's services was overwhelming. Before long the members were dangerously overworked and, perhaps worst of all, they were quickly turning into an administrative body. For people bent on dealing with the problem right at its root, this was too much. Something had to be done. They had to take a new direction if the project was going to work at all.

They decided that the best way to go was to get the landlords on their side. There was, and is, pressure on rooming house landlords from newer, more affluent neighbours to sell-out and move.

"We showed them an alternative," Jeanette said. "They didn't have to sell-out."

While some landlords regarded the group and their ideas with suspicion and, in a few cases, outright hostility, others were in agreement with what they had to offer. Agreements were made by which, in return for a full house and tenant respect of the landlord's property, the members of the project would rent and manage the houses.

It wasn't as easy as it sounds. The LIP grant funds they received had run out and for five months the group worked without getting paid. Jeanette remembers that time well.

"I was working full time at a job so that I could eat, and I was working full time with the project."

Things began to look up around November of last year. In co-operation with the City Non-Profit Housing Corporation and independent landlords, the Rooming House Tenant Project was managing two houses.

They were better off financially, too. The Christian Resource Centre sponsored their efforts and the project is being aided with funds from the National Health and Welfare Department on a three year experimental basis.

The essence of the whole matter is co-operation. With the doctors and the nurses who provide medical attention and education; with the tenants who abide by the points agreed upon with the landlords regarding property; and with the tenants themselves in developing a

"supportive community" within each house.

"We're not into rehabilitation. We're not trying to make anyone a 'model citizen'. It would be unrealistic. What we are trying to do is make their lives a bit easier to live," explains Jeanette.

With the management acquisition of a new third house, Jeanette describes herself as "a perpetual professional optimist."

She adds, "Nothing is impossible — it just takes time."



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WINCHESTER SQUARE

By JANET HOWARD

The Meridian development called Winchester Square, proposed for the Bleecker-Ontario block, has received its final City Council approval.

It's a standard procedure when a rezoning by-law is passed to send copies to people living near the site so that they can object if they wish. What isn't standard is that the 87 objections which were before the Buildings and Development Committee prior to going to Council were ruled by the committee chairman, George Ben, as open for discussion only as to whether the *language* of the by-law accurately reflected earlier Council decisions.

That is, what the objections all talked about — the kind of development Winchester Square is to be and how it will affect the neighbourhood — couldn't be debated by the committee.

Since the by-law had squeaked through Council by one vote, the pro-development forces were not about to risk any changing of minds by looking too closely at a project with nearly three times as much floor space as lot size, high-rise towers at both ends and a parking garage for the whole site disgorging cars into Ontario Street opposite a row of houses. John Sewell tried once again to make the committee picture such a thing in their own wards, but was ruled out of order.

It's a terrible feeling to make the swan song speech for a neighbourhood. It had all been said, by me, by John Sewell, by Ward 7 people and people from all over the city. Every since the Memorandum of Understanding was signed in 1974 between City Council and Meridian, people who care about the area have demanded, cajoled, pleaded with Council to come up with a real compromise instead of the complete surrender to Meridian conceded by the Memorandum.

Certain changes have been made: some of the housing will now be available to low and moderate income people, the shopping plaza has been cut from 15,000 to 1,500 square feet, the locations of some buildings have shifted. But the sheer bulk, the 3,100 more people added to the West St. Jamestown 2,000 people on top of the St. Jamestown 11,000 to 15,000 people (depending on whose estimate you accept) — those matters have been closed since 1974.

Strangely enough, for the first time the Mayor stepped back a little from this deal he has always hailed as a compromise. While urging people to vote for the by-law which he called "an attempt to reach a settlement", Crombie said it was former alderman Karl Jaffary and Michael Dennis, now commissioner of housing but then a member of Crombie's advisory staff, who had negotiated the deal with Meridian. Not even Crombie has ever stood up in Council and claimed that Winchester Square is desirable in terms of design, lot coverage, numbers of people, relationship to the neighbourhood, or in any way other than to get something built on the vacant lot.

Back Against the Wall

I tried to defer the by-law for a month, not because I thought it might go away, but because I found it particularly offensive to have to vote on so important a matter when Council's indecent haste left a number of loose ends, such as lane closings and openings, and land exchanges that Meridian has not yet completed which have a bearing on the location of some of the high-rise buildings. However, that was not to be, so I moved that the planners be instructed to come back with an alternative plan based on 80 units per acre of development, and some proposals to make up for the deficiency of parkland in the neighbourhood.

Maybe it's because Winchester Square really is on the way to being built, and people before too long will see what it was that Crombie claimed as a victory in 1974, that he resorted to arguing that John Sewell didn't want *anything* built on the site. It was vicious, and it looked like the reaction of someone whose back is against the wall. Crombie made a lot of political mileage on being the peacemaker in South of St. Jamestown before the 1972 election which saw him elected mayor for the first time. Maybe the next mayor will be someone pledged to preserve neighbourhoods to allow no more Winchester Squares, some one who will keep his word.



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Tenants dispute rent increase at Barbara Apartments

By WENDY KING

Tenants at the Barbara Apartments (700 and 730 Ontario St.) are being pressured by their Meridian Property Management landlord into signing new leases with an unauthorized 17.6% rent increase.

Meridian's application for the increase is being considered by the Rent Review Board, but no approval has been granted yet. The 17.6% rent increase is therefore invalid, and any new leases based on this increase are meaningless.

Tenants who have already signed a lease with Meridian agreeing to the 17.6% increase should be aware they don't have to pay this amount.

The Federation of Metro Tenants' Associations and Metro Tenants' Legal Services staff are recommending that tenants who have already signed a lease with the 17.6% increase should actually pay an increase of only 8%. A flyer being distributed by the Federation advises all tenants to continue to pay the amount stated in their present leases until expiry. Tenants' questions about any details on the flyer can be taken to Rosalind Waters at the Federation office, 364-1486.

What has happened is that many tenants have been misled by the commonly held but erroneous belief that a rental lease carries more weight than the Rent Review decision, a belief that Meridian's agents have done nothing to dispel.

According to Rosalind Waters of the Metro Tenants' Federation, many tenants mistakenly believe that once they sign a lease it has the force of a god-given decree. They feel they have to go along with the terms of the lease because they signed it.

In the case of the Barbara Apartment tenants, this is *not true*. The Ontario Rent Review

Act and the Landlord and Tenant Act take precedence over the terms and conditions of the lease Meridian is asking tenants to sign.

Another problem is that tenants who have signed leases agreeing to the 17.6% increase think that they have to begin paying this increase immediately. This is also not true. Under the provincial Rent Review laws, the landlord must give tenants 90 days notice before any increase in rent.

In view of the fact that Meridian has been landlord in the St. Jamestown area for more than 10 years, tenant organizers question whether it is really possible that the corporation's officers were unaware of how the Rent Review process works.

They charge that Meridian's rental agents have confused tenants, many of whom are Chinese- and Greek-speaking, and who may not understand that they don't have to pay any increase in rent until the Rent Review Board's decision.

Tenants also point to other examples of what they consider questionable tactics. For example, when notice of the rent increase was given to Barbara Apartment tenants last year, it was done improperly. Meridian tried to arrange things so that all the old leases would end on November 30th, with the 17.6% increase effective and payable on December 1st. In fact, however, tenants' leases do not all have the same expiry date. They vary from month to month, depending on when the tenants moved in.

Meridian's demand that the rent increase be payable as of December 1st also ignores the provision of Section 115 (1) of the Landlord and Tenant Act, under which notice of a rent increase has to be given not less than 90 days before the end of a lease.

7 News asked a representative of Meridian

Property Management to comment on the situation, but was told by Wilf Grossman at Meridian head office that he

was "not at liberty to say" anything on the matter. Mr. Grossman suggested that questions should be directed to Ephry Merkur, but 7 News was unable to speak with Mr. Merkur despite several calls and messages left.

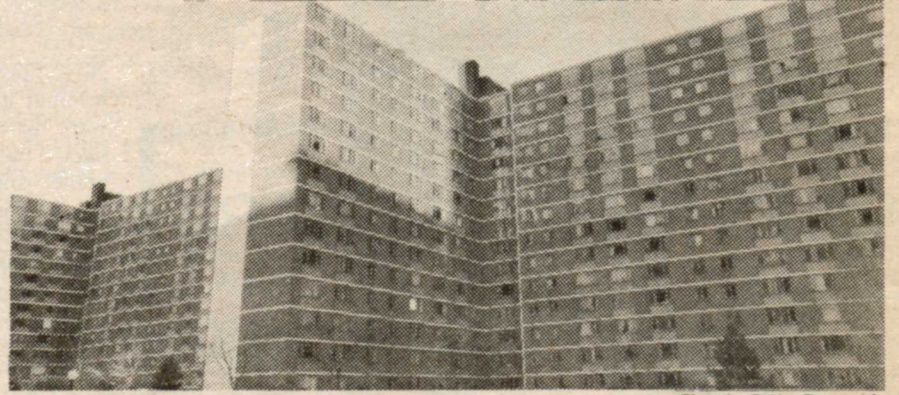


Photo by Cubby Coatsworth

NEWS BRIEFS

St. Jamestown Cancer Drive Launched

A meeting of St. Jamestown tenants launched the 1977 Cancer Appeal in St. Jamestown at a meeting at 260 Wellesley East last week. Groups of volunteers will be soliciting donations from tenants in the buildings, as well as talking to local merchants to ask them for contributions of merchandise for the auction that will be held on April 20th to raise funds. Anyone who wishes to volunteer, contribute merchandise to the auction, or pledge personal donations to the Cancer Appeal should contact Frances Drummond at 925-5522.

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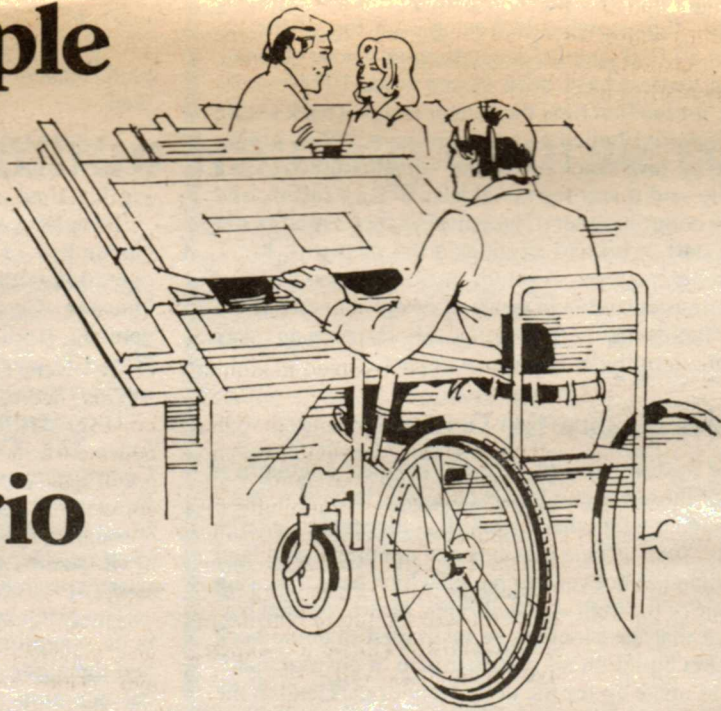
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The program also helps employers, by pre-interviewing job applicants, providing information about their abilities, sharing wage payments during initial on-the-job training, and offering many other supportive services.

Through the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services, a staff of trained counsellors and supervisors helps the handicapped person develop his or her work potential.

For more information, write for your copy of the free booklet "Help for the Vocationally Handicapped", which describes the Vocational Rehabilitation Services program in detail. Contact your local Ministry of Community and Social Services office, or write to:

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Keith Norton,
Minister of
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William Davis,
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Saturday February 26

Regent Park Public School, 20 Regent St., is holding a **Fun Fair Bazaar** today from 1 to 4 p.m. to raise money for student field trips. Activities include bingo, a rummage sale, a raffle, and the sale of records, crafts, plants, and baked goods.

Tuesday March 1

The Danforth Library, 701 Pape, is showing the film **"Ports of Europe"** tonight at 7:30.

Wednesday March 2

St. Luke's Church, 353 Sherbourne St., is holding a **concert** at 8 p.m., with the choir of Jarvis Collegiate singing Mozart's Requiem. Call 924-9619 for information.

The **Busy Bee Club** holds its general meeting at 2 p.m. today. MPP Margaret Campbell will speak on Home Help Services. Members are welcome.

Thursday March 3

The Regent Park **Al-Anon Family Group** meets today and every Thursday afternoon at 2 p.m. at the Regent Park United Church, 40 Oak St. The group is for persons with friends or relatives with a drinking problem. Call 366-4072 for information.

Saturday March 5

The first **FODARRA Forum** will be held at 155 Sherbourne St. from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. today.

Wednesday March 9

The **St. David NDP** will be nominating a candidate for the provincial election tonight at 7 p.m. at CUPE Hall 43 at 386 Ontario St.

The Citizens Advisory Committee for the East End is holding a meeting tonight at the Beaches Branch at 7:30 to discuss the young people's collection of books. Everyone is welcome.

Thursday March 10

The Don District **Inter-agency group** is meeting at the Parliament Street Library at 10 a.m. For more information call 924-2543.

Saturday March 12

The Riverdale Intercultural Committee is holding a **multicultural spring festival** today at Earl Grey Senior Public School, 100 Strathcona Ave. from 3 to 10 p.m. The program will feature games and displays, international buffet, and multicultural music, songs, and dance. Admission is free.

General

The Christian Community Centre is operating a **clothing store**, open to all residents. There is a minimal charge for clothing. Hours are Monday to Friday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. For information call 929-9614.

Old Age pensioners who are eligible for Guaranteed **Income Supplement** benefits have to apply for renewal by March 31.

Central Area Plan moves ahead

continued from pg 1

square feet, the increase in office workers using public transit will over-crowd the system.

Although city planners say they have taken future development and its relation to transportation facilities into consideration, the mathematics they used were very liberal. So liberal in fact, that if office development doubles within the life of the plan, new transportation facilities will desperately be needed.

With the rising costs of constructing public transit systems, expressways appear to be the only economically viable method to transport future office workers into the downtown.

With increased development and the ensuing expressways, the need for more parking spaces and wider downtown streets also arises. Consequently, housing units will disappear to make way for the increase in automobile traffic.

Another objective of the Central Area Plan is the construction of 40,000 housing units by 1985. Half are supposed to be for low and moderate income citizens.

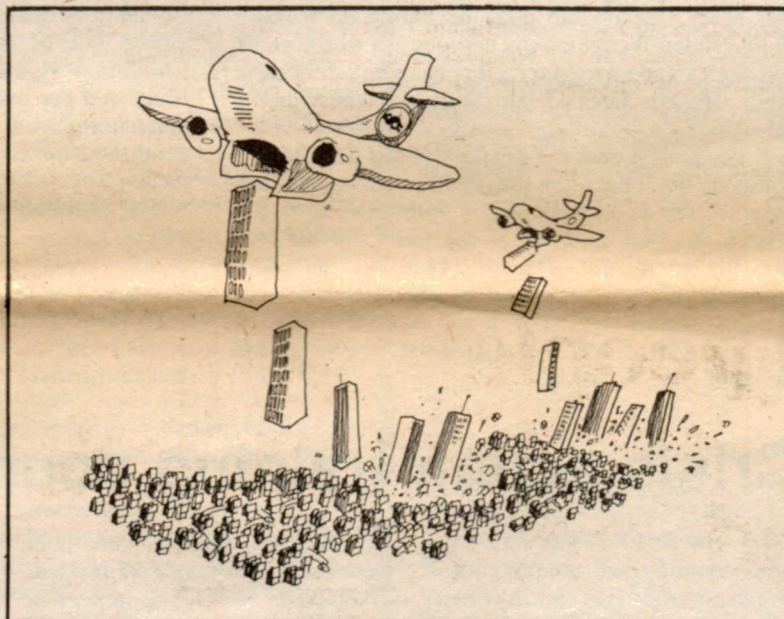
However, the plan does not have any real power in forcing developers to build low cost housing, or any housing at all for that matter.

The only time developers have to provide housing is when their commercial complexes exceed 1/2 million square feet. yet, when the Massey Hall project, which includes three high-rise commercial towers, was approved by City Hall last year, this provision was violated.

Under C.A.P., Marathon, the Canadian Pacific subsidiary building the project, had to provide 1,100 housing units. Council choose to exclude Marathon from this legal obligation.

The Central Area Plan also says housing in the downtown core will be located in mixed residential/commercial buildings, such as the Colonnade on Bloor Street West.

The Colonnade, however, has been losing money on the residential portion of the project and the owners and many fellow develop-



ers refuse to be involved in similar ventures.

Most of the housing that has been proposed so far under C.A.P. is luxury high-rise and condominiums. This compounds the problem of established low-income residents who have been displaced by "whitepainters". Now, most of the future housing in the downtown will be too expensive for them as well.

The Central Area Plan also promises to bring parks closer to everyone. Its goal is to have greenery at least one-eighth of a mile from every residential or commercial area. Although it may sound nice, a park under this plan may only consist of several blades of grass and a few pansies.

Under the old Official Plan, which C.A.P. replaces, 1.4 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents was the goal. Thus under the former plan if the proposed 40,000 new housing units were built, with only one occupant per unit, 56 acres of park would be required. Under the new plan only 20 acres of parkland will be provided.

For example, in St. Jamestown the old plan called for approximately 30 acres of parkland. Under C.A.P. less than an acre is necessary.

Mayor Crombie says the reason for the reduction in parkland under this new plan is because the old

goals "were not achievable".

This decrease in park space, however, will do nothing to compensate for the present shortage of green space in the city. When compared to Metro's other five boroughs, Toronto has the second lowest amount of parkland per capita.

Although the Central Area Plan was approved by council a year ago, critics are presently discussing its faults and merits at public hearings before the Ontario Municipal Board.

Developers are opposing C.A.P. because they feel it will restrict their goals of higher density growth. They hope to swamp citizen groups and reformist aldermen who are also opposing the plan.

The latter's opposition however, is based on a feeling that the plan will only strengthen the developers control over the direction of city growth.

One of these critics is Alderman Richard Gilbert, a former member of the Toronto Planning Board who lost this position after criticizing the Central Area Plan.

He still refuses to accept C.A.P. "I think it is a dishonest document... It's a compromise between what is best for the city and what the developers want. I think it is better than what it replaced, but not good enough. Like every other compromise it is unsatisfactory."

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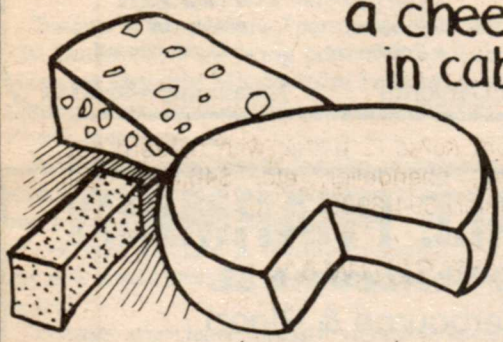
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DRAMA

The Children's House is no kids stuff

By SHERILYN MARSHALL

The bigger the lie, the better the game, is the theme of Lillian Hellman's controversial play, "The Children's Hour," as presented by the University Alumnae Club at the Firehall Theatre on Berkley Street until February 26. The play opens in a classroom — where one is supposed to learn about the goodness of life, not to destroy it. But, if one is like the antagonist, Mary Tilford, nothing matters but herself and destruction is the name of her game. She destroys in a big way — with the biggest lie that she can imagine.

The other students (you can't really tell if they are young girls as girls or women playing at childhood games — because they are so convincing in their roles), are afraid of Mary (played by Penny Kluger — who looks like a very ugly deceptive horse). Her role as the antagonist makes the audience uncomfortable as her vicious and malicious attitude touches them and they cringe, not from fear for themselves, but fear for the others who disagree with her.

Mary threatens, cajoles and lies her way in and out of everything — seemingly unaware of the lies — or is she? Mary lies to get her own way. She acts as if she has got a persecution complex — everyone dislikes her. Petty fights amid the students (strapless dresses are the big issue in this case), erupt into bigger battles between the adults — Aunt Lily and her niece Martha. Their fight sets the stage for Mary's grand moment of destruction, as two girls overhear the fight, relating it to Mary, who makes up her own version.

Act two sets the scene for Karen and Martha's ruin as Grandmother Tilford believes, because she can't and won't see Mary's evil. Love blinds her to the facts and she helps Mary destroy two innocent people. Mary, meanwhile puts the blame on Rosalie Wells (Helen Wedge), a shy nervous girl who doesn't and can't stand up to Mary's threats of branding her a thief. (Rosalie likes to borrow things, which aren't hers.)

Karen and Martha sue for slander and lose. Mary, although no longer on the scene, still makes her presence felt as all students are withdrawn from the school. No one understands the truth and the two women become old before their time — afraid to be seen in public because people whisper that their relationship wasn't right. Karen and Martha love each other as sisters, but can't help themselves out of this nightmare in the twilight zone.



Penny Kluger as Mary and Helen Wedge as Rosalie go at it in *The Children's Hour*, at the Firehall Theatre.

Karen's beau, Dr. Joseph Cardin (also Mrs. Tilford's nephew, played by Peter Higginson), suspects the worst, and becomes hounded by his inner thoughts. Karen feels that there would always be that suspicion, and she can't handle that situation, she wants out of their relationship.

The truth becomes apparent, but too late, as death claims one of the innocents in this game of the Children's House — maliciously perpetuated by Mary and her grandmother. The hatred and misunderstanding around these two women destroys one by death and the other loses that friend — but fights back.

The Children's Hour excellently done by the University Drama group is definitely not your usual children's play, but more of a social comment of life. The play is worth seeing because it is drama — with love, hate, death and all the things that make life worth living presented in it. It also shows how lies can hurt people. See it.

Crisis action training course offered

By DON WEITZ

An exciting and unique course on health crisis prevention is happening in the Don District. It's called the Crisis Action Training Course and it's free to any resident in the Don who is not a professional or community worker.

The course started as a pilot experiment last year. Its chief purpose is to provide Don residents with practical, down-to-earth information and skills which they can immediately use in dealing with crisis or emergency situations in their own communities.

The course was first tried out on some 15 community workers. Most people found the course useful and generally free of theory or abstractions. Over 20 health professionals and crisis workers volunteered their time and shared their knowledge as resource people in

the informal weekly three-hour workshops. The major crisis issues discussed were: Emergency First-Aid; Common Illnesses and Malnutrition; Withdrawal From Alcohol and Other Drugs; Dealing With the Chronic Alcoholic; Defusing Physical Violence; Rape and Self-Defense; "Freak-outs"; Child Abuse; Depression and Suicide; Crisis Counsellings, and Referrals and Communication. Typed notes on all workshops were given out free to course participants.

Rogers Cable TV video-taped most of the workshops, edited versions of which will be broadcast on channel 10 Mondays at 5:30 p.m. and Fridays at 7:30 p.m. The 10-week series begins Monday

February 21 and it's titled, "Trouble Shooters — or What You Always Wanted To Know About Crisis Prevention But Were Afraid To Ask."

The course itself resumes March 15 and ends April 28. A total of 14 workshops will be offered including three new ones: Nutrition, Patients' Rights, and Legal Rights (including Tenants' rights). There will be two workshops each week on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. The course is free and open to non-professional Don residents only.

If you're interested in taking the course or want more information, phone Don Weitz at 923-2772, or Jeanette Keenan at 922-3416, or 922-7391.

SPORTS

Regent Park Hockey League Standings

| Team | P | W | L | T | F | A | PTS |
|-----------|----|----|----|---|----|----|-----|
| Seals | 11 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 70 | 11 | 22 |
| Leafs | 10 | 7 | 3 | 0 | 38 | 35 | 14 |
| Canadians | 10 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 39 | 40 | 11 |
| Chicago | 11 | 3 | 8 | 0 | 24 | 60 | 6 |
| Flyers | 11 | 0 | 10 | 1 | 19 | 44 | 1 |

Leading Scorers

| Name | Team | G | A | PTS | PEN |
|--------------|-----------|----|----|-----|-----|
| G. Kelly | Seals | 21 | 13 | 34 | 4 |
| J. Ryckman | Seals | 18 | 10 | 28 | 12 |
| T. Busby | Canadians | 11 | 8 | 19 | 0 |
| B. Collins | Seals | 7 | 9 | 16 | 19 |
| B. McCulloch | Seals | 6 | 7 | 13 | 4 |
| J. Chong | Leafs | 5 | 8 | 13 | 49 |

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Education committee in Regent Park is asking you for your opinions

Almost daily we are reminded about the inadequate state of education in the schools servicing the Regent Park area. Education has almost become, in the minds of many parents, like the weather: everyone complains about it, but no one has any way of changing it. Is this really the case as regards education? Is it truly beyond our control?

A group of concerned parents and professionals, which originated out of the Regent Park Services Unit, has been working since May 1976 in an effort to discover the reasons that the schools are marred by such an infamous reputation. As a result of our informal study, we have concluded that what ails the educational system is

chiefly attributable to a lack of communication and understanding between the schools and the parents of the children who attend them. It is the Education Committee's opinion that given even the best of teachers and the most modern teaching methods, that they will fail in educating children unless there is a working relationship or at the very least an understanding between the parents and the schools.

Our committee is working towards helping schools and parents relate to one another. As a step toward the attainment of this goal we need very much to hear from you the parent. We therefore ask that you air your views to us. This is not another research project! We

are not gathering facts and figures! We do not need to know who you are. We are interested in your views as a concerned parent. What do you think about the education your children are receiving?

Phone Emily at 921-0355 or Minnie at 366-1009 and let us know.

Socca's new constitution

By BILL MARSHALL

After almost seven years as a recognized neighbourhood group the South of Carlton Community Association has drawn up and approved its first official constitution.

Four different types of constitutions were studied over a four month period by a special task force headed by Howard Craven.

"There's nothing really radically new," says Craven. "It's just a formalization of what we've been doing and to put a little bit of order into this place. We now have a workable constitution."

Membership to Socca remains open to all residents who live in the South of Carlton area. There is no charge to join Socca and any adults living in the area are entitled to vote and be included on Socca's mailing list.

In the past members were taken off the mailing list if they missed a meeting. Now a current mailing list will be kept by the Socca Sec-

retary. Minutes of the last meeting and notification of the next one will be delivered to members even though they may have missed a meeting.


Socca will begin canvassing the South of Carlton area to get an idea of public opinion on all major issues concerning the neighborhood. The new constitution also states that public agendas for future Socca meetings must be posted one week before the meeting is to take place.

Written amendments to the new constitution must be submitted to the Socca Secretary before a meeting. The proposed amendment will be read and discussed during that meeting and voted on the following Socca conference.

It was decided that contributions and fund raising activities would be encouraged by Socca in the future.

"I think what will happen," says Craven "is that more people will be informed."

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POEM

By STEVE LEBO

The air is very clear.
Blossoms of white clouds
touch the roofs opposite my window.

When I took my son to school this morning
I saw an unfamiliar brown bird
in a tree above.
The sound it made was cluck whistle cluck.

I am looking for a job.
It's not easy to find work these days.

CHRISTMAS AT MANPOWER

By STEVE LEBO

I am a warrior in the ranks of the unemployed
I am a ragged soldier;
my fellow citizens are lining up to join me
in the manpower office.

There is a heated discussion going on behind me:
which part of the turkey is better;
white meat or dark?

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KIDS STUFF

Poetry, Monsters, and the Hulk

Larry Boudreau, age 11, wrote this modern version of a Grimm's Fairy Tale for us. It has all sorts of horrible and impossible happenings in it, and even a Frankenstein monster.

Once upon a time there lived a boy named John. He lived with his father and mother in a big dark house. After his father and mother died. John called his friend over. When his friend came over, John told him where he could sleep.

At 12 o'clock John and his friend heard a

noise. They went downstairs to the cellar. He opened the door and he went down the stairs, went in the room where his mother and father laid in their boxes. One of the boxes was open and it was the father's box. John heard a yell up in his friend's room. He ran up to the living room to get his gun. Then he went up to his friend's room. His friend was bleeding on the bed dead. His face was full of blood, and his hair was on the floor. John looked out of the window. He saw his father running toward the woods.

Then John called the police. Twenty-five police cars came to John's house. John told them where his friend was dead. Then some of the police went into the woods. They saw John's father eating a dog. The police fired their guns and hit John's father. John's father dropped on the ground and died.



The Hulk

by KEVIN FALLON
age 11

Puzzle

David Bastien, age 14, of St. Ann's School, devised this Hunt For Words Puzzle. Find in the letter box all the TV and radio stations, plain words, and letters listed at the end. The words can run backwards, forwards, across and diagonally (on a slant). Letters can be used to make more than one word.

TV Stations: CKVR, CBLT, GLOBAL, CITY TV, WBEN, CFTO, CHCH, CTV
Radio Stations: CFTR, CFRB, CHUM, CKBB
Plain words: GOT, FIT, MILK, KULP, TOT, VET, ART, NAN, TIC, FEET, ALL
Find the four letters: A, B, C, D

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C | K | V | R | V | T | Y | T | I | C |
| H | B | G | O | T | B | N | O | F | H |
| U | B | L | I | U | A | R | T | F | C |
| M | K | O | T | W | B | O | F | D | H |
| I | C | B | L | L | B | T | I | C | C |
| L | L | A | U | F | E | E | T | B | A |
| K | U | L | P | L | A | V | N | A | N |

The Bike

A bike was sitting outside one day
And it sat there and started to rust
So I went in the house to get some bread
And give the bike some crust.

The bike wouldn't touch it —
It wouldn't blink
I gave it some water
And it wouldn't drink.

I sat there so mad
With a frown on my face
I went in the house
To get my suitcase.

I packed my suitcase
And left that old town
But I still had
That ugly old frown.

by DEBBIE BULLIED
age 12

Kids' Calendar

Saturday February 26
Puppet Shows

Come to the Gerrard Street Library this afternoon at 2:00 for **Jack and the Beanstalk**. If you live near the Jones Library, 2 p.m. is the time to drop in to watch **The Miller**.

A great story about a boy and his duck. **The Story of Ping**, begins at 2 p.m. today in the Parliament Street Library.

Fun Fair

Regent Park School, 20 Regent Street, holds its **Fun Fair Bazaar** this afternoon from 1:00 until 4:00. Come for the bingo games, rummage sale, raffle and lots more!

Thursday March 10

Old movie buffs are invited to the Gerrard Street Library tonight at 7:00 for a free screening of **The Golden Age of Comedy**, a series of clippings from early comedy films.

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