

# City housing is under attack

By ALDERMAN  
JANET HOWARD

City Housing is under attack. What's new about this is the source: not its traditional opponent, the profit-making housing industry and the real estate business, but from its friends.

the City got back into the housing business in 1975, realizing that its earlier withdrawal in favour of Ontario Housing was a mistake. There is a need for a range of programmes

to provide good accommodation for many types of households, in a neighbourhood setting. Ontario Housing serves only low income people who qualify under ever more stringent means-testing, and preservation of neighbourhoods was never one of its goals.

The City has consciously developed its housing to accommodate a wide range of household types — single people, couples, families, seniors, working

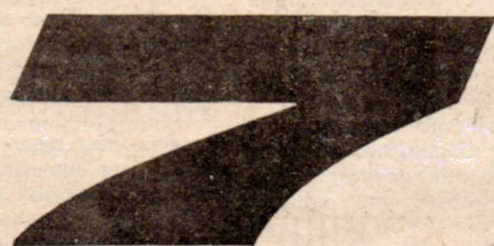
poor, working comfortable, unemployed people, disabled people, and people with no apparent problems. Many of our low-income tenants have deliberately waited the year or more on the list for rent supplement in a City project rather than choosing the segregated Ontario Housing alternative.

Now some members of Council and even the Globe & Mail (usually friendly to the City's housing initiatives) are saying that the pro-

gramme ought not to house anyone with an income of over \$19,000 a year. That sounds good, but when you look at what it costs the City to develop its projects (not much less than a private developer, given high land and construction costs) it's obvious that the non-profit programme becomes really cheap only over time, as income and costs rise but profits don't compound. In the short term, units with high rents are not available to households of

moderate income, but eventually they will be. About 40% of the total units the City owns are rent supplemented, which means the tenants pay according to income. However, the Province, which administers that programme, has tightened up considerably on who can be supplemented and has cut us back to only 25% of units in any new development. Therefore, the other 75% are occupied by people who can afford the break-even, econ-

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## 7 NEWS

TORONTO'S OLDEST COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER  
315 Dundas St. East (All Saints Church)  
Toronto M5A 2A2 Phone: 363-9650

VOLUME 10, NUMBER 11, NOVEMBER 16, 1979

### FREE TAKE ONE

Deadline for the next (November 30) issue of 7 News is Monday November 26. Bring or mail your news, pictures, or ads to 7 News, 315 Dundas St. East, Toronto M5A 2A2 or phone 363-9650.

## Super goop-- food info for TV's kids

By ANNE WOODS

Super Goop, a cartoon film showing how food manufacturers milk children for their buying power, played to the packed auditoriums at Winchester and Rose Avenue schools last week.

The film exposes the motives of food conglomerates who ignore a young child's need for body-building protein and instead make him the dumping ground for sugars, salts and saturated fats, a diet increasingly linked with hypertension and cardiovascular problems.

Super Goop is the kick-off to the practical application of Kids, Food and TV Ads, a community project funded by the Board of Health and devoted to researching the effects of TV advertising on children's food preferences. The project, the brainchild of a parent and community health worker, Sherran Ridgley, will also teach selected school children the dangers of a steady diet of fast and convenience foods, the influence television has on what we eat, lessons on the food business itself like labelling, packaging and contents and instruction on how to get the most out of the supermarket dollar.

Mrs. Ridgley, working hand in hand with a community health educator, Mary Stern, along with volunteers, nurses, teachers and lots of students will attempt a novel approach to nutrition education.

"Nutrition talks about food in the traditional sense, the apple that dropped from a tree or the milk that came from a cow," said Sherran Ridgley. "In our era of simulation and fabrication, can we tell kids that a potato is healthy for them when it can include anything from genuine garden variety to instant mashed, fabricated frozen fries or potato chips? We have to develop a new approach that deals with the reality of today's marketplace."



Our editor will use almost any excuse to try and get a picture of one of his pets into the paper, but this time it's legitimate, sort of. This is Blabby, and he got her from the Humane Society in 1973. For more on the Humane Society, which is building its new animal shelter at Queen and River in Ward 7, see below.

Photo by Elaine Farragher

## HUMANE SOC. FINDS A HOME

By ALDERMAN  
GORDON CRESSY

The sod is turned; and if all goes as planned, the Toronto Humane Society will be in their new building at Queen and River Streets in January 1981. It will have taken 8 years of searching, negotiation and finally construction to get there — and so far not all has gone as smoothly as planned.

The story has been a long one — it began in 1973 when the Humane Society received a notice of expropriation from its building at 11 Wellesley Street from the Provincial Government. The Society had clearly outgrown its aging building: they had moved in 1925 with a staff of 14 providing a limited number of services to a Toronto which was small by today's standards. The staff has now expanded to 72, providing 20 services across Metropolitan Toronto — still jammed into the same building.

The search for a new home began routinely; and early in 1974 an ap-

propriate and affordable site was purchased at the corner of Queen and River Streets.

The real fun began with the fund-raising. The City of Toronto allotted \$1 million to the project in 1975, and the Humane Society sought an equal amount from the Provincial Government. Applications were made to Wintario and the Provincial Lottery; then after two years of waiting and negotiating, it was announced in 1978 that no money was available for the Queen and River site.

While no money was available for the selected site, a potential \$1 million in Wintario funds could be released if the Humane Society were interested in going to jail! To the Don-Jail, that is, which had recently been closed by the Ministry of Corrections. In efforts to preserve it as an historic building, a special study group of City Council was seeking new tenants to operate from it and maintain the building.

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## Gays fight for change in Human Rights code

Gay groups and supporters are engaged in another major push to get "sexual orientation" included in the new Ontario Human Rights Code which is to be introduced in the Legislature later this fall. As of now, sexual orientation is not included in the Human Rights Code, meaning that gays are not protected against discrimination in employment and housing.

Spearheaded by the Coalition for Gay Rights in Ontario (CGRO), the campaign is planning to engage in a province-wide campaign of public action and lobbying.

Plans include meetings with individual MPP's; advertising, public events, and use of the media.

The CGRO is also compiling detailed information on cases of discrimination to prove that discrimination against lesbians and gay men is both real and prevalent. It hopes to raise \$50,000 to finance the campaign.

In addition to the CGRO, an organization of non-gay supporters, the Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, has been set up to assist in the campaign.

The CGRO believes that its chances of getting sexual orientation in-

cluded are fairly good because of Ontario's minority government situation, but they concede that "it will not be easy". To date, only the NDP has supported the inclusion of sexual orientation as a matter of party policy.

The CGRO calls on supporters to help in a number of ways, such as by:

- writing immediately to your MPP and the three party leaders,
- having your union, professional association, religious group, or community organization write to the three party leaders indicating support,
- sending a financial contribution to the CGRO Human Rights Campaign Committee, and
- volunteering your time and energy to help with the work.

The CGRO stresses that it is important to act quickly because the legislature is pending very soon.

For further information, to make a contribution, or to get on the mailing list, contact Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, 29 Granby St., Toronto M5B 1H8 or the Human Rights Campaign Committee, Coalition for Gay Rights in Ontario, Box 822, Station A, Toronto M5W 1G3.

## Lead clean-up ordered

The Ontario Environment Ministry has finally issued a new control order against Canada Metals Co. Ltd. on Eastern Avenue.

Lead levels in the area of the plant regularly exceed provincial standards, and lead pollution has been a source of controversy and problems for residents for years.

The Ministry, however, has continued to drag its feet in taking any action.

Four charges were laid earlier this year under the Environmental Protection Act and will be heard in

court on November 30.

The new order, which came into effect November 14 gives the company until December 15, 1980 to complete 25 steps to further control emissions.

The company has said that it "will fully co-operate with all sections of the order."

Meanwhile, Riverdale MPP Jim Renwick has called for a long-term study by the Ministry of Health to determine whether even the allowable level of emissions may be damaging the health of local children.

## Lonely newspaper seeks companions

Have any spare time which you'd like to fill with some meaningful activity?

Lookin' for a change of pace? Ever wanted to be involved in a newspaper?

Does the continued publication of 7 News matter to you?

If your answer to any of the above questions is "yes", then you should give serious thought to volunteering some time at 7 News.

As any regular reader of the paper knows, 7 News suffers from a serious and chronic financial problem. For years, we have barely been making a go of it. For the past

couple of years at least, the paper has survived at all only because members of the staff have taken turns at going for months at a time without getting paid. (When 7 News can afford to pay our wages, they work out to \$160 a week, fulltime.)

Meanwhile, the staff has been slashed in size. Five years ago, 7 News had 5 fulltime paid staff. Now there are two. Except that not all of them are being paid.

This has meant a lot more work. Some areas have had to be neglected. It has also meant that volunteers have had to carry more of the burden of the paper. But the

present level of volunteer commitment, good as it is, is no longer enough.

We desperately need more help to keep the paper functioning. And we can use help in almost every area. Any commitment of time, from half an hour every couple of weeks upwards, would be welcome.

We have a really wide choice of tasks to choose from. Some of the more urgent are someone:

- To prepare all or part of the community calendar. Typing necessary, anywhere from 1 to 4 hours an issue.
- To update some of our long-range financial and advertising

records. A couple of hours a month.

- To update the distribution list. An hour every couple of weeks.
- To keep our clipping file up to date. An hour every couple of weeks.

- To deliver papers door to door on your street or in your apartment. 10 to 30 minutes every two weeks.
- Working on the delivery truck on distribution day. Two or more hours every second Friday.

- Running errands to the typesetters, for mail, to obtain supplies.
- Maintaining the subscription list. An hour every two weeks.

- Proofreading. Two or three

hours every two weeks.

- Working with community groups to find new distributors.

•Write stories for 7 News. You could write about current news, about local groups, about current issues, about stories relating to broader concerns like environment, city hall, racism, health, social services, human rights, etc. We are also especially looking for people who would like to work on a series of "day in the life" articles, based on interviews with a wide variety of local residents and workers.

In short, we need you. Call us at 363-9650.



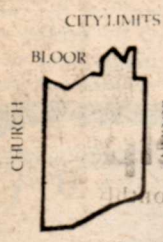


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# City housing attacked

continued from page 1  
 omic rent, which is not as cheap as we would like it to be, given the very small subsidies that are built into the development process.

One City alderman cites the case of a household with a total income of \$44,000 occupying a town house renting for \$505 a month. If, as she wishes, household income were limited to \$19,000 a year, that town house could be occupied by only a rent supplemented family, even though the highest demand for supplement is in two-bedroom units, or would stand vacant, since our guideline is that a household should not spend more than 25% or 30% or its income on rent. Only a household with an income of \$20,000 (paying one third) or \$26,000 a year could afford it.

Housing planners estimate that about 10% — 15% of City tenant households earn more than \$19,000 a year. With 40% of our tenants receiving rent supplement, and 45% — 50% under \$19,000 but ineligible for supplement, it is hardly a programme for the rich. If the Eaton family wish to move into Dundas/Sherbourne tenants would all welcome them graciously and go about living side by side with them

like any other neighbours. In my view, that would be just fine — as long as we don't lose the balance we have achieved and house high income people instead of those with low and moderate incomes. That isn't happening now, and the only way it will is if Federal and Provincial government programmes on which the City depends continue to be watered down and their restrictions tightened up.

But that's a different, and ongoing fight. City Housing has just experienced a round of higher rent increases than we would like to the discontent of our tenants and the dismay of the Non-Profit Board (of which I am a member). One of the reasons for City housing's deficit is Council's insistence over the years in providing rooming house accommodation in our developments. Rooming houses are labour-intensive to run and do not fit onto other government programmes. Low income single people, especially those considered hard-to-house, have never been a political threat to any government in power, and consequently have come last in government spending.

Now City Council has to make a

choice: do we keep our programme full-recovery (rents pay all the costs of the programme, with nothing coming from the property tax base) and if so how? Presently, other tenants of the projects which contain rooming houses, especially the two in South of St. Jamestown (Phase I and Phase II) pay these extra costs in their rents. We could spread that to the wider group of City tenants across the portfolio, but is that fair either? After all, rooming houses are in a sense a social service as well as housing, and that is supposed to be within the realms of Provincial and Metro budgets. If the Province or Metro won't help to share this load, do we sell off the rooming houses, as the City's budget chief proposes, leaving those tenants at the mercy of an ever diminishing number of private landlords? Or do we, as Mayor Sewell proposes, separate out the \$89,000 deficit the rooming houses will create in 1980 from the rest of the housing programme and simply pay it? That is the solution I support in the short term. The other levels of government will have to be pressed for their fair share, but in the meantime, City housing has an obligation to help those least able to house themselves.

Friends of City housing will have a series of difficult choices to make. The existence of the programme could be in question.

## HUMANE SOC.

Continued from page 1

Following consideration of a wide range of applications, it was unanimously recommended that "an animal shelter would be perfect for the site". The Humane Society meanwhile had sunk \$45,000.00 into a feasibility study which ensured the jail could be converted for their use — and plans were in motion again!

A happy ending? Not yet... Objections started coming in from the neighbours of the Don Jail — the Riverdale Hospital and the Toronto Jail, who had both hoped to use the space and disliked being so close to an animal shelter. Despite a study indicating that they would not be bothered by noise or germs through the jail's thick walls, their objections continued.

The plans of the Humane Society were not complete yet — the Provincial Government was now offering them \$1 million if they were to return to their original site at Queen and River Streets... one million which had not previously been offered for that site!

With the objections from the neighbours at the Don Jail and the money available to the Queen

and River site, the Humane Society has returned to that site. The Don Jail, now being used as a storage area for the Toronto Library Board, is planned to be used in the future by the Riverdale Hospital and the Toronto Jail. Both will be using parking space, and the Toronto Jail plans to renovate the building to provide a new chapel, a library and possibly industrial and recreational space.

The new facilities will be a welcome relief for the Humane Society. The sod-breaking ceremony took place on Tuesday, October 30, 1979, and the building is expected to be completed in January 1981. It will provide three times the floor space at their current facility, in a bright new building. With twenty services ranging from 'Lost and Found Pets', 'Wild Bird Rescuing and Feeding' and 'Cruelty Investigation' to 'Adoption Programs', low cost clinics, and a variety of information and educational services, the new building will offer increased parking for customers, a pleasant atmosphere and disease control through air conditioning and improved drainage.

## No grant for 7 News

Seven News has been refused a grant from the Ontario Arts Council.

The turn-down comes after five years in which 7 News did receive grants from the O.A.C. The initial grant in 1974 was \$1,500. This rose to \$2,000 in 1975, to \$2,200 in 1976, stayed at \$2,200 in 1977, and went to \$2,500 in 1978.

The grants were awarded to support community cultural content in 7 News: poetry from local poets, local photographs, historical articles, theatre reviews, book reviews, and other material.

In a form letter informing 7 News

of the refusal of a grant, the O.A.C. says that "your magazine did not receive sufficient recommendation for a grant from our adjudicators".

The Arts Council grant was 7 News' only source of outside funding. The 7 News Board is continuing to look for other sources of funding, but at present, 7 News' only source of funds continue to be advertising and donations from the local community. These have not been enough to carry all the expenses of the paper in the past, and there seems little prospect that they can do so in the foreseeable future.

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If rent control could control rent

# How much rent can Rent Control control?

By RIVERDALE  
SOCIO-LEGAL SERVICES

Rent control came into effect in 1975 to protect tenants from exorbitant and/or frequent rent increases. Sometimes tenants are unsure of their rights when a landlord attempts to increase the rent.

Some of the frequent situations which occur are outlined below. In an actual controversy, however, people are advised to check the legislation itself, and, if necessary, a lawyer or community legal service.

**Tenants in Ontario are protected from unjustifiable rent increases; but to exercise their rights, tenants must heed certain time limitations.**

## Exemptions

Tenants should be aware of exemptions to the protection given by rent control. Hotels, motels, and vacation homes are exempted. Rent control does not apply to non-profit housing projects, the rents of which are subject to government control, or non-profit housing co-operatives as defined in the National Housing Act. Furthermore, premises or residences owned or operated by religious or educational institutions on a charitable, non-profit basis are not covered by rent control.

## Notice

A landlord must inform a tenant in writing of any increase in rent at least 90 days before the date the increase would take effect, and state the reasons for the increase. If the amount asked is above 6 per cent, the landlord must apply for rent review 60 days before the date the increase is to take effect. At the same time, the landlord must give a

copy of the application to the tenant.

If the amount asked is below 6 per cent, and the tenant wishes to dispute it, s/he is entitled to give notice to the landlord requiring him/her to apply to the Rent Review Officer to justify the increase. The notice to the landlord must be given not later than 60 days after the notice of increase has been received. A copy must be filed with the Rent Review Officer by the tenant. Therefore, it is important to remember that the tenant's right to require a justification for any increase exists whether or not the proposed increase exceeds the basic allowable limits.

A landlord, in turn, has two options. First, s/he may reduce the increase to an amount agreed by the tenant, as long as this increase does not exceed the basic allowable minimum (in which case s/he must appear before a Rent Review Officer.) Second, s/he may try to justify the increase by filing the appropriate application with the Rent Review Officer, and by giving the tenant a copy. Unless the landlord follows either option within 15 days of receiving the tenant's notice, the tenant may apply to the Rent Review Officer for an order declaring the proposed increase null and void.

Within 30 days of receiving an application from either a landlord or a tenant, the Rent Review Of-

ficer must give the landlord and the tenant written notice of the date, time, and place of the hearing.

## Hearing

The Rent Review Officer is empowered to consider many relevant factors. However, s/he is bound to consider whether an increase sought by a landlord is necessary to prevent him/her from sustaining a financial loss on the building in which the premises are located.

The Rent Review Officer is empowered to approve or vary the amount of an increase and to order the landlord to repay, or the tenant to pay, an amount as a result of his/her decision. If the landlord fails to repay within five days an amount ordered to be repaid by the Rent Review Officer, the tenant is entitled to deduct the amount from the next month's rent and to continue making such deductions until the full amount has been collected.

## Appeal

Landlords or tenants may appeal decisions of Rent Review Officers to the Residential Premises Rent Review Board. To obtain this right of appeal, however, they must have appeared at the hearing which was called by the Rent Review Officer.

When an appeal is brought, written notices must be filed with the Board within 15 days of the Rent Review Officer's order, and a copy of the notice must be given to the other party.

## Board tackles racism

165 people met on November 6 to discuss plans for implementing the Toronto Board of Education's Race Relations Report, adopted by the Board last month.

Actions to be taken include an appeal committee to hear complaints from staff about prejudice in hiring and promotion practices; the writing of new curriculum materials, and the setting up of an advisory council on racism in the curriculum. The report also

established guidelines for handling racial incidents in the schools. \$700,000 has been earmarked by the Board over a five year period to implement the report.

Parents organizations are also being asked to look at the report and to attend the meetings of the Race Relations Subcommittee. For further information on meetings call the Board's School Community Relations Department at 598-4931 ext. 346.

## Tenant Rights

A landlord can only raise the rent once during a 12-month period, even if a new tenant takes over the premises during that year. Landlords are not allowed to avoid this control simply by increasing, for example, parking rates, or by charging for services which were previously rendered free of charge. A charge is

respect of any service, privilege, or thing that the landlord provides for the tenant is included in the calculation of the rent, and so is considered when determining any rent increase.

If the new Residential Tenancies Act should be proclaimed soon, there would be other considerations in respect to rent review. A future article will discuss the new act.

## Patients' Self-Help

Ontario Patients' Self-Help Association is a completely independent and democratically run self-help group of psychiatric and former psychiatric patients. Our chief purpose is to give support to people released from "mental hospitals" and, we hope, to prevent others from having to be hospitalized. Becoming a member is easy. If you've received psychiatric treatment — inside or outside a psychiatric institution — and come to one of our meetings or socials, you're eligible to join us. Membership is FREE.

OPSHA is registered as a non-profit charitable organization. This means that we can give income tax deductible receipts to individuals and public or private organizations who make donations to us. It also means we're more likely to receive grants to help us survive and start some long-overdue projects; e.g., a drop-in, a used goods store, a newsletter. We have our own Constitution, By-Laws and elected directors and officers.

Former psychiatric patients founded OPSHA (originally called OMPA, Ontario Mental Patients Association) about two years ago on August 9, 1977 in All Saints Church in Toronto. We've accomplished a lot during our first two years of existence:

- (1) We have survived and grown and now have almost 60 signed members.
- (2) We've held regular weekly

socials and monthly business meetings.

(3) In two years, we've raised roughly \$7000 on our own by running flea market booths in the city on weekends; we now manage two booths in the flea market building on Weston Road just two blocks north of Lawrence Avenue W., but we need many more people to help us sell and pick up goods.

(4) Since we received only on grant in two years (\$1200 last year from the City of Toronto), we're still applying for funding.

(5) We're busy planning new activities and programs — like a Rummage Sale which we're holding on Saturday, November 24 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Woodgreen United Church, 875 Queen St. E.

On September 18th, we moved to the Woodgreen Community Centre, 835 Queen Street E., next door to the Woodgreen United Church. We're in the gym on the first floor of the Centre, so we have lots of space to hold meetings and run various activities and programs. We get together every Tuesday night at 7:30, we hold one business meeting a month on the last Tuesday. All major decisions are made by majority vote of the members.

Our mailing address is: P.O. Box 7251, Station A, Toronto, Ontario M5W 1X9. And our phone number is: 461-7994. Feel free to call us. Let's keep in touch and help each other.

**MAY YOU ALWAYS HAVE THE FREEDOM TO BE YOURSELF**

## MPPs visit Park School

By JOANN HUTCHISON

Members of the Justice Committee at Queen's Park visited Park School, on Shuter St., last week but they weren't hopeful about bringing parents' and teachers' concerns to the attention of the Ontario legislature.

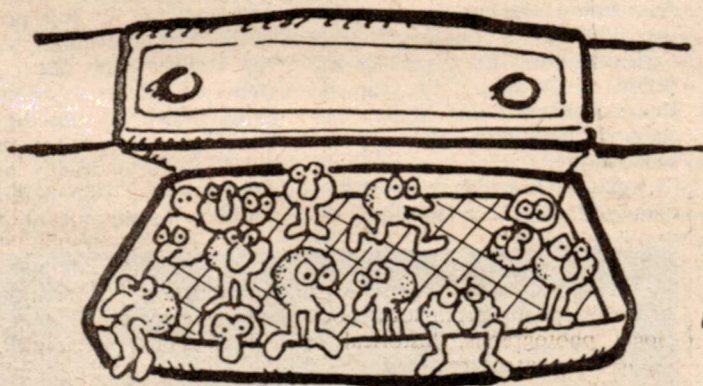
The Justice Committee, composed of N.D.P. and Liberal members of the provincial government, began holding hearings last spring to give citizens the opportunity to voice their concerns about Bill 19. Bill 19 proposes merging the Ministry of Education with the Ministry of Colleges and Universities. A number of parent representatives from various schools across Metro (including several from Ward 7) spoke to the Committee. Their main concerns centred around cutbacks in education and the poorer quality schooling that they felt their children were receiving as a result.

Rhoda Hill and Irene Kitson presented the concerns of Park School parents to the Committee last spring. During the discussion that followed, Mrs. Kitson extended an open invitation to the Committee members to "come and see what it's really like. Don't pass judgment on us from Queen's Park."

Largely because of Mrs. Kitson's efforts, the Justice Committee agreed to tour Park School last week. Park is the only school of all those which made presentations that the Committee has visited to view the conditions first-hand. After an hour and 45 minute visit that toured selected classrooms from Kindergarten to grade 8, the Committee members declared themselves to be "impressed" by the various programs they'd seen. The Committee members were also more aware of the shortages created by program cuts in such areas as English as a Second Language and English as a Second Dialect, and the fact that declining enrolment has not created declining class sizes.

First-hand observations may mean little, however, as Education Minister Bette Stephenson has indicated that she is not interested in having the findings of the Justice Committee presented in the legislature.

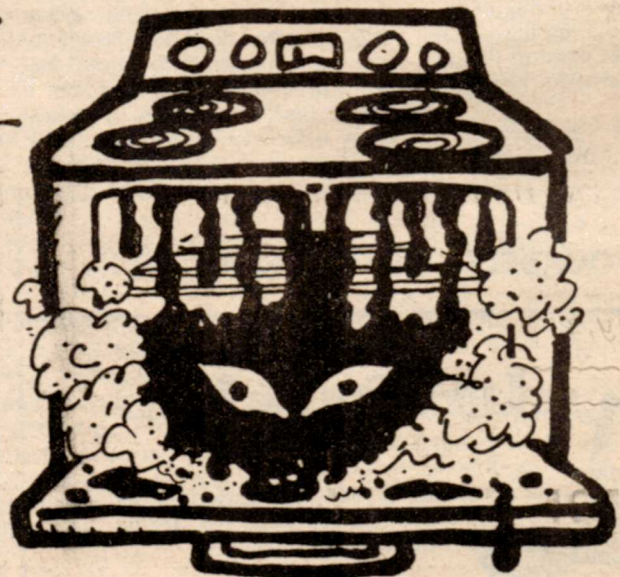
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## ENTERTAINMENT

Even better the 2nd time around

**Dusa, Fish, Stas & Vi**

By CLIVE MORGAN

In the Battle of the Sexes, **Dusa, Fish, Stas and Vi** is the women's bunker. Back in town by popular demand, Pam Gems' contemporary feminist classic finds four shell-shocked young women held up in a London flat as they pause briefly before returning to the war zone. If you enjoyed *All Quiet on the Western Front* but found it too sexist, this NDWT production (Bathurst St. south of Bloor), which runs until November 25, is sure to please.

Shell-shocked indeed. We are only left to guess what awful encounter with the enemy has persuaded Vi (Mary Ann MacDonald) to fast into Buddha-hood, gaining an advanced case of anorexia in the process. Stas (Janet-Laine Greene) is easier to figure. The rationalist in the group, she realizes that all men want from women is sex and she is prepared to oblige, for a fair price. Dusa (Maja Ardal), late arrivee at the bunker, is actually a deserter from the other side. Once happily

married, Dusa turns up at the flat after her husband runs off with the kids to South America. Finally, there's Fish (Janet Amos), card-carrying feminist whose political and personal experiences converge



(can the ever be separated, I hear Germaine Greer calling in the night) in a brave suicide. Not unexpectedly, the play ends with a wail about the inhumanity of man to woman.

Based on a true incident, this play about four people living in the no-woman's-land between the traditional role of wife-mother and a non-traditional future is not free of feminist cant, which for the most part is unwarranted. And yet one is pleasantly surprised to find how much of the ideology has been

mutated by Pam Brighton in this her second production of the play, leaving the audience free to explore some aspects of the drama that was concealed in the earlier St. Lawrence Centre production.

The ensemble playing, for instance, is surer now, and we can believe that these women are united by something more than a shared sense of sexual victimization. Janet-Laine Greene is particularly valuable in deepening the intimacy of the drama, giving Stas a sympathy that was not always there in Susan Hogan's performance in the earlier production. Janet Amos' Fish is also fuller than the earlier version; her's is no Mother Courage and the suicide is therefore less heroic, more personal and affecting. Repeating in the role of Dusa, Marja Ardal is as able as before, and yet one would have hoped familiarity with the role might have produced a few fresh insights into the glum character she portrays.

But at play's end it is Mary Ann MacDonald's bewitching perfor-

mance as the disturbed Vi that lingers in the mind. Alternatively amused and bemused by the behaviour of her flat-mates, Vi lightens the darkest hour with her oddly moving brand of spastic humour. Producer Pam Brighton is to be applauded for a number of fine things to be found in the play, but especially for the wisdom to allow MacDonald her comic head.

One of these fine days when the

sexes are talking to each other again, **Dusa, Fish, Stas and Vi** may be dusted off again and re-staged as a musical. Mary Ann MacDonald, who sings as well as she acts, will repeat as Vi; anyone who sees this play soon realizes Ms. MacDonald owns the part.

typesetters note: "When the sexes are talking to each other again?" The sexes have never talked to each other.

**The Ghost**

7 News would like to print more contributions by students of Ward 7 schools. The following story was written by Melinda Burger, who is in grade six at Sprucecourt Junior School.

By MELINDA BURGER

I was on my way home from the store that night, when I met my best friend, Donna. I really wanted to get home fast, because it was almost dark. We had played a volleyball game that night, at our school, and we had won. I was really tired. I had the feeling that Donna was a bit nervous, probably because she

doesn't go out very much at night. We talked about all the usual things, like the weather, and school. We were almost at Donna's house now and did she seem relieved! "Good-bye", she said quietly. "Good-bye", I said. I started to walk quickly, because it was still a long distance to my house. After I had passed Donna's building, I heard footsteps. I knew they were not mine because I was wearing sneakers. It sounded like the footsteps were getting closer, and they were also getting faster. I was afraid to turn around, because I knew what I might see. I might see a strange looking man, with a mean face. But I knew that I was getting too carried away with myself. It was probably just a little old lady. I couldn't stand the suspense any longer. I turned around, and as soon as I did, I regretted it.

What I saw, was not anything I had ever seen in a horror movie, it was worse! It sure wasn't any little old lady, I had ever seen. What I saw was a ghost! I was sure of it. It had a chalk white face, with sad grey-blue eyes. It had a pale white mouth, that turned down at the corners. I was so scared, I couldn't even scream. I didn't think I could run, but I knew I had to try. I started to run. I ran so fast, I couldn't even stop and turn around to see if it was just my imagination. I was so curious, I just had to turn around. When I did it was gone. I began to wonder if the whole thing was just a dream. I hadn't noticed until now, that it was getting dark outside. It was still a fair distance to my house, so I walked at a fast pace. Suddenly from out of nowhere, I was a man walking in front of me. I did not want to hang around here any longer, so I started to walk in front of him, so that I could see what his face looked like. As soon as I was in front of him, I turned around. When I did, I saw the same ugly face, that I had seen before. I started to run again. I ran all the way across a large baseball field, into my apartment building, and up the stairs to the second floor, where I lived. When I got into my apartment, I rushed to the window to see if it was still there, but it was gone, whatever it was I decided to forget the whole thing. I turned on the T.V. and was I surprised at what I saw on the screen! There in black and white, were the words, Abbott and Costello Meet the Ghost.

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**Not your average tea room**

By JOANN HUTCHISON

David's Tea Room, at 241 Queen St. East, is not your average tea room. Not that I've frequented a great many tea rooms in my life, but I have seen the inside of several, and what I saw did not inspire me. They were always dark, with heavy curtains, and overtones of the occult. Which is great, I guess, if you like that kind of thing. But I don't, which is probably why David's struck me as such a unique and friendly place.

The first thing that strikes you about David's is its warm, homey atmosphere. Three flights up a polished wooden staircase, you enter an open well-lit room with paintings mounted on a brick wall, casement windows with stained glass inserts that admit the sunlight, a sofa, pot-bellied stove, wicker chairs, and carpeted floor. Tea is brewing on the stove in the kitchenette, and David Hennen and Joan Mitchell greet you with a smile.

David is a grey-bearded man with warm, laughing eyes, and a trace of a Scottish accent. He speaks of his customers with affection. It is the regular customers who keep coming back that give him a feeling of accomplishment. In a business that depends largely on word-of-mouth for its success, a satisfied clientele is a prerequisite.

David promises "prophecy in a teacup, predictions from palmistry,

signs in the crystal, and the mysteries of the tarot cards", but he does so with no overtones of hocus-pocus. He has had 29 years experience in the field, and knows that his clientele respects him. Whether you believe him or not is up to you.

Over tea, he introduces you to Joan Mitchell, a warm, motherly woman, who has studied the Tarot in great depth. Joan began to do readings for her friends, and now does readings for groups or at parties, as well as working at David's. She also reads palms, tea leaves, and the crystal, and has extensive training in the field.

The third reader at David's is Jess Johnson, who was not present when I was there. His resume says that he has sixteen years experience in palmistry, and that he has studied the European, Indian, and Chinese methods of palm-reading. Jess also will do readings for individuals or organized parties.

Once you begin talking to David and Joan, you realize that you are speaking to two professionals, who are proud of their craft. They do not claim to offer any magic cure-alls, and they would certainly caution any client against taking their readings in that light. What they can often do is help people to sort out their own difficulties. I am not a believer in any of this, but I am intrigued nonetheless, so when Joan offers to read my cards I readily agree.

We go to a quiet back room, and Joan lays the cards on the table between us. She asks me if I have anything in particular I'd like to know, any immediate concerns. I say no. I cut the cards, and as Joan turns them over, I am prepared for an interesting few minutes.

In the next ten minutes, using a combination of palm-reading and the tarot cards, Joan proceeded to tell me about myself. While I have no way of testing her future predictions, her accuracy about the past

shocked me. Only a few close friends know me that well!

While I am not an instant believer, I am fascinated and I will certainly return. The atmosphere is pleasant; the tea is good; and the people are genuinely friendly.

David's is open from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., and no appointment is necessary unless you want an in-depth consultation. Just push the buzzer at 241 Queen St. East, and walk in. You don't have to be a believer to enjoy it.

**Group buses to Rochester to see what censors saw**

At 10 am, Saturday, November 17, a busload of moviegoers will leave from the Queen's Park Legislative Buildings for Rochester, New York, and all to see a movie!

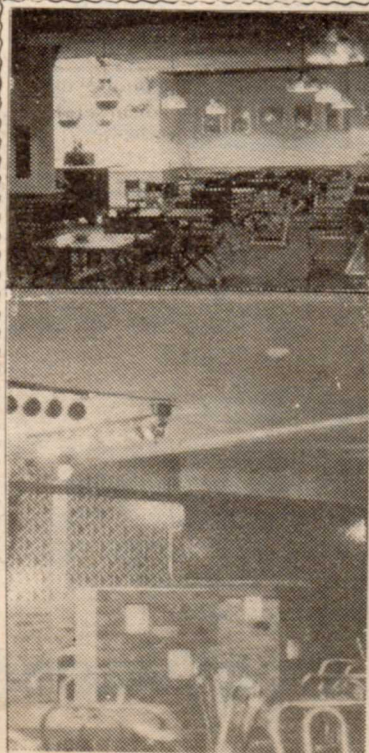
The controversial film *Luna* has been withheld from screening in Ontario by its Director Bernardo Bertolucci, who has refused, on artistic grounds, to make cuts in it demanded by the Ontario Board of Censors.

Organized by the St. George New Democratic Party Riding Association, the bus trip close on the heels of a flurry of press criticism about the powers of the Board of Censors. Last year the Board banned Louis Malle's acclaimed film *Pretty Baby*, and this year required excisions be made in the serious Brazilian movie *Don Flor and Her Two Husbands*.

On October 14, the local Riding Association piloted through the Provincial Council of the Ontario New Democrats Party a resolution calling for removal of the Board of Censor's powers to cut or ban films. The resolution asked for a Film Classification Board with powers only to classify films and to make those classifications public.

"This is the system used in Manitoba with reasonable success since 1972," commented Ward 7's Jim Hockley. "It both protects the liberties of individuals wanting to see controversial films, and the rights of parents to know what is being shown, in case they do not want their children to see them."

Persons from many prominent Toronto arts organizations will travel on the bus to Rochester.



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# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## Saturday November 17

The Charles H. Best Club is holding a **bazaar** at St. Clement's Church, 273 Jones Ave., from noon to 4 pm.

The Toronto Unit of the African National Congress (S.A.) is holding a **bazaar** from 10 am to 4 pm at St. Barnabas Church basement, 175 Hampton Ave.

## Sunday November 18

The Anglican Archbishop of Toronto the Most Reverend Lewis S. Garnsworthy, is spending November 18 to 20 in the area of Toronto East. He will be visiting Woodgreen Community Centre, Nellie's Hostel, the Blake Street Development, the Eastview Community Centre, as well as visits to several local Anglican parishes.

The **St. Luke's forum** today at 353 Sherbourne St. features Nancy Edwards of the Berkeley Studios.

## Monday November 19

Woodgreen Community Centre is featuring a double feature tonight: Plato's "Atlantis" and "Rookie of the Year". Show starts at 7 pm and runs to 9. At 835 Queen St. E. Free.

## Tuesday November 20

**Rummage Sale** is being held at St. Ann's Church Hall at Gerrard & Degraffi, from 1 pm to 4 pm.

**Xmas bazaar** at the second mile Club, from noon to 3:30 pm, 192 Carlton St., Crafts, home baking, white elephant items, Xmas items, draw, luncheon and afternoon tea.

**Lunch Hour Recitals** at St. James' Cathedral, today features Files Bryant. From 12:00 to 12:25 pm at the corner of King and Church Streets.

## Wednesday November 21

The University of Toronto Jazz Band is presenting a **concert** at **Dixon Hall** (58 Sumach St.) at 7:30 pm. Tickets are 25¢ and are available now at Dixon Hall or at the door. Please come and bring your friends.

Public Forum on **Crisis of Confidence in Our Schools** is being held at 8:00 pm at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (252 Bloor St. W.) North Auditorium. Special guest is Dr. Stuart Smith, Leader of the Opposition. Sponsored by the Urban Liberals.

## Thursday November 22

Dixon Hall is holding a **Family Fun Night** beginning at 6:30 with a pot luck supper (Bring whatever you can to share). After there will be Christmas decoration making, as well as darts, euchre, billiards, shuffleboard and other games. Dixon will supply the decorations materials as well as several people to help you make them.

Riverdale Collegiate is putting on a varied show scripted by the students at Riverdale to celebrate the Year of the Child, at three performances: 9 am, 9:50 am and 1:30 pm. The show which includes song, dance and music is free and everyone is welcome!

The movie: **Second Chorus** starring Fred Astaire and Paulette Goddard, will be shown at the Parliament St. Library 269 Gerrard St. E. at 7 pm and Friday at 2 pm. 924-7122.

## Friday November 23

**Rummage Sale** at Regent Services, 63 Belshaw Place.

## Saturday November 24

Broadview Manor Senior Citizens Club are having a **bake sale and bazaar** from 1 to 4 pm. Other items include Crafts, Jewelry, White Elephant, books, plants and used clothing.

The Ontario Patients' Self-Help Association is holding a fund-raising **Rummage Sale** at 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, in Woodgreen United Church at 875 Queen St. E. (West of Logan Ave.) If you have any good or "white elephants" to donate call 461-7994 or 921-9475.

**Christmas Bazaar** is being held at Simpson Ave. United Church (Simpson Ave at Howland Rd.) 115 Simpson Ave, from 12 to 3 pm. Bake Sale, refreshments, new toys, gifts, records, books.

Annex Senior Citizens is holding a **bazaar** from 1 to 4 pm, 1468 Danforth Ave. Items include Japanese foods, fortune cookies, handcraft articles and t shirts.

Harbourfront is the site of the **Folklorico Filipino Show** featuring music and dances of the Philippine culture. At York Quay Centre, 235 Queen's Quay West from 8 to 10 pm. Admission \$3. All proceeds go toward aiding East Asian refugees. Phone 364-5739 for advance tickets.

## Sunday November 25

Rev. Gordon Winch of the Distress Centre, will appear at Saint Luke's Church Forum, 353 Sherbourne St. at 2:30 pm. All welcome.

**Labour Rights for Domestic Servants** is sponsoring a public meeting on domestic workers at 6 pm, at 33 Cecil St. Speakers include Bob McKenzie, NDP labour critic, Mirjana Tenebaum, presidents of L.R.D.S., and domestics Mary Brooks and Mire Kinworm.

## Wednesday November 28

The choirs of Jarvis Collegiate directed by dAvid Low, will be giving a **choral concert** at 8 pm at the Church of the Holy Trinity, behind the Eaton Centre. Adults \$3; students \$1.

## Thursday November 29

**Meet and discuss city issues** with Mayor John Sewell, Aldermen Alan Sparrow, and Dan Heap, trustees Bob Spencer, Joan Doiron, Frank Nagle, Charles Arsenault. Questions will be taken from the audience. Presented by the Ward 6 Community Organization. In the City Hall Council Chamber, at 7:30 pm.

Friends of Naturopathy present **Mainly for Women** with speaker Dr. Carolyn Dean, M.D. There will be discussion of breast examination — how to do them, breast lumps, discussion of types, menstrual cramps, discharges, breast feeding, and other topics. Admission \$3 for non-members.

## Thursday November 29

The South Riverdale Community Health Centre, 126 Pape Ave., is holding its annual meeting at 8 pm.

## Friday November 30

Dixon Hall is having its first **musical drop-in** today. Singer and guitar player Bill Dearing will entertain us with a variety of tunes. While listening to the music, you'll also have the opportunity to play some backgammon, chess, cribbage, etc. There is no admission charge and refreshments will be on sale. (I.D. will be required at the door.) For more information call Janice or Sue at 863-0499.

## Saturday December 1

There will be a **senior citizens bazaar and bake sale** today from 11 am to 3 pm at Dixon Hall, 58 Sumach St.

## Ongoing

**Downtown Care-Ring** is for you. This is a project which seeks to help the elderly, sick or lonely people, to get them to the doctor or hospital, or just to keep someone company. **Care-Ring is in desperate need of volunteers.** It is awful when someone calls and we cannot send the help they need, if we have to leave a call unanswered. So we beg you, if you have an hour or two to spare, do please offer your help. Call Dianne, at 868-1190 between 9 am and 2 pm Monday to Friday.

There is now an **Adult Education Centre** at St. Ann's School, 70 Boulton Ave. It provides upgrading in English and mathematics. It operates daily from 9 am to 3:30 pm. It is for adults 18 years and over. For more information call 469-3659.

The Rooming House Tenant Project has

moved to 503B Parliament St. The phone number is 922-3416.

**Women's get fit group.** Mondays 1:30 to 3:00, Thursday 1:00 to 3:00. At Dixon Hall, 58 Sumach St., Babysitting provided. Call Felies or Jim at 863-0499.

Neighbourhood Information Post is **looking for volunteers** to distribute brochures outlining its services. If you could spare a few minutes to distribute the pamphlets in your area, N.I.P. would be very pleased to hear from you. There are also many other volunteer jobs they can offer. Call 924-2543 or 924-2544, or drop in at 265 Gerrard St. E.

The Board of Education's **Race Relations** subcommittee is asking parents' groups to look at its report and attend its meetings. For more information call 598-4931 ext. 346.

Regent Services Unit holds a **bingo** every Friday at 7:30 pm at 415 Gerrard St. E. Everyone welcome. Prizes and money.

**Do you like finding out what's going on in the community through reading the community calendar? Then maybe you'd like to get in on the ground floor, so to speak, and help us put the calendar together. If you have any time to spare, and you think you might like to help, please give us a call at 7 News, 363-9650.**

It's not easy to ask questions about sex and birth control. And, there's a lot of unreliable information out there. If you have concerns about birth control, your sexuality, or the course of your relationship, call Planned Parenthood's Love Line. The Love Line operates from 9 am to 9 pm, seven days a week as a special service to Metro's teens. Call 961-8311. We're here to help.

**Central Neighbourhood House**, a non-profit social/recreational agency working with the residents of the local area on a wide range of concerns, **has vacancies on its Board of Directors** and on various committees of the Board. CNH encourages any interested members of the community to consider volunteering for these openings. Working with the agency can be a rewarding experience for committed individuals who have about three or four evenings a month available for this purpose. Call Paddy Ann Pugsley at 349 Ontario St., 925-4363.

A version of the play *Electra*, adapted by Barry Prophet, is being presented by The Necessary Angel Theatre Company in collaboration with Theatre Passe Muirville. It's being performed at The Theatre Centre, 95 Danforth Ave. (Broadview and Danforth) (third floor), from November 21 through December 2. (Tuesday through Saturday at 8:30 pm and Sunday at 3 pm. Tickets are \$3, and Sundays pay what you can. Call 461-1644 for reservations.

**Vestments**, a new play by Barbara Anderson, produced by Theatre Patmos, is now playing at the Enock Turner Cultural Centre, 105 Trinity St. It runs November 16 and 17, 23 and 24, 30 and December 1, all at 8 pm. Admission is \$3.00, \$32.50 for students. **Vestments** explores the confrontations between "today's most basic world views: fundamentalist Christian, radical socialist, and that of the 'me generation'." 469-4919.

**Girls in Chains** is now playing at the Factory Theatre Lab, 207 Adelaide St. E. Call 864-9971 for reservations.

Are you aware of the medical and dental services offered by the **Don District Community Health Centre**? If you are an area resident, you may want to use the services of the centre, located in suite 102 of 295 Shuter St. (in the Moss Park Apartments). The telephone number is 364-1361. Hours for medical services are Monday to Friday 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays. Hours for dental services are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

**Volunteers** are needed by the Metro Toronto Probation and Aftercare Program. Interested persons over 18, who are mature and dependable may call the Volunteer Centre at 961-6888 for further information.

Victoria Day Care Services at 539 Jarvis St., is interested in talking to you, if you are interested in being a Day Care Provider. Why not consider: a companion for your child, additional income, and the stimulation of meeting new people? To learn more about our Private Day Care programme, call 925-3419.

**The Riverdale Library** is undergoing renovations and will be closed for several months. While work is in progress, the library will be in a storefront, at 364 Broadview.

**The Parliament Street Library** (269 Gerrard E., 924-7122) has activities for kids every Saturday at 2 p.m.

The Pape/Danforth Library (701 Pape Ave., 465-1221) has **activities for boys and girls** every Saturday at 2:30 p.m.

Toronto youngsters can enjoy a rare treat this November and December when Pepi Puppet Theatre presents **The Tale of King Tut** at the Royal Ontario Museum. The tale starts with the predicament of Peter, a nine-year-old boy whose teacher persists in grading his test papers with Egyptian hieroglyphics. He finds himself transported back to ancient Egypt. The tale is based on the children's books, *The Adventures of Mickey, Taggy, puppo, and Cica*. It's on Saturdays, November 3, 10, 17, and 24 and December 1, 8, 15, and 22 at 2 pm and 3:30 pm. \$1 plus Museum admission. Reservations 497-0916.

The St. Jamestown Y has a range of activities for adults and seniors. These are:

**The Senior Monday Club**, Which meets each Monday from 1:15 to 3:30 pm in the 200 Wellesley Rec Room. Bingo, card games, refreshments.

**Monday Evening Crafts**, held in the 275 Bleecker Rec room each Monday from 7 to 9 pm. Knitting, crocheting, chit chat, refreshments.

**Monday Bingo**: held in the 200 Wellesley Rec Room each Monday beginning at 8 pm.

**St. James Town Songsters**: a group of seniors who get together in the 200 Wellesley Rec Room each Tuesday evening at 7 to sing old and familiar songs. They often entertain at various homes and hospitals in the area.

**Wheels of Fortune**: a club for handicapped and seniors meeting each Thursday in the 325 Bleecker Rec Room at 8 pm.

**Library**: open 1:30 to 3:30, Monday to Friday.

**Free Store**: open 2 to 4 pm Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays on the 375 Bleecker main floor.

Dixon Hall's **Home Help for Seniors** is available to any senior living in the area bounded by Gerrard to the lake, Sherbourne to River St. Services provided include light housekeeping and laundry \$1 per hour. Transportation to medical appointments and weekly van shopping. Call 863-0499.

All those who dream of Toller Cranston or Dorothy Hamill, or simply wish to learn to skate, may come to the Moss Park Skating Club. Volunteers for ice and office duty are needed and you are most welcome to join. Registration is underway. For more information, call 368-1512 between 9:00 and 5:00 p.m.

New members are welcome at the **519 Food Co-op**, at 519 Church St. Hours are 1<sup>st</sup> to 6 Fridays, 10 to 1:30 Saturdays. Contact Linda Pim at 881-0719, evenings.

Metro Toronto Nursery Schools for Handicapped Children are in **urgent need of volunteers** to work on a one-to-one basis in an early-stimulation developmental program. One morning a week: 9 to 12. Contact Virginia Mills, 361-0773.

St. Peter's Church, 190 Carlton St., is presenting **Saturday Night movies** on the first and third Saturday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free. Refreshments available.

**Community Calendar** is a free community service. If you have an upcoming event which you would like listed in the November 30 issue (any event from December 1 to December 15 should go in this issue) send your announcement to 7 News, 315 Dundas St. East, Toronto M5A 2A2 or call 363-9650.



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# Wanted: Curriculum that makes students think

By JOANN HUTCHISON

The fourth O.I.S.E. seminar in the working class curriculum series — "The Implications of Teaching 'Controversial' Curriculum" — proved to be the liveliest to date.

The focus sheet handed out to participants promised a panel discussion on 'controversial' curriculum and defined 'controversial' as: "programs which encourage children to think critically, and to explore the ways in which their society works — the sets of relationships which form the structure of the society; the differing sets of interests in a given conflict; the causes and effects of different forms of oppression."

Potentially controversial themes such as Native land claims, work and labour history, immigration, and racism, are already being dealt with in some schools. However, they are too often dealt with from a perspective which rationalizes and justifies the status quo. Unless teachers addressed the power relationships involved — who has power, who has not, how that power is used, and to whose benefit — it was felt that little would be done to change students' perceptions, or to make them critically examine the society they live in.

Tom Lyons, a teacher at Lawrence Park Collegiate, teaches a course entitled "World Problems in Development". Lyons confessed to feeling a little out of place on a panel dealing with curriculum of interest to working class kids. "My north Toronto students," he joked, "take field trips south of Bloor Street."

His course deals with the relationship between rich and poor nations, and analyses the impact of cultures upon one another in the colonial era as well as the relationships between the western world

and the Third world nations today. Because he deals with the reality of power relationships, his course fit the definition of 'controversial'.

As his talk progressed, however, several participants in the seminar questioned if his students were really prepared to do anything meaningful about the issues he raised. One woman suggested that raising money to help juvenile delinquents in a detention home in Africa buy looms to do native crafts (a student-initiated project) was hardly creating "a new kind of awareness" in his wealthy students. She suggested rather that such students came from a long history of "liberal fundraising" for "good causes" overseas. "Maybe if someone had a parent who owns a textile factory on Spadina, you should discuss unionizing in that factory," she suggested as an alternative. "That might not sit too well as a dinner conversation." (Lyons had previously mentioned that parents had complimented him on his course which was "intellectually stimulating" and provided "improved dinner conversation".)

In his class, Lyons discusses such topics as colonialism, slavery, and the modern multinational corporation. Each year his class takes a field trip to the United Nations in New York and "hassles a few governments". The "activists image" Lyons felt, was very important. Some of his students resented the subjects covered in class, he said, and others found the course intellectually stimulating. Most, however, he suggested, were just there to get a credit.

The problem of credit-getting was also cited by the next speaker, Jane Wyngate who teaches history at Eastdale Collegiate on Gerrard St. East. Wyngate cited the case of a student in her class, who would lash out in "racist diatribes" in

class, but who gave her back on exams verbatim what she had said (and he did not believe) just to get the marks.

Wyngate felt that the present multicultural curriculum teaches "kids more what they don't like about each other, than anything else." Some of the racist comments from white kids that came out in her class during discussions of immigration policies were so bad that she was instrumental in starting up a Black Studies group at Eastdale to help her black students organize to defend themselves against this kind of racist attack in class and to build arguments that they could use in the face of such incidents.



Wyngate found curriculum did not always do an effective job of combatting racism. The whole basis of her history course, she said, was to show how racism is used to pit the working-class (black and white) against each other. However, rational arguments, no matter how well documented, will not overcome the emotional hatred of someone who is racist and is not open to changing his/her views on the subject. She worried about the effect "racist diatribes" would have on her students, even though she presented all the arguments against such. Discussions, she had found, did not always convince.

The third panelist, Clifton Joseph, a former student at Bloor Collegiate felt that curriculum depended on teacher presentation for its 'controversial' nature. When he studied the World Problems course, mentioned by Lyons, he had "been

saddled with" a teacher who didn't want the students to get "heated" and who had presented the issues in the blandest fashion possible. This had proved difficult in a class where many of the students were immigrants and has experienced some of the problems first-hand. When students had become involved in the discussion, the teacher had cut them off, fearing what they might say.

"Teachers have to know what they're doing," Joseph insisted. "Otherwise, people will come away from these courses with the same stereotypes they came in with. We are talking about a change in (student) attitude."

Ray Hainsworth, of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union, expressed skepticism at the schools' ever presenting curriculum to students that would create a new awareness of power relationships in society. He indicated that only very "mickey mouse" courses in labour studies had passed the Ministry of Education's approval. Labour unions, he said, now feel that they must teach their own people. He cited the United Auto Workers paid leave education program as an example of this. Courses of study in

this program include trade unionism, politics, and economics taught from a labour perspective.

Hainsworth's skepticism was criticized by several teachers who indicated that only 33% of the Canadian work force is presently unionized. Because of this they urged that unions continue to pressure the government to introduce meaningful curriculum in the labour studies field.

The evening concluded with the general feeling that the issue had barely been explored, and that a support network of teachers interested in teaching 'controversial' curriculum should be developed. One teacher jokingly referred to a question on the focus sheet that asked about how teaching controversial curriculum might affect promotion. "That's simple," he said. "You know you won't be promoted." Promotion was not a subject that worried most of the teachers present. What they wanted to find out was what materials were available, if they had been used successfully elsewhere, and who they could call if they needed help in developing their programs. This follow-up planning has been left to the last session.

## Vandalism, yes, indeed!

By M.W. WORMLEY

In the last issue, 7 News gave one side of the picture in regard to vandalism in the Queen/Sumach St. area. The experiences of one Bright St. resident since moving in a little over a year ago provide an interesting sidelight on the subject.

Shortly after arrival his house was broken into and two handguns stolen. As other valuables, including cash, were untouched it was several days before the loss of the guns was discovered. Replacement

cost of the weapons was estimated at about \$600.

Several weeks later his van was stolen and \$1600 worth of marine equipment was missing when the vehicle was recovered. A few months later the van was again broken into, but nothing was stolen on this occasion. It cost \$50, however, to replace a smashed window.

One night this year he watched a gang of juveniles from his kitchen window as they demolished a fence at the rear of a house fronting on St. Paul St. The reason he was able to see what was happening was that the high wooden fence behind his own home had been flattened in a wind storm a few days after a neighbour saw a similar group of kids trying to tear it down. He reported the incident at the St. Paul St. house to police while it was occurring, but the police did not respond to the call.

He has also received three anonymous threatening letters from a "neighbour" who doesn't like his dog.

Another Bright St. resident was reported to have recognized local youths who were attempting to burgle his house. Overt intimidation and threat of retaliation insured that police were not notified.

A woman resident on the street described being stoned by neighbourhood children while she was in her own back yard.

Vandalism? What vandalism?

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## Do's and don'ts of heating with wood.

How to heat your home safely with wood fuels.

With energy costs rising, many Ontarians are rekindling an old flame — wood fires. Wood used properly can provide a cheap, clean renewable heat source. Used improperly, however, wood burning can be dangerous. Whether your stove is of ornate design or a more modern stove, they both have one thing in common: they each need proper installation. Here are some of the do's and don'ts on heating with wood:

☐ DO — BUY only units which have been certified for wood use, by the Canadian Standards Association (CSA).

or the Underwriter's Laboratories of Canada (ULC).

☐ DO — HIRE an expert to certify that your flue pipe and chimney are in good condition to handle the higher temperatures.

☐ DO — CONTACT your insurance agent before installing the system. Be sure you're covered in case of fire.

☐ DO — CHECK with your municipality before any work begins. You'll probably need a building permit.

☐ DO — ENSURE adequate clearances are provided as listed in the Ontario Building Code and other guides available at your local library.

☐ DON'T — USE flammable liquids when lighting the fire ... like gasoline, kerosene or charcoal lighter fluids. Wood

chips, kindling, shavings or newspapers are the safest startup materials.

☐ DON'T — KEEP any flammable materials near your wood burner.

☐ DON'T — FORGET to clean your stovepipes and flues regularly to avoid dangerous flammable build-up.

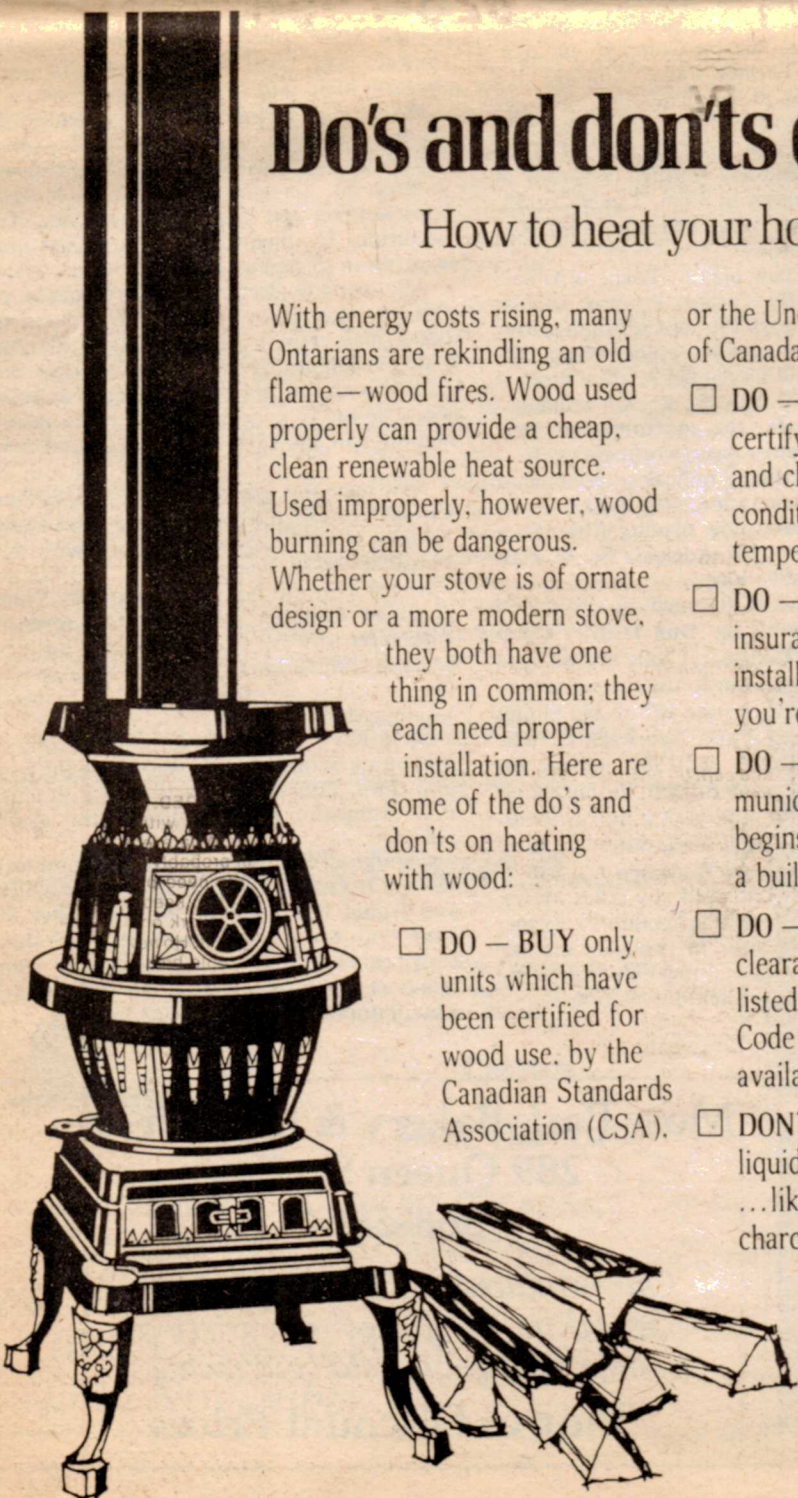
☐ DON'T — TAKE CHANCES WITH FIRE. Teach your children about fire safety too. If you have any further questions about heating with wood fuels, contact your local Fire Department, or write for the free guide titled:

"Heating with Wood Fuels"  
Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations  
555 Yonge Street  
Toronto, Ontario  
M7A 2H6



Frank Drea,  
Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations

William Davis, Premier





# School trustees hold forth

By ROB HUTCHISON

At the 7 News Annual Meeting held at Withrow School last week, Trustees George Martell and Barry Tulip spoke about what they saw as the highlights of their first year at the Board of Education. The Board of Education.

The major issues they cited were: teacher negotiation procedures, the democratic structure of the schools, and the fight against the streaming of working class kids into dead-end high school programs.

## TEACHER NEGOTIATIONS

For the first time last year, the "coalition" trustees (which include Martell and Tulip) tried to make teacher negotiations a non-adversary procedure. The aim was to discuss the quality of education desired and then to bargain on that basis. Much of the negotiation procedure was to have been open to the public. However, with the loss of a coalition member from the bargaining unit this approach was no longer possible as the non-coalition trustees were in favour of closed-door negotiations. It is hoped that the non-adversary approach will be attempted again this spring.

Martell stated that the "fixed costs" of schooling are rising, and that the Board is being "severely pressed" by the provincial government. It has been "very tough" not to fire teachers in view of this, but Martell was convinced "we (the Board) are going to make it." In the near future, Martell indicated, Toronto is going to need about 100 more teachers than the Metro formula currently allows.

## SCHOOL TAXES

"We are very concerned about the local taxpayer," Martell said, pointing out that in fact there has been no rise in local taxes this year. However, parents and other taxpayers cannot allow the government to continue to gut the school system, he said.

The Board has saved about \$200,000 so far by computerizing the heating system of the schools. More importantly, over the next seven years attrition caused by retiring high school teachers alone should allow for a saving of \$500 million. However, cutbacks have been so great that money is being lost.

Education costs used to make up 23% of the provincial budget, but have now dropped to 16%. Such a drop has been far more than what is justified by declining enrolment.

Despite the obstacles of inadequate funding, the coalition trustees are against cutting teachers "as long as we need them", and oppose the closing of neighbourhood schools.

## DEMOCRATIC SCHOOLS

Both trustees felt that the democratic structure of the schools had improved over the past year.

For example, school staffing committees included more parents than before who were better informed as a result and better able to respond with details of their

school's needs when cutbacks were threatened.

In addition, selection committees to choose school principals now include two parents (instead of the token one). The next step will be to develop a short-listing method that allows candidates to apply directly to the school community (and not to the senior administration, as is currently the case). It was suggested that parents and teachers should have a larger say in determining the qualifications they'd like to see in a principal at their school.

## STREAMING

Martell expressed a wish to see the end of streaming working class kids into bottom-level, self-contained Special Education programs. He saw an end to streaming being accomplished through the creation of smaller class sizes which would allow teachers more time to provide for individual instruction. In addition, withdrawal help would be provided in learning centres and reading clinics within each school as needed.

## TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Both trustees cited the need for the provision of higher quality technical education.

Tulip pointed out that community colleges have taken over many of the same programs that technical schools provide. This has resulted in a higher drop-out rate (by students who drop-out to attend

the community college programs). This also results in increased costs to the tax-payer. The technical schools could provide the programs at about half the cost of the community colleges.

Martell pointed out that typing speeds of graduates today are about 30 words less per minute than those of graduates in the 1950's. He attributed this to the fact that students have less time at the machines today than they did in the past. Martell indicated that there is a major study in the works on the commercial and technical high schools.

Tulip pointed out that these technical commercial schools have not had the investment necessary to keep their machines either up to the needed number or up-to-date.

## Care-ring needs you

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7 NEWS CLASSIFIED ADS cost \$2.50 for 25 words or less, and 10c for each additional word. Semi-display ads are \$5 per column inch. All classified ads MUST be paid in advance. (The ONLY exceptions are ads advertising jobs available and lost and found ads — these are free.) Your ad, along with your payment, should be sent to Classifieds, 7 News, 315 Dundas St. E., Toronto M5A 2A2.

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**WANTED** 7 News is looking for a volunteer to take on the Community Calendar, requiring a couple of hours every second Monday. Call 363-9650.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.** 7 News really needs volunteer help with almost every part of the paper. Whatever your talent or interest, we can probably find something for you to do. We need people who can type, write, edit, file, keep records, open mail, run errands, work on a distribution truck... you name it. However much time you can spare, would be a help. Call 363-9650.

**HAVE ANY SPARE TIME?** Then why not consider becoming a volunteer distributor for 7 News on your street or in your apartment building? It takes 10 to 30 minutes once every two weeks to deliver however many papers you have time for. The bundle gets delivered to your door. Call 363-9650.

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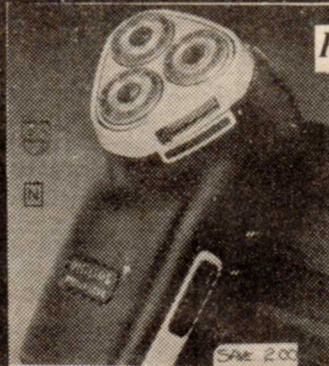


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