

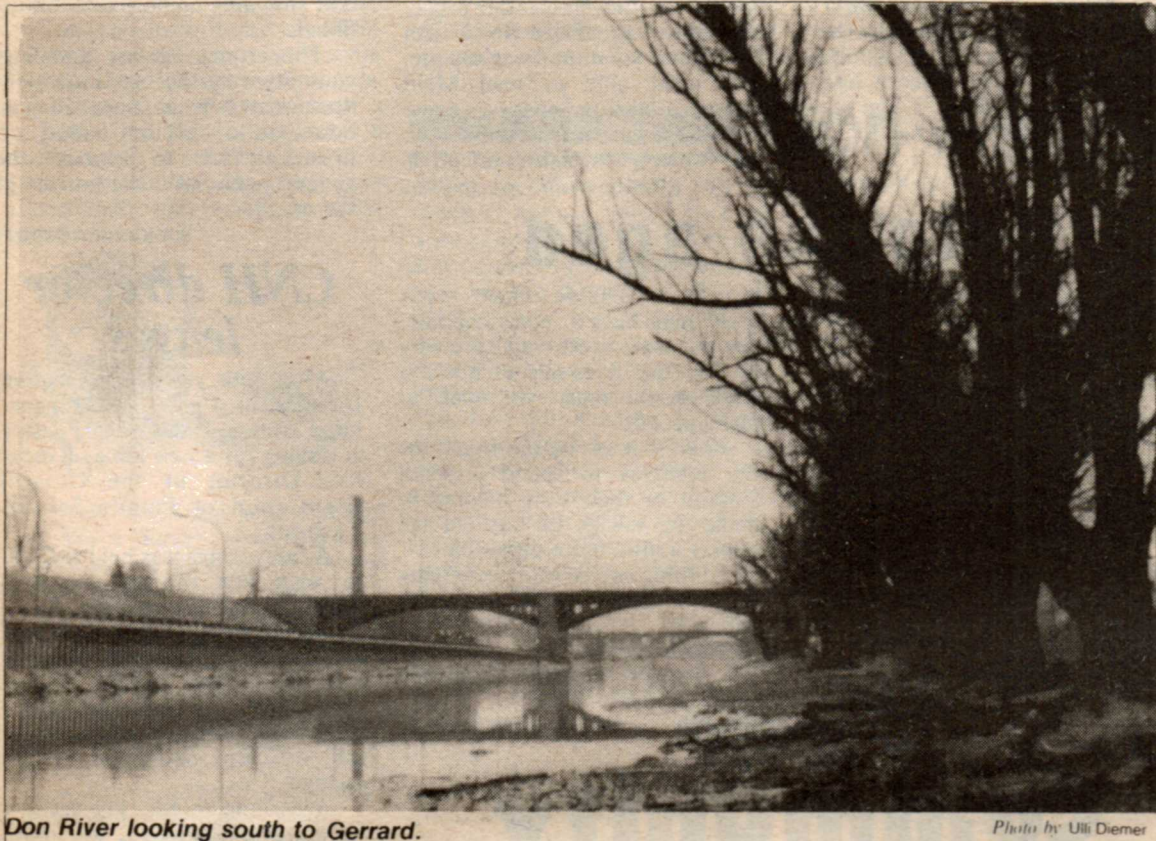


7 NEWS
TORONTO'S OLDEST COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER
315 Dundas St. East (All Saints Church)
Toronto M5A 2A2 Phone: 363-9650

**FREE
TAKE ONE**

The deadline for the next (May 8) issue of 7 News is Monday, May 4. Bring or mail your stories, pictures as ads to 7 News, 315 Dundas St. E., Toronto M5A 2A2 or phone 363-9650.

Don River Day points out pollution, abuse of river



Don River looking south to Gerrard.

Photo by Uli Diemer

By HOWARD HUGGETT

It was a chilly, overcast April morning last Saturday the 18th at Serena Gundy Park for the Ninth Annual Don River Day. Nevertheless, there was a good crowd on hand — it takes more than a cold wind to discourage these canoeists. I have seen them taking off in an icy driving rain. What was quite noticeable this year was the number of gray heads to be seen. One grandfather standing sadly on the bank told me that he had lost out this year because two of his grand-children had taken his place.

There is something about canoes that stirs the imagination of many Canadians. When the Europeans first came to this continent they found out that the North American Indians had developed a craft superbly designed for navigating the lakes and rivers of this vast continent. Without the canoe this land could not have been explored, nor could our first industry, the fur trade, have been started. It is a part of our history.

I talked to one man who told me that his son had a 26 foot canoe that was built for him by an Indian friend of his and that he used to travel the Fraser River in B.C. Now the Don is a pretty small stream compared to the Fraser, but the metropolis of Toronto began at the mouth and on the

banks of this river. Too often we ignore and neglect the Don.

Lately we have been given an unpleasant reminder that the river is alive and active. The Keating Channel at the mouth is silting up at the rate of about 60,000 cubic yards of sediment a year. That's quite an achievement for such a small stream, but then the Don River drops more than 800 feet from the headwaters to the lake, so the water flows swiftly and causes a lot of erosion. Besides we have speeded up the flow by removing most of the forest that used to cover the watershed — a survey of some years ago estimated that there was less than 7% of it under trees. The effect of this and the wholesale paving over of so much of the area around the river has meant that during spring thaws and after rainfalls the runoff goes tearing downstream at a destructive rate. You could say that the Don is paying us back for our neglect and we have to pay the cost of dredging out the channel.

But there is more to it than that. That sediment is polluted. Reports issued by the Ministry of the Environment show elevated levels of mercury in filtered water produced by the Toronto Island Filtration Plant in August 1980. The highest reading of .29 from the effluent of the Reed Pulp and Paper Mill in Dryden from August

Continued on page 7

Anti-racist group on petition drive

RACAR, the Riverdale Action Committee Against Racism, is running a series of petition blitzes in the Riverdale community in the next month.

The object of the petitioning is to talk to Riverdale residents and inform them of the activities of the Ku Klux Klan and of the existence of RACAR, to offer support, and to ask them to sign the petition condemning the activities of the Klan.

Canvassers will also be looking for information that people can give

them about where and how the Klan has been active in the area, so that counter-action can be taken. (For example, RACAR passes out its own anti-racism literature on streets where the Klan has distributed hate literature.)

The dates of the petitioning will be Sunday April 26 (meet at the Ralph Thornton Centre, 765 Queen E. at 1 p.m.) Sunday May 10, Sunday May 17, and Sunday May 24. Everyone is encouraged and welcomed to come out and help.

Call RACAR at 469-3659 or 461-9857.

Petitioning to date has been very successful, with about an 88 per cent positive response, with most of those refusing to sign doing so because they don't understand or "can't be bothered", rather than because they actually support the racist activities of the Klan.

In addition to the petitioning, RACAR is also planning a May 31 Riverdale Community Festival against the Klan. More information about this festival will appear in the next issue of 7 News.

Spring means Forsythia!

One of the sure harbingers of Spring, the annual Forsythia Festival, is due to take place next weekend, this time in an expanded two-day version.

The festival is named after the Forsythia bushes which brighten up the community in increasing numbers each year, and one of its purposes is to encourage people to plant more Forsythias.

But the festival will feature various other activities and events as well, including the ever-popular mutt show, where local dogs are judged according to such criteria as waggiest tail and looking most like their owners.

The festival kicks off on Saturday, May 2, at 1 p.m., with the Cabagetown Community Band playing at 422 Parliament St., above the Ben Wicks Restaurant.

At 1:30 the Theatre Next Door

presents a new play for the festival by Eddie Barber: "True Love Will Find a Way or What in hell did you do with the Map Mabel". The play will be staged every half hour at Bobbins Restaurant at 547 Parliament St. At 3 p.m. the TTC Pipe Band marches down Parliament from Wellesley to Gerrard. And at 4 p.m. there will be a Briget—Look—Alike Clown Contest at 422 Parliament, where children "of all ages" will be judgees on how much they look like the clown Briget, who under the name of Tony Brady is also the Forsythia Festival's founding father.

On Sunday in Wellesley Park (at the very end of Wellesley St., past Sumach) there will be an official Forsythia Planting Ceremony at 1 p.m. with various celebrities, a bicycle and wagon decorating contest at 1:30 p.m.

Bach was never better

In the Passion music feast presented by Toronto choruses, Simpson Avenue United Church's recent performance in Ward Seven of *Bach's St. John Passion* had a quality and dramatic vitality seldom equalled.

The choir well delivered mob hostility in the choruses, and Christian reverence in the chorales — to rival the Mendelssohn Choir, I might add. Albert Greer as the Evangelist and Glenn Gardiner as the Christ were the cohesive recitative soloists. Their narrative prowess, supported by sound vocal technique testifies that the passion story well-told is timeless.

Young contralto Donna Brin-

dle exhibited a velvet tone reminiscent of Marian Anderson, together with Norman Abbott's poignantly lyric cello playing, in a consummate interpretation of "It is finished". Mimi Gillies, soprano, and Greg Paskaruk in the narrative role of Pilate, complemented the story with their vibrant and clear voices. Conductor Donald Gillies brought forth equal sensitivity to the drama with an accomplished orchestra.

Everyone, including the incidental soloists, deserves special mention. Bravo, Simpson Avenue Church, from a lover of the participant in great sacred music! Well done!



Performer in the Filipino play, "Sulawaran". See the Community Calendar on page 6 for details.

Fiftieth Anniversary

MR. AND Mrs. Frederic Earl Nash will be married for fifty years on April 27, 1981. A celebration will take place on April 25 at the Travelodge. Mr. Nash, a six-year veteran, has long been active in the Royal Canadian Legion. Mrs. Nash is a longtime member of WoodGreen United Church. Mr. and Mrs. Nash have lived in their home at 14½ Howie Avenue for forty years.

Donations to date

You, our readers, have been responding very positively to our Supporting Membership Campaign. In the first three-and-a-half weeks of the campaign, you have mailed in \$1319.00. The average donation has been \$16.48.

Thank you very much to the following who have donated since the last issue went to press:

Wolfe Erlichman; M. Cooke, Kintyre Ave.; Susan Garrard, Riverdale Ave.; Patricia Barrett, Oak St.; Peter Oliphant, Amelia St.; Duncan McLaren, Spruce St.; Howard Krieger, Broadview Ave.; Evelyn Elrick, Sherbourne St.; Celedonio M. Gloria, Isabella St.; J.M. McDonough, Wardel St.; Frida Ardal, Bain Ave.; Bernard Morin.

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Argue; Diane Saibil, Bain Ave.; Roberta Ramm, Wellesley St. East; Lois Day, Sherbourne St.; Patricia Miller, Bain Ave.

A.A. Brown, Bleecker St.; The Taggarts, Parliament St.; Gladys Hall, Meadow Glen Place; Ernest Edmondson, Graydon Hall Drive; Robert, Giuliana & Reva Katz, Wellesley St. E.; F. David Rounthwaite; Larry Patterson, Poulette St.; Tom Clement, Church St.

Jan Cornish, Sumach St.; George Dalton, Sherbourne St.; Sharon Baltman, Parliament St.; David Reville, Cathy Jones, Dave Reville, Jane Reville, Millbrook Cres.; Selinde Krayenhoff, Wilton St.; Myra Comeault, Broadview Ave.; Robert Innes, Hamilton St.; Fred Sells, Bleecker St.; Kathleen Hamel, Summit Illinois, U.S.A.; David & Sandra Clandfield, Sword St.; Joann and Rob Hutchison, Spruce St.; Connie Ross, Broadview Ave.

There were also ten anonymous donations: two from Oak Street, two from Parliament St., one from Ontario Street, one from Ellerbeck, three from out of the ward, and one substantial donation from "John Doe".

Thanks to all.

SUPPORTING MEMBERS' SCOREBOARD

(To Tuesday April 21)

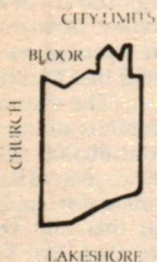
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If you have any comments or opinions about what is happening in the community or about what you read in 7 News, write us a letter at 315 Dundas St. E. Toronto M5A 2A2. All letters must be signed but if you ask us to, we will publish your letter anonymously.



More dangerous for Jews than gays under Nazis

Ellen Pomer's otherwise excellent review of the play BENT (March 27) was flawed by her assertion that, "It was more dangerous in Nazi Germany to be gay than to be a Jew." The play itself also contains this historically inaccurate claim.

While gays and many other

minority group were brutally persecuted by the Nazis, the preoccupation of the Third Reich with the "Final Solution" was unique. One need only to read Mein Kampf, a Nazi newspaper, or one of Hitler's speeches to know this. Ms. Pomer's own figures are proof of this ghastly truth: six million

Jews and between a quarter and half million homosexuals murdered.

The crimes against non-Jews committed by the Nazis are well-documented; what is needed is an educational effort based on historical facts to acquaint the general public with the horrors of the era.

Alexander Bruner

Help the aged

As a part time security guard at Chester Village, I have noticed the need for further activities at an old age home.

Yes, they do have their bingo and yes they do play cards. There is even a movie shown once a month, but, these few events are just not enough to keep most residents busy.

The blame cannot be placed on the staff, because they are very helpful and usually quite willing to give up their own free time to supervise these activities.

What we need are more volun-

teers! I realise that most individuals have a busy schedule, but, there are those who have very little to do. A couple of hours a week would mean so much to these people.

Also, is it asking too much for the relatives to spend a small amount of their time helping to make the Village (or any old age home) a little more enjoyable?

Nothing can be more satisfying than to make another person happy.

Think about it.

Phil Crompton

Your Community Newspaper

If you live or work in Ward 7, Seven News is literally your paper. Legal ownership and control of Seven News Incorporated lies with the people of the area, and everyone in Ward 7 has one vote at general meetings to discuss policy and elect a Board of Directors.

Seven News is also your paper in other, even more important, ways.

If your residents' association is working, against the odds, against some vested interest, where can you turn to get honest but supportive coverage? To your community newspaper, Seven News.

If you are trying to find volunteers for a literacy program, or help in starting a day care facility, or if you want people to know your volleyball team won the championship, what comes to mind? Your community newspaper, Seven News.

Or if you want to find out about something, whether it's generally what's going on in the community, or to see what entertainment is being offered near you, or to find a local babysitter in the classified ads, Seven News is there.

Whether to find out about things or to tell others about your activities and needs, you and your group can count on Seven News.

But unfortunately you can't count on Seven News as completely as one would wish. For one thing, we often have to print a small paper because there isn't enough money to pay for a larger issue. Inevitably, things get left out, items that are important to someone. The staff hates having to make decisions about excluding important news, but sometimes there is just no choice. Money would go a long way to solving that problem.

Another way in which you can't completely count on Seven News has to do with survival itself: You can't count on Seven News always being here. This Supporting Membership Campaign is going quite well so far, but it has to keep on doing so if Seven News survival, for at least another year, is to be assured.

So please become a supporting member of Seven News. Your community Newspaper.

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Please make all cheques payable to Seven News. Our address is 315 Dundas St. East, Toronto M5A 2A2.

Remember: If you live on a street not currently getting 7 News delivered, then your donation entitles you to get 7 News mailed to you. Just enclose a note with your donation.

Light-exposed milk loses value

Milk exposed to light rapidly deteriorates in flavour and loses Vitamin C, according to a study done by the Department of Food Science at the University of Guelph.

Samples of milk, some in diabetic pouches that don't block out light, and some in containers that do not block out light, were compared and it was found that a panel of tasters could easily tell which milk had been exposed to light. As well, loss of Vitamin C ranged from 84.7% to 90.3% in just 24 hours in the milk that had been exposed to light.

Can you help us with laying out and pasting up 7 News? If you're interested, call 363-9650.

BEYOND THE LAW

SPOTLIGHT ON THE
POLICE

SPECIAL ISSUE 48 pp.

RIKKA Spring 1981

Vol 8 no 1

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Traditional family wasn't so great

• Pat Schulz •

This article was originally printed in *Mudpie*, an education magazine. Reprinted by permission of the author.



Day care is a very emotional issue - somehow it strikes at the very heart of our values, perhaps because it relates to families. Our sense of families is somewhat confused these days - we know the old extended family no longer exists, the nuclear family seems trouble-ridden and fragile and we haven't found any real substitutes although we keep trying.

People look at day care and wonder what role it leaves for mothers. And parents look at proposals for free universal day care and wonder if the government has designs on their babies.

So it's interesting to see how the po-

Riverdale women's health ctte.

South Riverdale Community Health Centre

The Women's Health Committee has now met on three occasions since forming in December, 1980. We are very excited about our start and have begun to talk about a number of issues of concern to the South Riverdale Community.

We have discussed plans for providing more comprehensive maternal health care, which could include pre- and post-natal classes at the SRCHC, as well as obstetrical care throughout pregnancy, labour and delivery. Our clients could then be followed for their entire pregnancy instead of being referred to an obstetrician at 28 weeks.

We are also planning a Women's Health Day to happen on May 24. The purpose of the Day will be to give people information on women's health issues such as breast self-examination, birth control, nutrition, child care, etc. It will also be an opportunity for the community to give us some feedback about their interest in particular areas.

In response to the news that Healthiest Babies Possible program would be discontinued after June of this year, the Committee wrote to the Local Board of Health in support of the continuation of this program. The cancellation is being reconsidered and the program is still taking referrals.

If you wish to be a member of this committee, or have ideas for us, please contact Shirley Wheatley, the Committee chairperson, through SRCHC at 461-2494, or leave a note at the Health Centre receptionist. We need your help and input!

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litical parties deal with the issue philosophically. The Conservatives are quite clear where they sit. 'Parents have the primary responsibility for the basic care of their children' and 'the overwhelming majority of parents are perfectly able to make arrangements for their children's care and have the right and responsibility to do so.' I think they are simply wrong on the last count. Parents do make arrangements but they are very often not satisfactory and the children are placed in them because the parents have no alternative. I don't know how much the Conservative position is based on nostalgia for a family situation that never was as idyllic as they picture it. The alternative is to view them as cynics who simply use these arguments to whitewash their overwhelming reluctance to spend money on social services.

The NDP supports the right of children to quality day care. They call

for affordable universal access. The Liberals take a middle position, listing the arguments for and against universal access and conclude with 'on balance, the Ontario Liberal Party has come to the conclusion that while we obviously need an expanded day care system, it would be inappropriate at this time for day care to be established as a guaranteed right of all children.'

So how do free universal day care advocates feel about families? I've never heard a discussion on that but I can tell you how I feel. It's an endangered species that needs lots of protection and support to survive. But the problem is more complicated than that because of the way families are changing. I imagine most of us occasionally envy families like the Ingalls in Little House on the Prairies or the Waltons. But traditional families were not all like that. Some of them were dictatorships, both for the children and the women. No one knew much about psychology, about what makes people tick emotionally. So some people relied on a sense of duty, religion, guilt and or brute force to obtain conformity. Some people stuck together out of economic

necessity and a morality that said marriage was for life. To sum it up there were as there are now, good and bad marriages, good and bad parenting.

I feel enormously encouraged when I talk about changes in parenting with a day care supervisor whose been working in the field for thirty years. She says the kids she looks after today are far better off than the ones thirty years ago. The parents are still

caring people and they're far better informed about child rearing than they were.

Being in a transition period isn't easy. But I think the questioning that is going on in people's minds about these issues is positive. And I think a move away from isolated child rearing to one in which we all, men and women, take a little more responsibility for each other's children can't help but be a step in the right direction.

Feminists to hold forum

Are your rights under attack?

The International Women's Day Committee is sponsoring a public forum on May 7, at 7:30 p.m., in the OISE auditorium (2nd floor, 270 St. W.). This is an evening of information, culture and singing, designed to bring together all the groups that are fighting back against the rights of women groups active in our city. There will be:

- songs of solidarity;
- displays on the activities of Toronto groups fighting against racism, attacks on women's rights, and gay rights, etc.

For further information on the forum, call 532-8989 or 789-4541. For childcare, call 535-6269.



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"Officer Bill Comes Again" — Fiction

IT WAS the brightest day of the year, or so thought Angie, or Angela Simpson as she crossed the street holding the hand of Mr. Nashe. She was without her heavy winter coat, wearing socks and shoes, and felt a lot lighter. She could hardly stop herself from skipping a little from time to time, and the corn-rows that her mother had made the night before seemed to want to do the same. But she stopped herself from actually running or skipping because Mr. Nashe, she knew, was an old man. She hopped onto the curb and held out her hand. It was a gesture of demand.

It was Friday — and did Mr. Nashe remember that this was the day when he bestowed the gift of the gum to his young charges? Mr. Nashe fumbled through his pocket immediately, and held out in his gnarled old man's hand a green and white shiny packet. The 'thank you' was barely uttered, quickly acknowledged — and Angie gave free rein to her feet. They carried her through the long corridor with yellow walls — into classroom 1B. Angie put down her blue bag and looked around. Yes, her best friends Monica and Steve were there. She moved towards them. She was happy with herself, the day, and her friends. She smiled at Miss Barlow entering the room just then with a pile of colored papers in her hands. "Beautiful day, Miss Barlow," cried Angie, "it's summer now." She had been in the country less than a year, and after the long winter the spring day of mid-May was summer enough for her.

"Yes, it's a lovely day," said and thought Miss Barlow as she watched the withering fingers of the maple tree on the verge of becoming young again. Purplish-red buds covered every inch. They seemed to be growing right under her very eyes. She could practically hear things grow all around the school garden. But she quickly dismissed the fantasy — she had a lot of work to do. "I have been too long with children," thought Miss Barlow. She had to gather her little ones, settle them down with some work or play, and give a little preparatory speech she had made about a visitor they were about to receive. She wanted to talk about safety.

She had become increasingly concerned with the safety of the children because the small street on which the school stood had become suddenly very popular to the motorists. Some roadblock elsewhere had resulted in an eruption of cars in the neighborhood — and she shared some of the old crossing guard's anger about cars and careless drivers. She didn't go so far as to mutter curses and wishes such as 'they should not have been born,' but in her own practical way had spoken to the safety department of the police. They did normally send an officer to schools to teach safety rules anyway. Now, she thought, was the time. Accordingly, she was expecting a visitor — Officer Gill — to come any moment.

But someone else had to be introduced before that. From the big closet at the end of the room she eased him

out gently — careful of that curled trunk. There stood Elmer the safety elephant — all five feet of him, with a smile and a knowing look in his eyes. The inside of his ears showed a delicate pink, and his tusks were off-white. They had worked for a week on this cardboard cut-out — and had barely managed to resist their temptation to give him a pair of green trousers. There he stood, a cross between a mythical sage and King Babar without the crown. The children were delighted. Miss Barlow covered her ears and sought to introduce some order.

"Quiet, quiet please, children," she said. "I have something to tell you. Here is our friend —" she paused, and a chorus went up — "Elmer, the safety elephant."

"Yes," said she, "and what is he like?"

"He is never in a hurry," answered the chorus. "He looks all around carefully as he crosses the road. He looks four ways."

Miss Barlow was happy. The catechism of the last week had some results. The main method of safety had been understood.

"And whose helper is he?" she asked again, and, as though on a cue, at the same instant there appeared at the door of her classroom a blue-uniformed, be-badged, be-capped rosy faced, clean shaven young man in heavy black boots.

"Officer Bill!" shouted the children. And there he stood, all six feet two

inches of him, with a smile. He was pleased, though accidentally, his entrance was well-timed.

"Well, as you already know," said Miss Barlow, "here is Officer Bill, the friend of Elmer, and he'll tell us some things about how to cross streets safely. Officer Bill?"

The policeman had to stoop considerably to deposit on the table the box of Elmer buttons, a roll of film, and a placard of the police motto. "Now kids," he said, "I am Officer Bill, and I am going to talk about safety. We all love to play ball, run and have lots of fun. But there are places where we can do that and there are places where we can't. We've got to be careful."

"I play on my sidewalk," piped a small voice.

"But you shouldn't," responded Officer Bill. "You shouldn't. There are places where you can, there are places where you can't. Especially, you mustn't run into the street if your ball goes there — and it gets there if you play on the sidewalk. It's dangerous to dart out into the road."

"But we haven't got no play place," continued his insistent interlocutor, "we haven't got no..."

"Play in your back yard," said Officer Bill. "The street's dangerous." He uttered the word 'dangerous' with some vigor.

"But we got no back yard and the park's too far. You see we live in this building..."

This is too much of a digression,

thought Officer Bill. He rested of the speak and smile around every road and a cause..." and

"There are gation. "Yes was understood they go fast as they st"

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In the quiet the children w traffic safety. T cross the stree man smilingly man across the the unwise who

SHOCK TALK

Tell children to play safely...away from hydro wires.

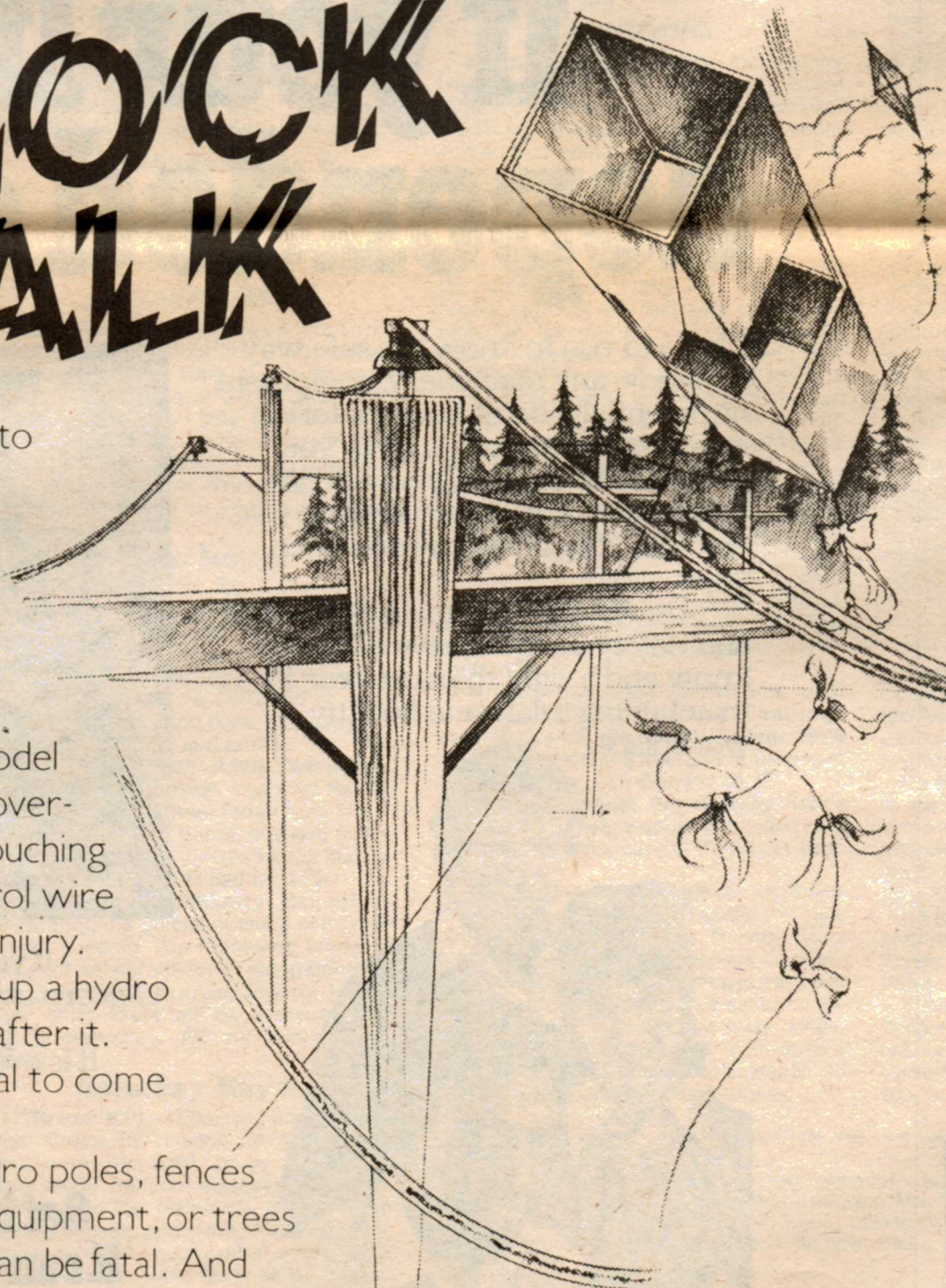
Touching or coming close to hydro wires can be fatal.

If kites or model airplanes contact overhead lines, even touching the string or control wire can cause serious injury.

If a pet runs up a hydro pole, never climb after it. Wait for the animal to come down by itself.

Climbing hydro poles, fences around electrical equipment, or trees near power lines can be fatal. And remind children not to go near areas marked "Danger" or "Keep Out." Or, the fun could be over.

Safety around electricity is no shock to you.



ontario hydro



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Home I
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CHARTERED

tion by Himani Bannerji

er Bill, and turned to the class and continued to file. "Children can't run where, especially on the crossing points be- he paused.

"cars," said his congre- he said, glad that he pd. "Yes there are cars, and often can't stop as ould, and then . . ."

"squashed flat," said an- ice with a macabre ring

dead," he continued, dead. We had a kitten him over, and his guts pd and his eyes too."

said the other children, d in the story than the ns of the policeman.

nd Officer Bill, quickly ge, "yeah, and look four you cross the street. p watch out for cars, oo."

nd the children, "Elmer

does that," said Officer er is my friend. I should p there's something else you kids. If you are in e street and anywhere help you?"

id the children. They vely convinced. Officer nk fast, on his feet, as it ddn't detract from the er — what value would e then — but he had to nt across.

Elmer would help if said. "He wants to, but p children on his own. the policeman, Officer work for him. I help you. So who can help again. But before this ered, another question him.

work for Elmer then? ur boss?"

really," replied Officer In fact," he for this opportunity is motto, "we serve and What that means is that you — always — when ouble. We look after u see here — this here is To Serve and To Pro-

us in big big trouble? f we get squashed like d Angie, impressed by and the shining badge n. "You must be big," od. Because my father can help when we die. ot die?"

was amused, but he ally permit her to keep between himself and ould give her the wrong gion, so he said, "Me? powerful like God. We p you — help you when ouble. We try to see gs don't happen to

l my father about you." pressed Angie.

s all the talking for icer Bill "I am going movie about what hap- eople. One of them lis- d looked four ways — n't."

shadow of the room atched the parable of hey saw the wise man t safely, and a police- helping a disabled wo- street, and the fate of p just didn't see the car

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rushing from around a corner. There was a screeching of brakes and the man rocketed up and fell about five feet away — crumpled in a heap as though all his bones and joints had melted. Just then was heard the piercing, wailing sirens of a police car and an ambulance. Four men jumped out with a stretcher, gathered the man into a white sheet, folded it over him and carried him to the waiting rectangular darkness of the open ambulance door. With incredible fascination, Angie and her friends watched a spot of blood soak through the impeccable whiteness of the sheet and spread — spread interminably. With her child's literalness she noticed that the blood made a pattern — like a rose, she thought, or a hand bunched up. She clenched her fingers into a tight fist. She was scared. She looked at Officer Bill for reassurance. The room had become unusually quiet. Miss Barlow felt a little uneasy too, and doubted the efficacy of such films.

★ ★ ★ ★

It was a grey, wet day. Autumn was coming to an end, and it rained all the time. Yellow and brown leaves mottled with green lay piled up and soaking on the sidewalk, in the gutters. Dark bare branches showed everywhere and even the squirrels had left for their long winter nap. On such a day Angie Simpson stood at her window wondering what on earth she could do to make this day some fun. Her mother was busy in the kitchen and in no mood for playing. She was expecting company in the evening, and busily cutting and paring vegetables while a pot of peas and rice was slowly cooking on the stove. No, she could not be disturbed.

Her father, working in the garden, could be disturbed, but he would want to talk about only one thing, and even though Angie believed in God and went to church often enough, she didn't want to hear him read the Bible now. Sometimes she wondered why her father carried on so about the Bible and the end of the world, and all the sins of people! He seemed so wrapped up in that, it was like he was talking to God really truly — like she talked with her friends on the phone. Why was he like that, she wondered, and came to the conclusion that he was very unhappy.

There were things that her father wanted to do for himself, for others, which he couldn't do. There were things he wanted to have and couldn't. Not often that is. That made him unhappy. He was always getting fired. He would work for a while, really long hours, come back so tired that he couldn't even read his Bible. And then — suddenly — he would be fired. "Why was he always fired?" she asked her mother, "Is he bad?" Her mother shook her head — "No, not so. He didn't have what it took to have a good job." "What did it take to have a good job?" she asked. "It needs a skill," her mother said. "What's skill?" she wanted to know. "A skill's a kind of trade," her mother explained, "being good with machines and things."

Sometimes he wanted to go home. He would sit at the dinner table and go on and on about the sun, the food there, and how friendly the people! Then her mother would look him hard in the face and say, "Look Rupert, it wasn't so hot there either — not really you know. We had to leave." Then he would sit with his head hanging — eyes kind of still — and say something about the will of the Lord. Lying in

bed she would hear him reading aloud from the Bible. Late into the night the voice would go on — like a road stretching into the dark.

Instead she decided to play with her toys. She pulled out of the closet a box full of dolls and other odds and ends, which she tipped out onto the bed. She wanted to play school and arranged all the dolls around a pillow serving as a big table. The doll with the brown hair was Miss Barlow. She didn't have more than four students, but that would have to do.

"What are we going to do today, kids?" asked Miss Barlow.

"Can we go out and play, please?" asked the children.

"On a day like this? No, let's read a story now," said the teacher.

"OK," agreed the children.

Angie pulled out a story book. It was the story of a little elephant who wouldn't take a bath and yet aspired to be a 'super-super-colossal-stupendous' circus animal. Angie liked the story, and the elephant had a distinct resemblance to Elmer. But very soon her reading was interrupted. Suddenly the house seemed to erupt. The back door banged real loud, and someone ran into the kitchen. This was followed by a great deal of noise of people running around in heavy boots and loud curses, shouts and more running. Suddenly a scream from her mother that sent Angie rushing down the stairs.

What Angie saw as she stood on the staircase half way down made her stop in her tracks. It made no sense at all. There was her father, now running around the dinner table, now trying to hide behind the door, and now crouching on the floor behind her mother — playing cops and robbers, it seemed, with two policemen who looked very much like the Officer Bill who came to her school some months ago. Questions raced through Angie's mind. What were these Officer Bills doing in her mother's kitchen? Why were they after her father? What had he done? He was just out in the backyard raking up the leaves, so what was wrong with that? Who had called the police? But now her mother intervened. She stood between her father and the officers, saying,

"Leave him alone. He's not harmed anybody. Leave him alone."

But they didn't listen to her. They pushed her aside and he was huddling on the floor in the little space between the stove and the fridge.

"What did I do?" he said. "You can't come into my house and attack me for nothing. What did I do?"

"Come out of there, you goddam nigger," they shouted, "get out from behind a woman's petticoat."

"Lord, Lord, you won't watch them do me harm," cried her father. "Bessie, you won't let them kill me, will you? Bessie — Bessie — help me — help —"

Her mother shielded him with her body. "Angie," she said, "Angie, run out and get the neighbors. Call somebody. There are two thugs here in my kitchen dressed like cops. Get them — run —"

Her mother's voice unstuck Angie from the spot. She bolted down the

stairs — only to be blocked by a red-faced officer. He covered the exit with his huge body and said, "Kid, stay where you are. Don't move a step," and Angie froze.

"No, no, no," screamed her mother, "you can't do this to us."

"Stop this," said the policeman facing her. He grabbed her by the arm to yank her aside as he reached for Angie's father. Angie saw his hand pressed against her arm — it seemed so white, white with pink knuckles. Her mother and the policeman were now tugging at each other — swaying from side to side.

"Watch out, he's got a weapon!" shouted the blocking Angie's exit, and the white hand moved — like a flash — and something shiny and black gleamed in it — a real gun! Her father stood now by the stove. He stood tall — tall and black — against the whiteness of the wall, and in his outstretched hand was the rake.

"The Lord's my witness," said her father, "I harmed nobody, did you no wrong, but if you try to get me —"

Right at that moment Angie saw the officer move his arm a little — just a little. Somewhere a shot exploded. Her father looked at her as though he had just noticed her for the first time. His eyes were big — big with a surprise, like he was asking her a question. Then he bent over and let out a terrible yell and slumped over her mother's pot of rice and peas. The pot tilted but didn't fall — caught by his body. Some rice and peas splashed on the floor and slowly — then more and more — a dark red color gathered in the pot. It dripped down the side of the stove. Her mother screamed like a siren that would never never stop. The policeman at the foot of the stairs ran out. The one near the stove ran to the window. The room filled with the sound of sirens — they ripped the walls apart. Her father fell on the floor with a soft thump — her mother jumped to hold him.

"Don't touch the body!" shouted the policeman.

And her mother ran around the room — her hands clenched — ran, ran everywhere, ran and screamed, screamed and ran. The front door opened. More and more Officer Bills filled her mother's kitchen. They placed her father on the stretcher. They carried him out.

Angie went to her room. From her window she could see the street. It was full of yellow cars, and a white ambulance stood waiting. They were bringing out her father. They carried him to the back door of the ambulance. Someone handed out a white, spotlessly white sheet. They covered him with it — completely. It was so white — but slowly a spot of red was soaking through. It was spreading. They placed the stretcher into the ambulance. The policeman that looked like Officer Bill closed the doors. The light on the roof began to flash and the ambulance began to move. Angie just stood there at the window. She could still see the blood soaking through the white sheet. It looked like a fist, or a flower, or a writing in a language she could not read. But still she could see it — ever so clearly. She would remember it forever.

The best for you each morning

The Consumer's Union, a non-profit organization, took a look at the nutritional quality of 32 ready-to-eat breakfast cereals. The report is a comprehensive study of such things as the pros and cons of adding vitamins and minerals to cereals and the amount of sodium you will find in each serving.

The cereals were divided into three groups according to nutritional value. Eleven ranked in the top group of best over-all, while twenty-one in the latter two groupings had significantly lower food value.

On a per serving basis, Shredded Wheat was rated as the cheapest cereal with the least sugar content — only one percent of its total weight. Cheerios placed second with three per cent of its total weight being sugar and costing slightly more per serving. (Those on sodium diets should note its relatively high sodium content — 270 mg. per serving, compared with 20 mg. in Shredded Wheat.)

"The Best To You Each Morning" is not necessarily so! Although cornflakes are low in sugar content — 5 percent of total weight — they placed in the bottom group according to nutritional quality. Then the manufacturer adds sugar to them and sells it as Frosted Flakes — with the sugar content rising to 41 percent and the cost doubling.

Granola foods are advertised as all-natural foods but beware! Sugar is a natural food. Most Granolas are almost one-third sugar by weight.

When we add sugar to our cereals, the sugar content rises significantly. With Cheerios, for example, one teaspoon of added sugar raises its sugar content to 15 percent from 3 percent and the second teaspoon raised it to 24 percent. This is, however, still well under the 54 percent sugar content in Apple Jacks, the 48 percent in Fruit Loops, or the 46 percent in Sugar Corn Pops. The Consumer's Union suggest that, if you are going to have sugar in your breakfast cereal, it is best that you control how much is added.

Excess sugar in our diet is a problem and perhaps we could all wean ourselves and our children off some of the more obvious sugar sources. Refusing children's requests for pre-sweetened cereal might be step number one. Braver souls might move the sugar bowl off the table altogether!

From the South Riverdale Community Health Centre newsletter.

From May 1, 1981 there will be a new procedure to apply for a **CHIP** home insulation grant

If you are considering insulating your home you should check if you are eligible for a grant. Then send CHIP a request card for your personalized application form which will indicate that grant money has been set aside for you for 90 days.

If you have answered "YES" to all the questions you can obtain your personalized application form for a grant by sending us a completed CHIP request card. This card is available from most insulation material retail outlets, insulation contractors or from your provincial CHIP office.

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE?

1. Is it a principal residence or non-profit hostel?
2. Is it a house or apartment of 3 storeys or less?
3. Was it built before January 1, 1961 in any province* or before September 1, 1977 in the Yukon, Northwest Territories or Newfoundland?

YES NO

- | | |
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Canadian Home Insulation Program

P.O. Box 1270, Station "T"
Toronto, Ontario M6B 4A4
tel: (416) 789-0581
or toll free 1-800-268-1818



*Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island are covered under the Home Insulation Program.

PAINTER AT LARGE Free Estimates

22, The Aberdeens Leo
100 Bain Ave. Best at 6 p.m.
Toronto (416) 463-4658

43 Geneva Avenue
Toronto, Ontario M5A 2J9
Tel: 961-2015

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Friday, April 24

The Ontario College of Art's annual **Open House** will be held today, Saturday and Sunday, hours are from noon to 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and from noon to 6 p.m. on Sunday. The show is at OCA's two campuses: 100 McCaul St. and 149 College St. Displays range from the traditional fine art and sculpture media through industrial design, advertising art and illustrations, graphics and packaging design; holography, laser, video and computer art; environmental design, textiles, ceramics, glass and wood, jewelry, metal and theatrical set design.

Saturday, April 25

The United Church Woman of Eastminster United Church (Danforth and Jackman Aves.) are holding a **Spring Tea and Sale** today from 1 to 4 p.m. Tea Room open 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. They plan to have a delicatessen, baked goods, books and records, handicrafts and much more. Entrance to sale free, entrance to tea room \$1.25 for adults, 50¢ for children.

Spring Bazaar at Holy Name Church Hall, 71 Gough Ave., (at the corner of Gough and Danforth, 1 block west of Pape), today from 1 to 8 p.m. The theme of the bazaar will be **Peace and Friendship**. Entrance is \$1 with the opportunity to win a trip for one to Cuba as a gate prize. There will also be baked goods, clothing, bingo, raffles, activities for children and much more.

Simpson Avenue United Church, 115 Simpson Ave., is having a **"trash and treasures"** sale, with clothing, books, records and a "White Elephant" sale, today from 11 am to 3 pm.

Sunday April 26

The East End Ten Days for World Development Group is sponsoring another adult education program on the theme "Making a Living". The focus will be on the native peoples and northern development with a speaker from the Toronto Working Group for Native Peoples. 7:30 pm at St. Saviour's Church, Kimberley and Swanwick. For further details Betty Stone 699-5782.

The St. Luke's forum presents speaker **Re. Malcolm Sinclair**. Today at 2:30 in St. Luke's Church, Sherbourne and Carlton Sts.

Monday, April 27

The Metropolitan Toronto Branch of the Canadian Mental Health Association will hold its **annual meeting tonight at 7:15 pm.** in the auditorium of the Ontario Crippled Children's Centre, located at 350 Rumsey Rd. The meeting will feature a film entitled **"Back Wards to Back Streets"** and comment and discussion with alderman Gordon Cressy and a mental health professional. All welcome. For more information call the CMHA at 789-7957

Monday April 27

E. A. S. T. (East Area Schools Together) is holding a meeting tonight at 7:30 p.m. at Queen Alexandra Public School (at Broadview and Dundas). The main topics of discussion will be student absenteeism, and school staffing allocations (ratification of last meeting's motion and decision for further action.) Other agenda items are trustees reports, standing committee reports, membership of standing committees, correspondence, and new business. Coffee and translation will be provided.

Tuesday, April 28

Ecology House, 12 Madison Ave., is holding its third annual **Open House**. All the staff will be on hand to answer questions and conduct tours. Slide presentations of the retrofit of the house will run continuously. Admission free. **Tonight at 6 pm.**

Entre Nous: Quebec on/sur film: Denys Arcand's **Rejeanne Padovani** will be screened tonight at Harbourfront's York Quay Centre, 235 Queen's Quay W. at 7:30 pm. Then at 9:30 pm. Laurent Codrer's **Les fleurs du macadam** (The Asphalt Flowers), an NFB short, will be presented in addition to **Gina**, a subtitled feature by Denys Archand. \$2 for each screening. Reservations: 869-8412 from 1 to 8 pm. daily.

Thursday, April 30

The Law Union of Ontario is presenting "Offence/Defence: Survival Seminars for Activists". Tonight's seminar is **Public**

Meetings and Demonstrations/Security, at the International Student Centre, 33 St. George St., at 8 pm. Admission \$2. For further information, call the Law Union at 368-6974.

The Parliament Street Library, 265 Gerrard St.E., is screening **Algiers** (1938) with Charles Boyer and Hedy Lamarr, tonight at 7 pm. Admission free.

Friday, May 1

Amateur Theatre at the **Ralph Thornton Centre, 765 Queen St.E.** — **Puntilla and his Hired Man, Matti** by Bertolt Brecht. Performances are at 8 pm. Monday thru Saturday, with matinees at 2:30 pm. Saturdays and Sundays. The play will run from tonight to Sunday, May 10. For information and reservations call 461-6311 between 1 pm.

Saturday, May 2

The Ward 7 Business and Professional Association is holding its 9th annual **Forsythia Festival**. There are many events planned including pipe bands, clowns and special presentations along the Parliament and Carlton Streets commercial strip. On Sunday, a dog show, theatre presentation, wagon and bicycle decorating will be held in the Wellesley Park at the east end of Wellesley St. E.

Sunday, May 3

The St. Luke's Forum presents speaker **Peter Winch**, today at 2:30 in St. Luke's Church, Sherbourne and Carlton Sts.

Monday, May 4

The "Working People in the Movies" series continues with **Shutdown: Temiscaming**, a movie dealing with plant shutdowns. There is no charge for this screening to be held at Frankland School, 816 Logan Ave. at Danforth.

Tuesday, May 5

Rose Avenue Public School presents a musical production of **"Oliver"**, tonight and Thursday, May 7 at 7 pm. Tickets are 50¢ and can be purchased at the door.

Wednesday, May 6

Bazaar for the seniors of 192 Carlton St., today from 11 am. to 4 pm. White elephant sale, bake sale, tea room, draw and lots of other nice things.

Thursday, May 7

The Canadian Antique Dealers Association will hold its 12th annual **Antique Fair and Sale** at the St. Lawrence Hall, King and Jarvis Sts., from today to Saturday, May 9. Admission: Thursday, May 7 — \$12, with unlimited re-entry; Friday, May 8 — \$3, Saturday, May 9 — \$3. Hours: Thursday, 2 to 10 pm.; Friday, 11 am. to 10 pm.; Saturday, 11 am. to 6 pm.

Friday, May 8

St. Paul's Church, 83 Power St., is holding a **Teen Dance** tonight from 6 pm to midnight in the Church Hall. Admission \$2, spot and door prizes.

Festival of Energy at Ryerson Polytechnical Institute, 50 Gould St., from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Food films, experiments, information, games and music.

The Regent Park Adult Recreation Centre, 603 Whiteside Place, is having their annual **Open House** today from 1 to 7 pm. There will be a buffet, arts and crafts displays and more. Ty Centre will take in new members on that day as well.

Frankland Community School is celebrating the official opening of its new school building. The Frankland students and staff will parade today along Danforth Ave. from 10 am to approximately 11 am, after which there will be a cornerstone laying ceremony. All are welcome to attend.

Saturday May 9

"Stress '81" — Learning how to cope with stress in relation to the family, employment, and growing older. Workshops include massage, Tai Chi, Women and the Workforce, Stress in the Family, Fitness, and more. Today from 11 am to 5 pm at Harbourfront, York Quay Centre, 235 Queen's Quay W. Admission free. Sponsored by the Canadian Mental Health Association, Metro Toronto branch.

Poetry Festival

IN A WORLD of growing conflicts and hostilities poets raise their passionate voices for peace and brotherhood. In a world of endless manipulations and repressions poets are irrevocably committed to freedom — freedom of life and mind.

Poets from around the world will join poets from across Canada to read their works, meet the public and participate in workshops, forums and discussion groups at the first **INTERNATIONAL POETRY FESTIVAL** sponsored by the **League of Canadian Poets**, May 2 to 9, 1981, at Toronto's Harbourfront.

For further information, contact the Festival, 85 Bleecker Street, Suite 627, Toronto, or telephone (416) 925-4943.

DULARAWAN

Portrait of a Filipino

The Folklorico Filipino (Canada) will present "Dularawan" at Seneca College Minkler Auditorium, 1750 Finch Avenue East on May 23 24, 1981 at 8:00 p.m.

This year's major presentation is a dance-drama depicting the history of the Philippines. This serves as a showcase of our own pride, the Filipino's customs and traditions which are typically and uniquely our very own — a shining image of the Filipinos amid the contemporary changes as well.

With authenticity in mind the Folklorico's Artistic Director Peter Palomers and resident choreographer Cecile Hernandez went through many months of extensive research.

Real Igorot taught the dance group and even the costumes the lowland dance numbers are concerned, extra care was made by the group's costume designer Ferdie Guarin.

Composed of 25 members, the group is expecting a new harvest in the field of dancing. They are keeping their fingers crossed that this would be another milestone in their performing career.

For tickets information call: Minkler Auditorium, Box-Office — 491-8877, Ores MacNeil — 491-3668, Bernie Disonglo - 869-1293

ONGOING

• The South Riverdale Community Health Centre, 126 Pape Ave., holds regular meetings of a smoking withdrawal clinic and a weightloss club. For more information about these events, call the Centre at 461-2493.

• **Coping With Stress in Toronto** is a sourcebook. This 40-page booklet leads you to resources available in Metro Toronto that you can use in coping with the stress of everyday life. Recreation, books, courses and self-help groups are included as methods of dealing with stress. Individual copies of Coping with Stress in Toronto can be purchased as methods of dealing with stress. Individual copies of Coping with Stress in Toronto can be purchased from: Canadian Mental Health Association (Metro Toronto branch), 801 Eglinton Ave. W. Ste. 301, Toronto, M5N 1E3 or phone 789-7957.

• **Action Volunteers for Animals**, 338 Jarvis St., has a shop which is open from 12 noon to 5 pm every Saturday. Collectibles, glass, china, garden seeds, clothes, records, appliances — all nearly new, and at great prices! All proceeds go to animal welfare.

• Neighbourhood Information post would like your "spring-cleaning" castoffs for its fifth annual **Garage Sale** on May 30. Phone 924-2543 or drop in at Library House, 265 Gerrard St. E.

• The **Elizabeth Fry Society** needs volunteers to help women in conflict with the law. 215 Wellesley S. E., phone 924-4336.

• The **Friendship Centre** in All Saints Church (Shebourne and Dundas) is now operating on summer hours. The new hours are: Mondays 2 to 9 pm; Tuesdays 1 to 4 pm; Wednesdays 2 to 9 pm; Thursdays 2 to 9 pm; Fridays 2 to 9 pm; Saturdays 8 am to 11 am; Sundays 8 am to 11 am. Hot soup, coffee, tea or cold juice are available at 15 cents a cup. There is TV, table tennis, cards. All welcome. No alcohol or drugs allowed.

• The Jones Library, 118 Jones Ave., offers **English as a second Language** classes for Chinese-speaking immigrants every Monday and Thursday from 9:30 to 11:30 am.

• **Rummage Sale:** every Monday and Friday morning beside the laundry room in 63 Belshaw Place — cheap prices.

• The **Parliament Street Community Drop-In** will be closed on April 16 for the summer. It is scheduled to open up again in October. In the meantime the drop-in staffers suggest users check out the reading materials and tapes at the Parliament Street Library.

• The Regent Park **Adult Recreation Centre** at 603 Whiteside Place, 364-4915, offers, for tenants of Regent Park and the surrounding areas, activities including cribbage, ping pong, shuffleboard, bumper pool, darts. We also have a TV and stereo, as well as arts and crafts day. There is also a library, a bowling league, etc. Call us for more information.

• The **Parliament Street Library**, 269 Gerrard St. E. offers programs for all ages, meeting space for community groups, a fully-equipped darkroom and a piano for individual use. And it's all free. Call 924-7122 for more information.

• A hot meal is served at 5 pm each Wednesday in the 200 Wellesley St. E. rec room and at 12 noon each Friday in the 325 Bleecker St. rec room. Open to all older or single St. Jamestown OHC residents. If you wish to come, call the YMCA office at 923-4403 the day before you plan to attend, and you are requested to bring your own silverware and plate.

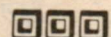
• The Friendship Centre of All Saints Church, 315 Dundas St. E., has bingo every Saturday evening at 6:30 pm.

• **The Islanders**, a photo documentary of the life of the Toronto Island Community, is being exhibited this month at the Sanderson Library, 327 Bathurst St.

• Anyone in the Toronto region who wants to know **how to recycle** their paper, cans, bottles, etc. can call **436-6555**. That is the number of the Recycling Information telephone service operated by the Ontario Recycling Information Centre.

• Spring into spring with **movement and dance** that gets you walking and moving with ease and efficiency, relaxed, breathing, and generally more alive and aware. Next session at the Centre of Movement, 171 Hampton Ave., begins April 14. Call the **Centre of Movement** at 466-9549 for more information.

• An **Ontario Women in Trades and Industry Conference** will be held at the main public library in Hamilton, April 24 to 25. The conference will draw together women who are working or interested in working in non-traditional jobs in industry. For more information on the upcoming conference, contact Ellison McCreadie, Women in Trades and Industry Conference, 200 Balmoral Ave. S., Hamilton, Ont. L8M 3K4.



The Ontario Human Rights Commission, in cooperation with the Christian Leadership Council for this area, have been able to receive funding from the Ontario Ministry of Labour to provide **38 summer jobs** for the first time.

Participants will be placed with sponsors in the downtown area of Toronto. These sponsors will include shops, banks, offices and community organizations. The participants will work and develop skills which will assist them in seeking future employment.

Participants must live within the downtown area of Toronto, bounded by: Bloor Street, Yonge Street, Lake Ontario, and the Don Valley.

Further information is available from High School guidance offices, or from: Ministry of Labour, Personnel Branch, 2nd Floor, 400 University Avenue, Toronto M7A 1T7. Be sure to quote program number 1416.

Community Calendar is a free community service. If you have an upcoming event that you would like printed in the next (May 8) **7 News** (all events between May 8 and May 22 should go in this issue), please clip the coupon below and mail it to 7 News, 315 Dundas St. E. Toronto M5A 2A2.

DATE OF EVENT

DETAILS OF EVENT (include time, place, & what the event

is, in 2-3 sentences)

Co-op supermarket better than profit chains

By HOWARD HUGGETT

A co-op supermarket in Ward Seven? It is an ideal location for one. In the past few years three supermarkets have moved out of the area. One of the outlets left is the "No Frills" store, run by Loblaw's to take the place of the supermarket that had been operated under their own name. The choice of items available in this establishment is quite limited and it is not satisfactory to many customers. The people in that area need a supermarket that offers them a wide range of products, and if it was a store that the customers controlled, that would be even better.



Well, the idea is alive and well in Ward Seven. Progress was made at two meetings in Central Neighbourhood House, 349 Ontario Street, February and March. A couple of dozen people were on hand, representing the Ontario Federation of Food Co-ops, Central Neighbourhood House, City Hall Planning & Development Department, the Department of Health and the two Ward Aldermen, and others.

This group was fortunate to have the services of three Ryerson students who are conducting a survey of supermarkets in the Regent Park area. They were able to supply considerable information on the shopping habits of shoppers in that district. These

students have also been studying the operation of a co-op supermarket in Oshawa and were in a position to present useful data concerning how this very successful enterprise works.

The Health Advocacy Unit presented a sheet on the merchandising techniques of commercial supermarkets and the advantages of a co-operative equivalent. For instance, commercial stores locate

high profit items around the edges of the store and in the displays at the end of aisles where they are more likely to be seen. These items they tend to place at eye level, while staples that all shoppers are going to buy anyway are liable to be on the lower shelves or in hard to find places. Whereas a co-operative store would design an operation for consumer convenience, with staples such as bread

and milk located near the entrance.

Commercial supermarkets devote a lot of space to snack foods and imported and season items which tend to be expensive. They sell large quantities of highly packaged and pre-weighed foods that may be unsuitable for individual family needs. A co-op, with community control of profits, could provide such services as on-site child care.

Two committees were set up, one to look around for suitable sites for a store, the other to discuss ways and means of raising the money.

There are a number of concepts to explore before any decisions are made as to what kind of co-op would be the best. Answers must be found to such questions as: How wide a selection of items should be stocked? What area would such a store cater to? Should there be a phone-in service, deliveries?

It will require plenty of thought and discussion, lots of time and preparation and hard work before Ward Seven and Toronto is able to enjoy the benefits of a co-operative supermarket. Those who are interested and willing to help should come to the next meeting of the group at 349 Ontario Street on April 30 at 7:30 or phone David Reville at 367-7916.

Don River Day

Continued from page 1

1979 to August 1980. This plant was responsible for severe downstream mercury contamination of the English-Wabigoon River system. It is quite possible that this pollution comes from the truck fill being used to construct a containment area on the Leslie St. Spit for the Keating Channel dredge material. In a letter to the Toronto Harbour Commission, which is carrying out the dredging and the land filling operation, Environment Canada expressed concern at sampling results from the truck fill used on the outer headland. "Mercury, lead, iron, chrome and nickel are all greater than Ministry of Environment open water dredging disposal guidelines."

This serious development has been publicized by the Canadian Environmental Law Association and by SCOW (Stop Contaminating Our Waterfront). SCOW includes representatives from the Toronto Field Naturalists, The Toronto Island Resident's Association, Friends of the Spit, Pollution Probe and Forward Nine. They are fighting to have the dredging stopped until an environmental assessment has taken place. Anyone who wishes to support their endeavour or seeks further information should contact Toby Vigod of Sarah Miller at 366-9717.

If the sediment in the Keating Channel is heavily contaminated with PCB's, mercury, zinc, lead, oil and grease, as we are now told, where is it coming from? Some time ago an official of the Metro Toronto Regional Conservation Association told me that pollution of the Don River was no longer

allowed. Maybe he should have said that it is no longer legal. Considering what we have heard in recent months about secret and illegal dumping of toxic wastes in dump sites by various companies and agencies, is it not likely that similar activity is going on around the Don River? I was discussing this matter with one of the organizers of Don River Day and he told me of seeing a waste pipe feeding into the river near the Ontario Science Centre that was emitting a chemical that appeared to be ethanol.

I wonder if any of our readers have come upon any instances of contamination of the Don? It is up to the ordinary concerned citizen to take an interest in this matter. Experience has shown again and again that public bodies have been reluctant to blow the whistle on

polluters, particularly large companies. Furthermore, they habitually suppress information that should be freely available to the public.

As the Don River Voyageurs tell us every year, this is our river. Let's work harder at protecting it.



Judy Lalingo of Wolfrey Ave. in Ward 7 was awarded \$20 for this drawing in the 1980 Annual Art Competition of Art Instruction Schools of Minneapolis, Minnesota.

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the members of Central Neighbourhood House will be held at 349 Ontario Street, Toronto on Tuesday the twenty-sixth day of May, 1981 at 6 p.m. for the following purposes:

- a) to receive and consider reports from the President, Nominating Committee, other committees of the Board of Directors and the Executive Director.
- b) to receive and consider the Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 1980 and the report thereon from Hilborn & Co. Auditors.
- c) to elect Directors
- d) to appoint auditors.
- e) generally to transact such further and other business as may be properly brought before the meeting, or any adjournment or adjournments thereof.

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Regent Park Services Unit: tenants set own goals

By BRIAN WHITEHEAD

Regent Park is this city's largest public housing project. Some 10,000 people call it home. It is bounded by Gerrard Street on the north, Shuter on the south, River to the east and Parliament to the west. Built and owned by the Ontario Housing Corporation, it is now administered by the Metro Toronto Housing Authority.

Originally I went there looking for an organization called the Regent Park Services Unit. I wanted to talk to public housing tenants about how they felt the Toronto press covers their neighbourhood. Were they satisfied with it? I wanted to hear from them in particular, since "the Park" has always been a visible target in the eyes of reporters looking for a story about "the poor."

But before I could talk to anyone, I was told on the phone that it would have to be approved by the 12 member board that oversees the Services Unit. No, this wasn't just a formality. Turns out it was a precaution, in fact a policy. The tenants told me they had been burned by the press in the past and didn't intend to be used again. The policy was designed to give them some control over who was going to write about the area and what would be said. After too many sensationalized stories about Regent Park "poverty", these residents wanted little to do with a press that was unwilling to report anything else. Eventually they just up and stopped giving interviews. The people at the Services Unit talk to the press on their own terms now, and board approval is one of them.

I received that approval and an interview. I found an impressive side of life in the Park rarely reported by the big city dailies. It speaks for itself.

I'm sitting in a reception area after walking through the cheerful office and small kitchen. There is a sofa, table and chairs, and a wall-size bulletin board draped with different flyers about upcoming events. The coffee is on. This is number 101 on the first floor of 63 Belshaw Place in South Regent. It used to someone's apartment. For five years now it has been home to the Regent Park Services Unit.

I have the pleasure of meeting Marjorie Wood, Charlie Whittaker and Karen Noble, community people who volunteer here. Marjorie has lived in the Park 11 years and been involved with the Unit for three of them. She is currently Chairperson. She tells me they will work with any tenants on local issues, covering everything from providing general information to setting up a babysitting co-op. Any they promote other community groups like the Teen Association. It is a community-based project that encourages tenants to work together for their common interests. Marjorie puts it in a nutshell, "The aim of the Services Unit is to help tenants help themselves." She tells me to let the readers know, "that the Unit is for the use of all the residents of Regent Park, including 220 Oak

Street." It's open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday.

Charlie Whittaker spells out another purpose of the Unit. "It's a good place to bring people together." Originally from Montreal, he has lived here since 1951. He adds, "A lot of my old friends have moved out and it's getting harder to know who lives even on your own floor."

Charlie is a board member and active in other local groups. He says it is important for long-time residents and newcomers to get to know each other in order to work on issues.

Compared to the others, Karen Noble is one of those newcomers, having lived here two years. "I got bored sitting at home," she says. "I used to come down to have a cup of coffee with Joanne who worked here. I got to talking with people and the next thing I knew, I was working here." The young mother of two is now a part-time receptionist in the office. And she is involved in what the Services Unit likes to do best; identify a local concern about a needed service and organize tenants to take action on it.

The concern is for a new day-care centre. And Karen is the contact person for a group of mothers who are trying to get it. For the long-run, they want to find others who need the service and plan a facility, most likely to be located in North Regent. Thinking about taking a secretarial course she says, "My children are 2 and 5. I want to go back to school so I really want to see the day-care open." She wants any other mothers interested to call her at the Unit. The number is 863-1768.

Marjorie backs the day-care committee a hundred per cent. "It's a terrific idea. What we need first is adequate space. It's a long slow process." Marjorie is right. In the current climate of government cut-backs in all social services, these women will have to present a strong lobby to secure funding.

Present funding for the Services Unit comes from a few sources. Metro Social Services provides an operating budget that covers things like the phone, office equipment and stationery. And the Unit raises its own funds through activities like the Income Tax Clinic. Volunteer residents will help you figure out this year's verdict at a cost of only \$2.00 if on social assistance and \$3.00 if you are working. This is a good service that keeps money in the community and a heck of a better deal than the twenty bucks I shelled out one year to a private company! OHC donated the actual apart-

ment. Welfare and both the Catholic and Metro Children's Aids have offices and maintain hours at the Unit. One of the benefits of this arrangement is that clients can receive services locally. And the resident volunteers have a chance to monitor these agencies for their effectiveness with local clients.

But the main source of strength comes from the tenants themselves. Their volunteer time and energy means that they are able to keep going.

Everyone in the room is very positive about what they do. I ask Marjorie if there are times when they don't feel so upbeat. "Sure, there are points that you get very frustrated. Sometimes you'd like to just ... (and she throws her hands up in surrender). But you don't. You don't. You see the good things going on and it's worth it."

And perhaps the most remarkable event coming up soon is the 2nd Annual Regent Park Tenant Convention. It is a joint project between the Unit and the Regent Park Community Improvement Association. It will be held at the Geneva Park Convention Centre up in Orillia, Ontario, the weekend of May 2nd and 3rd. "This convention is to bring people together," says Char-

lie. And what will they talk about? Plenty. A wide range of topics include tenant organizing, race relations, community centre, day-care, and food co-ops. All the workshops will be run by tenants themselves. Marjorie says, "We want as many people to come as possible but there's only room for 100. So call early to register." A contribution of \$5.00 per person attending will include your transportation, comfortable rooms and all meals. Babysitting expenses are available too. Sounds like a great way to spend a

weekend away from the city! Along with the serious discussion, it should also be an enjoyable time to be with the neighbours.

I saw commitment and enthusiasm when talking with these residents. I saw much success and future potential. It is difficult to know the overall effectiveness of any community group after such a short visit. But I did learn one thing. These people live in the Park, know the issues and intend to set their own goals.

Needless to say, that's going to be some Convention!

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