

South Riverdale lead issue simmers

by JAMIE SWIFT

Today's headline-grabbing environmental stories usually deal with toxic wastes seeping into Toronto's drinking water and the threat of acid rain to northern lakes. But a decade ago controversy swirled around the question of whether or not children in the South Riverdale area were being poisoned by lead emissions from the Canada Metal Company smelter on Eastern Avenue. It was a high-profile issue pitting area residents against company officials.

The issue continues to simmer in the east end neighbourhood. Last month the City of Toronto's public health department issued a report pointing to lower levels of lead in the blood of area children. The report noted that 10 years ago 13 per cent of 1,041 children living close to Canada Metal had blood lead levels over 40 micrograms per decilitre — considered

at the time a dangerous level of exposure. In 1973-74 five Toronto children with high blood lead levels were treated at the Hospital for Sick Children.

Though the recent health department report was reassuring to company officials, people in the South Riverdale community are still worried about lead pollution. Their concern stems from the fact that lead has been linked to neurological and psychological abnormalities in children.

At a community meeting held to discuss the report, Canada Metal President Paul Summers said he "didn't understand why it took the people so long to be reassured that prolonged exposure to lead is not a health problem." Summers also said that "there has never been a lead problem in Riverdale."

These assertions startled Jim Webb, a 10 year resident of Riverdale who is chairperson of the Environmental Health Com-

mittee at the South Riverdale Community Health Centre. Webb disagreed sharply with the company president, saying that Summers' statement was "simply not true. There was and is a problem. There has been improvement and there is room for further improvement."

Webb said he was surprised by the company's assessment of the report. It reflected "a shocking lack of awareness by the company of the seriousness of the problem that they have created."

The Toronto report was made possible partly by a public education campaign carried out last fall by the South Riverdale Environmental Health Committee. The committee was successful in increasing community awareness of the sources and effects of lead pollution. The pamphlet *Get The Lead Out* was widely distributed in the community and 1,287 people who lived within 1,500 metres of Canada Metal had blood tests.

It was found that blood lead levels had declined since 1972 when it was revealed that lead contamination of soil and vegetation near Canada Metal was the highest in the province. Committee members found these results encouraging. In relation to the Canada Metal plant, the test results showed no significantly higher lead levels occurred among children when compared to children in North Toronto.

But area residents are still concerned that, of the people tested, the numbers with blood lead levels higher than 20 micrograms per decilitre was higher the closer they lived to the plant. There were six times as many children with levels over the 20 microgram level than in the North Toronto comparison area.

One of the most concerned is Cathy Walther, who moved from her Winnifred Avenue home around the corner from Canada Metal in 1980. Walther, a *Cont. on p.5*

SEVEN NEWS

April 8, 1983

TORONTO'S OLDEST COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

FREE

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Tax assessment nears deadline

by CARY FAGAN

Appeal your tax assessment now — that's the message that Toronto politicians and experts are telling homeowners who believe they might have been improperly reassessed.

Owners have until April 15 to send in their complaint by filling out the back of the assessment notice that recently arrived in the mail. After the April 15 deadline requests will have to wait until next year. About 4,500 Toronto homeowners have been reassessed this year.

A homeowner's tax bill is determined by multiplying the assessment by the mill rate, set by the municipality. This year's mill rate is expected to be about six per cent higher than last year's rate of .224.

"The basic advice I want to give people now is to appeal your assessments" says Keith Noble, a property tax consultant who lives in Ward Seven. Noble adds that homeowners should not worry at this point about the actual hearing which will be months away. A person who asks for an appeal and then changes his or her mind can just fail to show up at the hearing without penalty.

On the back of the assessment notice there is a space to put the reason for the complaint. If the owner is unsure of what to write, says Noble, he or she should

simply write "Assessment is too high."

Homeowners are advised to appeal their assessments if they meet any of the following conditions: the previous assessment is still under appeal; a change in the property's assessment value made at a previous appeal does not appear on the new notice; the property has in the homeowner's opinion been reassessed improperly; the property was reassessed last year but no appeal was made at that time; the property is insulated with urea formaldehyde foam and a 35 per cent reduction in assessment has not already been made (or a greater reduction if the homeowner thinks it appropriate).

Last year the provincial ministry of revenue under Minister George Ashe began the first major attempt at residential property tax reform in Ontario since the 1940s. Although most agree that reforms are badly needed, the province has been severely criticized for its methods. As a *Globe & Mail* reporter has written, "A great many historical and political factors have conspired to make property assessment in Ontario an arithmetical conundrum whose end results are often inequity and confusion."

Since last year homeowners have been liable to reassessment if at least \$2,500 in renovations



Spring is in the air! Jackson Myers, Bryan Lavers and Colin Hoppes get into the swing of things at Spruce Court Public School.

and improvements (as opposed to upkeep) have been done. The first wave had almost 7,000 homes reassessed with some tax bills becoming two and three times higher. A deluge of complaints caused the province to wave the time limit for appeals. Only about 20 per cent of the reassessed homeowners appeared before the review board, but of

those a whopping 72 per cent won a reduction. That figure should encourage this year's unlucky homeowners to make their own appeals.

Some of the uproar has centred on the accusation that the reassessments are being done, in the words of Mayor Art Eggleton, in a "piecemeal and *Cont. on p.4*

Food co-op site to be announced

by ROBERT KEIR

Toronto Supermarket Co-op spokesperson Eileen Samuel expects that the announcement of the supermarket's new site should boost membership from the present 850 households up to the ideal goal of 1,500.

"What everyone wants to know is our eventual location. All I can say is that the negotiations are coming to an end and a decision will be made fairly soon."

The membership drive continues to roll along, thanks to a small army of volunteers. "We're really grateful for the phenomenal support of the community." That support was especially evident on Feb. 19 at the Food Fair, held at the Toronto Christian Resource Centre on Oak Street. "We had over 80 volunteers working at the Fair and behind the scenes."

Organizers felt that the one day event was fairly successful, with over 500 people in attendance. Mayor Art Eggleton made an appearance, as did Bobbi Broccoli, the co-op's official mascot.

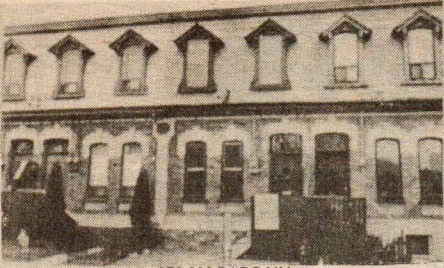
Introduced as an introduction to the supermarket co-op, the Food Fair did raise several major concerns. Some visitors had the impression that the basement of the Christian Resource Centre was to be the co-op's permanent home. In fact, the eventual site will be similar to a regular supermarket.

Concern was also raised over *Cont. on p.5*

Arlene Perly Rae

Companeros: live on the Danforth p. 8

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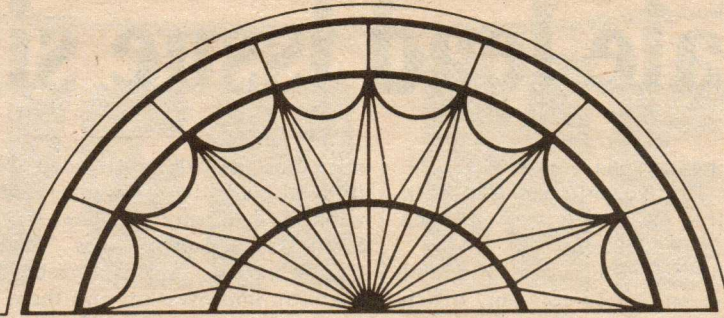
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SPEAKING OUT

FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome back to Seven News

"What do you think of this type-face?"
 "How many bundles for St. Jamestown?"
 "Does anybody know City Hall's new number?"

Ah, silence. It is late. The phone has finally stopped ringing. Through the second floor window of our new office I can see cars cruising up Sherbourne St. In the morning volunteers will fan over Ward Seven, distributing Seven News to houses, apartments and stores. The newspaper is ready for the printer — the only empty space awaits this editorial. A quiet moment in the whirlwind, a time to reflect.

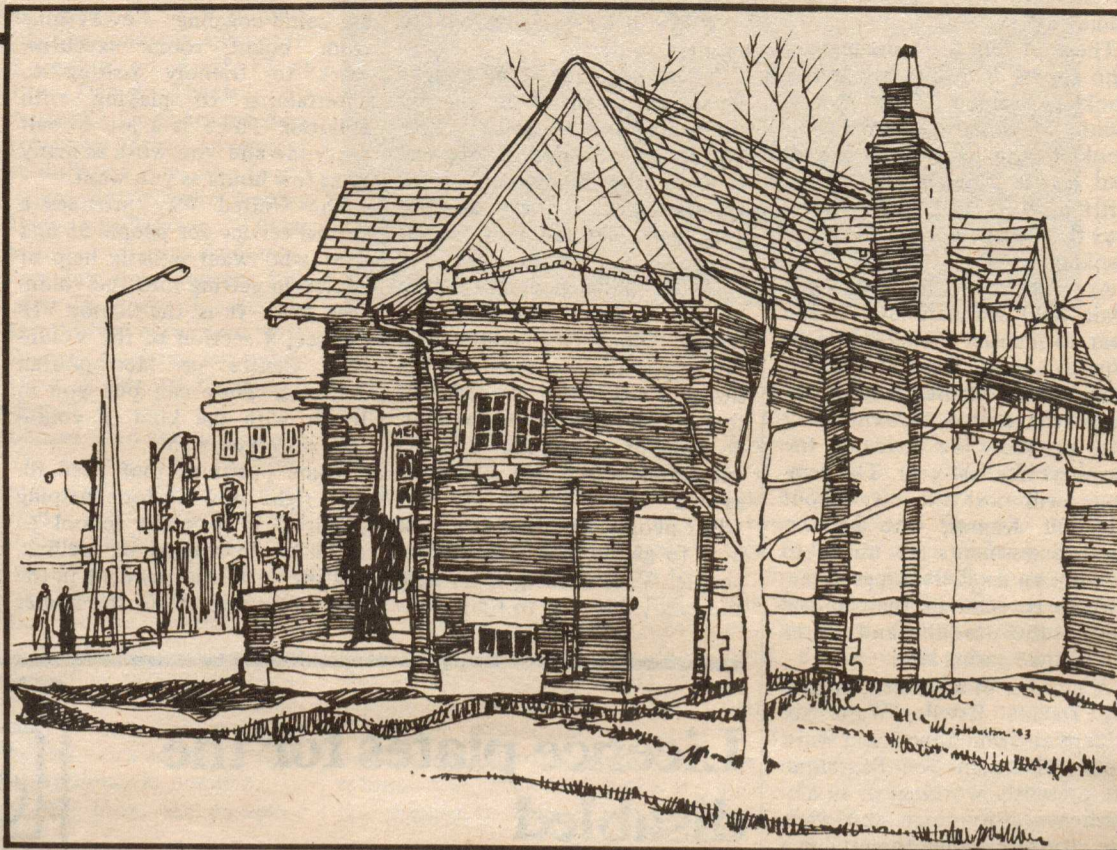
Here is the new Seven News. But it is the old Seven News as well. In fact, we hope that it is the best possible combination of both.

Just before Christmas Seven News suspended publication. Many of you will recall these words from the second-last issue:

"For years, Seven News has suffered from chronic under-financing. Even at the best of times, income has never quite matched expenses. This is not the best of economic times, so the gap has been widening. As usual, we have pulled through because of the exceptional commitment that Seven News seems able to command from the people who work on it and support it... But it is impossible to continue on this basis."

The first issue of Seven News appeared on the streets in May 1970. At that time many community residents were actively trying to preserve what was good in their neighbourhood and change what was not. The struggle then centred on attempts by City Hall and developers to re-develop the area, destroying the neighbourhoods that existed. Out of this milieu Seven News was born. It became a strong voice in the community, a paper that confronted important issues in a way that wasn't being done by the big dailies — with the community residents foremost in mind.

For 13 years Seven News has been a non-profit, community controlled and truly independ-



Money down the drain? That's what the City thinks about the public washroom at the corner of Broadview and Danforth, one of the five remaining in the city. The washroom costs \$122,000 to maintain - that's \$5.80 a flush. The City is considering cutting back hours and staff.

ent newspaper. That was why many people came to pledge their support for the paper at an emergency open meeting held late last year. Yes, the paper had financial problems. Yes, the quality had declined because the staff was overworked and unpaid. But Ward Seven needs Seven News. The decision was made to temporarily suspend publication, reorganize, bring in some fresh ideas and enthusiasm, and get going.

You have in your hands the result of all that work, the meetings, the combining of veteran staff with new. Seven News has a new design, a new editor and general manager. We believe that we can serve the community even better than before and that we can, in time, break even doing it.

Don't be fooled by our new look into thinking that Seven News may become just another glitzy Toronto lifestyle paper. We are as determined as ever to cover the issues that affect Ward Seven residents and will not shirk or shy away from that duty. It is a newspaper's role to provoke debate even if that makes some people angry now and again.

But times have changed. Many of the old fights have been won or lost, residents' concerns have shifted. We wish to reach out to a broader section of the community. In these rough economic times we understand businesses can help keep our neigh-

bourhood healthy and so we are running a new column, appropriately called Community Business. Two other regular columns will be Growing Up in Ward Seven and Political File.

In the Close Up section we will be running wide-ranging articles on every aspect of life in Ward Seven. Also new to the paper is a regular Arts section. Theatre, music and the other arts aren't just something to do on a Saturday night. They are an integral

and vibrant part of the community's identity. The arts at their best tell us about who we are and where we live — something a good community newspaper must do as well.

We have no intention of becoming merely a "good news" newspaper. But there are occasions to celebrate, reasons to be glad we live here.

Welcome back to Seven News. This is your community, and your newspaper.



Celebration Greek style: the city's Greek community paraded down the Danforth last month in celebration of Hellenic National Day and a visit by Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu.

LETTERS

Lessons from history?

It was a sad day for me when Ward Seven News stopped publishing a few months ago. Without its own newspaper, a community loses a vital outlet for those local concerns which the larger city publications too often ignore, either from lack of space or interest. I was delighted, therefore, when I learned that you are now back in operation, and I look forward to the first of what I hope will be many, many more issues.

Although I have always found the articles both entertaining and informative, I would like to make one suggestion. This is a ward that has gone through some particularly interesting changes, and I would like to see more articles that deal with its history. With its colourful and widely diverse cultural background, there should be a goldmine of material!

Welcome back, Ward Seven News — you've been sorely missed.

Donya Peroff

A double thanks

Seven News would like to thank All Saints Church for being our headquarters for so long. Your patience has been appreciated!

We would also like to thank the Dundas/Sherbourne Community Centre for providing us with our new home at 249 Sherbourne St.

Jim Houston

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Tax from p.1

discriminatory" fashion. Last year it was discovered that assessors sometimes did not actually examine houses but instead "windshielded" them, taking a quick look from a passing car and writing up a new assessment. (This year the reassessments have supposedly been done according to the rules.) The other complaint was that the province unfairly reassessed selected areas and even houses, rather than all of Metro. As a result some homeowners had their tax bills soar while their neighbours' remained the same. Some people have also complained that more reassessment was being done in the city than in the suburbs.

"Ward Seven was terrific last year", says Barrie Schavel, assistant to Ward Seven Alderman David Reville. "We ended up getting about half of those who could appeal to appeal."

Many of those who didn't appeal, she adds, "are those who can least afford to pay the increase." The alderman's office is working to inform homeowners of their right and Schavel says that the office is "more than pleased" to help residents with their appeals.

Some people may not be appealing because they are intimidated by the idea of appearing before the assessment review board. Barrie Schavel says "To go before the court is very easy if you've done your homework. Someone who has English as a second or third language, someone from a working class background who's not used to speaking in public - it could be a problem."

Tax consultant Keith Nobel says "The court process is in-

formal. But it still is a legal process of cross-examination and presenting evidence. It can be intimidating. A lot of people aren't prepared to speak the language of the court. You have to do your digging and your homework."

There is help for homeowners who appeal. The City puts out a booklet entitled "The Assessment Seminar Information Booklet" that shows how to present a case. Currently being rewritten, it is free and Schaval says that "anyone can follow the booklet."

As well, the City will once again hold seminars later in the year to instruct homeowners on how to appeal. Ward Five Alderman Ronald Kanter, who introduced the motion, says that they will probably be held in the evenings like last year. The seminars will cost the city about \$15,000. Kanter, who believes the reassessments are unfair to downtown dwellers, urges homeowners to send in their appeal before the deadline and worry about the hearing later.

A number of aldermen, including Davide Reville, Ward Six Alderman John Sewell and Ward Four Alderman Joe Pantalone are presently working on an assessment reform plan and want the city rather than the province to do the reassessments. But the aldermen want to be sure that tax breaks for the elderly and fixed-income homeowners are included in any reforms.

Barrie Schavel says "The Ward Seven assessments are going to change [with reforms], and people are going to bitch. But it'll be equitable."

For now the best that disgruntled homeowners can do is send in their appeals before the April 15 deadline.

Volunteering is good for seniors

from THE UNITED WAY

Volunteering can be good for your health - especially if you're a senior.

Dr. Clyde Slade, long experienced in the care of the elderly, and a professor at the University of British Columbia Medical School, says it is essential for seniors to seek variety in their late years, develop new friends and cultivate new interests.

"Many older people tend to become isolated", he said at a recent Vancouver conference. "It is essential to maintain the ties they have with the past, but they must develop new contacts, do something physical and encourage others to do something as well."

But people are often unsure of how to get in touch with other people. Volunteering is an easy and enjoyable way to find a new

activity and like-minded friends. The number and variety of volunteer opportunities in Toronto are mind-boggling - everything from board room executive work to friendly visiting to entertaining to playing with children. There is a job to suit everyone and you work as many or as few hours as you want.

The United Way provides a special service for people 55 and over who want a little help or advice in getting into the volunteer field. It is the Senior VIP Service, a section of the Volunteer Centre of Metropolitan Toronto. They can put you in touch with the kind of volunteer work you want.

Some positions that need filling right now include helping children in primary school to catch up in reading or spelling, visiting with the friendless in the community or in nursing homes

and being a driver or runner for the Meals on Wheels service.

There are plenty of jobs for the house-bound, too. These include telephone visiting, telephone follow-up, writers, arts and crafts including teaching children, tutoring in your home, transcribing print into braille, fund raising, typists and befriending a young child.

Times are very flexible. You can take on a regular job involving several hours every week, or you can take on "per occasion" work at festivals, health fairs and the like.

If you would like to know more about volunteer work for seniors, call the Senior VIP Service at 923-4477.

And if you're wondering what a Senior VIP is, it's Senior Volunteer in Public Service. It could mean you!

Licence plates for the disabled



On Feb. 1 special licence plates became available for the physically disabled, plates which display the international symbol for the disabled. They are available to Ontario motorists, but are not compulsory.

They provide a method of readily identifying vehicles driven by disabled drivers or drivers of a disabled person.

However, the plates don't en-

title the disabled the privilege of parking in reserved parking areas. This also holds true for some stickers displaying the international symbol.

The plates or stickers must be accompanied by a parking permit from the local municipality. Parking privileges and guidelines for the disabled person vary according to municipal bylaws. In fact, in most municipalities a

parking permit is sufficient to park in reserved areas.

Additional information regarding the parking permits should be obtained through local municipal offices.

Applications for the new plates are available from all motor vehicle licensing offices, but the plates, themselves, must be obtained from an MTC office at no extra charge.



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Co-op from p.1

the selling of only co-op labelled products. But because the Food Fair was strictly a one day event, organizers were severely restricted in the variety of products they could offer. Samuel assures that the actual supermarket co-op will offer a full range of brand labels as well as no-name and bulk foods. "We propose having around 6,000 items, including fresh produce and meat, which is as much as a regular supermarket."

Samuel was quick to point out that co-op members will not be expected to scrub floors or run a cash register. "Although volunteers play a major role during the present membership drive, there will be no volunteers working in the store", says Samuel. "The co-op will have a fully paid staff. We have received a considerable grant, under the Local Employment Assistance Program, for job creation and training."

The importance of the Toronto Supermarket Co-op campaign is reflected in developments in the food industry.

According to the Globe & Mail, the recent creation of the IGA-Safeway wholesale buying group, on the heels of a similar Dominion-Steinberg buying group, places more power into the hands of even fewer food wholesalers, a condition that could lead to monopolistic practices.

Such developments raise fears among farmers, food processors and consumers. Farmers fear that the price they receive for their produce will fall because of the market control such industry groups have. Consumers fear that supermarket prices will rise because of the lack of competition.

Of immediate concern to Ward Seven residents is the continuing trend towards closures by major supermarket chains, or conversion to no-name or bulk stores.

"We need to exercise more control over our food supply" says Samuel. The supermarket co-op affords the community the opportunity to gain this control.

The Supermarket Co-op can be reached at 363-2061.

Legal changes effect kids and parents

from CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE

Central Neighbourhood House is holding a public forum to make community members aware of proposed changes of laws affecting children and parents.

After the establishment of the Children's Services Division of the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services in 1978, the ministry looked towards developing legislation that would better represent the current rights of children, parents and the family.

The current legislation governing children's services is contained in several acts. This legislation is confusing and difficult to read. There are inconsistencies among the various acts and some of the provisions are out of date.

The proposed Children's Act is a single act that reforms and consolidates all existing legisla-

tion directly dealing with children in ministry programs including The Child Welfare Act, The Provincial Courts Act, The Charitable Institutions Act and many others.

Central Neighbourhood House, in conjunction with other settlement houses and community centres, has organized a working committee that is researching the proposed act, and will subsequently submit a reaction paper to the ministry. The committee's intent is to write the paper from a neighbourhood perspective.

On Wednesday, April 13 at 7 p.m. Central Neighbourhood House will hold a public forum that will give community members the opportunity to become familiar with the purpose and the contents of the proposed act.

The evening will begin with a speaker from the Ministry of Community and Social Services who will introduce and explain the act. The audience will then divide into groups according to their interests, such as foster care and rights and responsibilities of parents and children.

The group discussions will be led by resource people who have different points of view on the act. The committee is urging all community members, especially parents, to attend this forum and learn how the proposed act will effect their family and the services available to them.

Free childcare will be available.

For more information contact Dale Rogers 925-4363.

Lead from p1

nurse, says that she does not believe there is any safe level of lead. Scientists studying the hazards of lead do not agree about what constitutes a health threat. Walther has amassed much of the published research on the subject on behalf of the Environmental Health Committee.

According to Walther, standards of what is considered dangerous change over time. It is generally acknowledged that over 30 micrograms per decilitre is hazardous, she says. But municipal health officials are concerned about levels over 20. "One of the main factors behind our move was the lead", says Walther, a mother of three. "Every time one of the kids got sick I thought, 'God, it's the lead.'"

Digging into the written material on lead pollution, Walther found that the group most susceptible to lead poisoning is two-year old males. Both her young boys were at this most vulnerable age when they lived close to Canada Metal.

Walthers thinks her family's health has improved since they moved out of the South River-

dale area. But it is hard to tell because lead poisoning can give rise to subtle behavioural and physiological changes. "I don't want to wait 20 years for the government to believe the scientists," she says. "Governments take so long in acting after the facts are proven. It's like moving mountains."

At the same time the Toronto health department report came out, federal government officials voiced their concern about pollution caused by leaded gasoline. Environment Minister John Roberts called the heavy metal "a major environmental poison."

Martin Ross, head of air pollution control for Environment Canada, compared lead pollution to acid rain. In both cases it is difficult to prove definite risks from the contaminants since much of the evidence is circumstantial.

Though experts may disagree on the causes and effects of lead pollution, Cathy Walther has no doubts about what should be done. She thinks the answer is simple enough. "Getting rid of the root of the problem is the important thing" she says, adding, "Why not err on the side of caution?"

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CLOSE UP

COMMUNITY BUSINESS

BIA joins business with community interest

by HILARY CUNNINGHAM

Walking down Parliament Street is an experience of marked contrasts — prosperity rubs shoulders with poverty. There is the functional opulence of real estate offices, the shine and glitter of specialty shops, and the eccentric but intriguing interiors of gift boutiques. But there is also the peeling storefront, the window gathering dust, and the hardened stare of someone nearing bankruptcy.

Underneath all of Cabbagetown is a sense of struggle while the aim of one may be to succeed, the goal of another is merely to subsist.

Perhaps this is why there has been some alienation in Cabbagetown. The older businessmen fear the new while the new-comer merchants are impatient with the old. Cabbagetown certainly has its share of internal problems, yet it thrives as a community.

In 1972 a group of businessmen met to discuss the future of Cabbagetown as a business area. One result of their discussion was the creation of a Business Improvement Area (BIA), a region stretching from Wellesley down Parliament to Gerrard Street that is recognized by the province as a developing commercial district.

Because of Cabbagetown's unusual social milieu, the BIA merchants have adopted a philosophy that seeks to combine commercial promotion with community interests. Although frequently encountering a stigma of 'bad business', the BIA is fundamentally a group of people who would like to see the social integrate with the economic. Some of the projects that have been funded and organized through the BIA are Cabbagetown's annual festival, the streetscaping-revitalization project, marketing surveys, and various promotional events. Working with a low budget and often with limited support, BIA projects have been generally successful.

The BIA has drawn people of varied backgrounds to its board of management. Members like Chairman Carl Orbach and Jim Renieris of Royal Home Hardware have been involved for years, while others such as Jim Montagnes (More Than Cabbages) and Joe Ponte (Woolworth's) are relatively new to the area.

Cabbagetown's business area presently includes Parliament Street from Wellesley to Gerrard and Carlton Street west to Sherbourne. BIA membership consists of about 200 merchants. Within the district, attitudes towards business and the community are different and the BIA cannot claim complete support for their ideas and ventures. What unifies the BIA, however, is its aim to promote more Cabbagetown business — not to the detriment of the neighbourhood, but in cooperation.

The Cabbagetown BIA had always been open to suggestions, criticisms, and of course the active support of the area. The next BIA meeting is April 18th, 6 p.m. at 417 Parliament Street. If you are interested in this organization please attend and meet some BIA members who are not as interested in complaints as they are in ideas for improving Old Cabbagetown.



A great place for horsing around: this entranced urbanite gets a lesson in country living.

GROWING UP IN WARD 7

Mums, dads and kids — dancercise!

by MERYLIE HOUSTON

Well, folks, we've finally done it.

After years of trotting out every excuse in the book, we are now trotting up every Wednesday to a dancercise class at Frankland Public School.

Great way to get in shape, they said. You'll feel terrific, it's all the rage, everybody's doing it, they said.

Humph, said I. Nobody is everybody without me. And I can't. It would hurt my back. And I won't. I'm too busy volunteering in the classroom (a little halpolishing here) while the other kids' mothers selfishly jog past in their cute little leotards to the gym. So there's no way I can commit a regular evening or afternoon.

And besides, I don't want to. I'll get in shape my own way. We're going to start jogging. Soon. Nobody's going to get me into a snobby middle-class white-painters' group of narcissistic women who only think of themselves and don't contribute anything to the community.

And anyway, they're all thin and athletic and long-legged and own leotards 'n sweat bands 'n stuff and I'd feel stupid in my 17-year-old St. John's College sweat-shirt and besides if I wore a leotard my stomach would show and anyway some-

body might see me and I'd look dumb.

The only time I was anything near being in shape was in 1964. Fred Keeley said he's only take me to the Graduation dance if I could do 50 pushups. Fred was tall and skinny with glasses which he was always having to push back on and a bobbly Adam's apple. He was a physics major who was my heart throb. He also had a steady who I thought was only incidental.

He obviously thought this was a safe bet. I got up at six every morning to jog and then did situps and pushups in the hall while the rest of the family stepped over me trying to get off to school and work.

He cheated. He said — after I did the 50 pushups — that only your chin was allowed to touch the floor so I was disqualified. I argued that girls were different but even in my Loveable Lightly Shaped 32A bra that was a hard one to sell.

I didn't give up fitness though. We jogged once.

In 1968. April. It was below zero and I seared the bottom of my lungs which hadn't felt fresh air for some time, got bronchitis and wheezed for three months.

In 1969 we tried again. Bonnie Prudon was the rage and I lasted the whole half hour. The next day I was so sore all over

that I spent the day in bed convincing myself it was probably a rare and fatal disease.

All of which explains why it took a major conspiracy by family and community centre staff to get me up there. We all went, so I had lots of support.

Girding my loins, so to speak, I got marshalled in by my kids — only to find out that I know half of these people. They're my neighbours, for goodness sake.

Why didn't anyone tell me?

And sure, some of them look terrific in cute leotard outfits, but they also have kids underfoot and if they look good it's because they've worked at it.

There's a group of us in the back row who giggle and crack jokes and urge each other on — a neighbour who's a 50-year-old mother of ten, several women who are very over-weight (but wear leotards anyway, which takes guts, no pun intended), a shy couple with glasses who get as red-faced as I do.

I think Jim heads for the back row because he sits down halfway through each exercise (he says he's out of breath but I think it has something to do with the view).

My reason — now comes the real truth — is that I can't dance. So my klutzy feet aren't always synochronized with the group but we catch up sooner or later.

Sindy heads over to a group of other 15-year-olds (who can dance) but seem to socialize more than they exercise.

While Rebekah and I share a mat, bumping bums and enjoying each other.

Why didn't anyone tell me that families can exercise together? And that it's fun? This has become, I kid you not, the high point of our week. We can even have a swim after.

There are seven different sessions offered at our school, morning, afternoon and evening. Free. Everyone can fit at least one into their week.

Something else no one has ever discovered before. Instead of adding more pressure to a hectic week, a good workout loosens me up and actually gives me more energy than I've ever had before.

Consider yourself warned, world.



Jim Houston

CLOSE UP

POLITICAL FILE

Task Force on Housing

by JOANNE CAMPBELL
Ward Seven Alderman

In 1983 approximately \$12 million will be spent in Metro on the provision of hostel accommodation. Some 3,400 men and women in Metro are homeless. Clearly, to pour more and more into hostels is to avoid the real issue: there is a lack of affordable housing for low income single people. To address this problem, Metro Chairman Paul Godfrey in his 1982 inaugural address announced the formation of a Task Force on Housing for Low Income Single People. I have been appointed the chairman of this task force.

A study of homelessness in Metro Toronto, undertaken by Metro staff, showed that many of the stereotypes of who lives in hostels no longer apply. Thirty-six per cent of the homeless in Metro are under 25 years of age. Youth are particularly vulnerable to the effects of their residential environment. In addition, they are among the hardest hit by unemployment, with an unemployment rate twice that of the general population. A full 50 per cent of the homeless in Metro had previously lived in rental accommodation which they lost, mainly due to rent increases they could not afford.

Single people form a very diverse segment of the population and as a group they have little political influence. As a result, housing policies had tended to ignore the distinct housing needs of single people.

The mandate of the task force is to develop a concrete strategy to provide more housing for low income single people. We will be looking for ways to increase the number of singles housing units in Metro and ways to provide

subsidies where needed. We are to report in Sept. 1983.

Membership in the task force consists of six Metro politicians representing each of the area municipalities in Metro; representatives from the Boards of Cityhome, the Metro Toronto Housing Company and the Metro Toronto Housing Authority (OHC), as well as Jim Ward from Dixon Hall, Bill Bosworth from Fred Victor Mission and Rick Stubbert from Mercury Youth Services. We will be meeting every two weeks. There will be a great deal of consultation with agencies working with low income singles, housing experts in the private, non-profit and public sectors, and other levels of government. As well, we will be holding public meetings to get peoples' reactions to the shelter options which we will be considering.

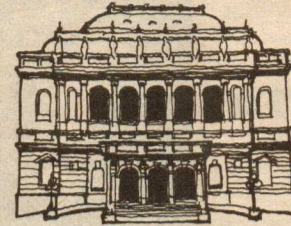
If you would like a copy of their terms of reference of the task force, or if you are interested in discussing it further please call me at 947-7914.

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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 seventeenth day of May, 1983 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, 1982 and the report thereon from Campbell, Lawless and Punched C.A.'s.
- 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.

DATED AT TORONTO, THE 8th DAY OF APRIL, 1983.
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SEVEN NEWS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MONDAY, APRIL 25, 1983 7:30 p.m.

AT THE SEVEN NEWS OFFICE
249 Sherbourne St.

This meeting will elect a new nine-person Community Board of Directors for Seven News. Everyone who lives or works in Ward 7 is eligible to run for the Board, nominate others, and vote in the election. The meeting will also hear reports about and discuss future plans for the paper.

EVERYONE WELCOME

Companeros: live on the Danforth!

songs of longing from men in exile at the Lyra Coffee House

by SATU REPO

It's 3 a.m. on Sunday and people are slowly pouring out of the Lyra Coffee House at 161 Danforth, bracing themselves for the nippy early morning air, hollering for cabs, exchanging phone numbers. The inexhaustible Campaneros, a folk group of Greek and Chilean musicians have been playing since 9 o'clock and are about ready to call it a day. However, they can always be persuaded to do one more set if the audience lingers on.

The Campaneros are not new to the Danforth. They have been offering their special mix of contemporary and traditional folk music in the coffee houses in this Greek area of the Ward since 1979. For the last two years they have been playing in Lyra five nights a week, from Wednesday to Sunday, drawing an audience of perhaps 800 a week, a mix of Greeks, Latin Americans and Torontonians from a variety of backgrounds who have learned to savour the multicultural nightlife of the city.

In today's entertainment scene folk music is not exactly a trend. It smacks of Peter, Paul and Mary and the now prehistoric sixties and is usually trotted out only as a nostalgia item in earnest, documentary style TV specials. Why then are the Campaneros able to draw a steady and even growing audience?

Perhaps their success has something to do with the fact that they draw their material from a struggle which is as timely today as it was 20 years ago: the struggle towards democratic political forms



The Campaneros: Konstantakis, Opitz, Chavez, Salvatierra and Polatos.

and social justice that goes on unceasingly in most parts of the world. Their music reverberates with energy, urgency and inspiration that much of the sixties folk music lacked. An evening with the Campaneros is more like a combination of a revival meeting and a rock concert than a sing-a-long. It has that double capacity to disturb and renew the best contemporary musical experiences offer.

Who are the Campaneros? The group was originally put together by exiles from different parts of the world: Greeks who had come to Canada after the "Colonel Coup" in 1967, and Chileans who had escaped when democratic Chile in 1973 was taken over by a military junta.

The initiative came from the Greeks. The Trojan Horse, a coffee house set up by Nikos Tsingos and the Canadian poet Gwendolyn MacEwen, began to invite Chilean musicians to do alternating sets with the performing Greeks. The musicians were exposed to each other's traditions and began learning from each other. In Jan. 1979 they decided to

merge and call themselves Campaneros, a Spanish word meaning companions or comrades. From the beginning they created much of the material they performed.

While the music traditions differed — the Greek music being more theatrical, the Chileans having a stronger lyrical bent — they shared a social vision: wanting to do songs that dealt with the lives of ordinary people, their hopes and disappointments, their heroes and achievements. Inevitably, considering the history of their respective countries, politics became a strong theme.

The composition of the group has changed over the years. At the present time there are seven members: Peter Pappas, Chabi Polatos, Makis Konstantakis and Dmitri Apostolou who are Greek and Juan Salvatierra, Juan Opitz and Rodrigo Chavez from Chile. Each of them plays a variety of instruments, taking turns doing vocals. The performances combine such instruments as guitar, bouzouki, flute, harmonica, traditional

wind instruments, drums and many others.

The performing language is either Greek or Spanish. Each song is introduced in English and an attempt is made to translate the lyrics.

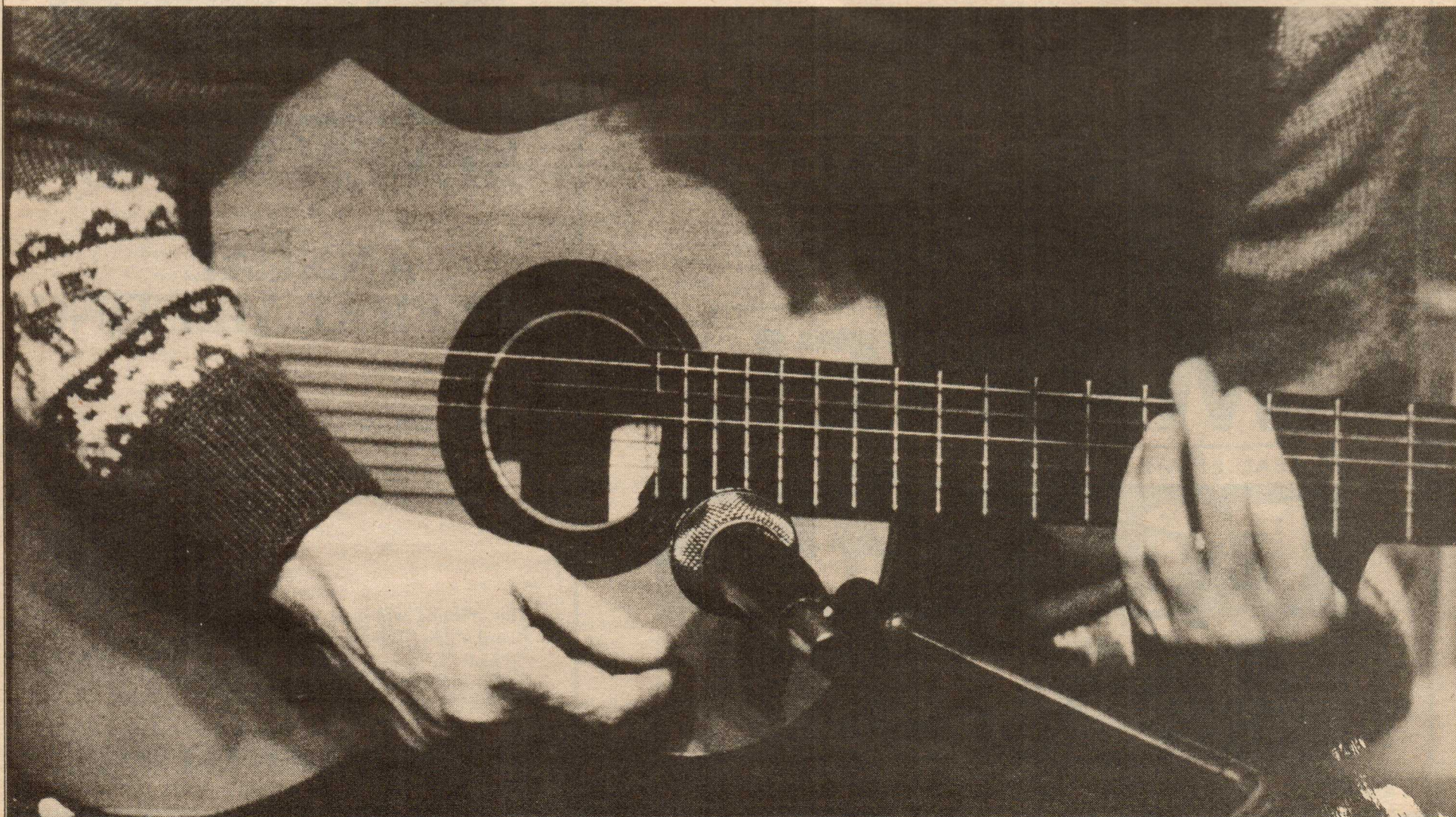
The audience, sprawled around long, low tables, nursing mugs of coffee and tall glasses of orange frappe, is attentive, enthusiastic. Yet it is obvious at a glance that many are not necessarily familiar with the performing languages. According to the owners Douli Kararardimos and Armando Ballesteros, two-thirds of their customers are "other Canadians."

What brings them to Lyra? In the course of the evening we chatted with teachers from the Annex, a retired accountant and his wife from North Toronto, students from Hong Kong, immigrants from Germany and Israel.

While the "politics of liberation" Campaneros sing about is attractive to some, others were simply drawn to folk music. For despite the Greek and Chilean accents the music has a simplicity and directness which characterizes most folk music with rural roots.

There are many times in the course of the evening when the magic of the Campaneros touches a cord in the most hardened urbanite, reminding us, to quote Margaret Atwood, that "we are all immigrants to this place". A longing for an organic community in the past blends easily with utopian hopes that some day we will make this urban landscape our own. Who cannot place themselves, somehow, in the lyrics of Marcelo Punte in the "Song of Valparaiso", which was translated:

*When I went forth from my harbour
The wind alone cried for me
And the kiss of the stars
Was left with the wind
I will return to feel the spring
Climbing my native land; mine and yet
not mine
And what true hope
Is a love never forgotten.*



CITY ARTS

Dancemakers' spring leap

by ANNE-MARGARET HINES

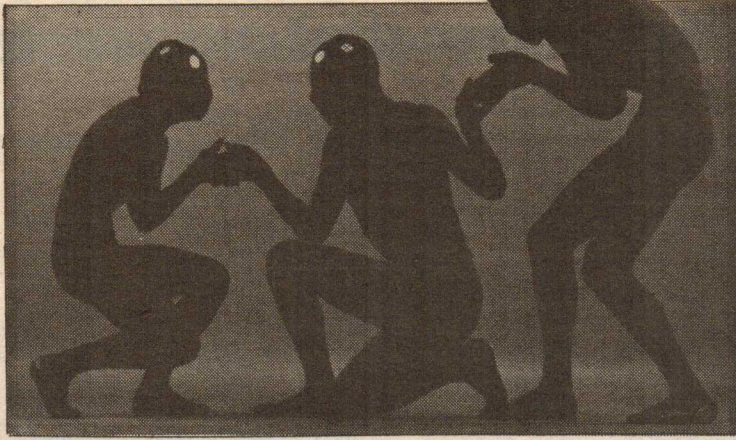
In the past 10 years the audience for contemporary dance in Canada has grown by leaps and bounds. Many small dance companies have emerged to meet this enthusiasm by presenting shows in every imaginable place, from deserted warehouses to small studios to the new dance theatre scheduled to open this spring at Harbourfront. Unfortunately, for every one company that survives to perform a regular season year after year, several others fold under the increasing pressure of high production costs, below poverty-line salaries and the lack of decent, affordable rehearsal and performance space.

After almost a decade at least one Toronto group has managed to buck the odds and emerge as one of Canada's foremost contemporary dance companies. Dancemakers, now under the joint artistic direction of Carol Anderson and Patricia Fraser,

has come a long way since its initial beginnings as a summer project. The company launches its spring season on April 12 at Toronto Dance Theatre, 80 Winchester St. Gone are the days when dancers earned an average of five dollars a week and found themselves doing more waiting on tables than dancing. "Things are better now" says Anderson. "We employ nine dancers full-time for 35 weeks a year. We still have to find occasional work as waiters or teachers, but public awareness of our art has grown incredibly".

Anderson, who also acts as one of the company's choreographers, studied dance at York University and in England and joined Dancemakers at its inception in 1974. In 1980 she and Patricia Fraser took over the direction of the company with clear aims in mind. Dancemakers is dedicated to presenting works by both new and established Canadian choreographers and to making this work accessible to as wide an audience as possible.

Over the years the company



Clark, Williams, Nabonne: heart stoppers and stereotypes.

has presented pieces by such noted Canadian choreographers as Grant Strate, Kim Rimmer, Michael Baker and Anna Blewchamp, whose work and support has been a mainstay of the group since its beginning. Touring plays a large role in trying to make these dances 'accessible'. The group tours Canada extensively each year and last fall marked their first appearance in Europe. As Anderson points out, "Canadian choreographers are pushing out in totally new directions. Contemporary dance is just starting to take off here and

our work is becoming known." This year's spring season at the Toronto Dance Theatre opens next week and promises a mixture of both new works and old favourites. *Three Epitaphs* by Paul Taylor has survived from the 1950s as a delightfully humorous short piece set to the music of the New Orleans pre-jazz years. *Windhover* is a new work by Carol Anderson based on her premise that "We dance because we wish we could fly." Also on the program is an as yet untitled piece by Paula Ravitz which features a section of ad lib danc-

ing. "It's a risk" admits Anderson, laughing. "It'll be something a bit different every night." Other works will be chosen from the company's vast and varied repertoire. The spring performance season will be kicked off on April 12 with a fund raising evening to be hosted by Veronica Tennant.

Dancemakers has come a long way in its first decade. Instead of the small group of faithful dance lovers that used to make up every audience the company now sees more and more new faces at each performance as well. And they usually come back! However, the group is not without dreams for an even brighter future. Anderson says "We'd love to have our own theatre, a place that people would immediately associate with our work, but the cost of producing a dance show makes it almost impossible to come anywhere near making a profit." Nevertheless, Dancemakers will continue to provide a unique and vital form of Contemporary Dance across Canada and around the world. And if the next 10 years are as good as the first Carol Anderson will be the last to complain.

Andrew Oxenham

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One Mo' Time slick and soulful

by JOHN MORRISSEY

In New Orleans in the twenties black people were barred from legitimate theatres. Black audiences had to go to the Lyric, a vaudeville house.

This theatrical apartheid forced great talents like Ethel Waters and Bessie Smith to tour extensively for low wages. It also meant that for 25 cents Lyric audiences saw a veritable cross-section of black American culture, from obscure blackface clowns to the best New Orleans jazz players.

The travails of those singers and musicians of the twenties are relevant today, especially considering the gulf that still separates the races and their popular cultures. This honourable chapter in the history of black culture could be both a proud reclamation of heritage for blacks and a valuable bit of consciousness-raising for whites.

One Mo' Time attempts both functions in a single glossy entertainment package. Written and directed by Vernal Bagneris, the show is now playing at the Village Gate (410 Sherbourne St.) for an indefinite run. Its intentions are good, the material rich and the performers excellent. But somehow the 2¼ hours of first rate singing and playing adds up to far less than the sum of its parts. I left feeling enervated rather than exhilarated. There are many wonderful moments in the show, but it concludes on a note of forced gaiety rather than genuine enthusiasm.

One Mo' Time is an anthology musical — that is, a show made up of found or collected rather than original material. There are about two dozen songs, ranging from the inevitable "Suwannee" to the moving "Muddy Water".

Author and director Vernal Bagneris has chosen to model *One Mo' Time* on the context from which the material springs — the performances at the Lyric Theatre in the twenties. The patrons of the Village Cafe are

presented with an evening at the Lyric, complete with a gaunt white house manager who hisses "and I don't want to see any footmarks on those seats" at the audience.

Tonight's entertainment is Big Bertha Williams and her touring company, who happen to be short-handed because one of their members is in jail and another has run off with the bail money.

The set is divided into 'on-stage' and 'backstage' sections so we can see the panic, lunacy and conflict that fuel Bertha's show. Recreating the Lyric in this way is an excellent idea, but the show collapses in its 'backstage' portions. Though the case sings and dances with heart and skill, each character is no more than a romanticized "the show must go on" stereotype. The show promises a look into the lives of real and soulful people and gives us a collection of Broadway musical cliches that glosses over the real drama and beauty inherent in their story.

For example, headliner Bertha (Sylvia 'Kuumba' Williams) and ingenue Thelma (Sharon Nabonne) compete for company manager Papa Du (Bruce Bradley). The rivalry sparks some songs, but is never resolved or even carried through to the end of the show. And the ravages of drugs and alcohol on touring blues singers are represented by a single flask passed between Ma and Bertha. There may be no more time to deal with these themes — especially given the number of songs to be charged through — but one hungers for a bit more true drama and energy 'backstage' to contrast the honest labour 'onstage'.

There are exceptions to this — Thais Clark's (Ma Reed) version of "Muddy Water" is a heart-stopper that transcends the dinner theatre setting with its sadness and longing. And trumpeter Bill Dillard, who actually played with some of the people the show refers to, is always a de-

light to the ear and eye.

But these exceptions underline the strange flatness, the entertainment industry homogenizing that threatens to neuter the songs and music and make them merely after-dinner entertainment. *One Mo' Time* has had successful runs in New Orleans, New York, London and Australia, and it will probably run for a long time here in Toronto. Let's hope the formula doesn't in time kill the spirit.

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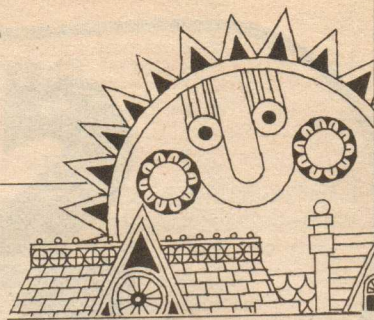
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR



Saturday

April 9

Dixieland Jazz Cabaret - Third Annual Benefit for the Toronto Elizabeth Fry Society. 7 p.m. to 1 a.m., the Ukrainian Hall (Bloor at Christie) will be the site of the benefit. For information call Eleanor McDonald at 924-3809 or 924-3708.

The Gents: the inspiring and acclaimed male vocal sextet, will dazzle you with their entertaining and amazing music. 'A Spring Special' is the last concert of their current subscription concert series and this program will be performed in the Church of the Holy Trinity, 8 p.m. (behind the Eaton Centre). Tickets are available at the door, or you may call for reservations. Prices are \$6.00 general admission, \$4.00 senior citizens and students. Reservations and information: please call 691-4660.

Tuesday

April 12

Are you thinking about doing some work on your house to cut down your fuel bills next winter, but don't really know where to begin? Tonight at 7 p.m. John Kokko, of Ecology House will show you how to systematically go through your house, and determine the areas where your efforts will be best expended. Admission is \$3.00. Ecology House is at 12 Madison Ave. near Spadina and Bloor.

Rendezvous for Seniors: Disco and ballroom dancing is offered for swinging seniors from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. York Quay Centre at Harbourfront.

Wednesday

April 13

Dance Exercise Class - for women, men and teens. Eight Wednesday evenings from 7-8 p.m. Beginning April 6th at Central Neighbourhood House, 349 Ontario St. Classes and child care are free. For more information call Pat O'Connor 925-4363.

Funnel Experimental Film Theatre - Historical Series, films that explore dance. 8 p.m. Free admission. 507 King St. E. call for other events 364-7003.

The Second Mile Club, 192 Carlton St. is opening a Craft Shop. The grand opening will be from 11:00 to 3:00 p.m. Regular hours after this date will be Monday, Wednesday and Fridays from 11:00 to 1:00 p.m. There will be knitted and crocheted items - dolls and novelties. We will also be holding a **Spring Bazaar** on Wednesday May 4 and a **Rummage Sale** on Saturday May 28th.

Thursday

April 14

The YWCA of Metropolitan Toronto cordially invites you to attend a private screening of **Rape: Once is too Often**. A three-part video series. Panel discussion with film resource persons to follow. 7:30 p.m. 80 Woodlawn Ave. E. Please reserve a place by phone 961-8100 ext. 58.

Rendezvous for Seniors: Seniors get together for folkdancing from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. York Quay Centre at Harbourfront.

A Masked Ball. Fifth annual spring dance of the Ward Seven Business and Professional Association. St. Lawrence Hall. Cocktails 7 p.m., dinner 8 p.m. Dress suit or tux. Tickets \$30.00 per person in advance only. Peter Brown Travel 968-0016 or Jean Louis Flowers 922-5518.

Career Planning for Women, a six week course designed to help define career options and set specific goals for job change. Standardized tests, specifically designed for women, cover career interest, personality and ability testing. YWCA, 80 Woodlawn Ave. E. Thursdays, April 14 to May 19, 7:30-9:30 p.m. \$100.00/6 weeks. Call to register 961-8100.

Friday

April 15

A Conference which will probe **Literature in the Multicultural Society** will be held at the University of Toronto on April 15 and 16, 1983. Over 40 writers and academics of various ethnic, cultural and political backgrounds will discuss their work within a contemporary multicultural environment. Earl Birney, Ian Adams, Pier Giorgio de Cicco, Claudio Duran, Verna Johnston, Joy Kogowa, Geoff Hancock, Robert Zend and many others will participate.

St. John's Presbyterian Church (Broadview and Simpson Area) is having a rummage sale at 7 p.m.

The Mariposa Folk Foundation announces a spring shower of activity, headlined by Breton harpist, Alan Stivell. Appearing at the Music Hall, 147 Danforth Ave. 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$9.00 available from BASS (698-2277) and Mariposa (363-4009).

Saturday

April 16

The Boys' Choir of Toronto and the Hanson Singers both under the direction of Ned Hanson will present the third concert in their series Saturday, April 16 at 8 p.m. in the Church of the Holy Trinity, Eaton Square. Tickets are available by calling 487-7438 or 487-5655 or at the door the evening of the performance. \$9.00; Sr. Citizens and students \$7.00.

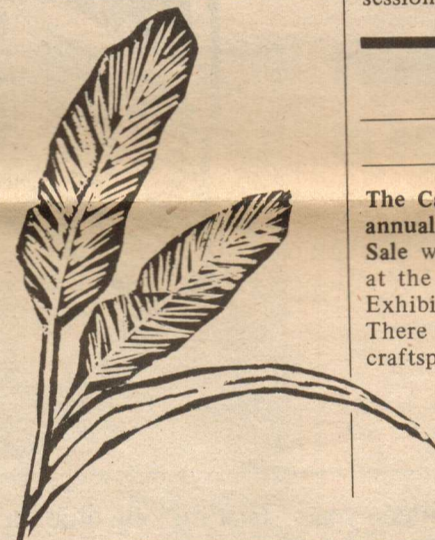
Sunday

April 17

Norman Sterling, Provincial Secretary for Justice, has announced **Community Justice Week in Ontario**, April 17-23, an initiative to assist communities in developing crime prevention programs. For further information contact Miriam Pinchuk or Debbie Knight at 965-0420.

Monday

April 18



Tuesday

April 19

Women's Self Defence, a course for every woman regardless of physical fitness, includes discussion about self defence, why and when to use it, plus basic practical techniques such as kicks, punches, breaking holds and verbal self defence. 80 Woodlawn Ave. E. April 19 to June 7, 7-9 p.m. \$45.00/eight sessions. Register 487-7151.

Wednesday

April 20

The Canadian Craft Show's 4th annual Winter's End Show & Sale will take place April 20-24 at the Queen Elizabeth Building Exhibition Place, Toronto. There will be approximately 200 craftspeople represented.

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EARN \$320.00/week. Work as Hospital Secretary. Join Job Workshop. 288-4704.

Volunteers

Volunteers are urgently needed to answer the phone at the YWCA's Information and Referral Line for women. The service provides information about women's counselling, housing, legal, medical, and other related matters. The line is open from 10-1 p.m., Mon. to Thurs. If you can spare a few hours or more on a weekly basis, please call the YWCA Volunteer Coordinator at 961-8100.

Wanted

TIRED of being a statistic? Wanted: Empolyable men & women on welfare whose UIC has now run out, to write describing their problems finding work. I want to raise your concerns with the government. Write: Richard Johnston, NDP MPP, Queen's Park, Toronto M7A 1A2.

Pen Pal Wanted: Filipino student girl age 16, seeks Canadian boy for pen pal. For information call Larry Patterson. 461-3002.

We Need Your Help! Central Neighbourhood House community centre, a non-profit organization is having a fundraising garage sale this June. In order to make the sale a success we are asking for donations of useable items, new or old. So, if your cleaning those closets, and are tempted to throw away those long stored goods, throw them our way instead. For more information or assistance with pick up please contact Eva at 925-4363, 349 Ontario St.

Misc.

No Frills Cabaret presents "Intimate Strangers" at 519 Church St. A lighthearted look at being single in Toronto. Mon.-Wed.-Fri. at 12 and 1 p.m. Luncheon show \$5.00 923-2778.

SEXISM - What can be done about it? The current issue of Connexions, a periodical devoted to promoting grassroots social change focuses on Women and Men and looks at experiences, strategies, groups, and resources in the struggle against sexism. Available for \$2.50 from Connexions, 427 Bloor St. West, Toronto, M5S 1X7.

Broadview Greenwood Spring Cleanout. Broadview-Greenwood NDP Riding Association is holding its First Annual East End Rummage Sale. Sunday April 24 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at CUPW Hall. 861 Broadview Ave. (Between Danforth & Mortimer). If you have any collectibles for donations contact us at 469-3355 or 429-3951.

Central Neighbourhood House is seeking candidates for the Board for 1983-84. Each director is elected for a three year term but may stand for re-election once only, to serve a second three-year term. Nominations may be received up to and including May 11 for inclusion on the ballot. If interested please contact Ethel Proulx at Central Neighbourhood House for the forms. Elections will take place at the Annual Meeting on Tuesday, May 17 at 7 p.m.

Bain Avenue Preschool Day Care spaces available for 2-5 year olds. Non-profit parent co-operative, quality program, snacks and hot lunch included. For further information call 463-1457.

Piano Lessons from Beginner to Advanced. Qualified teacher (ARCT). Preparation for Conservatory exams. Sherbourne & Gerrard, reasonable rates. Call Paul, 921-7754.

Immigrant women can meet new friends, practice English in comfortable surroundings, and learn about community resources, education and job opportunities at four groups sponsored by the YWCA in Metro Toronto. Free child care is provided and the program is free. Come by and join us or call the YWCA at 961-8100.

Classes

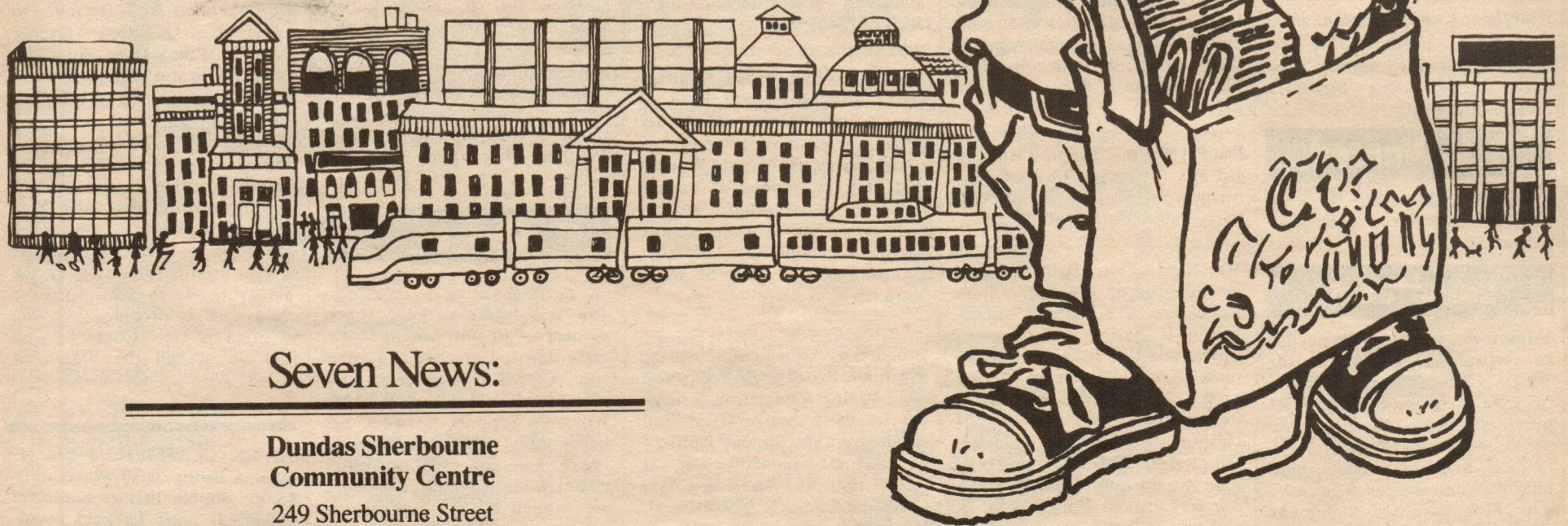
Are you trying to be a superwoman - an outstanding worker, a devoted mother and a terrific wife? But wondering how to juggle it all? A new Working Women's Support Network has been organized for these working women, and for those about to enter the work force. Groups are funded by the Federal Government and are free of charge. For more information please call Susie Marlowe at 489-4632.

SEVEN CLASSIFIEDS get results. A listing of 30 words, only \$5.00; double listings available. Classifieds must be paid in advance to the Seven News Office the Monday before publishing.

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