

# SEVEN NEWS

November 3, 1983

TORONTO'S OLDEST COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

FREE

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## Bag Ladies out in the cold

by ANNE-MARGARET  
HINES

The quote on the front page of the Friends of Shopping Bag Ladies proposal to the City of Toronto says,

"... they serve as a warning that even people like ourselves can fall to the bottom and no one will care."

Bag Ladies have become a permanent fixture in Toronto in recent years. Like the alcoholics and other transients who roam our streets they have no names, no homes and no place in our society. They are abused, ignored, financially impoverished, barely surviving from one day to the next. Yet, many of these women were once wives and mothers, often with homes and careers. The common denominator is usually a mental illness which lead to hospitalization and the ostracization of friends and family. After release they had no where to go and, in many cases, no capacity for caring for themselves. So they drift through the streets and finally die of exposure or illness on the street.

The Friends of Shopping Bag Ladies, a group formed in 1982 by Joy Reid, have dedicated themselves to protecting and improving the quality of life of these women who have been forgotten by society. Recently, they applied to the City of Toronto for the use of a deserted church at 474 Ontario St., to be used as a drop-in centre where bag ladies could shower, do laundry, have a small meal and gain some sense of caring and belonging. "We thought the site was perfect," explains Joy Reid, the organization's founder,

"We were looking for something within walking distance of the hostels and inside the area where shopping bag ladies usually collect." This area, roughly is bordered by Jarvis and Parliament Streets and Wellesley and Queen Streets. "It has to be an accessible spot," says Reid, "because these women don't have cars and they can't afford the TTC."

The church was part of a package bought by the Meridian developers and then turned over to the City in the 1970s. Since then the area's rate-payers association has been looking for a tenant group who would rent the building for as little as one dollar per year and do the repairs necessary to get the building up to City standards.

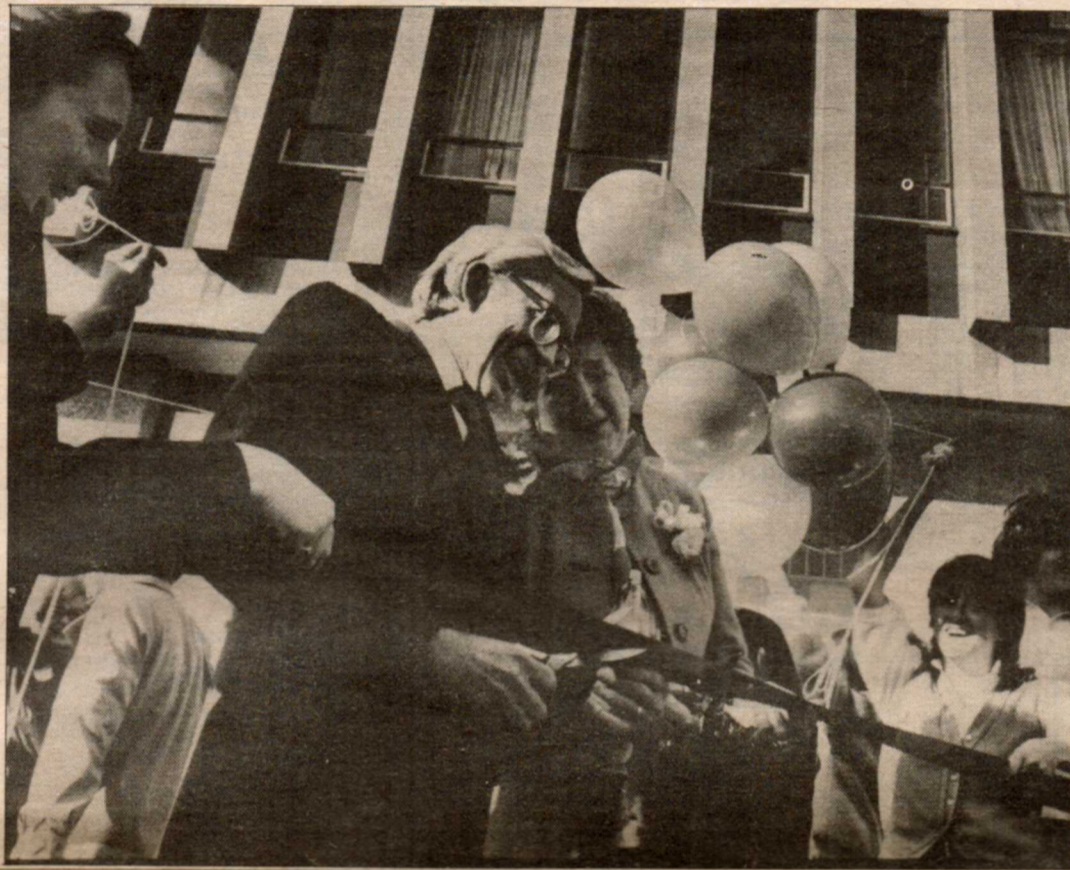
The Friends had an architect and contractor go over the property and it was suggested that they should raise about \$100,000 to cover the cost of renovating and updating the inside. "It was hard to raise the money," admitted Reid, "people are less willing to donate before you have a specific location." However, the organization did come close enough in promised funds to be confident that the City would give serious consideration to their proposal.

This week, however, it was announced that the Winchester area rate-payers association have decided to give the space to a group of senior citizens. For The Friends of the Bag Ladies, this decision came as quite a blow. "There really aren't too many other locations that would be suitable," explains Reid. Reid attributes the decision to the association's not being sure that the group could raise the necessary funds and to their fears that a drop-in centre of this type would have an adverse effect on the neighbourhood. "These women are already there," she points out, "it's not as if we'd bring bag ladies into the area who hadn't been there before, in fact we'll be helping to keep them off the streets." Finally, she admits, "I really just don't understand."

Alderman Joanne Campbell said she was satisfied that the rate-payers association had been fair in judging which group could most likely raise the funds necessary to renovate the church, and would best fit into the neighbourhood. "The need of the organizations applying was not a criteria for deciding who would make the best tenant," she stated.

Alderman David Reville has so far been the only member of City council to take action to aid the Friends in their dilemma. Reville, while supporting the right of the rate-payers association to refuse the Friends the use of the church, has put a motion on the floor that everything possible be done to help The Friends locate a suitable place for their centre. "He's gone out of his way to find us a location," says Reid, "We spent all of yesterday being taken around to possible sites." It will still be necessary, though, for the Friends to find a location which does not require a great

con't on pg. 6



Bob Beardsley, Principal of Eastdale Secondary School cuts the ribbon to open Beardsley Park, which was named in his honour. Photo by Doron Rescheff.

## Local apathy contributes to crime

by K.L. BRANDY

Despite an increase in some kinds of crime in Metro's 51 Division only 11 Cabbagetown merchants attended a third meeting to establish a Neighbourhood Business Watch. The group met on October 20 at St. Peter's Anglican Church on Gerrard Street. A Neighbourhood Business Watch would involve neighbour's watching each other's businesses and staying alert to potential crimes, as well as the individual merchants improving their own security.

The turnout was quite typical of the area, according to Ruth Cropley, a merchant who lives in Cabbagetown. "I have a stake in what happens in the area as a whole," Cropley said. "I can't disassociate what happens in the store from what may happen on my street or in my house."

"Nobody does anything until something happens to them," said Joan Lavers, who attended the meeting. "We can't beat people over the head to get them involved."

"It doesn't happen overnight," Ward Seven Alderman Joanne

Campbell said in an interview. "It's a challenge for the business community to get that together." Campbell said that she was contacted in early September after a woman was robbed, raped and beaten at midday while working alone in a Cabbagetown store. "If the Neighbourhood Business Watch is established it will be the first Business Watch in Metro," Campbell said.

Constable Hans Jewinski, a crime prevention officer with 51 Division, canvassed about 130 businesses before the last meeting. He offered the merchants "anti-robbery kits," discussed individual security problems, and invited participation in the Neighbourhood Business Watch. "I think it's apathy," said Jewinski. "When I went from door to door I got a very lukewarm response." This contrasts, he said, with the suburbs, where the police are called to residential crime prevention meetings by the community, and where the biggest problem may be finding a hall to hold three to six hundred people. "It's in the business areas and city core that we encounter this inertia."

According to Jewinski, public perception of crime levels is

often higher than the actual crime rate. Robberies in 51 Division are up 25 per cent over the same period last year, and break and enters of business premises are up 14 per cent. On the other hand, Jewinski pointed out, break and entering of houses are down 16 per cent compared to the same period last year. "As serious as they are, not all robberies are Hollywood style," he said, "but any crime is cause for concern."

"Some of these people are leaving themselves wide open," Jewinski said, "but if I really buttonhole these people and twist their arms and they don't want to participate in the program it won't do any good." Involvement of at least 50 per cent of the business community would be the ideal, according to Jewinski. "If the merchants are easy marks, word spreads among the criminals," explained Thom Marchbanks, a merchant who lives in Cabbagetown. "They'll get hit again and again. But they want the other guy to take care of it. They don't give a damn."

"They're asking for trouble," agreed Bob Caspar, Loss Pre-

con't on pg. 6

# Seven News questionnaire ... p. 4



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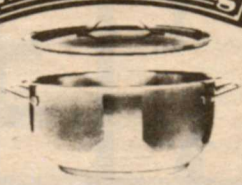
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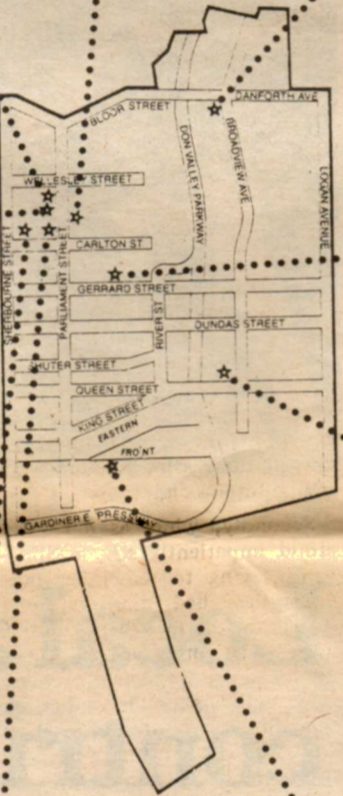
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# SPEAKING OUT

## FROM THE EDITOR

### I remember

When I was in public school in Markham we were always given the day off on November 11. My mother would bring me down to the city every Remembrance day to see the Christmas windows at Eaton's and Simpson's and to start our Christmas shopping. I remember standing in Simpson's at 11 o'clock and hearing a bell sound and then everyone stopping and being silent for a minute. I knew, rather vaguely, that I was supposed to be thinking about a war which had been fought years before I was born and the people who died in it for me. I don't think they do that in Simpson's anymore.

By the time I got to high school, the local Board of Education was no longer giving us the day off. We did, however, have a Remembrance Day assembly in the gym during which we were usually shown gory pictures of war and asked what Remembrance Day meant to us. I hear that Markham District High School is no longer having these assemblies.

As the war slips further and further into the past it is natural that the observation of this day should take on less importance than before. Certainly, for my generation the Second World War has far less significance than the Korean or Vietnamese wars, even though far fewer of my countrymen were involved.

The last twenty years have seen a transition from the soldiers who went eagerly off to defend the freedom of their country to those with a more realistic awareness of the horror and mindless destruction of war. Many of my father's generation lied about their ages because they were afraid the war would be over before they could enlist.



Marchers for peace. More anti-nuclear demonstrations are planned for Remembrance Day. Photo by Doron Rescheff.

Those of my generation chose between jail and exile rather than going overseas to fight. I don't believe that we are more selfish today. I do believe that we are more aware of the true nature of war and the politics which surround it.

Still, I cannot believe that Remembrance Day is an outdated observation.

First, although most of us do not personally know anyone who died in the Second World War, it is impossible to deny the contribution which they made to our way of life. It is quite possible that, had these young people not have been ready to give their lives overseas, the freedom which we have today to demonstrate against nuclear arms, to practise the religion of our choice and even to publicly remember those who did die in

the war, would be denied us. This debt of freedom is one which we cannot repay, we can only pause and remember their sacrifice and hope that we can be as selfless if called upon to defend these same freedoms for our children's children.

Secondly, while as a child I stood impatiently still in Simpson's trying to remember relatives that had died before I was born, the fact that I did try, at a very young age, to think about war is important. We are lucky in this country that all our children know of war is what they see in the movies. In other countries children grow up with the daily expectation of bombings, shootings and death. It is vitally important that our children also be educated about

the horrors of war and be made aware that other alternatives must be sought to settle differences between nations. A war in our children's time will certainly mean a holocaust so devastating that the world might not survive it.

Remembrance day is not outdated. If anything, it is more important today than ever before both for making us appreciate the rare freedom which we enjoy and for renewing our awareness of how delicate this freedom is. Surely that is the legacy which the thousands of men and women who gave up their youth, their love and their enjoyment of being alive intended for us. On November 11 I will pause for a minute and remember this gift. I hope everyone reading this will join me.

## an anti-nuclear activist speaks out

by BRIAN BIRCH

Not all victims of war are those who fought and not all those who reflect on war on November 11 do so to glorify war. Just as Women Against Violence Against Women have used Remembrance Day to remind us of all the women who have been raped and tortured as a "prize of war" those of us in the peace movement use that day as a period of reflection on all victims of militarism and war, in the past, the present and the future.

On this Remembrance Day organizations such as The Cruise Missile Conversion Project and The Against Cruise Testing Coalition will be holding vigils at Litton Industries and the war memorial in front of Old City Hall. We will be doing so because we have not forgotten the suffering of wars and do not want to repeat such an evil in the future. Nuclear weapons remind us that all of us will be the victims of the next world war.

Last year, on November 11, I took part in the civil disobedience action at Litton Industries in Rexdale to show my horror at the building of machines of mass destruction and I will be participating in similar efforts the week following Remembrance Day this year. Those who are aware of the suffering of those who fought using conventional weapons, the atrocities that were levied on civilian populations throughout the centuries and the overwhelming threat of global genocide hidden behind the current forms of military arms production demand of themselves a willingness to stop war from occurring again. This would be the ultimate way of honouring those who have, for whatever reason, died in wars throughout our history.

As a teacher on the Sturgeon Lake Reserve, I have used the idea of reflection on war to bring attention to the history of genocide that our country has in relationship to our native peoples. Through films, poetry and discussion, Remembrance Day served as a period when we could examine what happens to nations during war time, what is happening to nations not officially at war today.

The world's resources are stolen to manufacture military hardware, while people are left to starve. Social services are destroyed to allow money to be spent on armed forces build-up. Increased sizes of armies are advocated as a way of solving unemployment. The world is preparing for war. On Remembrance Day, it is up to those of us who remember to prevent war from starting.

Brian Birch is an active member of ACTS an organization dedicated to opposing nuclear arms.

Letters to the editor have moved to page 6.



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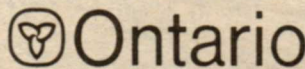
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Ministry of Community and Social Services



Frank Drea, Minister  
William Davis, Premier



# CLOSE UP

## Profile: Terry Michelin is a friend indeed

by ANNA THOMPSON

Terry Michelin has a wonderful way of making you feel at ease the moment you step into his shop. "Hi, I'm Terry Michelin — no relation to the tire," he jokes, his blue eyes twinkling.

Terry opened his shop, St. Jamestown Steak and Chops (516 Parliament St.) in 1971. "I love this neighbourhood," he declares. "I enjoy little things like friends and customers waving at me as they walk past the store."

With his easy friendliness and good-natured warmth, Terry seems like the kind of person a family would adopt as its favorite uncle. What few people may know is that Terry and his

wife, Doris, have taken fifty-four foster children into their home over the past eight years.

"Doris heard about a child that needed a place to stay for two weeks because his mother was going into hospital, on the John Gilbert radio show one morning," explains Terry. A home-finder visited the Michelins soon afterwards, and they were assigned their first foster child.

How do the Michelin's own children (Mark, 16 and Santos, 10) feel about sharing their mom and dad? "They really enjoy it," says Terry. "Santos loves the babies, and both of them know how to change diapers." The Michelins have taken on kids of all ages, from babies to teens. "It's a challenge, a lot of fun," Terry reveals. "Each child

is different — different backgrounds, different problems. I love seeing new babies smile as they get to know you. You've just got to give them love," he says, his face lighting up. "And," he continues "you hate to see them go. You get attached to them." Terry and Doris also get involved in fund raising and special events for Christopher Robin Home for Children in Ajax.

You can bet that no matter what Terry Michelin is doing, he's making someone else feel good. Give him a wave next time you pass his shop. You'll get a smile. Guaranteed.

Know someone we should profile? Call us at 921-2548 or write *The Editor, Seven News, 249 Sherbourne St., M5A 2R9.*



Terry Michelin of St. James Meats Photo by Doron Rescheff.

### Benefit

The tragic events which took place at WoodGreen Community Centre this past Christmas with the deaths of Leonard Darwen and Kevin Yedon, have given not only WoodGreen, but also the Riverdale Community and the entire Toronto area a sense of deep loss.

Both men were known for the tremendous contribution that each made to family, friends and the community. In carrying forth the beliefs which both

Kevin and Leonard practiced, WoodGreen Community Centre has established the Darwen/Yedon Educational Award Fund.

Beginning this past September, two \$500 awards are being offered on an annual basis in memory of their "involvement and commitment to improving community life in Toronto." The awards will be given to one student from Riverdale Collegiate, and one student from the School of Urban and Regional Planning at Ryerson Polytechni-

cal Institute.

The Riverdale Community Benefit will be held on November 17, 7-9 p.m. at Riverdale Collegiate Auditorium in order to raise money for the fund, to which community residents, friends and relatives are cordially invited.

Tickets for the Benefit are available at WoodGreen Community Centre, 835 Queen St. East (at Logan) or by calling 469-5211. Prices are \$10 for adults (for which a tax deductible receipt is available) and \$5 for students.

\*\*\*\*\*

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- (b) once a month
- (c) occasionally
- (d) rarely

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- (a) delivered to door
- (b) from a store or business
- (c) other (please state)

What do you read first?

- (a) Front page news
- (b) Speaking Out page
- (c) City Arts page
- (d) Special Features
- (e) Community Calendar
- (f) Advertisements

What features would you like to see in the future?

- (a) regular restaurant reviews
- (b) health and fitness features
- (c) more news about schools
- (d) bargain shopping features
- (e) sports
- (f) other (please state)

What sections would you enlarge?

- (a) News
- (b) Arts
- (c) Community Calendar
- (d) Speaking Out
- (e) Close Up

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Other Comments?

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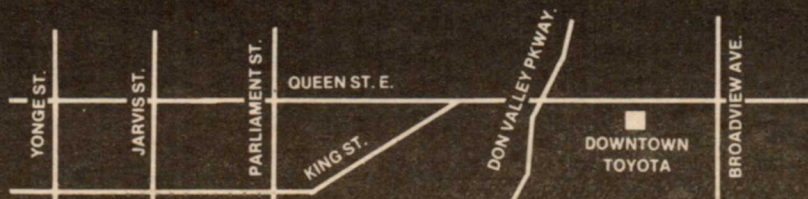
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# November 11: How we remember

by CINDY WEINER

When she was 15 years old, Dorothy Ryan forged her birth certificate so she could join the army and almost 40 years later she is still serving her country.

As district commander of the Royal Canadian Legion of Metro Toronto, Ryan is working steadfastly to supervise and co-ordinate the city-wide activities being planned for November 11 to honour 114,000 Canadians who have died in war.

Since Parliament amended the Armistice Act in 1931 at the urging of the Legion, November 11 has been set aside as a day on which Canada could pay tribute to those "who gave their lives that freedom might prevail."

November 11 is the date on

which the First World War ended in 1918. On this day at 11 a.m., two minutes of silence are observed across the nation.

But for students in Ontario, Remembrance Day will be very different this year. For the first time since the province recognized the holiday in 1931, public and secondary school students will be attending classes.

On August 31, the Ministry of Education changed the regulation of the Education Act concerning school holidays. Remembrance Day will now be observed at memorial services in all schools in the province.

If a school is in a community which conducts its own services at a cenotaph or church, then students may participate there.

"We asked the Ontario government for 10 years to delete Remembrance Day as a school

holiday," says Reginald A. Cleator, the Ontario Legion's provincial secretary. The Legion

felt that the meaning of the day was being lost and that it could be more properly observed in the schools. Although Remembrance Day is a federal statutory holiday, the school year and school holiday regulation is under provincial jurisdiction.

A Legion committee is organizing speakers, mostly older veterans, to go into the schools to tell the students about the wars in which Canadians helped fight for freedom, says Ryan. "We don't want to inflict the horrors of war on them but they should know what it was all about. As I tell my son, if you can't remember, think."

The Legion has also made children across Canada aware of

Remembrance Day by involving them in an essay and poem writing contest and a poster competition. The first place winner in last year's essay contest wrote:

We must remember always that we rob our honoured dead and surviving veterans of victory unless we carry on the race, pursue the struggle and do what they would have done to make this a better world so that the seeds that breed new wars will find no fertile ground.

In Metro this year the tribute to Canadians who fought in the First and Second World Wars and the Korean War begins in the early morning when 40 paratroopers will be jumping from planes just south of Canada's Wonderland.

At 7 a.m. there will be a sunrise service at the Prospect Cemetery on St. Clair Avenue West which will be attended by Mayor Art Eggleton.

At 10:30 a.m. the mayor will host a dedication at City Hall's Nathan Phillips Square at which the HMCS York Band will play. Lt.-Gov. John B. Aird will be present along with veterans of the Korean War and members of the Royal Canadian Naval Volunteers Reserve (RCNVR) who are celebrating their sixtieth anniversary.

Services have been planned all around the city by the Legion's 39 Metro branches. They will be held at Sunnybrook's war veterans' hospital on Bayview Avenue, St. Paul's Church on Bloor Street East, the East York Municipality Buildings and many other locations.

The poppy campaign is already underway. The bright red felt flowers are made by veterans and are an international symbol for those who died in war. Last year almost \$3 million was raised in Canada by selling the poppies. The money is used strictly to help veterans. It may provide bursaries for children of ex-service personnel, contribute to the operation of day care centres for seniors or help needy veterans. The \$300,000 collected in Metro was shared by the Legion Village in West Hill, a 100-bed residence primarily for veterans or their wives, and the Finchurst apartments built by the Legion for veterans and their families.

There are approximately 19,000 Legionnaires in the Metro area and nearly 600,000 in Canada. Although membership may be thought to be on the decline as the years since the wars multiply, associate members comprised of veterans' spouses and children help to swell the ranks. The 1,800 Canadian branches are all involved in fundraising activities in their communities throughout the year. "We are the largest supporters of the Boy Scouts of Canada and have contributed \$60 million to senior citizen housing," says Ryan. The Legion also buys hospital equipment and gave \$250,000 to the Terry Fox Youth Centre in Ottawa in honour of the marriage of Prince Charles and Princess Diana.

Ryan and thousands of others feel that they can continue to serve their country by being involved in the Legion. "Comradeship starts in the armed forces and this kind of dedicated friendship is what you find in the Legion," says Ryan. "I wouldn't trade my experiences for anything."

## Keep your kids in their place.



It's always been a good idea. Now it's the law. On Nov. 1, 1983 toddlers come under the law which requires everyone from newborns to senior citizens to be properly restrained when travelling in a car.

For children this means:

- Infants, up to 9 kilograms (20 pounds) must be properly secured in a rear-facing car seat;
- Toddlers, 9-18 kilograms (20 to 40 pounds), must be in a front-facing car seat in their parents' or guardian's car; otherwise they must be secured by a lap belt;
- Preschoolers, 18-23 kilograms (40 to 50 pounds), must be secured by a lap belt.
- Older children must use the full seat belt assembly.

## Buckle them in.

Ministry of Transportation  
and Communications

 Ontario

James Snow, Minister  
William Davis, Premier





Bag Ladies: con't from pg. 1

deal more renovation that their \$100,000 budget can allow, and which is within easy reach of hostels.

With the cold weather coming on the need for a drop in centre for bag ladies gets more immediate. Any place which the organization finds now will probably not be ready to use until well into November and December and, in the meantime, many bag ladies will continue to roam the streets cold, hungry, without a place to call their own.

Crime: con't from pg. 1

vention Manager for Mac's Convenience Stores, in an interview with Seven News. "If merchants don't take steps to protect themselves, their employees, their store, they're very foolish, even reckless." He said that much of what can be done to prevent crime is very easy, and costs little or nothing. "But people won't make the effort," he said. "It's a two-edged sword when merchants take steps to prevent crime, they may also increase business because they are greet-

ing their customers and staying alert." Caspar said that as well as the training sessions all Mac's managers attend, the company makes its robbery prevention manual available to independent merchants. "We're happy to oblige. But they can also go to the police - our material parallels what the crime prevention bureau offers the public. Unfortunately, they don't."

"It's safety first for our people," Caspar said. "People don't have to get hurt, and loss of life or limb is far more important than goods or money."

Two years ago, 7-Eleven Food Stores invited small businesses to robbery prevention seminars, which were held in Toronto, Hamilton, and Ottawa. "Frankly, the response in Toronto was horrible," Peter Flack, a spokesman for 7-Eleven, said in an interview. "In Hamilton we had to turn people away; they were coming in by the busload." Flack said that 7-Eleven has a very extensive program, which each of their employees goes through before being assigned to a store.

"It's most definitely a corporate responsibility," Flack said. "We have a responsibility to our employees that they do not incur these risks." 7-Eleven makes their robbery prevention program available to anyone. "If we can share what we know with others, the less crime that happens, the better for all," Flack said. "As consumers we are more apt to shop where we feel it's safe, so the safer the place, the better for business, as well as for employee morale."

When asked about Becker's stores crime prevention policies Mr. Keene, Head of Security for the chain said, "You heard me, didn't you, we don't comment on these matters to the media." He told Seven News that they "certainly do" have a robbery prevention program, but refused to say whether it involved any sort of employee education. An 18-year-old Mississauga woman is paralyzed from the neck down after being shot during a robbery attempt in a Becker's store last month. Five suspects have been arrested in connection with the shooting and robbery attempt in the store, where the woman worked part time. "I have tired to make my girls aware," said Ruth Cropley. "Employers who don't are ignorant. It's common sense, but there was a lot we didn't realize before." Cropley is involved with three other merchants on her block who are fairly isolated and have agreed to look out for each other.

Two of five men present at the meeting on October 20 said in interview later that the were prepared to use weapons against intruders. One man, who said that he has a 45 automatic, explained that although he keeps an eye out for his neighbours anyway, and uses elements of the anti-robbery kit, nevertheless, "I don't go for the cops way of seeing it." Although Jewinski emphasized prevention and avoidance of crime throughout the meeting, the man felt that he might not be able to recover his goods unless he took "direct action." Another man, whose 16-year-old son occasionally minds the store in his absence, keeps a baseball bat handy under the counter.

"Police and social agencies once hoped to find institutional solutions to these problems of crime and so on, but now we see that we must get people to take some responsibility themselves," Jewinski said in an interview. "There has got to be a co-operation between the police and the community," Joanne Campbell told Seven News. "Hans Jew-

inski and others have a real job ahead of them."

"We live in luxury by comparison to what is happening in the States," Barrie Chavel, an assistant to Alderman Reville, said in an interview. "We're Hogtown, Toronto the Good. We want the few to do the work of many." People want the public services, she said, they know how to tap the politicians, they're good at signing petitions, and they expect an official to do the work. "It's time for Toronto to grow up."

Officer Hans Jewinski will be pleased to answer your questions on how to limit crime in your area. Address your questions to Crime Watch c/o Seven News, 249 Sherbourne St. M5A 2R9.

when a pretext can be arranged. Reagan and his supporters further intend to do this all around the world while mouthing cover slogans about freedom and democracy.

The justification given for Canada remaining in NATO, is that it protects our people. On the contrary, it is the only source of grave international danger our people face by making us potential enemies of peoples who otherwise are eager to be our friends. Reagan is making it clear where he intends to go. Only fools will follow.

As northern neighbours of the people of the U.S. who in their majority brought the horror in Vietnam to a halt and thereby won the admiration of the world, we send our sympathy in their new grave trials of which Lebanon and Grenada are the opening tests and we wish them, for their sake and the world's, every success in once more setting their Executive branch of government in order.

The Canadian Peace Congress urges that the Canadian Government join world wide public and a majority of Governments in their protest and demand immediate U.S. withdrawal from Grenada.

Dr. John Hanly Morgan,  
President,  
Canadian Peace Congress.

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**CONNEXIONS**

MEANS

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<b>FRAN ENDICOTT</b> Trustee, Ward 7	Board of Education Tel: 598-4931
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<b>JIM RENWICK, M.P.P.</b> (NDP) Riverdale	Queen's Park Office Tel: 965-5928 Constituency Office 1204 Gerrard St. East Tel: 461-0223
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(Advertisement)

**LETTERS**

**story shows archaic attitude**

I was disappointed to see Seven News jumping on the latest bandwagon regarding "evil youth trends."

I've heard a lot about these goddess video arcades from my middle-aged peers. But the article in your last issue could have come straight from the Moral Majority newsletter's editorial page. "Lights flash out at you . . . young, sweaty players grip the controls as though they have only one hour left to live . . . these monsters are video games."

We also are informed that Friendly Officer Ed from Division 55 (perhaps wearing a white hat during his presentations) tells parents that we have a direct link between video and juvenile delinquency! It's true that Pac-Man is a strange looking little blip. But is he really the root cause of youth gangs that engage in house-breaking, drug-dealing and cigarette smoking?

If you close your eyes, and take yourself back to the 1950s, you can hear the same shrill voices making the same denunciations of rock and roll. And in the 1960s, it was long hair that was destroying the moral fabric of western civilization.

Today's young generation has every right - as we do - to choose their own forms of entertainment and recreation. Many of us may not share their choice. But it's a quantum leap of logic to turn their culture into a "social problem." I suspect that video arcades are as detrimental to society in the 1980s as Elvis' pelvis was in the 1950s.

Call me an idealist . . . but I really hoped that a generation that had suffered those inane accusations 15 and 20 years ago would not turn around and attack the next youth culture.

But maybe there's a little Jerry Falwell in us all.

Too bad.  
Larry Gordon.

**Grenada a tragedy**

The invasion of Grenada in the time-dishonoured tradition of redneck gunboat U.S. imperialism in the Caribbean and Central America should serve as a terrible warning to Canadians of the dangers of a future in NATO dominated by a U.S. government led by buccaneers. Nicaragua is plainly next on their list and the Cubans are fully aware that they too are targeted for attack

**Seven News brief**

**The Cabbagetown Community Band** presents Stayin' Alive with Cabbagetown Jive. An exciting new dance program for all ages. Courses in beginners and intermediate jazz, ballet and ballroom dancing will start in November. Artistic director Frank Regan who is known throughout the world as a performer, teacher and choreographer along with Lubica Dobalova, former prima (number one soloist) ballerina with the Czechoslovakian National Ballet Co. invite you to join them at their new studio in the heart of Cabbagetown. Located at 435 Parliament St. between Gerrard and Spruce streets, this new dance program will provide top professional dance instruction at a nominal cost. We can make special arrangements for those who are financially limited. For more information call David Blackmore 920-3650.

**Services for you**

a regular advertising feature

We'd like to tell you about our store in your neighbourhood. **TRAPEZE** in Cabbagetown at 535 Parliament Street is the first of our two stores in Toronto. Featuring the eclectic mix of jewellery and leather (and some interesting items like beautiful deco reproduction lamps for only \$45). An exciting mix of the practical and the frivolous. **VIVIENNE** resident jeweller from Britain makes delightful original jewellery in sterling silver, carat gold and brass too. Also expert custom design to order. Some fun jewellery - titanium, glass, acrylic from all over the world. The other speciality is imported leather bags from Columbia, priced just right, and perfect for travelling about town. \$45-\$135.

P.S. Our other **TRAPEZE** store is in Kensington market. 142 Baldwin Street.



# CITY ARTS

## Debra won't grow up

by ROSANNA SANZO

A child stranded from his parents on a traffic island and attempting to make his way through speeding boats and honking bumper cars is one of the imaginative situations in Debra Bojman's story-poem entitled *Security Blanket*.

Bojman is artistic director of a children's theatre company called Changing Places Theatre and also the prominent playwright and poet of many plays in the company's repertoire.

Bojman chose to work in children's theatre, she says, "because it chose me." She explains, "when I first started writing whether for adults or children the kind of ideas I had were highly imaginative and about things like girls skipping ropes turning into rainbows or octopuses having a million arms that you could play with. It was not a conscious decision. People would tell me that the material that I was writing would be good for children. I like imagination and fantasy and a lot of my ideas come from my dreams. It seems that children are more into fantasy and spontaneity than adults."

When Bojman was a girl she had a dream or a vision one night. "There was a little man dressed in a harlequin outfit, he had a white face and danced from side to side playing a mandolin," she remembers. She feels that that little man has inspired her and was a vision of things to come.

Bojman's educational experience comes from first being an enrichment aid where she taught and worked with children in creative drama and in writing situations. "Besides having imagination and ideas" says Bojman, "you have to learn how to write for children. You have to understand about family, school, and play, and be keyed into children's everyday lives."

Some advice Bojman offers to apprenticing writers is to know the market by reading a lot of plays and being aware of what other theatre companies are doing. "Then," continues Bojman, "you can combine your talents and strong points with your own childhood experience's to create works which are unique and original."

The creative process behind *Security Blanket* came from Bojman watching her little girl one day playing with the laundry. She then thought of her own feelings towards a blanket and its many uses, the final force being her past experience from working with children.

"Children are not manipulative," says Bojman. "They are happy and easy to please audiences, therefore they are thought of as being manipulative, but children have their own grievances, they just can not articulate them."

Concerning the status of children's theatre in Canada Bojman replied, "I don't think that it is taken seriously, not only in Canada but it seems that most people in the world make their own fulfillment a priority."

The economic situation for theatre groups in Canada is set out whereby groups receive partial funding by the government. "Small companies like my own try to get money from wherever they can. It should come from all sides of the community; through fund raising, memberships, government and corporations." Bojman's main grievance is towards the government. "People don't know all of the ins and outs of government grants unless they know someone working in the granting office that could help them." "It is difficult for small groups to get started because it is the companies with a high profile like Stratford, that receive a lot of money because they are established."

It seems that children's theatre



Debra Bojman does plays which are "keyed to children's everyday lives." Photo by Doron Rescheff.

companies fall into two categories. One is the 'fly-by-night' companies who open and shut down quickly. Then there are the groups like Changing Places Theatre who struggle through hard economic times to establish their name. Before its inception in 1979, Bojman ran a storytelling group called The Wordweavers, preceded by the Lily Pad Players and her first start in 1973 as Puppets for People. "Groups who have been around long enough" says Bojman, "can work in a quite lucrative situation if they are picked up by various school boards."

Bojman feels that "you should work to become established, but that your work should continue to have challenges that stir the mind, or else audiences will go away not having learned anything." Bojman states that "art should raise question - it is not pat answers and pat solutions."

Changing Places Theatre definitely confronts the issues. In *Pyjamas from Tahiti*, by Bojman, is a play about a child peering into the working world

and learning about unions. He then goes back to the problems in his classroom and tries to win a voice for the children in the school system.

Changing Places Theatre's current touring production, *Knee High to a Grasshopper* includes, as well as *Security Blanket*, two other short pieces "Noko's Dream" by Richard Markle and "Shapes and Sizes" by Vivien Brody. Inspired by the renowned Japanese troupe Kaze No Ko, *Knee High to a Grasshopper* incorporates the creative use of household objects. In particular, *Security Blanket* demonstrates the use of a single object which is used by the child to express his fears from childhood to the first day of school. In *Noko's Dream* children are invited to create a forest with umbrellas, blankets and laundry baskets. Workshops on creating environments with the use of cardboard boxes and household objects are also offered. The result is a show well received by young audiences and educators in the city.

Bojman, the backbone of Changing Places Theatre wishes

to continue through her writing to challenge young and sophisticated audiences by inspiring imagination and participation in order to understand the complex issue and often confusing situations that face today's children.



Norm Mohamad and Olly Wodin in a performance by Changing Places Theatre.

## Actor's Lab opens with a winner

by HARRY POSNER

*Theatre Alchemy is perceived as a process of transformation of the basic elements of the theatre experience: the actor, the space, time, rhythm and the audience. It is a serious attempt to transmute the base materials of life's interior and exterior processes and experiences into a disciplined work of art.*

Richard Nieoczym  
Artistic Director, Actor's Lab.

"Phenomena. Enigma. Phenomena. Enigma." The riddle of life, like a sinuous silver snake gliding through the branches of a weeping willow, reveals itself to the imagination willing to embrace its wisdom. In myth and poem, movement and sound, what lives in us as chaos, is trans-

formed into image, language and words that have the power to mobilize the forces of the heart.

Mickey and Spadina's *Refugee Circus*, the first of three new plays presented as part of Actor's Lab Theatre's Canadian Alchemy Festival, embodies the struggle between the creative spirit of life and the destructive forces of death.

Living amongst the psychic garbage and decay of contemporary society, Mickey and Spadina are refugees, escaping from a form of consciousness that withers the lilies of our imaginative life. Soaring out and above the clutter of dead concepts that live in all of us, they weave a dream world, inhabited by the fantasies, both personal and collective, that lie buried beneath our relationships to each other and to the world in which we live.

Created and energetically performed by Perry Lewis and Sara Richardson, Mickey and Spadina become for us the archetypal man and woman, whose love for each other finds expression at first in the raw gestures of lust. But by the end we understand how sensuality devoid of sensitivity is like making love to death, stealing its poison and in turn being consumed.

Spadina's contorted postures and halting movements convey the frailty both of the human body and of the earth's body, trapped in the face of indiscriminate pillage. Only the renewal of our sense of wonder can give birth to the love and will be necessary to transform the tragic side of the human condition. Mickey's realization of the selfish nature of his love for Spadina puts him in touch with the only truly human part of an

existence grown cold and mannequin-like: in Spadina's response to his shame, he discovers the spark of life within the corpse of death.

The writing in this play is at once richly symbolic and multi-layered, and like the plastic substance of dreams, invites each individual to form and mold his or her response. With little in the way of props or structured story line to help orient the viewer, the play nonetheless takes us gently by the scruff of the neck and places us squarely in front of a cleansing mirror. If the sight is at first ghoulish, it is because we have lost our 'shine.' Mickey and Spadina's *Refugee Circus* is a 'giant shining girl' who takes us by the hand and leads us into the phenomenal and the enigmatic. What we can discover here, if we are

open, is our very own philosopher's stone.

Mickey and Spadina's *Refugee Circus*, created and performed by Perry Lewis and Sara Richardson, runs Oct. 26 to Dec. 11, Wed. to Sat. at 8:30, Sund. at 2:30. Actor's Lab Performance Studio, 155A George Street. 363-2853.

Library to show work by east-end artists: The Queen-Saulter Library 765 Queen St. E. invites east end artists to show their work in one-man shows at the library. The works shown can be in any media, painting, water colour, photography, sculpture, soft sculpture, pottery, ceramics, macrame, etc. Interested artists should contact Miss O'Neal at the library, 465-2156.



# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## Friday

November 4

**The Funnel Presents:** a screening of films by Keith Sanborn. 8 p.m. Admission \$3.50. Call 364-7003.

## Saturday

November 5

**Dixon Hall Seniors' Bazaar** will take place at Dixon Hall, 58 Sumach Street from 11 a.m. It will include a variety of craft items, a bake table, fish pond, white elephant sale and an afternoon tea. Raffle tickets will also be available toward prizes which include a box of groceries, a wall hanging and a doll. For more information contact Carmen Benoit at 863-0498.

**St. Barnabas Church Christmas Bazaar.** 361 Danforth Ave. 11-4. Please come and do your Christmas shopping early. Crafts, adult and childrens used clothing and snack bar, home baking, jams, pickles, plants, decorations and much more.

**Video/Culture presents Pantomation** for children five and up. Mime artist Naomi Tyrrell and film/video artist Tom DeWit combine forces in Pantomation. DeWit uses an Apple computer, video synthesizer and monitors to follow the movement of Tyrrell. Art plays with technology and the results are magic. Harbourfront. Call 869-8412.

## Sunday

November 6

**A Guided Tour of the Leslie St. Spit,** sponsored by the Eastern Health Area and the Community Advisory Board. 12 noon to 4 p.m. Meet at 815 Danforth Ave. To register send \$6 along with name, address and phone number to Pat Thompson, Cab Secretary, 42 Long Crescent. Toronto, M4E 1N6. For more information call Sue at 469-0885.

## Wednesday

November 9

**Understanding Stress:** What is stress? How much stress is normal? How does stress affect you? Join us on Wednesday Nov. 9th at 7 p.m. for a film and discussion on this subject. Free child care available. Central Neighbourhood House, 349 Ontario St. 925-4363.

**Lynn McDonald, MP** will be holding a Public Forum at 8:30 p.m. at Simpson Avenue United Church, 115 Simpson Avenue. The topic of discussion will be JOBS: Full employment, dream of the past, or . . . ?

## Saturday

November 12

**St. Peter's Anglican Church** 190 Carlton Street wishes to announce that their Cranberry Fair will be held from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Admission is \$ .25 cents. There will be a door prize and many other lucky draw prizes. Home baking, boutiques, crafts and a Country Store will be featured. Luncheon will be served between 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. at a cost of \$3. Everyone welcome. Call 960-8244.

**Art Show and Sale:** For the Bob Rumball Centre for the Deaf. 2395 Bayview Ave., Willowdale (north of Lawrence Ave.) 6-9 p.m. and Saturday from 9-6 p.m. Presented by the Society of Canadian Artists. Thirty artists exhibiting, using a wide range of media and styles. No charge for admission and parking is free. Call 449-9651.

**Kaleidoscope:** fun at Harbourfront, with family programs of creative crafts, active games and special events. Bring the kids to York Quay Centre, 235 Queen's Quay West, for today's events, from 11:30 to 5 p.m. Free admission. Call 364-5665.

**Neilson Matinee Delights:** Leading Toronto storyteller Helen Porter recounts enchanting tales of heroes and heroines who don't conform to traditional male-female roles. A new look at old stories! After the show, children are invited to meet the performers and enjoy a free Neilson treat. 2 p.m., Saturday and Sunday. Adults \$3, children/seniors \$2.50. Tickets available from the Harbourfront box office (869-8412) and BASS.

**Equity Showcase Theatre:** Christopher Fry's religious comedy *A Sleep of Prisoners* continues today at Harbourfront at 8:30 p.m. Free admission, reservations required. Call 869-8412. Sponsored by Labatt's Ontario Breweries Ltd.

## Sunday

November 13

**Traditional Sounds:** Brookfield presents its original combination of jazz, folk, blues and soft rock today at 2 p.m. Free admission, sponsored by Coca Cola Ltd. Harbourfront. Call 364-5665.

## Tuesday

November 15

**Rendezvous for Seniors:** Seniors swing to disco and ballroom dancing every Tuesday, and folk-dancing on Thursdays, from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Free admission. From 12:15 to 12:45 p.m. Today, the Bank of Montreal presents a free lecture, *Making the Most of Your Money*.

## Wednesday

November 16

**Chicago.** Chicago has been an active centre of experimental filmmaking for many years and tonight's program is a selection of work by Chicago area filmmakers in Super 8 and 16mm, including films by Renata Breth, Steve Osborn, Norm Bruns, Adele Friedman, Jean Sousa and Dick Olderman. This program was organized with the assistance of Allan Ross. The Funnel. Admission \$3.50. Call 364-7003.

**How to Handle Stress in your life.** How can tension be managed? What can you do when the stress doesn't go away? What about pills? What are the alternatives? Where can you get help? Join us for a discussion of this topic on Wednesday, Nov. 16th at 7 p.m. at Central Neighbourhood House, 349 Ontario St. 925-4363. Free child care available.

### RIVERDALE COMMUNITY BENEFIT

November 17th - 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Riverdale Collegiate Auditorium  
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- *Chinarts Dance Association*
- *Riverdale Collegiate Band . . . and more*

Proceeds to support The Darwen/Yedon Educational Award Fund which will provide two annual awards for students from Riverdale Collegiate & Ryerson Polytechnical Institute (sponsored by Woodgreen Community Centre.)

### ANNUAL MEETING

Community Advisory Board  
Eastern Health Area

Thursday, November 24th at 7 p.m.

Rhodes Avenue United Church  
1470 Gerrard Street East

Nominations will be taken from the floor. Six local residents will be elected to join four incumbents in advising the department of public health on community health issues.

*Refreshments & Childcare provided*

Call Sue for more information 469-0885

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**Smart Person** wanted to work in busy office 3 or 4 days a week. Typing of 50 wpm is essential. Logan/Gerrard area. Phone 469-4155.

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