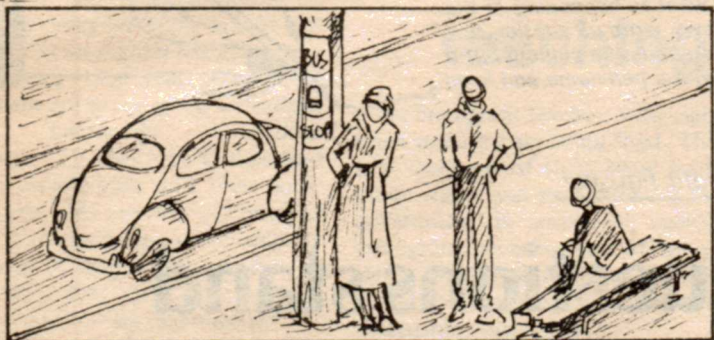


## Stop TTC fare increase



### OPINION!

By ULLI DIEMER

"Facts," the American revolutionary Tom Paine once proclaimed, "speak louder than arguments."

The sentiment applies to the latest in a never-ending series of increases in TTC fares, scheduled to go into effect next month after the Progressive Conservative provincial government refused the necessary subsidy to keep fares frozen.

Just what are the facts?

**Fact 1:** The amount of provincial subsidy needed to keep fares where they are now would be about \$6 million.

**Fact 2:** The government says it doesn't have the money to help the TTC.

**Fact 3:** The same week as it refused help to the TTC because 'there is no money in the provincial coffers', the provincial government announced a \$100 million handout to the pulp and paper industry. Profits in that industry are at all-time record highs: the profits of the top 15 companies in the industry increased by 94 per cent in the first 9 months of 1978, compared to the first nine months of 1977.

**Fact 4:** The same day as it refused to help the TTC, the provincial government announced that it would support the building of a STOL airport on the Toronto Islands. The sole purpose of the STOL service is to provide business flights between Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa. The service would save businessmen time because they wouldn't have to travel all the way out to Malton for their flights. STOL would result in environmental damage to the Toronto Islands, and would pave the way for the conversion of the Island Airport into a full-scale commercial jet airport. The most favourable study of a STOL service, done by the federal government, its main promoter, indicates that it would lose between \$50 million and \$52 million over a ten-year period. That works out to \$5 million or so a year, almost enough to (for example) cover the cost of the TTC subsidy.

The facts speak fairly loudly. What they say it is:

The problem is not lack of money. The problem is that governments are using the taxpayers' money to subsidize corporate profits and business conveniences at the expense of social needs such as transit, health care, and education, all of which are being viciously cut back.

Governments apply a double standard. They demand that public transit pay for itself and that health care and education be judged by 'cost-benefit' analyses. But they apply no such standard to industrial policy, where billions of dollars are shelled out, supposedly to create jobs, even though in fact corporations are axing jobs, not creating them, while their profits continue to climb at an even faster rate than the unemployment figures. In the area of transportation itself, public transit and automobile transit are judged by completely different standards. Public transit is supposed to pay for itself "from the farebox" but automobiles are not expected to pay for road construction and maintenance, let alone for related costs such as pollution and car accidents. Gasoline taxes, the main way in which car use is taxed, are, as the government itself admits, far too low to cover even their share of the basic costs of road construction and maintenance.

Even someone who isn't a cynic might easily come to the conclusion that government policy has little to do with 'objective economic facts' or 'rational decision-making', let alone with justice or the wishes and needs of the people.

What government policy does seem to relate to is power, as it was summed up in the novel *Catch-22*: "They can do anything we can't stop them from doing."

Perhaps we can stop them. The first step (but only the first step) might be to follow John Sewell's suggestion to bombard Premier William Davis' office with letters and phone calls telling him he'd better change his mind if he wants to keep his job. Politicians have a remarkable talent for finding reasons for changing their minds if they think they're in danger of losing power.

The address for letters is:

Premier William Davis,  
Legislative Assembly  
Queen's Park  
Toronto

The number for his office is 965-1211

## It's YOUR paper too

Feeling depressed, irritable, down in the dumps?

Got the mid-winter blues, or the February blahs?

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If symptoms persist, TRY TAKING ANOTHER DAY OFF WORK.

If symptoms STILL persist, you've got a hard-core case, and maybe what you need is a change of scene.

In which case, why not head over to the 7 News office, or phone us up at 363-9650, and become involved in 7 News? We could really use

more volunteers here, not to mention some fresh faces. (Ever notice how everybody — young and old, male and female — looks the same by the end of February?) There's lots of stuff to do here, with tasks to suit almost anybody's time and abilities.

We could use help with some basic bookkeeping and office work; with typing; mailing; editing and writing; delivering papers, fundraising, you name it.

Why not give it a shot? It might be just what the doctor ordered.

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Entrenched powers feel threatened

# Media attacks reform trustees

By George Martell

In the last six weeks, it seems to me, the Toronto Board of Education has generated more press than it has in the last six years.

Hardly a day goes by without a roundhouse swing at either the Board or its teachers by one of the editors of our three major dailies.

What's going on?

Is it a tempest in a teapot — as these things often are — created by the media to sell papers or improve the TV ratings and, incidentally, to take a swipe at people they don't like? Or is it something more serious?

I think it's something more serious, although on the surface the hammering we've been taking seems way out of line — wildly hysterical, even a little nutty. As Jack Hutton writes of our teachers during this time, they couldn't be blamed for wondering "whether they had just awarded an honorary degree to Idi Amin or endorsed the slaughter of the entire seal population of North America."

The attack should be taken seriously because underlying its surface hysteria is an understanding by the people who run this province (including its media) that the Toronto Board is beginning to touch on dangerous ground — the area of big money and real power. Who has it? Who doesn't? And what are we going to do about it?

Let's take the question of power, first.

### Revolutionary Board?

If you'd glanced at the *Saturday Star* a couple of weeks back, you might well have wondered how you'd missed the rumble of tanks up College Street or at least the occasional burst of automatic gunfire. On the top of the front page a red banner screamed: "Revolutionaries" in control of school board/C1." And on C1,

across the bottom half of the page, the headline ran: "Trustees seethe as 'revolutionaries' control board."

If you'd then had time to read the story carefully, you'd have found out it was only a minority of "Right wing" trustees who were "seething". And what they were seething about — what the "revolutionaries", who turned out to be duly elected trustees, were supporting — was the introduction of parliamentary democracy at the school board level. This included the formation of a government (the "reform coalition", made up mostly of NDPers), responsible for developing policy initiatives, for which it would be accountable to the voters.

What's all the fuss about then?

The fuss is about power.

What the provincial government — and the media who support it — think they can see in this move is that the Board is beginning to undermine the power structure that has been carefully built up in education over the last three decades.

They are dead right.

### Direction

In the old days of the Toronto Board — to which the right wing wants us to return — the trustees had no coherent program to put forward. They were separated into small, often fractious groups, and the only thing most of them could

See: ONTARIO GOVERNMENT — Pg. 8

## Help for seniors

Attention Senior Citizens!

Students at five Secondary Schools in the city are ready and willing to repair your toaster or kettle, dry clean your clothing and launder your linen, do small carpentry jobs, repair your lawn mower, do sewing repairs, or small printing jobs, cook and serve lunch in the school — even style your hair and give you a manicure. And all at very reasonable prices!

These services are part of the School and Community Service Project. Co-sponsored by the Toronto Board of Education and Community Care Services, this project gives students real working experience in the trades they are studying in school and, at the same time, provides some handy services to local senior citizens.

Of all the programs offered, hair-dressing has proved the most popular. Transportation can usually be arranged to and from the schools,

where necessary, and the rates suit everyone's pocket. In their turn, the young people have the opportunity to work with real models and to get constructive criticism, or praise for a job well done from their customers.

Repair services have also been widely used and many older people have been able to salvage items which would otherwise have been thrown away.

In Ward 7, there are two participating schools, Castle Frank High School (Bloor Street East near Parliament) and Parkview Secondary School (at Danforth and Broadview).

There is one central telephone number for all programs in all schools: 961-4038. Contact the S.C.S.P. office today, to make an appointment or just to find out which programs are available in your area. The staff will be pleased to hear from you.

## Final Oak Street plan nears completion

By JOHN O'DEA

The future of the vacant land on Oak and Cornwall Streets has for many years been the subject of much concern for residents of this area. When the Board of Education who owned the land invited local input into establishing the conditions for disposal of the site, the response was overwhelming. More than one hundred local people actively participated in the year's work, which produced a seventeen page "Proposal" for meeting the community's social interests as well as the Board's financial responsibilities.

The Proposal was unanimously approved at an all community meeting held at Regent Park United Church on the 18th of October, 1978, and later approved with minor changes by the Board of Education. One of the recommendations of the proposal was that a

new committee be struck to ensure that the interests of the community continue to be protected. By the time this report is published, the "Oak Street Site Proposal Committee" — which consists of six area residents, one alderman, one trustee and a representative from the Board of Education — will have drafted a "Proposal Call". This proposal call will be published in Toronto newspapers by the Board of Education to inform developers that the site is available for development by anyone prepared to comply with the guidelines set by the community in its 17 page report.

Once all proposals have been received, the Committee will call a public meeting to discuss them with area residents.

Deadline for the next issue of 7 News is Monday March 5.

### Community Meetings

DAYCARE IN REGENT PARK will be the subject of a meeting on Tuesday February 27 in Regent United Church at 7:30.

THE REGENT PARK COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION is having a general membership meeting on February 28 at 7 p.m. at Regent Park United Church, 40 Oak St. All tenants are welcome and invited. Call 364-2909 for more information.

WELFARE ACTION is on the agenda on Tuesday March 6 at the Old Post Office, 765 Queen St. E., at 7:30. Call 461-8102.

THE RIVERDALE ACTION GROUP will meet in the Old Post Office 765 Queen St. E., on Saturday March 10 from 1 to 5 p.m. Topic is "What it means to live in Riverdale".

For more information on these meetings, see the Community Calendar on Page 5.





is a community newspaper founded in 1970 and published every other Saturday by Seven News Inc. Address: 315 Dundas St. East, (All Saints Church), Toronto M5A 2A2. Phone: 363-9650. 7 News is distributed free in its circulation area; mailed subscriptions are \$7.50 per year. 7 News receives financial assistance from the Ontario Arts Council. Opinions expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of Seven News.

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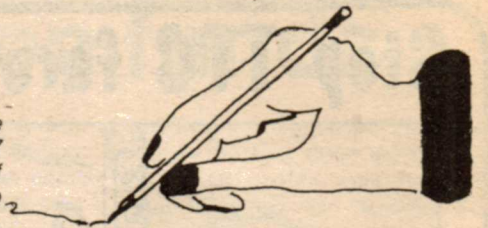


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## LETTERS

If you have comments or opinions about what is happening in the community or about what you read in 7 News, write us a letter, to 7 News, 265 Gerrard St. E., Toronto. All letters must be signed, but if you ask us to, we will publish your letter with a pen-name and keep your real name confidential.



### Ward 7 business group and non-profit housing

## Co-op questions stand

**Mr. Darrell Kent, President  
Ward 7 Business and Professional  
Association of Toronto  
Darrell Kent Real Estate Ltd.  
552 Parliament Street  
Toronto, Ontario M4X 1P6**

Dear Sir:

The members of our co-operative were extremely upset to read your recent letter in the February 10th issue of 7 News. To begin with, the Dundas/Sherbourne Tenants Association asked for a clear explanation of your objections to non-profit housing and to people who live in it. You did not provide such an explanation, and so we ask again for an answer to this question.

We cannot believe that all the members of your association hold the same negative attitudes toward residents of low income and non-profit housing as were expressed in your letter. Many of these businessmen are long time residents of the area themselves. Please do them and us the courtesy of publicly identifying the members of your association who support this backward attitude toward non-profit and subsidized housing.

We, at the Bain Co-operative, are aware that there is a housing crisis

in Ward 7. Low income and working people are being pushed out of the ward by spiralling housing costs. This is a clear indication that what we need is more, not less, non-profit and co-operative housing. Obviously it is in the interest of all community groups and associations in the ward to encourage the growth of this type of housing.

Furthermore, we wish to make it clear that we support the City's efforts to provide non-profit housing and encourage neighbourhood stability in this city. We will urge them to resist any pressure by your association to sell off any part of their portfolio to private commercial interests.

In closing, we wish to remind you that tenants and residents of non-profit housing will ignore attacks such as have been made. We have significant purchasing power and are a constituency your association should not ignore.

Sincerely,  
**Peter Tabuns**  
Finance Manager  
c.c. Editor, 7 News  
Janet Howard, Alderman Ward 7  
Dundas/Sherbourne Tenants  
Association

**Alderman Gordon Cressy, Ward 7  
Mr. Michael Dennis**

### Wants to pump his own gas

I, the undersigned, being a reader of your newspaper and a sometime customer of the St. Jamestown Texaco service station, would like to advise you of my wish to maintain a balanced report of Ward 7 News and of my objection to your simplistic attempts to divert your captive audience in only one direction. Insofar as converting the above station to self serve is concerned: I cannot believe that closing the bays is quite the disaster to car owners which you suggest. I would certainly prefer a self serve to a car wash as a neighbour. I no more would want to pay a higher price to have some one serve me gasoline than to have some one sell me groceries. I do not expect a newspaper to solicit my support for only one side of a contentious issue, and I am in favour of higher profits for greater efficiency.

Are you listening Alderman Howard?

Yours very truly,  
**George A. Leigh**

### In educational system

By Ulli Diemer

About 30 people waded through ankle-deep water and slush in pouring rain to take part in the last meeting of the Ward 7 Education Forum at Lord Dufferin School.

The main part of the meeting was a presentation by Ward 7 trustee George Martell on streaming, which was followed by quite a lively discussion.

Quoting from the Board of Education's Every Student Survey and other studies, Martell showed that there is a consistent and quite marked relationship between socio-economic backgrounds, and the programs their children are

placed in, in school.

Generally speaking, kids from poorer backgrounds have a much better chance of winding up in "special" programs and dead-end streams. One of the most dramatic statistics showed that children whose parents are on welfare or mother's allowance have seven times as great a chance of winding up in Level 1 and 2 programs (the lowest) as one would expect by their numbers.

The facts Martell quoted aren't new, and they probably aren't news to Ward 7 parents but what may be new is the idea that it's possible to do something about them. There

was a good deal of discussion at the meeting as to whether the fate of workingclass and poor kids in the schools is the result of a "conspiracy", of structural problems with the school system, or generally the product of a class society, but no one disputed that it is necessary to do something.

How to tackle this issue and other problems in the educational system will be the subject of future meetings, which will be announced in 7 News as they are called. (A meeting planned for February 28 for Frankland School has been cancelled because the school couldn't be reserved for that night.)

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## Is your favourite pothole on fix-it list?

The following is a list of streets in Ward 7 for which various kinds of construction and repairs have been scheduled for 1979. If you would like to find out specifically which section of the street will be worked on when, contact the City Works Department and they should be able to give you more details. Alternatively, or if you feel work is unnecessary, or if needed work isn't scheduled, contact Alderman Janet Howard at 367-7916.

Slated for crack-filling or slurry seal work (temporary overlays on damaged asphalt) are Bain Ave., Bonnycastle St., Brigden Place and the lane behind it, Carlton St. (east of Parliament), Cherry St., Chesterhill Rd., Derby St., Doncrest Rd., Don Jail Roadway, Erin St., First Ave., Hampton Ave., Logan Ave. (near Lake Shore), Millbrook Cres., Ontario St. (between Dundas and Gerrard), Princess St., Prospect St., Sackville St. (near Wellesley), Small St., Spruce St., Sumach St. (near Amelia), Wellesley St. (east of Parliament), Wilkins Ave., Winchester St. (near Rose Ave.), Withrow Ave.

The following streets are scheduled for overlays of new asphalt: Broadview (Dundas to Gerrard), Hampton Ave., Jackman Ave., Parliament St. (Front to Derby), Sumach St. (Gerrard to Amelia), the lane south of Queen St. between Booth and Logan, and the lane north of Simpson between Howland and Logan.

Construction will take place on Broadview (Dundas to Gerrard, on the sidewalks and curbs); Carlton St. (Sherbourne St. to Ontario, on the south side, and Sherbourne to Bleecker on the north side as well); Dundas (Broadview to Boulton, on the sidewalks and curbs); Howard St. (Sherbourne to Bleecker, on the road and sidewalks); Milan St.; Ontario St. (Richmond to Queen, on the sidewalks and curbs); Poulette St.; Princess St. (both of them on the road and the sidewalks); the lane west of Logan between Colgate

and Paisley, and Paisley to Dundas (sewer construction will also go on here); the lane north of Gerrard between Howland and Logan (sewer construction as well); and the lane east of Howland between Gerrard and Simpson (sewer construction as well).

Sidewalk repairs will be done on Broadview (between Eastern and Queen); Cherry St. (Front to Eastern); Chesterhill Rd.; Hampton Ave.; Jackman Ave.; Parliament St. (Front to Derby); and Princess St. (King to Adelaide).

Watermain construction will take place on Danforth (Broadview to Jackman).

### Living in Riverdale

By TED WAZONEK

After six long years of waiting, there will be a community event at the new Old Post Office building at 745 Queen St. East.

The event will be a meeting of the Riverdale Action Group (R.A.G.) on Saturday March 10 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

On that day, the community is being invited for an afternoon of sharing "what it means to live in Riverdale". Concerned individuals and groups will discuss, debate, share, and be involved with the guest speakers: Edith Brown, Al Seaton, Charlotte Stuart, and moderator Bill Fenn.

Members of R.A.G. feel that access to the Old Post Office building will help to slowly awaken the "sleeping giant" (that's Riverdale) from its slumber. To help clear the sleep out of its eyes, R.A.G. is hoping for a large attendance.

To live in Riverdale means many things to many people. Riverdale is a community of diverse views and diverse actions. Yet we are responsible for our own learning and we help the learning in others. Is Riverdale really a sleeping giant? Come and find out. See you on March 10.

## CITY HALL NEWS



### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (Wednesday, February 14)

#### Wellesley Hospital Objects

Wellesley Hospital is close to an agreement in principle on by-laws for institutions with the City's Planning Board. However, the hospital is not sure how it will be affected by the by-laws, when they are actually formulated.

Reluctantly, the institution felt it must therefore object to the proposed by-laws at the Ontario Municipal Board hearings on the City's Official Plan.

Mayor Sewell sought to avert conflict by proposing that the OMB be asked to defer a decision on these by-laws to a later date, when the City and the hospital could come to a clearer understanding.

A similar motion by Alderman Eggleton was defeated and Sewell's motion was passed by City Executive and sent on to City Council.

#### Bingo! No?

An application to hold bingo lotteries at 325 Bleecker St. in St. Jamestown has been turned down by City Executive because the zoning of the building does not allow it. There was some question as to the safety of such events in the building.

#### Bad bachelorettes

The struggle by communities in Ward 2 to prevent the wholesale sub-dividing of houses into illegal bachelorettes continues.

City Executive dealt with a case at 22-24 Maynard Ave., where two houses were illegally demolished and a 28-unit building built in their place.

Alderman Beavis felt that if the units were made larger, other minor objections could be dealt with. A Ward 2 citizen protested that residents' objections were not minor, as illegal bachelorettes are a widespread problem. The owner's lawyer wanted the by-law changed to suit the building, even if it was built illegally.

The Executive decided to continue with prosecution of the owner (as the citizen wanted), while the owner was told to apply for re-zoning. There appeared to be a division on Executive as to whether such re-zoning should be successful at City Council.

#### Land Sale Approved

City executive has authorized the sale of a pair of 2 1/2-storey semi-detached dwellings at 287-289 Carlton St. (near the corner of Dermott Place). The selling price to Gary P. Lengyel was \$160,150. The properties must be used for eight residential apartment units.

#### Land Not Sold

The City has failed to find a suitable purchaser for its land on the south-west corner of Booth and Eastern Avenue. Thirty-one persons expressed interest but only one tender for a portion of the land was received from General Bakeries Ltd. The property remains up for sale.

### CITY COUNCIL (Monday, February 19)

#### Feline fees

Cat lovers, reeling under the rising costs of neutering, spaying and various shots (for their pets), will shortly be faced with another expense. During Monday's meeting a proposal was introduced by the Committee on Neighbourhoods, Housing, Fire and Legislation

which would require all cat owners to purchase a license for their pets. Failure to do so could result in a \$1,000 fine. Council approved the measure and all that remains is for the city to obtain the necessary legal power from the provincial government, which is expected later this year.

#### Thousands flee city

A committee has been established to look into the steady decline in the city's population. Latest statistics from the Ministry of Revenue indicate that during 1978 the city lost another 20,000 residents.

#### Crime down, not up

A resolution from the Borough of York calling for an end to cuts in the police budget, has been defeated by the city council. Although many aldermen didn't object to more money for police, they objected to the tone of the resolution which said more money was needed because there has been a sharp increase in Toronto's crime rate during the past year. This statement was criticized by some aldermen who gave figures showing that instead of increasing, Toronto's crime rate actually dropped last year.

## Anyone know what to do with a vacant lot?



By Alderman Gordon Cressy

Two Neighbourhoods in Ward 7 have a chance to improve their surroundings. Public meetings have been scheduled for Winchester Square on February 27 and Don Mount on March 1 to discuss unused plots of land in both South St. Jamestown and South Riverdale areas.

There will be a community meeting Tuesday night February 27 at 8:00 p.m. at Winchester School to discuss a draft proposal that has been prepared by architects of the Toronto Board of Education and the Parks & Recreation Department of City Hall. The proposal deals with what might be done to parcels of land abutting and part of Winchester School property. The Department of Parks & Recreation and the Toronto Board of Education would like resident feedback, to know if people like the ideas and if any needs can be fulfilled.

Out of this meeting, a small working committee will be established. It will work with the staff of the Board of Education and Parks & Recreation over the next few months to prepare a design plan.

#### Don Mount

Don Mount neighbourhood residents have two locations that will be examined. On Thursday, March 1, 1979 at 8:00 p.m. there will be a meeting in the Centre Tower of Don Mount Court. The first location is the Thompson Street Parkette, next to Broadview House Hotel. The City of Toronto Development Department has made observations of this park in 1977. The Commissioner of the Planning Board said the Thompson Street Parkette was being used, "as often for its size and equipment...as the other parks and parkettes in the area," and, "It does not seem that the proximity of Broadview House Hotel creates a problem during times when the parkette could be expected to be used by children." Area resident response to this is needed.

The second location is the vacant lot where the trucks park between Matilda, Carrol and Thompson streets. Actually, this land is owned by the City of Toronto which plans to sell it to industry if the local people don't come up with some ideas for its use. Industries abutting the location (parcels 7 & 8) have shown little interest in exploring possible uses for the land. Renovation of this lot may have an indirect effect on the Thompson Street Parkette. It has not been established at this time as to how well the existing parkette is being used.

A committee from this meeting will work with the city staff over the next couple of months to develop a viable program for these areas.



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### TORONTO BOARD OF EDUCATION REQUESTS LABOUR RELATIONS SUBMISSIONS

The Toronto Board of Education wants to establish a new long-term policy for labour relations. The purpose of such a policy would be to develop a style of negotiations which would reduce the conflict sometimes present in negotiations between the Toronto Board of Education and its various employee groups. This study is being conducted by a committee of the Board called the Collective Agreements Policy Committee. The Committee invites written submissions from any interested parties by February 28, 1979.

It is suggested that anyone who wishes to make such a submission obtain a copy of Report No. 1 of the Collective Agreements Policy Committee, by calling 598-4931, local 631. Submissions should be forwarded to Dr. J. Fisher, Assistant Superintendent, Negotiations, Toronto Board of Education, 155 College Street, Toronto M5T 1P6.

Fiona Nelson,  
Chairperson,  
Toronto Board of Education.

DUNCAN GREEN,  
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# ENTERTAINMENT

*Shock treatment for mental illness: Getting fried on OHIP*

## This is Medicine?

THE HISTORY OF  
SHOCK TREATMENT  
edited by Leonard Roy Frank  
San Francisco, 1978, 206 pages  
paper, \$7.00

By Don Weitz

Leonard Frank has earned credibility the hard way. He's a former psychiatric inmate ("mental patient") who has survived roughly 100 electric shock and insulin coma treatments. He's also a prolific and highly articulate writer on the abuses of shock treatment and other forced psychiatric treatments.

### Books

Frank's *History of Shock Treatment* is a compelling and brilliant expose of the psychiatric atrocity conventionally called electro-convulsive therapy or "ECT". Frank has organized a wealth of documentary evidence on electric shock from 47 A.D. right up to 1977. Nineteen thirty-eight was the fateful year, the year when Italian psychiatrist Ugo Cerletti was the first physician to use ECT on an unwilling, "Schizophrenic" man picked up by the police for "observation." Like today, the patient was neither asked for, nor gave his voluntary and informed consent.

The materials which Frank has amassed to document the brain damage, permanent memory loss, paralyzing fear and deaths caused by electric shock are impressive. It's all here: the bland but chilling clinical accounts from medical and psychiatric journal articles and statements by pro-shock doctors extolling the "benefits" of ECT; highly personal accounts of what electric shock felt like and did to them from scores of inmate-victims; consciousness-raising cartoons, illustrations and photographs; poems by ex-inmates; obscene ads pushing the latest and most "efficient" shock machines as well as anti-convulsant drugs and muscle relaxants; an "ECT Death Chronology" (reporting 384 deaths directly related to ECT); a partial "Shock Doctor List" which includes the names and hospital affiliations of 265 doctors who've admitted using shock (so far, only nine in Canada mentioned); a 35-page Glossary clearly describing many key psychiatric terms and concepts, and two bibliographies on electric shock treatment.

All this evidence clearly shows that electric shock damages human brains, invariably causes some permanent memory loss, frequently causes permanent loss or weakening of certain intellectual abilities, and that informed consent is rarely, if ever obtained from the patient.

Through this book, Frank has mounted a powerful challenge to psychiatrists' claims that shock treatment is "harmless" or for the patient's "own benefit". In reality, electric shock — like other for-

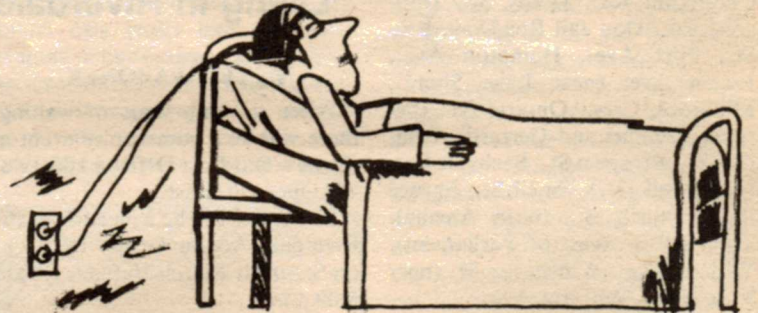
ced psychiatric treatments — is used to control people who are too different or "out of control" . . . of the authorities. Remember the shock scene in the book or film *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest*? This book is even more horrifying and forces the reader to take a stand.

Electric shock and other forced psychiatric treatments should be abolished — the sooner the better.

*Note: COPIES OF The History of Shock Treatment can be ordered by*

*writing to: Leonard Roy Frank, 2300 Webster Street, San Francisco, California—94115. Please enclose a cheque or money order payable to Leonard Roy Frank for \$7.00 which includes postage and handling charges.*

Don Weitz is collecting material on people's experiences with shock treatment. If you have had shock treatment and are willing to talk about it, please call Don at 921-8022, or write to him at: P.O. Box 7251, Station A, Toronto M5W 1X9.



## Two-sided theatre

by SETH BORTS

331/3 Double Live — currently at Factory Lab, at 207 Adelaide St. E. — goes from boring to seedy. Bmeant to be theatre's answer to the long-playing album it's really two shows in one: Side A: Beauty and the Beast Thing, and Side B: Sunset Strippers. Both shows feature the same performers in different situations, and "postions".

### Theatre

Side A. is the socially relevant story of what it's like to be a part-time promoter who has everything pinned on the success of importing a German punk rock group to Toronto. You walk around repeating your taped German lesson, consider beer for breakfast and dance a lot to the music of the sixties.

While watching this particular "Side" I felt at times as if a multimedia attack on my attention span was going on. There were some nice dance routines from Margaret Dragu, as she lapsed into periodic fantasy attacks, while being interviewed on CHUM/FM. But, it was hard to see how they fitted into the story, or if there was indeed a story. In my opinion there was, yes was a story, in there somewhere. The ending was a surprise, I m still trying to figure it out. In all, the high-point of Side A was when the CHUM announcer asked Margaret Dragu that musical question, "Umm, Uh, You used to play with Phil Oakes....What's it like to play with Phil Oakes?..."

Side B. -Sunset Strippers-didn't have Side A's intellectual content, however, it did have a live strip. The strip was live enough, as a matter of fact, to get cheers of "Take it off, baby!" from a chortling rowdy section of the audience. This side seemed like an illustrated history of strip-tease on the Yonge

Street Strip. Michael Copeman cracked some excellent, unprintable jokes by the way. He's got a future in comedy....

If you like semi-naked women doing a strip-tease, and showing what the backstage psychology of a stripper is like, then you'll love this show.

### PART TIME FATHER

She took away my son  
(my only child)  
I see him only  
at her convenience

Yesterday was his birthday  
(he has just turned five)  
she had a party

But I was not invited  
not included

I call to speak to him  
on the telephone  
she says he is sleeping  
or playing outside

When I do get to see him  
he is shy, withdrawn  
he calls me "father"  
(not "daddy" or "dad")

He does not understand  
why it is this way:  
why a part time father  
and a full time mom

My plans for my son  
have all been shattered  
my hopes and my dreams  
crumbled, dispersed

Joy Evans

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# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## Sunday February 25

There will be a **public meeting** on the proposed new **tenant legislation** today at 2:30 p.m. in the auditorium of Forest Hill Collegiate, 730 Eglinton Ave. West (near Spadina). Speakers will be Mayor John Sewell, St. George M.P.P. Margaret Campbell, Minister of Industry and Tourism Larry Grossman; M.P.P. David Warner and lawyer Richard Fink.

## Monday February 26

The YMCA of St. Jamestown is presenting a series of **lessons in East Indian music**. Participants in this program will be given an introductory course in the East Indian Notation System as well as instruction on how to play the Indian Harmonium. This program will be held every Monday evening for 10 weeks from 7 to 9 p.m. in the recreation room of the 77 Howard St. building. The fee is \$25, and the first lesson is tonight. Register now at the Y office, 260 Wellesley St. E.

## Tuesday February 27

There will be a meeting on the need for **daycare** in Regent Park, for everyone interested, today at 7:30 p.m. in Regent Park United Church, 40 Oak St. If you think there is a need for more daycare and would like to see a new daycare centre get built in Regent Park, come out to this meeting.

St. Barnabas Anglican Church invites you to attend their **pancake and sausages supper** today from 5 to 7 p.m. Following supper, films will be shown. The hall is at the corner of Danforth and Hampton (near the Chester subway stop). Tickets are \$2.25 for adults, \$1.25 for children 12 and under, at the door.

The Danforth Library, at 701 Pape, presents a **film on Scots in Canada**, tonight at 7:30. Free.

## Wednesday February 28

The annual meeting of the **St. George Provincial Liberal Association** will take place today at 8 p.m. (registration 7:30) at O.I.S.E., 252 Bloor St. West, in Room 301 (opposite Varsity Stadium). Margaret Campbell, M.P.P., will be speaking.

The **Regent Park Community Improvement Association** is having a general membership meeting today at 7 p.m., at the Regent Park United Church, 40 Oak St. All tenants are welcome and invited to attend. The association has a vacancy on the Board of Directors. Anyone interested in participating in organizing the meeting call the RPCIA at 364-2909.

## Friday March 2

**Castle Frank High School** is holding its annual school exhibition today. The program for the evening will consist of student exhibits featuring the work which students do in the shop areas. The exhibits in this area range from students learning to repair cars to students learning hairdressing to students making furniture. Exhibits will also be held in the academic areas, where student work will be on display. Included in the evening's program is a gym show and a number of swim events. Last but not least, you'll be able

to feast on great delicacies prepared by students in the Food Services Area. Admission is 50¢, and there will be door prizes. Castle Frank is at 711 Bloor St. E., east of Parliament Street.

## Sunday March 4

All Saints Church will be presenting the Play of the Temptation, with Rev. Norman Ellis and Professor Max Moffett of Channel 9 TV game. The play tells vividly of the beginning of Jesus' ministry. For information, call the church, at 368-7977 or 368-7768. Theatre Next Door is presenting **I Am A Camera**, on March 23, 24, 29, 30 and 31, in the sub-basement auditorium of 240 Wellesley St. East. The time of performance is 8:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$3; \$2 for senior citizens, and group rates are available. Call 483-3995 for information and reservations. The play, like *Cabaret*, is based on Christopher Isherwood's impressions of the decadent 1930s in Berlin.

The New Theatre is presenting **The Pits 1979**, a "bizarre comedy about a day in the life of six rooming house dwellers." *The Pits 1979* allows the audience to look in on several separate living quarters at the same time, creating the action of excitement of a three ring circus. *The Pits* runs through to April 1st at the New Theatre, in the Adelaide Court, 57 Adelaide Street East. Call 363-6401 for tickets.

## Monday March 5

The East-Enders Chapter of **Canadian Pensioners Concerned** will hold its March meeting today at 1:30 p.m. in the Temple Baptist Church, 14 Dewhurst Blvd., one block west of Donlands Subway Station. There will be a representative from Dominion Stores to talk about shopping hints. Light refreshments will be served before the meeting. All seniors and others are welcome.

## Tuesday March 6

There will be a **Welfare Action Meeting** tonight at 7:30 p.m. at the Old Post Office, 765 Queen St. East. Have you had problems with mothers' allowance or welfare? Are you unsure of what you're entitled to? The meeting will have information of welfare and family benefits, and discussion of where we can go from here. The meeting is presented by the Riverdale Socio-Legal Services. For further information contact Shelley Appleby or Barry Greenspan at 461-8102. Day care is available, as is transportation if you give at least one day's notice.

Tonight is **euchre night** in the Recreation Room of the 77 Howard St. building. The cost for the entire evening is one dollar and that covers the cost of refreshments and the prizes. Come on down and have a relaxing evening of cards and friendly people. Euchre nights are held every second Tuesday.

## Saturday March 10

The **Riverdale Action Group (R.A.G.)** will be meeting in the Old Post Office at 765 Queen St. East today, from 1 to 5 p.m., to talk about "What it means to live in Riverdale". Guest speakers are Edith Brown, Al Seaton, and Charlotte Stuart. Is Riverdale a "sleeping giant" that is coming to life? Come and give your ideas.

## General

Ward 7's three libraries (Parliament, Riverdale, and Danforth) offer a variety of regular **programs for children**, both on Saturdays and during the week. For more information and a schedule, drop in to the library closest to you, or phone: Parliament, 265 Gerrard E., 924-7122; Riverdale, 370 Broadview Ave., 466-0776; Danforth, 701 Pape, 465-1221.

A **Moms and Tots program** operates out of the 519 Church Street Community Centre, Tuesdays and Thursdays From 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Take a break and enjoy our good company, while participating in Yoga, discussion and crafts. For information, call 923-2778.

The Midtown Club and the 519 Church Street Community Centre are offering a free **income tax clinic** for senior citizens and others on limited incomes in the downtown area. The clinics will be held on Wednesday evenings (7:30-9:30) and Sunday afternoons (2-4 p.m.) in March and April. For more information and to make an appointment, call 923-2778.

The Christian Resource Centre, at 20 Spruce Street, is having **disco dancing** for children, Thursdays from 6:30 until 8:00 p.m. For more information call Pat at 922-7391.

The **Regent Park Adult Recreation Centre** would like to inform the people of Regent Park and the surrounding areas that the centre is open to you from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., five days a week, and also at night from 7 p.m. until 10 p.m. We have cribbage, bumper pool, darts and ping pong. We would also like to get people in to play euchre; we have a library, and we have arts and crafts for women on Thursday afternoons at 1 p.m. Family memberships are \$2 per year. Feel free to drop in anytime.

**Volunteers ease the loneliness for many handicapped seniors**, who are often the most forgotten because they are not as visible as others. Just think how much it means to have

a friend that you can relate to. volunteering can have a two-fold purpose because it can ease loneliness for the giver as well as the receiver. All it needs is for you to donate one or two hours a day, week or month to visit seniors and go on an escort or shopping trip with or for them. We need you, handicapped seniors need you. SCORE (Senior Citizens Outreach Effort) has been in operation for five years now and we would like to call us and volunteer. Call either Dorothy or Darlene at Dixon Hall, 863-0499. If we're not in, leave your name and phone number.

Playing until March 3 at the Lunchtime Theatre is **Next**, "a 40-minute comedy of military manners", by Terrence McNally. The play concerns a forty-year-old man who is suddenly faced with a draft notice. The Lunchtime Theatre is at 149 Yonge St. (between Richmond and Adelaide). Tickets are \$2 (\$1.50 for students and senior citizens). The phone number is 368-5135.

In the continuing **Thursday Noon Recitals** at St. Paul's Church, 227 Bloor St. E., organist John Tuttle is featured on March 1, and Chrys Bentley, organist and choirmaster of the First United Church of Mississauga, is featured on March 8.

A presentation of **Can You See Me Yet?**, by the theatre arts students of George Brown College, has been rescheduled to run March 7, 8, 9 and 10 at the college's new Theatre Arts building, 530 King St. E. (at River). The play, written by Canadian playwright and novelist Timothy Findlay, will open at 8 p.m. nightly. Admission is \$2, proceeds going to the scholarship fund. For more information, call 967-1212, ext. 334.

**Community Calendar** is a free community service. If you have something to announce, just send your notice to 7 News, 315 Dundas St. E., or call 363-9650. The deadline for submissions is the Monday prior to publication. The next deadline is Monday March 5, for the March 10 issue, which will announce events up to and including March 24.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Health Centre Expands

The South Riverdale Community Health Centre has expanded its boundaries to include the Bain Avenue Co-op. Representatives of the health centre spoke at a meeting at Bain Co-op on February 13 to explain the concept of the centre, membership, community control, and to discuss their idea of health care with residents. The centre can be reached at 461-2494.

### Grant to Local Group

The "Forever Young" Festival Committee, a senior citizens' group on Broadview Ave., has been awarded a \$3,290 New Horizons grant from the federal department of Health and Welfare. The grant is to purchase equipment in order to produce a presentation of Finnish Choir music, dancing and gymnastics, at a large Finnish National Cultural Festival in Vancouver. Another local seniors'

group, the Community Contacts for the Widowed Newsletter Committee on Jarvis Street, was given a grant of \$7,953 to establish a newsletter which will distribute information and print articles of interest to widows.

### Affordable Food

By Howard Huggett

The Bain Food Co-op opened for business last Saturday, February 17th, on the coldest day of the year — so far. It was chilly outside, but cosy and busy and very friendly inside at 5 The Aberdeens. There were bargains to be had, such as cans of Aylmer tomatoes at 33¢ for 14 ounces. The best that Dominion can do with their house brand is two for 44¢, and that was a special. I also spotted old cheddar cheese for an amount that worked out to \$2.03 per lb. That compares favorably with \$2.12 per lb. for old cheddar at Dominion.

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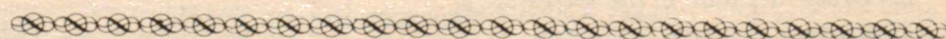
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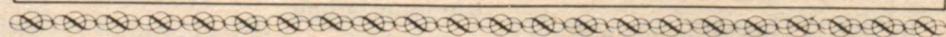
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# Your pet



# deserves better

By ULLI DIEMER

In our home, there are two humans, who are outnumbered by three animals: two beautiful, intelligent cats, and a very friendly dog. (Animals, as everyone knows, take after their owners.) That's not counting the squirrels in the chimney, the occasional mouse, and sometimes skunks under the house.

That is probably a bit above average even in an area as pet-happy as Ward 7, but I don't think it's unusual. (It's certainly quite normal for being on the staff of 7 News: the other two people on the staff have a pair of cats each, although, to be honest, their cats aren't much to look at, nor too bright either. But that's neither here nor there.)

Another thing that is probably normal is the rather appalling

amount of money you have to shell out to keep your pets in the style to which they have become accustomed. Sometimes it seems as if you go out to earn enough money to keep your pets at home, leading a life of leisure. Which, come to think of it, is probably exactly the way the cats, at least, do think of it.

But there are ways of dealing with the high cost of pet food, enabling you to keep more of your money in your own pocket rather than contributing it to the already gross profits of the pet-food companies.

One basic trick is simply to **MAKE MUCH OF IT YOURSELF**, instead of buying an inferior product in an expensive manufactured form.

It is possible to buy various kinds of organ meats at relatively low prices at the supermarket or butcher shop, and to grind them up your-

self. For example, you can buy turkey livers at the Knob Hill Farms on Cherry Street for 39¢ a pound. That works out to 86¢ per kilogram. (Sorry, this article is going to be metric: a kilogram is 2.2 pounds.)

By comparison, typical canned cat food is selling at about 78¢ per kilogram this week. (Prices vary, but that was about average.) The small 6-1/4 oz. cans of cat food (9 Lives, Kal Kan, etc.) are of course far, far, more expensive.

Now, at first glance it may seem that canned food of the cheaper variety is a better buy — but have a look at the ingredients. Canned pet food is about 78 per cent "moisture", as the company puts it, or, as most of us would refer to it, WATER. In other words, about four-fifths of what you're paying for is simply water, and believe me, you can get it a lot cheaper from your tap.

The key ingredient that you're buying is protein, and in canned cat food, you're getting about 8.5 per cent protein. By comparison, turkey liver contains about 26 per cent protein — three times as much. If you get out your handy little pocket calculator like the one I got for Christmas (Thanks Mom!) you'll find that buying your pets' protein in the form of liver (or other similar organ meats) will cost you \$3.90 per kilogram of protein. Buy it by the 15-ounce can, on the other hand, and it will cost you \$9.25 per kilogram. In other words, you can cut your pet food expense to a fraction of what it is now, if you switch away from canned food. Another bonus: cats really like the fresh meat much better than the grunge in the cans. Our cats, two finicky eaters if there ever were any, used to boycott the ordinary canned stuff and hold out for the little 'gourmet'

cans which we, weak souls, used to buy out of pity when it seemed certain they would otherwise starve themselves to death, and even our cats love the real meat they now get.

With dogs, particularly, you won't want to feed them just meat, because that would be too rich a diet for them, and because a dog's teeth need lots of work. The best solution is to feed them about 20 per cent of the organ meats, and 80 per cent dry dog food, which you buy in the biggest sacks (20 kilogram) that you can find. If you buy it in these really large bags, you can get it for 64¢ a kilogram, (the best nutritional buys are Gaines Gravy Train and Ken-L Ration), and since they contain 20 to 22 per cent protein, you'll be paying about \$2.90 per kilogram of protein. That's even cheaper than most organ meats, but of course the stuff is awfully dry and boring by itself, so it's best to mix the two in the proportions suggested above.

You may also want to buy dry cat food for your felines, which will cost you in the neighbourhood of \$1.07 per kilogram, or \$3.57 per kilogram of protein. That's still an excellent buy, far better than canned food, but you won't want to use it as an exclusive diet for your cat. In fact, if you cat is a neutered male, you probably shouldn't give him dried food at all, because it tends to produce cystitis, a urinary tract disorder. (Ask your vet for advice on this.)

We've found that the easiest way to prepare organ meats is to cook them (a pressure cooker is ideal) and then grind them and freeze them. If you don't have a meat grinder, it's worth investing in one, but don't get one with a plastic covering: after a couple of years, the plastic starts giving out and grinding into your meat.

So, if you're an established pattern in the way you feed your pet, get out your pen and pencil and see how much money you can save if you do things differently. You may find it a rewarding experience. And so may your pets!

## AS A CONSUMER IN ONTARIO YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO MAKE A COMPLAINT

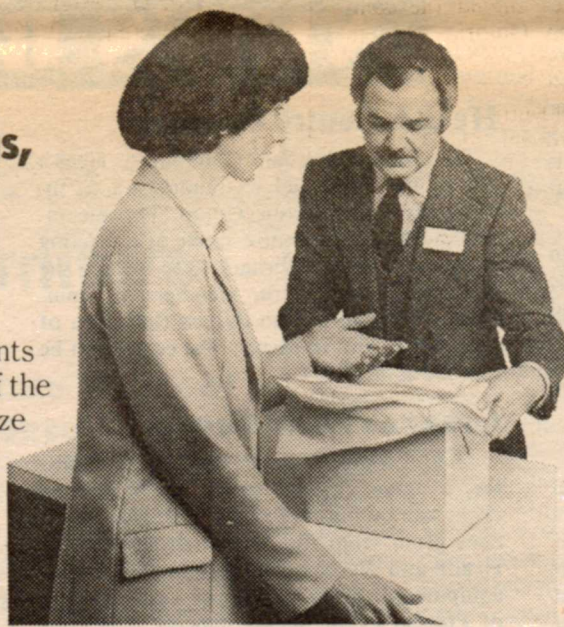
### To avoid problems, know the rules before you close the deal.

Most consumer complaints can be remedied easily if the buyer and seller recognize each other's rights and responsibilities and use common sense.

### HOW TO MAKE A COMPLAINT

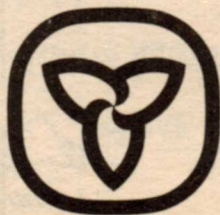
Once you have decided that you have a legitimate complaint, here's how to go about making it:

- Explain your problem clearly and calmly to the sales clerk. If the sales clerk is unable to help you, see the manager.
- Still no satisfaction? Send a registered letter to the person in charge. Include in the letter your name, address and telephone number; the name and type of product purchased, date of purchase and price paid; an outline of your problem and your attempts to solve it; copies of receipts, work orders and any other documentation; and what you want the company to do about your problem.
- Negotiate. You may persuade the merchant to exchange your purchase or make alternate arrangements.
- The Business Practices Act



protects you against false, misleading or deceptive representations. To cancel a contract, send a registered letter which states: "I exercise my right of rescission under Section 4 of the Business Practices Act." Include your reasons for making the request.

• Visit the nearest Consumer Services Bureau and the Better Business Bureau for help in preparing letters of complaint or cancellation. If you are unable to resolve the problem, the staff will mediate on your behalf.



Ontario

### WHAT TO DO BEFORE YOU BUY

These simple guidelines will help you avoid many problems:

- Comparison shop. Look at prices, guarantees, service agreements in several stores.
- Check a company's reputation with your local Better Business Bureau.
- Ask about the store's policy on refunds and exchanges. You may not be entitled to them.
- Remember all contracts are binding. If you change your mind about a purchase or find a better price elsewhere, you are still bound by your signed agreement.
- Keep sales slips, cancelled cheques, contracts, copies of ads, bills and any other relevant information.

For further assistance, or a free copy of the Information Bulletin "Consumer Complaints", write to: Consumer Information Centre Ministry of Consumer & Commercial Relations 555 Yonge Street Toronto, Ontario M7A 2H6 (416) 963-1111

Frank Drea,  
Minister of Consumer &  
Commercial Relations  
William Davis, Premier

Margaret Campbell  
Q.C., M.P.P.

Annual Meeting  
St. George Provincial  
Liberal Association

Wednesday  
February 28

Registration: 7:30 p.m.

Meeting: 8:00 p.m.

Ontario Institute for Studies  
in Education

252 Bloor Street West  
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(at St. George Subway)

tom foolery

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These days we hear a lot about declining enrollments in our schools. Something we don't hear about is how the government is trying to deal with this problem. *One way they are doing it is by getting rid of immigrant teachers.*

Starting this year, immigrant teachers are being given a deadline for becoming Canadian citizens — if they don't, they lose their certification and their jobs. This year, 185 teachers will be given notice to apply for citizenship by the end of May. Their deadline is up. Next year there'll be another 185, the following year another.

Immigrants who are training to be teachers will also be given a deadline. The type of certificate issued to immigrants is different from that issued to Canadian citizens even though they have both received the same type of training. This will lead to discrimination when the immigrant applies for a job. Within several years, there will be no immigrant teachers in Ontario.

#### A BASIC HUMAN RIGHT

The right to work is a basic right that guarantees all of us the means to a livelihood. The government is taking away that right from immigrant teachers. The government is saying: no citizenship — no job. And yet the Human Rights Code of Ontario specifically says:

"No person shall discriminate against any employee with regard to any term or condition of employment because of race, creed, colour, age, sex, marital status, nationality, ancestry or place of origin . . ."

How can the government justify its treatment of immigrant teachers? What is to prevent the government from requiring citizenship tomorrow for other types of employment, like bank clerks, government workers, hospital workers? Who knows where it will stop? When one group of people is singled out for discrimination, it is time for everyone to be on their guard. The threat to immigrant teachers is a threat to immigrants in all occupations.

Immigrants who are trade unionists could lose their seniority rights if a citizenship requirement is placed on other occupations. Right

### New rules for public school teachers

## Non-citizens to lose teaching certificates

now, immigrant teachers with eight years seniority are being fired. This is a violation of their basic trade union rights and protection. If the government is successful against immigrant teachers, the trade union rights of all immigrant workers would be threatened by the new citizenship requirement.

#### CITIZENSHIP: BY CHOICE OR BY FORCE

Citizenship is not automatic. It can be denied to people on many grounds, such as physical disability and political views. Besides, citizenship in a "democracy" should be a matter of personal free choice, not of economic coercion. Furthermore, it takes three years to become a citizen. Are qualified workers supposed to be thrown out of their occupations for this three year period?

#### WHY ARE IMMIGRANT TEACHERS BEING FIRED?

Immigrant teachers are being singled out because they are *immigrants*. The sole reason for these firings is the nationality and/or landed immigrant status of the teachers.

Because of the current economic crisis, the government is spending less money on education, closing down schools, increasing size, providing fewer services (special education, English as a second language courses, etc.) and firing teachers. As a result, the quality of your child's education is declining.

Teachers are upset about these government policies. It's hard to teach oversized classes. It's difficult to teach without proper supplies and materials. Courses designed for immigrant children, such as the Toronto Board's multicultural and English as a second language programs, won't be successful at this point without immigrant teachers. Cutbacks affect all teachers; and at this point, especially immigrant teachers.

The government is trying to carry

out its cutback policies by setting one teacher against another and by setting the public against teachers. If teachers go along with this divide and rule policy by refusing to defend their fellow immigrant teachers, who is to say which teachers will be the next to go — older teachers, women teachers, music teachers, special education teachers? And if the public goes along with this policy, all school age children will be the victims of low quality education. Teachers and the general public should support immigrant teachers against the government's discriminatory policies.

#### IMMIGRANT TEACHERS ARE FIGHTING BACK

A Committee for Immigrant Teachers in Ontario (CITO) has been formed by landed immigrant teachers.

CITO is circulating a petition against the Government's discriminatory policy and has held a large public meeting.

#### WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

Tell government officials of your concern — your MPP, your school trustee, the Minister of Education, the Ontario Human Rights Commission. Have your trade union and community organization pass resolutions against the Ontario government's policy of firing immigrant teachers. Sign the petition and circulate it where you work or in your community. Letters of protest should be addressed to Bette Stephenson, Minister of Education, Government of Ontario. Teachers directly affected should file complaints at the Ontario Human Rights Commission, 965-2388. Petitions and resolutions should be sent to Michael Kuttner, 35 Charles St. West, Apartment 1811, Toronto (call 967-0212).

#### COMMITTEE FOR IMMIGRANT TEACHERS IN ONTARIO

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## Ins and outs of welfare

By BARRY GREENSPAN

Bread and butter are more than issues at times of cutbacks and spending restraints. Bread and butter may also be what is missing from your table when Welfare and Family Benefits cheques cannot meet the rising costs month after month. The recent six per cent increase in Welfare and Family Benefit levels still leaves recipients receiving fixed incomes well below the 1976 Statistics Canada poverty line.

Welfare and Family Benefits are not MacDonald's, where "We do it all for you". Both of these programs fail to meet the basic needs of their clients. These failures of the welfare system will be discussed at a meeting to be held March 6, at the Old Post Office.

Presently the amount that recipients are allotted to spend on rent falls far below the actual cost of rent in the City of Toronto. This leaves welfare recipients either living in run-down, poorly maintained housing, or else spending money which has been allotted for food and clothing, on rent.

The Family Benefits legislation provides little incentive for a sole support mother to earn extra money. At present a mother with one child can earn up to \$115 a month before 75 per cent of her earnings are deducted from the Family Benefits cheque. This still leaves her below the poverty line. Also daycare facilities are not readily available for those wishing to work.

Special assistance money which provides such things as dental services, moving expenses, eye glasses, and vocational training, is tightly controlled. Often recipients are not made aware of the availability of such assistance. Though Metro Toronto sets aside \$499.00 per family to be used each year as special assistance, per item, few families take full advantage of this money which is so desperately needed.

These and other failings of the welfare system will be discussed at a March 6 meeting at the Old Post Office, 765 Queen Street East, at 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. The meeting is sponsored by Riverdale Socio-Legal Services. There will be people available to answer such questions as who is eligible for Family Benefits and General Welfare Assistance, how to take advantage of the special assistance categories, the effect of employment on benefits, and the difference between disabled and permanently unemployable benefits, etc. There is hope that from this meeting, interested people will continue to work together on issues raised. Change in the welfare system can be brought about, but only when the call for change is loud and clear.

For further information, telephone Riverdale Socio-Legal Services at 461-8102, and ask for Shelley Appleby or Barry Greenspan (child care available at meeting; transportation available if requested at least one day before meeting.)

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# Ontario government cuts education funds

CONTINUED FROM PG. 1

agree on was to accept direction from their administrators. It was bureaucratic rule at the Toronto Board, with the majority of trustees acting as rubber stamps. The bureaucrats, of course, had to have some policy framework in which to work, and this came from the Ministry of Education at Queen's Park. Toronto parents, teachers, students, unions, and community groups had next to no say in what happened at their board. There was lots of talk about democracy and a better program, but when the crunch came on any issue these groups rarely got what they wanted.

In setting up the reform coalition — a "government" committed to representing the shared interests of students, parents, teachers, and working people generally — we are in a position to turn the old situation around. If we can bring together the constituency we represent as an organized political force, we can stop taking orders from Queen's Park and begin to fight back against provincial policy, which more and more of us now understand is thoroughly destructive of our schools. That means, for example, we can begin to deal with policies which have resulted in so many of our kids leaving school hardly knowing how to read and write, with no realistic hopes for the future.

We can take on this task even though we have only 13 sure votes out of 26. While we won't win every issue, we can set a direction.

That's scary stuff for Billy, Bette and Co., and they and their friends want to nip it in the bud.

## Going "separate"

It's also one of the big reasons they got so upset when we decided to leave the Metro bargaining table to negotiate separately with our high school teachers.

While the Roberts Commission has told us the Metro Board is both unnecessary and undemocratic, the provincial government knows it is one of their big weapons in imposing policy on the Toronto Board. They want to make Metro stronger. In withdrawing to bargain separately with our teachers, the Toronto Board weakens the power of the Metro system and thereby weakens provincial power. Queen's Park Tories don't like that one bit.

Now that I'm into the question of teacher negotiations I am, of course, into the second big issue that has the province worried — the issue of money.

This issue has inspired an even wilder response in the press than the issue of power.

If you believed the editorials in the *Star*, the *Sun*, and the *Globe and Mail*, you'd have to figure the Toronto Board was into some insane strategy of fiscal disaster — leading to bankruptcy or massive increases in the local property tax. Certainly, the financial scenarios painted by our papers have been wonderfully dramatic and have caught something of the popular imagination on this subject. Unfortunately, they are largely lies.

Most of these lies centre on the issue of teacher tenure. Let me try to deal with a few of them here.

## Featherbedding

The first is the suggestion that tenure means "featherbedding", that we would keep teachers even if we didn't need them in our classrooms. It's a crazy suggestion.

We want to keep tenure (which has been in our contracts since 1972) because it allows us to decrease our class size a little bit and strengthen a few of our programs. It gives us a few more teachers than the Metro Board wants us to have; in this contract it means about 13 extra. The end result might be one or two remedial English classes added to our program, a better situation for a small number of handicapped kids and maybe an enriched French program somewhere. Our specific needs far outweigh what these 13 teachers can offer.

We also want to argue strongly for a general decrease in class size, which tenure implies. We believe that if we are to improve the intellectual standards in our classrooms and deal with the problems of illiteracy, a smaller class size is essential. There are, of course, many other factors making for good programs, but a smaller class size allows for more dialogue between student and teacher, more student time with scientific or technical equipment, more thorough analysis of student work by the teacher, and a more intimate relationship between students and between students and teachers. The latter is especially important in a society which offers so many of its kids (usually poor and working class) a lifetime of unemployment and dead-end work. The motivation to read and write must come, in part, from a determination among students to use their knowledge to change this society and their destinies in it. A strong personal connection with a good teacher helps a lot in building this determination.

At present some 40 to 50 % of our high school classes have sizes in excess of what even the Ministry

judges appropriate. The elementary situation is no better and may be worse. In a survey made in October 1978 it was shown that 74% of our grade two classes and 93% of our Grade Three classes had more than 25 children and a great many of them had over 30. In senior elementary 43% of the Grade Sevens and 44% of the Grade Eights had over 31 children, and many classrooms were pushing 40.

We need to keep our teachers.

It may be that the province will withdraw so much money from our school system as to make tenure (and the programs it implies) impossible to hold on to. Unlike tenure for university professors, teacher tenure is renegotiated each contract and can be turned down by the Board. It may even be turned down in this contract. The coalition has lost the first vote on the issue by a 13-13 tie, and we may not be able to pick up another ally the next time it comes before us. We are, however, going to continue to fight for these teacher jobs in our contract, because this is the only way we have (given the Metro system) to protect our programs.

## But can we afford it?

The second lie says we can't afford tenure.

We can certainly afford it in this contract. As Fiona Nelson, the Chairperson of the Board, has argued, the retention of the tenure clause this time around may well have saved the Toronto taxpayer a good deal of money:

"The retention of the job-security clause means that 13 more teachers will be employed than would have otherwise, at a cost of \$104,000 for the balance of the contract. And the saw-off for keeping that clause was a most restrained wage increase, of 5.7 per cent. . . . This week Hamilton's secondary teachers settled for 6.8 per cent. Had Toronto done likewise the extra cost would have been \$778,000. In other words, swapping tenure for a less wage increase will save Toronto taxpayers \$564,000 this year alone."

But what about the future?

The papers say that over the next five years the retention of tenure will bankrupt either the schools or the taxpayers.

Rubbish! The school system of this province is sitting pretty financially because of declining enrolments. The rough figures we have suggest that over the next seven years, with tenure kept throughout the province, we will still save some \$700 million in high school teachers. That's assuming, with good leave plans, a teacher attrition rate of 4 per cent. The most conservative

estimate would have us saving over \$500 million as we retained tenure. Over the same time span the number of provincial taxpayers will continue to go up as will provincial revenues. The individual taxpayer should, therefore, pay less and less in support of education, while school conditions should improve.

## The fly in the ointment

There is, however, a fly in this ointment: the provincial government. At present it seems determined to make cutbacks far greater than are warranted by declining enrolment. Thereby throwing the burden of the schools increasingly on to the local property tax.

The hatchet job has been incredible. Over the last four years Queen's Park has cut back its share of the Metro School Board's costs by over 20 per cent, and these cuts are transferred directly to the Toronto Board. And a couple of weeks ago Bette Stephenson announced that she would be chopping another \$15 million for the 1979 school year.

These cuts fly directly in the face of the recommendations of the provincially-appointed Jackson Commission on declining enrolments, which itself costs the taxpayers \$1.3 million.

At a time when we could both improve our schools and lower the property taxes in education, the minister has cut back so much as to make both impossible.

When people complain about these cuts, the province cries poor. "We don't have any money", they say, "and we can't get any more."

This is the biggest lie of all.

On the same day as Bette Stephenson was announcing her latest cut to the Metro Board, the provincial treasurer, Frank Miller, was making public his offer to give the pulp and paper companies of Ontario a gift of \$100 million. And he was quite aware that he was doing so at a time of skyrocketing profits in the forest-products industry. When you look at the industry's fif-

teen major companies, you find that in the first three quarters of 1978 their profits were up 94% from what they had been for the same period in 1977.

Even the *Globe and Mail's* Queen's Park columnist, Hugh Windsor, found this one hard to stomach. "When it comes to the big companies", he wrote, "even profitable ones such as the pulp and paper industries, it seems that the Cabinet is just itching to give away money to fulfil its boast of being 'A partner in development'."

Windsor went on to say, "Keep in mind that the figure being talked about is \$100 million at a time when the Cabinet is scraping to shave \$6.7 million off the old people's drug program."

And, need I add, "Scraping to shave" \$15 million off the Metro school grants?

## "Taxpayers' revolt"?

It's a screwed up sense of priorities.

On the one hand, the province sets up cushy tax laws and giveaway programs for our "corporate welfare bums", and, on the other, it passes the burden of social services on to the individual taxpayer, while cutting back on the services we all need the most.

I was glad to see that at its last meeting the Toronto East Community Council (which represents parent-teacher associations in Wards 7, 8, and 9) took a strong stand against these provincial policies at the same time as they supported the contract the reform coalition had worked out with its teachers. What they said loud and clear was that we need more teachers for good programs and that the provincial cutbacks are destructive of kids and unnecessary in financial terms.

Bette Stephenson is now running around saying we need a "taxpayers' revolt". She's going to get one all right, but if TECC is any example, it's going to be very different from the one she had in mind.

## Check your blood pressure

The first blood pressure clinic to be held this year at Gerrard Square occurred on February 3, from noon to four p.m. This is a regular clinic scheduled for the first Saturday in each month at the same time and place. The aim is to detect people who have high blood pressure in order to prevent possible heart attacks, strokes, or kidney failure.

Hypertension is a disease, often without any symptoms. Once detected it can be controlled, but not cured, through a diet or medication. This means that for a person

with high blood pressure, their diet and medication must constantly be followed.

Little exercise, excess weight, a large intake of salt, fats and alcohol in a diet as well as smoking can increase a tendency to high blood pressure. Heredity can play an important part in detecting hypertension. If an immediate family member has high blood pressure, other members are likely to have it.

The next blood pressure clinic will be on Saturday March 3, from 12-4 p.m. at Gerrard Square.



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