Is Metro's drinking water safe?

by ANNE MARGARET HINES

In the past few weeks a petition has been circulating around Metro urging the Federal Department of Health and Welfare to approve a Safe Water Act. The originator of this petition is Pollution Probe, a 10 year old organization operating out of Ecology House (12 Madison Ave.) which is dedicated to the conservation and preservation of our environment. The act which they are advocating is one which would put government restrictions on the levels and types of chemicals which are found in our drinking water.

At present enforceable government guidelines extend only to the amount of wastes which industries can dump into the air and waterways. There are no legal standards which determine how much of these chemicals can pass through into our tap water without presenting a danger to public health. The theory is that, while no one wants to breath the air or drink the water directly outside an industrial

over a large area they reach the public in such small quantities that no danger to health is incurred.

It is the practical validity of this theory that concerns Pollution Probe. Researcher Joanna Kidd explains, "It's true that once the water gets to our taps there are only minute amounts of chemicals left in it. But the average person consumes about two litres of water a day. Over 20 or 30 years those tiny amounts could build up in your system and present a sizeable health threat."

Pollution Probe acknowledges that so far scientists and doctors can only speculate about the actual effect of this kind of chemical buildup and have no proof that it does indeed pose a problem for the future. They feel, however, that what evidence is available is cause for concern. "It's a totally new problem" says Kidd, "so obviously we can't have been compiling data on it for years. Steps should be taken to ensure that our drinking water is as safe as possible. Who wants to take the

plant, once these wastes are dispersed | responsibility of finding out in 20 years | Emery adds that the changes Pollution that the water we're consuming now was dangerous?"

> Without this data, though, the government is reluctant to act. Kate Davies of the Community Health Protection Bureau points out, "There are informal government guidelines protecting our drinking water already, although they aren't legally enforceable. I do think that the Metro Works Department respects them." Davies says that a new study of the water in the Toronto area that should be completed by the end of 1983 will clearly determine the levels of pollutants in our tap water. But this report is not likely to project the long term effects of consuming these levels of chemicals. "We can't predict what will happen 10 years from now" she says.

> Paul Emery, director of Public Water Supply for Metro concurs: "There just isn't any proof that our drinking water isn't safe. Pollution Probe is just stirring up public attention over a sensitive issue to draw attention to other concerns."

Probe proposes to better protect our water are not financially feasible.

The cost of converting our 50 year-old chlorine processing system into one of the more modern methods presently in use in Europe is likely to be from \$20 to \$40 million. "There's no justificiation for that kind of expenditure" says Emery. But Ward Seven Alderman Joanne Campbell is quick to side with Pollution Probe. "The City Council is talking about \$140 million for a domed stadium. Maybe we should have a another look at our prior-

No one can determine at this point whether or not the water we are drinking in Toronto is safe or not. Some things are clear, however: more of those Metro residents who can afford it are turning to bottled water rather than run a risk; more citizens groups like Pollution Probe are urging the government to take a better look at possible dangers and solutions; and some Metro residents are no longer taking the quality of our drinking water for granted.

SEVER

May 20, 1983

TORONTO'S OLDEST COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

Inside

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Festival bloomsagain

by SALLY CHATFIELD

Columnist Paul Rimstead once said that the Forsythia Festival was "one of the most enjoyable but absolutely worst organized events in the city." The 11th Annual Forsythia Festival held on May 1 was no exception.

Featured events at the Forsythia Festival were the Bicycle and Wagon Decoration Contest and the Mutt Show. The Kite Flying Contest was a new event this year. Unfortunately, there was almost no wind. The winner, Sarah Easterbrook, was the only person to get a kite airborne for longer than 30 seconds. Margaret Scrivener is usually on hand for the ceremonial planting of a Forsythia bush, but poor organization (and a Conservative party meeting) triumphed again. Our MPP was too late.

Mistress of Ceremonies for the afternoon's events was Briget the clown, assisted by the Cabbagetown clowns. As children rode in endless circles on gaily decorated bikes, Briget's judges awarded Megan Connolly top prize for her pink chiffon and Christmas tinsel. However, tradition held and everyone won something.

Murielle Reardon donated prizes and was chief judge for the Mutt Show. Contestants won in the categories of best dressed dog, dog-owner look alike and smallest dog, etc. The prize for best trick went to a dog that played Frisbee.

Tony Brady (alias Briget the clown) started the Festival 11



contest with Briget and friend. Photo by David Reed.

years ago so that Cabbagetown would have a spring flower festival like other major cities (such as Tokyo and its Cherry Blossoms). In earlier years he bought Forsythia plants by the thousands and sold them around the neighbourhood at bargain basement prices. Many of the unsold plants ended up in his own garden and in the gardens of his Wellesley Street neighbours. Thanks to Tony, Wellesley Street and Wellesley Park are a blaze of gold in May.

I've lived in Cabbagetown for three years and had never been to the Forsythia Festival or even noticed the forsythia before this year. This year I got hooked! I'm going to plant some forsythia of my own and convince my neighbours to do the same. Maybe in 10 years they will be talking about the Forsythia Fest-

Howland energy efficient

by ROBERT KEIR

Imagine heating your home with the energy equivalent of two toasters. "It can be done" claims Ed English of Howland House, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing's home demonstration centre for energy conser-

Since the opening of Howland House in Nov. 1982 almost 8,000 people have inspected the nineteenth century semi-detached house at 16 Howland Rd.

This winter, Howland House spent only \$92 on heating. Without the energy-saving techniques now in place, English said heating would have cost about

English admits that the centre is an exception. It displays over \$20,000 worth of energy saving devices, from elementary weather stripping to a gas furnace so efficient that it has only a plastic pipe for a chimney.

People should, however, look at the house as a "supermarket of ideas" on energy conservation, says English. They should come and take away those ideas which are most helpful to their own situation and budget.

English advises that the place to start with is weather stripping and caulking. Howland House uses V-shaped stripping around the doors and plastic sheeting that can be formfitted to a window with a hot hair dryer. Both are cheap and

On a larger scale, Howland House demonstrates how an \$800 air exchange unit can both heat and keep fresh the completely sealed house. Unlike most houses, very little heat escapes through the roof, basement, doors or windows. By recirculating heated air through a vent at the top of the house, the system only uses the energy equivalent of those two toasters.

If you need help, Howland House will provide the knowhow. Several step-by-step pamphlets are available and an enthusiastic staff will explain the finer points.

Perhaps your house doesn't look like Howland House and you're wondering how these energy-efficient techniques can be best adapted to your needs. This is where David Tovey of Project ECCO steps in. ECCO (Energy Conservation Community Outreach) is a City of Toronto project with funding from the Ministry of Energy. The ECCO staff will actually go to your home and get you start-

"It's called a house-warming party" says Tovey. "You invite some friends over, we bring along some free materials and everyone learns first hand how to do things. Most people are amazed how easy it is.

Although ECCO presently services the Riverdale area, Tovey hopes that extra funding will soon allow them to expand across the entire city.

In Riverdale the ECCO staff have advised 1,600 homeowners and tenants. "We've managed to

Contd. on p.4

Political theatre makes a comeback p. 7

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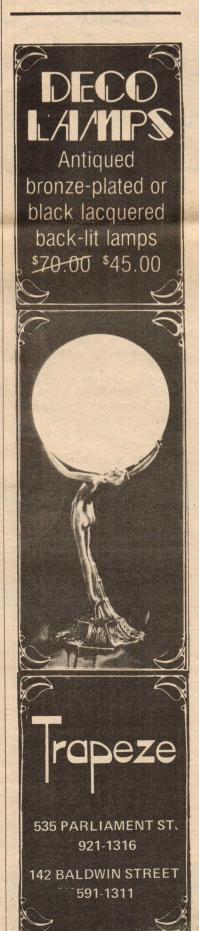
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SPEAKING OUT

VIEWPOINT

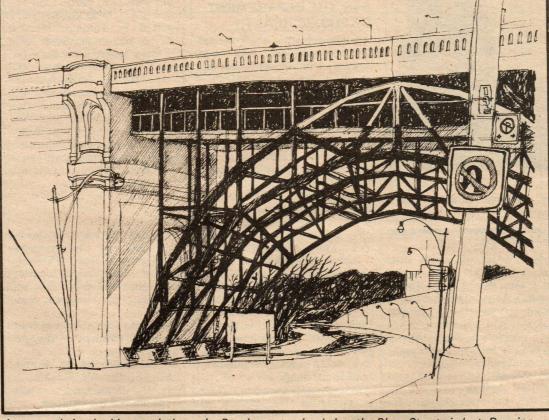
It runs in the family

by LESLEY MANG

Like many Canadians, you may feel that politics is a nasty ailment that strikes hard only at election season. You bear with the discomforts of post-moral drip and media congestion in the knowledge that it will soon be all over. To be sure, there are large-scale public attacks of politics at other times, particularly when our elected representatives are trying to cover up inexcusable behaviour. You may wish during these periods that a little more honesty was shown, a little less self-serving. But that is not the way of politics. You may also feel some despair about ever understanding the roots of this affliction. You may in fact feel blessed that although politics exists out there and can hurt you, you have a safe haven in your family.

I feel it is my duty to warn you that far from being seasonal or easily avoided, politics lurks perhaps unnamed and unrecognized - in your very home. No one is immune to this virus. It influences the actions of you and your loved ones in a most profound way. But, you say, no one in your family exhibits signs of an attack. No one in your family can be accused of bafflegab or ridiculous posturing. You should know that these are the symptoms of terminal cases. Politics exists in many forms. And it is at home that we have all been introduced to it.

Those of you with infants or young children understand the process of tyranny very well. Wave upon wave of demand fills each day, sometimes two or three conflicting demands simultaneously - for example, get me a glass of milk and wipe my bum. There are rewards to be sure. The small tyrant generally adores his or her keepers and generously bestows smiles and later on amusing running commentary on everything from the fat man on the bus to the worm on the sidewalk. Rewards are forthcoming, however, only if this small ruler's subjects toe the line. Mercifully, just as the beleaguered slaves are planning a revolution, the tyrant begins to doubt his or her absolute power. This event usually comes about when one small autocrat meets



An unusual view looking south down the Bayview extension below the Bloor Street viaduct. Drawing by Jim Houston.

likely rage over who gets to play with what. If you are lucky your slave driver will go down to defeat in the first round. In a situation like this, there is absolutely nothing more comforting than a parent. From this slender power base, you begin to rebuild your shattered sense of control over your life. Your child will suffer further defeats and will need your protection and solace. In time, the balance of power will be yours. If you are not lucky or not clever, your child may become stuck at the tyrant stage and be a misery to everyone including him or herself. You will have a difficult political situation to deal with.

As a parent, you learn to manage your small child so that he or she remains happy, while doing what you want. Diplomacy and manipulation are the chief means to attaining your ends. Soon your child will understand these techniques and use them on you. Now how many successful politicians can you name who are not both diplomatic and manipulative?

The middle years of childhood bring the rite and the right of the elite group of friends. And your child will always be the one who is not in it. You will have to lie quite creatively as you explain that elite groups aren't all that important. It's more important to be nice to people (the way your child is) than mean and snobbish. The upshot will be that your child will learn to hide his or her true being will begin to dissimulate, to pretend that what is true is not true - a fine political skill. The danger is that the child will begin to pretend that things are always o.k. and be unable to admit when they really are not.

Those of you with teenagers are living with the true conservatives in our society. The wouldn't be younger ones caught dead looking different from their peers. Someone might laugh - best to be safe. The older ones not only insist on wearing second-hand clothing, but they also are determined to do it in as individual a manner as possible. Never mind that they want to ban the bomb. That, too, is a genuinely conservative position. After all, what could be more traditional than wanting to live long enough to leave

Whether they know it or not,

your teenagers are exhibiting caution, conservation of resources, and individualism - the traits we find in our politicians.

You have probably noticed that the politics of your teenagers are considerably more tolerable than the politics of more junior members in the family. Indeed, this shows that you have been doing a good job. The final step in their development will happen when they exhibit the same sense of justice and tolerance that you do.

Should you let your children know that they carry politics in their genes? An emphatic yes. Only in understanding our nature as polticial beings on an individual level can we hope to understand political behaviour in the public sense. And our understanding on both levels is of vital importance to our happy survival as a species.



Chung Kwong Cheung gives a lesson in Chinese calligraphy at the

LETTERS

Blaming the victim?

Howard Huggett's article A Hostel is Not A Home (May 6) made some interesting points regarding hostels and the current housing shortage. However, the author appears to have misunderstood some of the links between skid row and the larger socio-economic system. As with many other commentators on skid row institutions, Huggett falls into the trap of blaming the victim for his situation.

This is most apparent when he writes of the need to "make a real effort at rehabilitation of the men."

On skid row rehabilitation is a synonym for exploitation and stigmatization. The focus of change needs to be outward toward a system that denies equal opportunity to individuals of different social classes, not inward toward the victims of inequality. It is the socio-economic system that requires rehabilitation, not its victims.

Jim Ward

Brandy 1 - Dogs 0

Bravo! to K. L. Brandy for the dog-gone great article on dogs, Facing Up To a Dirty Job (May 6).

We need more people telling dog owners "like it is" and using my wife's favourite comparison: "I don't take my children to defecate on your lawn, driveway or sidewalk, please don't bring your dog to mine!"

G. Harris



News please you or get you miffed? Don't just grumble to your friends! Fire off some lines of purple prose to us. We want to hear from our readers.

SEVEN NEWS

Volume 14 Number 1

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Editor: Cary Fagan General Manager: Bill Lane Typesetting: Anne Dancy Paste-up help: Gordon Ames

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United Way fills service gaps

from the UNITED WAY

Eighteen year-old Leroy Williams needs to find a job but can't. He has to quit high school to find a full-time job or his family will be evicted from their apartment. Disillusioned and confused, he doesn't know anyone who will give him a "break" and a word of friendly advice. There are not enough youth employment service centres in the community to help all the Leroys. The United Way of Greater Toronto recognizes there are still big gaps in helping young people find employment.

Mrs. Da Costa wants to learn English but can't. She spends most of her day raising her preschool children and works evenings cleaning business offices to help pay the bills. Trapped in her struggle to adapt to her new life here, she's lonely and frustrated. There are not enough service agencies in the community to help all the Mrs. Da Costas. The United Way of Greater Toronto recognizes there are still big gaps in helping immigrants adjust to their new home.

These are only two examples of the many unmet needs in our community. David Lewis, chairman of the United Way board, has announced that about \$230,000 will be set aside for admission of new agencies. This will give community groups the opportunity to apply to the United Way for partial funding.

United Way for partial funding.

For further information on on how to apply for new admissions call the United Way at 979-2001, extension 287. The deadline for applications is late June.



A Toronto landmark — the Flatiron building. Photo by Doron Rescheff.

Howland House from p.1

prevent a lot of people from making mistakes and helped them save money" says Tovey. But he acknowledges that the response from lower income groups could be better. While most people can expect to pay up to \$150 for weather stripping and caulking, Tovey points out that this investment soon pays for itself through reduced heating bills and more comfort. He also stresses that income adjusted home improvement programs are available.

ECCO serves the entire neighbourhood and their free expertise is available in three languages: English, Greek and Chinese.

"We're here to help everyone out, no matter what stage they're at" says Tovey. "We intend to be a service they can continue to rely on."

You can tour Howland House from 12 noon to 5 p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays, 12 noon to 9 p.m. Thursdays and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Howland House is closed Mondays and Tuesdays. Telephone: 461-7577

School kids must be immunized

from THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

All schoolchildren under the age 18 must be immunized against mumps, measles, rubella (German measles), tetanus, diphtheria and polio, according to a provincial law passed last summer. To implement this law, the Toronto Department of Public Health began their immunization program on kindergarten and new school entrants last fall, and has now begun the "second phase" of their inoculation program by focusing on students in grades two to eight across the city. This includes both public and private schools.

Parents are encouraged to take their children to their family doctor or pediatrician for their shots, and forward the records to the school nurse attached to their child's school. If parents prefer, the school nurse will provide the immunization. Parents should contact the nurse for further information.

Students may be exempt from immunization for medical or religious reasons. However, without such exemptions, students may be excluded from the school system at the request of the Medical Officer of Health for non-compliance with the law.

For the two years 1980-81, 543 cases of these diseases were reported in Toronto. Measles had the highest incidence with 371 cases reported for the same period. In 1980, over 11,000 cases of the six diseases were reported in Ontario, a rate 15 times that of the United States where compulsory immunization has already been introduced. All of these diseases can cause serious complications, and are easily preventable with immunization.

A choking incident in a downtown restaurant has prompted the City of Toronto, Department of Public Health to offer courses in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation to restaurant employees.

The first such course was held recently at Crispins, 64 Gerrard Street East.

It was conducted by Norma Cohen, of the Western Health Area, the Department's expert on the life saving technique.

Impetus for the course began when a woman patron of the restaurant choked on a piece of food. A waitress tried to dislodge the food, then a bartender got in the act, then another patron was finally successful in making her vomit. An ambulance was called and she recovered safely.

covered safely.

"We were lucky that incident had a happy ending" said a restaurant spokesperson. "But we wanted to make sure that if anything like that happened again we'd all be aware of what to do."

Instruction is given free and any restaurant operator may apply to the City of Toronto, Department of Public Health to have such a course given in his or her establishment, providing at least four employees will attend.

The first rule in a choking situation is to designate someone to call the 911 emergency number. Then the Heimlich manouevre is tried. If that does not dislodge the food particle, the person may lapse into unconsciousness.

External cardiac compression and mouth-to-mouth resuscitation are needed until the ambulance arrives.

Since the course was first offered four years ago, 1,087 City Hall employees and outsiders have learned how to save a life. Already, several students have actually put their knowledge into practice.

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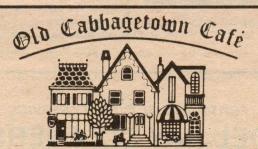
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Those people who have not yet contributed but would like to can send their cheques to Seven News, 249 Sherbourne St. M5A 2R9.

CLOSE UP

POLITICAL FILE

School report a jargon jungle

by FRAN ENDICOTT Ward Seven Trustee

On April 14, 1983, the Toronto Board of Education approved its response to the Ministry of Education's draft report entitled Ontario Schools: Intermediate and Senior (OSIS). The OSIS Report is a document outlining program and diploma requirements for grades 7 to 12, to begin in the 1984 school year. This report is in the draft stages only and has attracted many responses from individual school boards, principals, vice-principals, teacher federations and department heads. Their concerns centre around the particular

course requirements and the difficulty certain school populations have in completing the courses in order to meet standards for university or community college entrance.

Ward Seven Trustee Pam Mc-Connell and myself are members of a board study group to examine the impact of OSIS on our secondary schools. Any of you who have tried to find your way around this document realize how confusing and contradictory it is. I have some serious reservations about the Ministry's capacity to deliver on the promises made in the document, given the lack of provision of either additional funds to the school boards or clear directives for accountability on the part of the private and public sectors of the economy.

Much of the document is devoted to the expansion of the general level courses which are defined as those leading directly from school to employment, or to employment via the community colleges. I have two major concerns with this. First, there is absolutely no guarantee that our students will be hired. In talks with Ministry officials it has become clear that the Ministry of Education does not see as part

of its mandate the necessity to get a firm commitment from business, industry and labour that our students will be given employment.

Secondly, while the colleges were orginally set up for students with grade 12 dipolmas, these students are being increasingly forced to compete with students who have acquired their grade 13 diploma. The Ministry has given no indication that the colleges have agreed that the student graduating from the general level program will be given top priority in admission to the colleges of applied arts and technology and that these programs will be appropriate in providing training for real job opportunit-

Another major concern is the scant attention given to the basic level program. The objectives for the students in these programs seem to be simply that they acquire good personal habits! The only specific statement is that the courses at this level should "also provide a good preparation for direct entry from secondary school into employment." How is not spelled out, what kind of employment is not addressed; one is left with the uncomfortable feeling that there might be

more than a modicum of truth in a colleague's cynical comment 'train the best and shoot the rest!'

OSIS as it stands is not a document from which one can plan a rational secondary school system. There are too many outstanding questions. For example, what exactly is the relationship of grades seven and eight to the high schools? While the document "does not advocate the placement of grades seven and eight in the secondary school" its inclusion in OSIS clearly links it very closely indeed. And this places enormous pressure on a school system to rigourously stream kids (even more than is presently done) in these grades.

The strong emphasis in OSIS on compacting the timetable, limiting options, and again, the rigorous streaming of students in the secondary system, makes nonsense of the document's promise of equal opportunity for all students.

Ward Seven is a microcosm of the population served by the Toronto Board, being multicultural and with a wide range of income. Consequently, our commitment must be to an education system which reflects the social and economic needs of the



wheelbarrow of daffodils brightens up the Danforth. Photo by Anne Wilbee.

community. A mechanical laying on or order does not accomplish this and OSIS as it presently stands is a disturbing document. I know that the Ministry has received several submissions that address the effect that the document's prescriptive rigidity will have on the flexibility that a school system must preserve if it is to provide equal educational opportunity for all our students.

If your would like a copy of the Toronto Board's response please call or drop me a note.



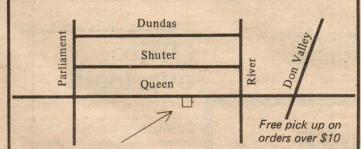
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GROWING UP IN WARD 7

Playing and learning at Bain

by NORAH McCLINTOCK

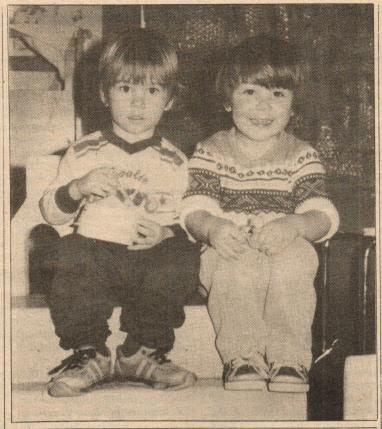
Following a survey by the Toronto Board of Education to determine daycare needs in the Riverdale area, the Bain Avenue Preschool Daycare was established in Withrow School on Bain Avenue in the summer of 1982. The centre, which officially opened in September of last year, has a capacity for 20 children and currently has an enrolment of about 14.

Barbara Lampert, a consultant with the Board of Education who was involved in setting up the centre, says it "is excellent in terms of staff and program. The parents are active and responsible." The daycare is run by a parent executive. Parents are encouraged to participate at regular parent meetings which help to ensure parent control over all aspects of the centre and a say in the care the children

The centre is staffed by Lydia Van Pelt, the supervisor, who has an Early Childhood Education diploma and previous daycare experience, and Kathleen McElroy, who is in the process of completing her diploma. The centre also employs a cook and a student who comes in to help out in the afternoons. Under the school board's co-operative learning centre policy, the daycare also receives regular visits from four high school students who assist in the centre a couple of times a week (in return for which the centre receives its space in the school rent-free from the board).

The centre itself is a bright, sunny room, amply decorated with the children's own artwork. On the ground floor of Withrow School, the daycare has easy access to an outdoor playground, complete with swings and slides. Adjacent to the daycare is the kindergarten, which several of the older children attend each morning, returning to the daycare for a hot lunch with the rest of the children, followed by a nap.

Although there is plenty of play, daycare is also a learning experience. While the older children are at kindergarten, the little ones learn through theme weeks about different topics and concepts. The theme for the past two weeks has been Growing. The children planted bean seeds and watched them grow; they talked about the vegetation growing in their own backyards;



Who, us? Two of the children in the Bain Avenue Preschool Daycare.

sang songs and read stories on the same topic; and took nature walks to explore the plants and trees blossoming into spring around them.

Other theme weeks have taught the youngsters about

family, colours, numbers, shapes and animals.

"The children have learned a lot from these theme weeks" says Lydia Van Pelt "And they teach each other as well." Barbara Lampert points out that the

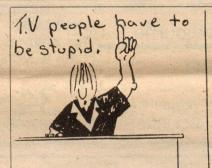
"board policies on affirmative action and race relations are integrated into the program." And, adds Van Pelt, "violence and gun play are discouraged."

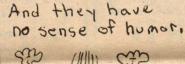
Small excursions are adventures for the children as well as being educational. A popular spot to visit is to nearby Riverdale farm where the children can see and learn about the animals. During the spring break period the children travelled by subway (an adventure in itself for some) to the Royal Ontario Museum to see the dinosaur exhibit. They have also visited a dentist, walked down to the local library at least once a month, and visit the close-by parks in the area.

The children receive two nutritious snacks a day (always including a piece of fresh fruit) as well as a hot lunch cooked on the premises. Special meals are provided for children with allergies. On birthdays, the birthday child gets to choose the day's menu and the cook provides a cake for the celebration.

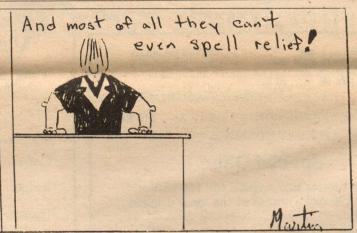
The centre opens at 7:45 each morning and closes at 5:45. Fees for the daycare are \$70 per week and some subsidized spaces will soon be available. If you need preschool daycare for your child, or if you know someone who does, call Lydia Van Pelt at 463-1457.

Norah McClintock is a member of the executive of Bain Avenue Preschool Daycare.











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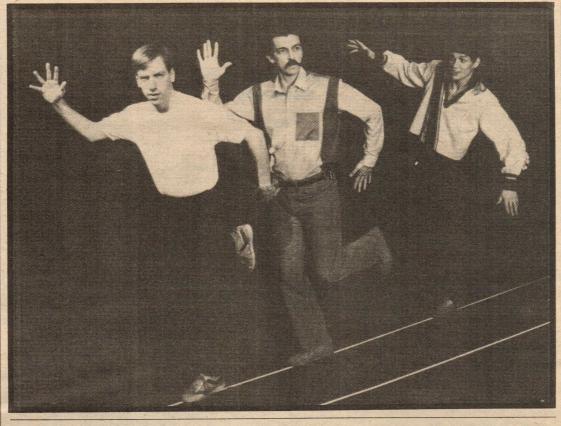
Agit-prop makes a comeback

Life on the line tours Toronto community centres

by SATU REPO

In the 1930s the breadlines and closed factory gates brought a theatrical response which tried to dramatize the social and political issues of the day and think aloud about solutions. This socalled agit-prop theatre attempted to be accessible to people who didn't usually go to the theatre and was often performed in labour halls and community centres as well as regular theatres. Perhaps it's a sign of the deepening recession in the eighties that a similar venture has appeared on the theatre scene in Toronto: the Steven Bush -Allen Booth production of Life on the Line, which played at the Young People's Theatre and will be touring community centres in Toronto from May 22 to June 20 with assistance of a \$12,500 Ontario Explorations grant. The show will probably be presented in Ward Seven (June 10 is a tentative date at the Ralph Thornton Community Centre) but final arrangements have not yet been made.

This show is a pilot project of Mixed Company, a new theatrical group which includes Bush, Booth, Simon Malbogat and Ellie Barrington. In its "Declaration of Intentions" Mixed Company states "Our work will favour content that illuminates contemporary material realities:



A light and contemporary touch: Allen Booth, Steven Bush and Ben Cleveland-Hayes. Photo by Alex

economic, social, political and historical. We will reflect the present moment (even when using ancient and fanciful texts), explore means of transformation and seek to affect the audience to work for positive change.'

This all sounds like pretty solemn stuff and could well scare away the average Toronto theatre-goer. But Bush and Booth have a light and contemporary touch in this new wave musical satire they have jointly created.

The show features Steven Bush, a veteran actor who through a combination of monologue and dramatic movement responds to dilemmas of modern | are confronting their own vulliving: the battle between boredom on the job and fear of unemployment, the tension between the personal and political, the hesitation between old solutions which don't work and new ones that seem risky. He's accompanied by Allen Booth's new wave musical score performed live by Booth on electronic keyboards and Ben Cleveland-Hayes on drums.

While the skits vary, Bush has wisely concentrated on what he understands best from the inside, the experience of white middle class (male) Canadians who, perhaps for the first time, nerability on the high seas of a market economy. Here's Bush:

No I'm not a worker I'm an expert No I'm not a worker I run a Mac's Milk store I'm not a blue collar worker I'm a management trainee I'm not a worker I'm an artist I'm not a worker I'm a professional I'm not a worker I've got a career

WHADDAYA MEAN I'M

The show's originality is in exploring middle class angst in a new way. Stylistically it sets a nice tension between Bush's Chaplinesque performance and Booth's hard-edged new wave score. The music acts like a subterranean reminder that under that endearing Canadian vulnerability and comic inventiveness there lurks a grim, chaotic world of feelings and anxieties. The show's political objective seems to be to hammer away at stock middle class defences: the individualizing and psychologizing we all do when faced with social problems. It's not presumptious enough to offer answers, but suggests that we might begin by asking new kinds of questions and exploring new ways of connecting with each

The trouble with agit-prop in the thirties was that while it added a social and political dimension to theatre, it at the same time eliminated what was the strength of traditional theatre: a concern with human passions. Only one giant emerged from this tradition, Bertolt Brecht, who even at his most didactic never forgot that theatre like all art is also about desire. By weaving in elements of folklore and popular culture into his plays he kept the personal in proper tension with the social and political.

Life on the Line has learned a great deal from Brecht. It has also built on another of Brecht's strengths, a delight in formal innovation. However, I still found some of the material thin and a little preachy. It would have been good to have that subterranean beat in Booth's music expanded to include a broader range of feelings. As for the skits what about working in a little more sexual politics?

Theatre bargains abound for those in-the-know

by ANNE-MARGARET HINES

With orchestra seats at the Royal Alex running to \$23 apiece these days, it's easy to get the idea that live theatre has become an entertainment for the rich. But many theatres in town are still offering top-notch live entertainment at prices which even the most budget-minded will find attractive. In fact, a theatregoer who knows where to look can enjoy a live show for less than the price of a first run

The PWYC which appears mysteriously on many live theatre ads means a real bargain at the box office. Pay What You Can performances have been popular for years as a way of seeing shows without paying the regular \$10 and up ticket prices. PWYC performances are usually

Tuesday or Wednesday evenings or Sunday matinees and admission is by donation rather than a set ticket price. Although some theatres offering PWYC performances now have a suggested minimum donation of \$3-\$4, they're very happy to take whatever people can afford to pay. The Toronto Free Theatre (28 Berkeley St.) and the Tarragon (30 Bridgman Ave.) offer some of the best theatre in the city with fine performers like Linda Griffiths, Fiona Ried and Douglas Rain Both theatres have lar Sunday matinee which is always PWYC. These have become very popular over the years, particularly with those in the theatre profession, so it's best to arrive early to ensure getting a

At Harbourfront, Theatre Sports provides a unique and inexpensive entertainment every Wednesday evening. For \$3 the audience is treated to a Second City-style of improvisational comedy. Audience participation is encouraged as teams of young comedians vie for the biggest share of the laughs. The quality of performance varies dramatically from week to week depending on who's competing, but it's always high energy and a lot of fun. Also at Harbourfront, the Equity Showcase performs

five or six times a year and admission is always free. The showcase provides an opportunity for professional actors and directors to get on-the-job training and exposure. Shows have ranged from Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream to the zany Time of Our Lives. You can call the Canadian Actor's Equity Association at 967-4252 for information about this year's line-up.

Amateur theatres also provide some first rate entertainment for a very reasonable price. The Morris Theatre (4 Morris St.) and the U.C. Playhouse (79A St. George St.) are both operated by the University of Toronto drama departments and offer a wide variety of shows throughout the year with ticket prices ranging from \$2-\$4. Up-town, York University (4700 Keele St.) has several professional calibre shows a year which run between \$4-\$5 a seat. This year's major production was a riotous version of Grease presented by York's prestigious theatre department. You can call university theatre 66703655 for information about what's coming up next.

With times being as financially strained as they are, live theatre does offer some real bargains for a night out that's inexpensive and always enjoyable.



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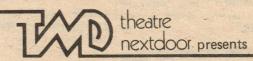


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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Saturday

May 21



The Chester Cycle of Mystery Plays begins May 21 at 11 a.m. and continues throughout the long weekend. University of Toronto campus.

Sunday

May 22

Torontonians of all ages are invited to join in and jog their way to fitness today in the City of Toronto Department of Parks and Recreation's second Fun-Run-Walk in High Park. Participants can run or walk in either the five or 10 km. courses. Registration is at 9:30 a.m. and the Fun-Run-Walk begins at 10:15 a.m. Each person will receive an information package before the run and a certificate when they finish. There is no entry fee and participants can pick up their registration forms or obtain more information at their local recreation centre. Following the Fun-Run-Walk there will be a picnic and family games and activities. For more information: Brian Skinner, Keele Recreation Centre at 766-2821

The Ontario Spring Fair will be a kaleidoscope of the exciting activities and interests that make Ontario what it is. Featured performers include: Nancy White, Ken Whiteley and the Paradise Revue, the BopCats and the Boinks. The site will be filled with exhibits. Kids will play in their own creative playground and seniors will set up shop for tea and coffee. There'll be a special zoo for the kids. There'll be a wide range of Ontario crafts on display and for sale. And while you're investigating the crafts, you'll be able to treat yourself to fine foods from 12 concessions and special booths serving food from many cultures. Bathurst Street Quay: Harbourfront. 8:30 a.m. \$2 per person \$5 for families. Sponsored by the Ontario NDP.

Monday

May 23

Fort York Festival — Historic Fort York Garrison Road off Fleet Street. 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Adults \$3, children & seniors \$2.

Ontario Place is hosting Reach for the Rainbow day - a unique event to provide handicapped and non-handicapped children with an opportunity to reach out to each other and share in a fun-filled afternoon. Organized by a group of concerned parents and community professionals, the aim of this special day is to encourage awareness and understanding of children with disabilities. To accommodate the needs of children with handicaps, a number of special arrangements have been made for the day: a check-in booth for wheelchairs, a catheter change area, the Rainbow restroom, special seating at the Forum, sign language interpreters, and volunteer attendants to assist with parking at the East Causeway Entrance and seating at the Forum. Parents of handicapped children who require special seating or those who would like additional information should call the Rainbow hotline: Diana Peacock (241-2994), Cathy Pastor (231-0859) or Sue MacDonald (251-7425).

Wednesday

May 25 -

A Forum to let you know about the exciting things being planned and to encourage you to get involved in celebrating Toronto's Sesquicentennial. Featuring a slide show. Queen Alexandra School (Broadview and Dundas). 7:30 p.m.

Thursday

May 26

Organization of Parents of Black Children in co-operation with Park School Parents Group and Regent Park Education Committee are holding a meeting on parents' rights and responsibilities. 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. at Park Public School, 440 Shuter Street, (Shuter & River Streets). On the panel are Fran Endicott Trustee 7, Don Irwin, Principal, Park Public School and Owen Leach, Parent Park Public School. The purpose of this meeting is to help parents gain a broad understanding of their rights and responsibilities in the public education system. Some of the questions which could be examined are: Do you have a right to see your child's entire school record? Can your child be suspended from school without a hearing? etc. For more information: Irene Jordan 534-4059.

Friday

May 27

The Social Planning Council of Metropolitan Toronto is sponsoring a Metro Toronto Social Housing Conference today and tomorrow at the North York Civic Centre, 5100 Yonge Street. New information concerning the urgent needs for housing among Metro residents will be presented. In particular, discussions will focus on the special needs of mother-led families, elderly, disabled, tenants, new home-buyers, transients, and people in crisis. Bob Rae, MPP, Susan Fish, MPP and Mayor Art Eggleton will be addressing the conference. Registration is \$20 or \$5 for students and unemployed.

Lunch Hour Concert at Colborne Lodge in High Park. 12:30 p.m. weather permitting.

Saturday

May 28

The Annual Garage Sale sponsored by the Neighbourhood Information Post (NIP), 265 Gerrard Street East, will be held today from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the library lawn at Parliament and Gerrard Streets. Items for sale will include clothes, household articles, furniture, toys, plants, books and jewellery. Donations of cash or items are welcome and volunteers will be available to pick up any items contributed. Tables to rent will also be available for those who wish to sell their own articles. For more information call NIP at 924-

The 519 Church Street Community Centre will be hosting an outdoor Community Festival today from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. There will be day long activities

which will include: folk music performances, jazz music performances, art displays, skits, poetry readings, craft and bazaar items for sale, food, drinks, self defence demonstrations, childrens craft activities, bake sale, fortune telling, card readings, information on all the programs and users of The 519 Church Street Community Centre and much, much more. Cawthra Square Park (Park that surrounds the 519 Church Street Community Centre, just north of Wellesley). Admission is free for everyone.

Sunday

May 29

Simpson Ave. United Church. 115 Simpson Ave. May time dinner and entertainment. 6:30 p.m. Baked ham, pies! Tickets \$5. Everyone welcome. Jane MaGill 466-4752.

Tuesday

June 1

Fiber Art 1983 — an Exhibition by outstanding Ontario artists, organized by the Association of Volunteers of Central Hospital, with the expert advice of Helen Frances Gregor RCA, internationally known tapestry artist. The exhibition will be open to the public daily from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. until June 21. 3rd floor of Central Hospital, 333 Sherbourne Street. 964-4111.

All former staff and students of Parkview Secondary School, formerly known as Parkway Vocational School, are invited to attend a reunion to mark the occasion of the closing of the school, to be held at Parkview, One Danforth Avenue 4 to 9 n.m.

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Flute Lessons: Offered in Riverdale by Courtney Westcott, experienced teacher and professional player. Individualized private instruction or in groups. Beginning to advanced; reasonable rates. Call 466-3622.

Wanted

Wanted — Your stuff. Springtime means spring cleaning and the Annual Garage Sale sponsored by the Neighbourhood Information Post, 265 Gerrard St. East. As you purge your home of old books, clothes, magazines, plants, jewelry, toys and knickknacks, save them for the NIP Garage Sale.

This year's Garage Sale will be held Saturday, May 28 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the library lawn at Gerrard and Parliament Streets. You can drop your donations off at the NIP office or phone NIP and a volunteer will collect your items. Those who would like to rent a table and sell their own articles are also encouraged to phone NIP at 924-2543.

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

Volunteers

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

Classes

Daycare vacancy small play group has room for one child 18 months to 2½ years. Imaginative teacher provides stimulating care with kind touch. Phone 469-4488.

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

MISC

Interested in the arts? If you have abilities that you can volunteer or share with a group of students in neighbourhood schools, want to try out a new idea or rehearse a performance, we'd like to hear from you. Please call: Arts Resource Teachers, Toronto Board of Education, Area East. 461-7585.

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