

Parents rally to battle arcades

by ANNA THOMPSON

Even if you haven't been inside one, you know they are there. Strange beeps and tiny electronic melodies filter out of smokey, dark doorways. Lights flash out at you as three or four video machines send their players the good news that they are that day's "High scorer." Young, sweaty players grip the controls as though they have only one hour left to live.

These monsters are video games, and young people like to play them — a lot. The world of the video arcades can perhaps best be compared to that of the pool hall, but there are big differences between the two. Both pool tables and video games are found in noisy, smokey places, but pool is played with other people, while videos are a personal power struggle between the player and the machine. The pure thrill of limitless one-on-one competition for a quarter holds such a strong attraction for many young people,

that they might even steal to get the money to play the games. After all, 'addictions' of any kind get expensive.

Teachers and parents have a special interest in this problem and EAST (East Area Schools Together), a parent-teacher council that involves wards 7, 8 and 9 met in late September to discuss the issue. Two students from Monarch Park Collegiate, Cindy Koh and Theresa Campbell; Keith Emery, vice-principal of the Eastern High School of Commerce; Dr. Sylvia Larter, research assistant with the Toronto Board of Education and Dr. Allan MacAllister were among those present at the meeting chaired by Merylee Houston.

Sgt. Ed Ludlow of 55 Division attended to advise the meeting of the problems the police are having in controlling the problems created by the 'video culture.' It was reported that kids in high school and even grades seven and eight leave school at lunch time to play videos, and often don't return to school in the afternoon.

Mrs. Houston notes that, "There used to be a law that school age kids weren't allowed to use these kinds of games during school hours, but that law was repealed a few years ago." Under current legislation, police can apprehend youngsters on truancy charges, but manpower is wasted because, "It takes pretty much all afternoon to get the names and all the details straight," she continues.

Sgt. Ludlow remarked that there has been a "massive increase in daytime house break-ins." Groups of three to four youngsters have been caught taking off from school, entering houses where everyone is out for the day, and taking anything that can be quickly sold for cash. He reported that 55 Division cracked down on area kids and video arcades for a three week period recently, but that the kids, the break-ins and sometimes even the arcade owners simply moved to a new area, north of the Danforth into East York.

Merylee Houston feels the situation is a

serious one because, "Other things happen at the arcades. Kids don't just play games, they see the smoking, and the drug dealings — they can't ignore it all, and chances are it's just a matter of time before they get involved." She observes that her own kids "get bored quickly" with the games on their VIC 20 and usually end up using it to draw, write and program.

The educational value of video games as computers is probably not taught most effectively in the repetition of Pac-Man thirty times in one night. The issue of video games and their impact on young people is an on-going one, and will doubtless be further discussed in the future. EAST usually meets on the last Monday of each month, and their next meeting on October 24 (to accommodate Halloween) at Queen Alexandra School at Dundas and Broadview will focus on what teachers and parents want out of the group in the future, to establish even more effective relations between local area schools

SEVEN NEWS

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TORONTO'S OLDEST COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

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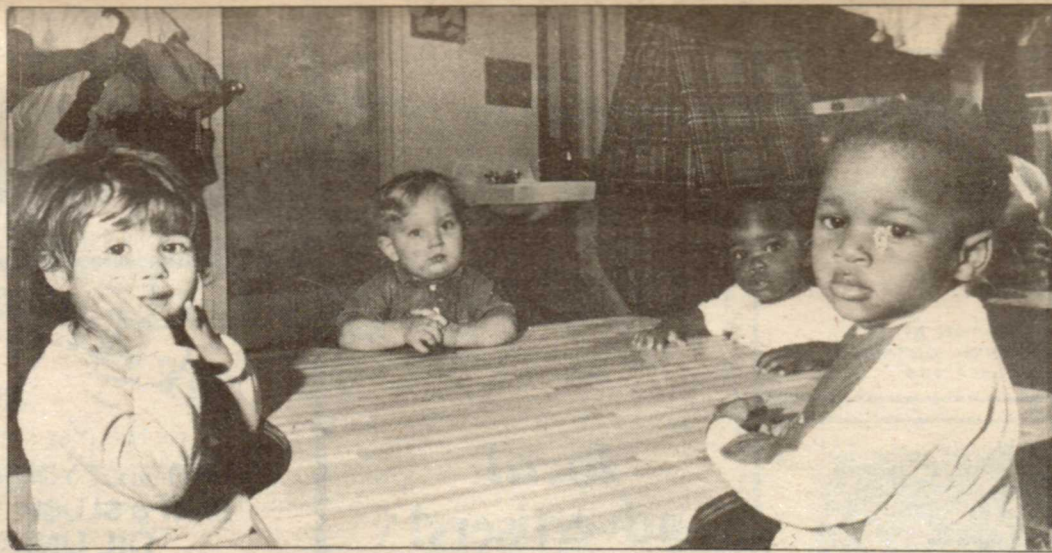
Local day care serves teenagers and their children

by ROSEMARIE POPHAM

The recent media coverage of sixteen year old kids on the streets of Toronto is frightening. However, lots of other sixteen year olds living difficult lives often don't make the press. These are the girls who are living on their own looking after their baby. These girls are living the mundane, yet often scary reality of "being a kid parenting a kid." They are on a fixed income, well below the poverty line. And they know that this income really is fixed. Like cement, it doesn't have much potential for growth, not if you are a girl who is 16, not if you have part of grade 9, not if you are single with a child and are virtually unemployable.

The East Infant Toddler Centre was started in September, 1982 at Earl Haig Public School. It is one response in our community to the dilemma faced by single teenage mothers. The day-care centre is for the sixteen infants and toddlers (3 to 30 months) of the teenager mothers who go to school within the Toronto Board of Education.

At the Centre, the kids get quality daycare and their mothers have a place where they are encouraged to spend time, and to learn about their child's needs and their responses as parents. The ultimate goal is to have kids who are physically and emotionally healthy and mothers who are caring, responsible and self-sufficient. With this in mind, staff have been hired who are



Janice, Joey, Sherisse and Deneha are four of the children who attend the East Infant Toddler Centre. Photo by Doron Rescheff.

specialists at dealing with both babies and teenagers.

The Centre's location at Earl Haig is ideal. Its walking distance to four area highschools and five minutes walk from the Coxwell subway station.

It's the second program of its kind in Metro. The first was established in the West end of Toronto by the Toronto Board of Education. The immediate success of this pioneering effort and the growing need in our area for a similar program, prompted the Board of Education to make Barb Lamperi, a day care consultant, available to orchestrate a similar venture in the East end.

In the spring and summer of 1982 a group of professionals

working in the East end met to discuss the formation of the East Infant Toddler Centre. This group has now become the Board of the Centre. The membership includes the principal of Earl Haig, the principal of a nearby highschool, a children's aid worker, a public health nurse, a community person, and the day care director.

The challenge as Board members has been the financial one. The first year of the Centre would have been absolutely impossible had it not been for the donation of space and staff time from the Toronto Board of Education. They also covered the operating costs during those first precarious months, while a grant

from COMSOC paid for initial capital costs as of this month, all sixteen children in the program are paid for by subsidies from Metro Community Services. The Centre is assured of a stable financial base, though they still have a hefty first year operating deficit to make up.

All discussions about programs in any community seem to come down to a dollars and cents appraisal. The final effects of this experience for the mothers and their kids could be tallied today. But it sure looks like a good investment for tomorrow.

Rosemarie Popham is a member of the East Infant Toddler Centre Board of Directors.

Community Band prospecting for gold

by ANNE-MARGARET HINES

Most people think of panning for gold as something that's only found these days in Robert Service poems. However, this summer a gang from the Cabbagetown Community Band (241 Carlton St.), a group that's noted for their willingness to try anything new, headed up to Vermillion Valley 50 miles north of Sudbury, to pan for gold and stake a few prospecting claims of their own.

"It started with a suggestion from Fred Kubesch," explains David Blackmore, director of the Cabbagetown Community Band. Kubesch is an area resident who has turned his hand to prospecting in the past and who thought "some city kids might like to try gold digging themselves." So Blackmore, Kubesch, another local prospector Fred Simmons and Denis Chisson got together a group of seven Toronto kids, six of whom had never been north of the city, and took the bus up to the Felix Hunting Resort in Vermillion.

For seven days the group camped in tents, cooked over an open fire and experienced what it's like to be a prospector. The kids learned quickly how to use a compass, how to cut a trail through the bus and 'stake a claim' and how to pan for gold. "One of the boys found a speck of gold," remembers Blackmore. "He was so excited he dropped it in the lake." That was as much gold as the group saw, but the

Continued on p. 6

New play educates children on sexual abuse pg. 7

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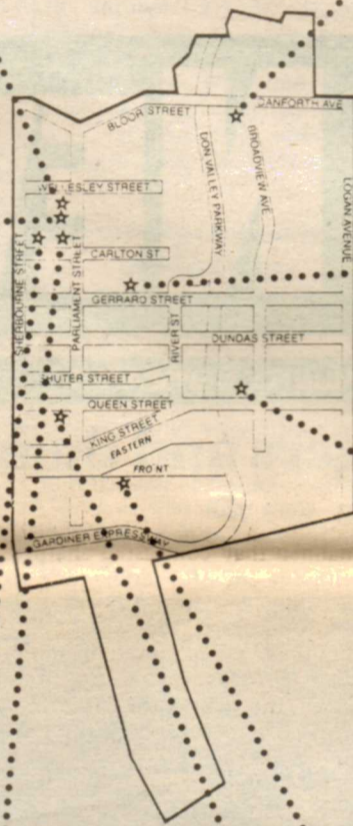
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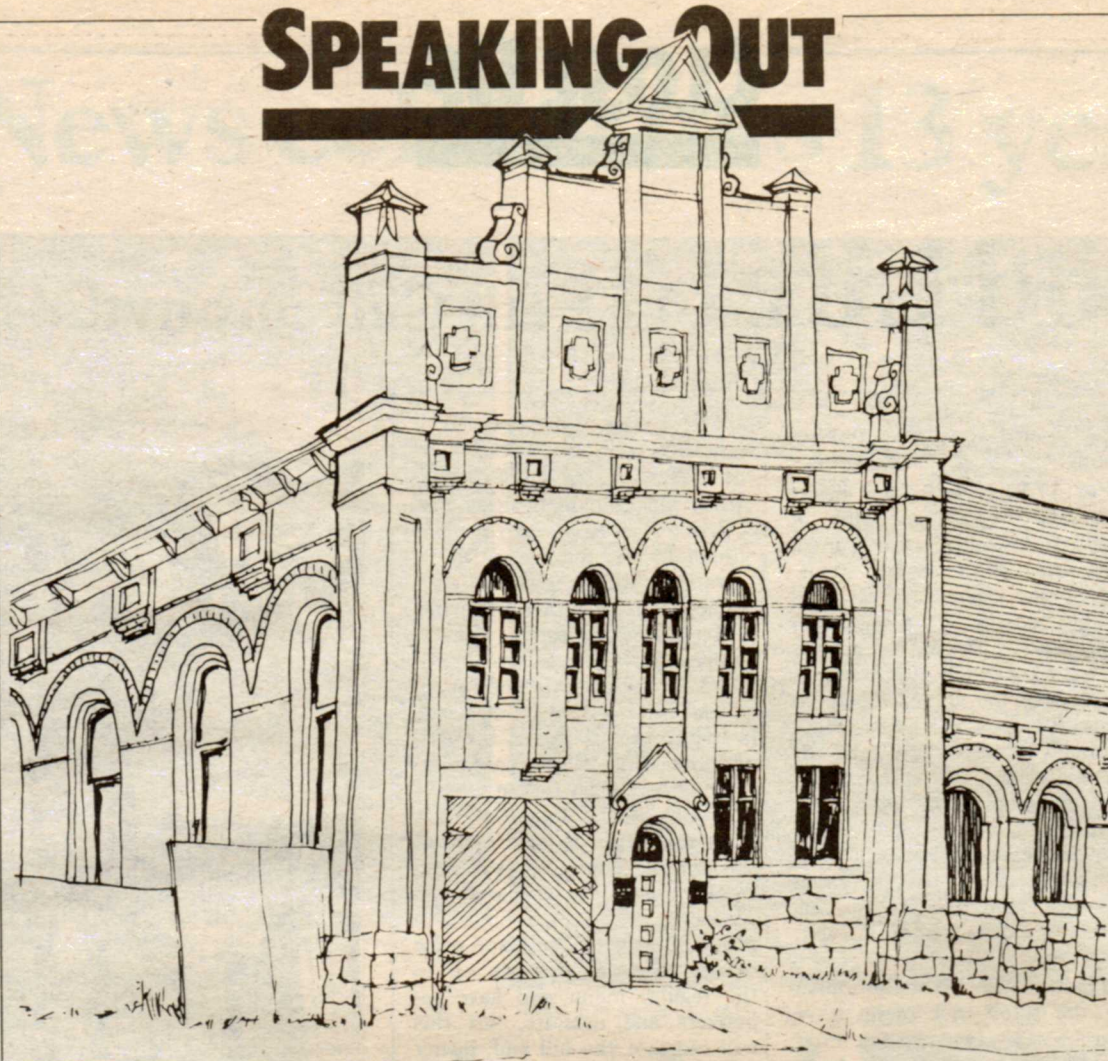
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SPEAKING OUT



Jim Houston, *Seven News*' "artist-in-residence" captures the old Toronto Gas Works, now the home of the Toronto Free Theatre. This drawing is from Jim Houston's *Toronto Colouring Book*, published by Green Tree Publishing Ltd.

FROM THE EDITOR

Domes and other foolishness

I had intended to devote my entire editorial column this issue to lamenting the fact that Ward Seven seems to be the only area in Ontario which hasn't put itself forward as a possible site for the future domed stadium. Since City Hall seems intent on building this stadium regardless of whether or not we want it, surely its time to put aside our reservations about spending millions of dollars, which could go to a myriad of worthy causes, on a ball park and get going on manouevring some of that tax money in our own direction. Even North York, while admitting that no one has any idea where they are, has submitted a proposal. Some little town west of here has also applied claiming that their distance from TTC routes is no problem because people would rather drive their cars to the games anyway, right?

It seems to me that we had better get on the ball (base, foot, soccer, whatever they're planning to use the place for) and get Ward Seven's name in there. Personally, I can recommend a greasy spoon on Queen St. where I had lunch that really deserves to have something built on top of it. Or perhaps those very strangely painted houses just north of here on Sherbourne would be a good site. We could have a concession stand with cabbage-beer and Sewell-burgers. But, I leave it to you. Let's call our alderpeople and make sure our Ward is up for a piece of the action.

However, I decided not to spend my whole 300 words on this unfortunate oversight, because I wanted to share with you some of my experiences in my first two weeks as editor of this paper.

The most interesting part so far (unless you count having the presses breaking down while they were printing my very first issue) has been the morning mail. It has turned out to be quite a treasure trove of useless information. For instance, this morning I received a notice from Centre Stage Productions announcing that they're holding a forum on cosmetic surgery entitled 'Daisy, the story of a face-life.' Get your tickets now. The people at Labatt's Brewery sent me a lovely engraved invitation to meet 'The World-Famous Budweiser Clydesdales' who will apparently be receiving guests in the Canadian Room of the Royal York this week. Thousands of people are living below the poverty line in this country (many of them editors of small community newspapers) and they're throwing fancy luncheons for horses.

The MOTHERS Breastfeeding Coalition (can there really be such a thing?) informs me that October is Official Breastfeeding Month. They sent along an October calendar with a picture of a baby on it. I suppose it could have been worse. Now, aren't you glad I share these things with you?

New book for a nuclear generation

by HOWARD HUGGETT

For book lovers there is no pleasure like that of browsing through a second-hand book store or diving into the middle of a book sale. Recently I came upon an important publication entitled "The Dangers of Nuclear War." This volume is the product of discussions held at Thinker's Lodge, Pugwash, Nova Scotia, in 1976 and 1977, culminating in the 30th Pugwash Symposium on the topic: "The Dangers of Nuclear War by the Year 2000, and Attempt at an Assessment," held in Toronto in May, 1978. It was attended by 26 invited participants from 11 countries, many of whom were or had been employed by governments, universities and other official and semi-official institutions, such as the Ford Foundation and the Brookings Institute. These contributors by no means belong to what the power structure and the advocates of nuclear armament love to refer to as "the radical left." Indeed, the foreword is written by none other than Pierre Trudeau.

The importance of this book is that it deals with the likely results of various sorts of nuclear strikes that might be employed against specific military targets — part of the tactics of an operation that is often described in that delightful phrase, "a limited nuclear war." We have all read forecasts of what would happen if a large bomb were dropped on a major city, but not much has been said about the results of attacks on military installations alone.

The first paper was titled "The Consequences of Nuclear War," and it was presented by J. Carson Mark, a physicist, formerly head of the division of the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory concerned with the theoretical design of nuclear weapons. In 1979, when this book was published, he was a consultant to

several U.S. government agencies on nuclear problems. Mr. Mark discussed several examples of effects on civilian populations of attacks on military targets. He did this in a calm, matter-of-fact manner that contrasted sharply with the frightful results he was describing.

For instance, there is the example of a strike on the Minuteman missile base in the U.S. Since they are quite large and heavily protected, Mark estimated that it would require several hundred one-megaton bombs to knock out one base. But there are, or were, six of these bases scattered throughout Wyoming and Missouri, and it is logical to expect that they would all be attacked at the same time.

The radioactive fall-out from such an operation would rain on a huge area, and in such cities as Kansas City, St. Louis and Cincinnati the populations would have to take shelter or suffer a lethal dose in a few days. Even as far away as Baltimore and Washington, D.C., dangerous levels of radiation might occur, depending upon wind patterns, and people there would have to take cover.

Estimates as to the number of deaths to be expected from this "limited" operation vary, from one million to twenty-two million, says Mark. The U.S. Department of Defense settled on a figure of seven million as being "most representative." Mark estimated that areas from the Canadian border south to the southern limit of Kansas and Missouri and stretching from Wyoming to Ohio would be out of food production for at least a year. That is a larger territory than Britain, France and West Germany combined.

Here are two brief excerpts from the above-mentioned foreword by Trudeau:

"It is easy to forget the dangers of nuclear war. Most of us prefer not to think about disagreeable prospects or, if we do, to believe that all will turn out for the best. In matters of war

and peace, we also tend to assume that private citizens can do little about them, or that the threat of nuclear war was in the hands exclusively of the nuclear powers. The great value of this book is that it reminds us both of the terrible dangers that threaten humanity as long as nuclear weapons continue to be produced, and of our obligations as citizens and governments to face the consequences of this situation."

"... In response to these concerns, the Canadian government has followed a double strategy. It has participated actively in efforts to slow down and eventually reverse the nuclear arms race, through such means as research into seismic verification techniques, contributions on partial arms control measures, and appeals for a ban on the flight testing of new strategic delivery vehicles and on the production of fissionable material for weapons purposes; and it has sought to restrict the use by other countries of Canadian nuclear technology and materials to peaceful purposes, through the application of full-scope safeguards."

This informative and valuable book was published by University of Toronto Press, and I would recommend it to all those who are concerned about the threat of nuclear warfare.

Profile:

Susan Fish ready — for act one

by HEATHER DICK

On Wednesday, October 3, a reception was held at the Royal Ontario Museum in honour of the newly appointed Minister of Citizenship and Culture, Susan Fish. In a short speech given at that time, Ms. Fish spoke of the inescapable intertwining of culture and citizenship in Ontario, and of the role of her Ministry in these areas.

Born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil Ms. Fish who now lives on Wellesley St. was raised in New York city. Since immigrating to Toronto in 1968, she has been active in politics serving as Policy Advisor to Mayor David Crombie (1973-1976), and representing the riding of St. George since March, 1981.

The Ministry to which Ms. Fish has recently been appointed is a new one. It was created in February 1982 when the Ministry of Culture and Recreation was divided into two new Ministries — Tourism and Recreation, and Citizenship and Culture. As its name suggests, the new Ministry covers two broad areas which are inextricably related.

What are the difficulties faced by new immigrants to Ontario from other countries, other cultures and with languages other than English or French? What steps must the government, as our elected representative, take to help them? How can our multi-cultural heritage, both past and present, be preserved for future generations? What are the needs of women in Ontario? What are the needs of artists? How can we encourage artists in their work? Where can they work and present their art? In response to some of these questions, the Ministry has set up numerous programs such as Ontario Welcome House which provides extensive services for new immigrants, an excellent library system and block funding of the arts through cultural agencies.

Yes, culture and citizenship go hand in hand, but rather than standing aside pointing to what has been done, our elected officials should turn, look to the future and start moving in that direction. They must set an example and lead the way. Welcome, Susan Fish.

SEVEN NEWS

Volume 14
Number 9

249 Sherbourne St., Toronto M5A 2R9 Tel: 921-2548

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Next Deadline: Oct. 26

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The Good Life: Le Petit Café an anytime treat

by RICHARD WEISS

Finding a restaurant to help celebrate special occasions is not generally a problem. A birthday or anniversary puts us in the mood to loosen our wallets a little, and we are more inclined to look for a place that will turn our meal into an event. Toronto is filled with restaurants with the requisite amount of pretention to satisfy even the most demanding client in this category. However, where do we go on a Tuesday night when we just don't feel like cooking, would like a reasonably interesting meal, and do not want to leave the restaurant shaking our heads wondering how the bill could have mounted to such heights? Such places are more difficult to find but, happily, they do exist.

Le Petit Cafe at 458 Parliament Street offers a fixed-price dinner with well prepared and interesting main courses at an extraordinary value. Decorated in a clean, simple Country-French style, the small dining room gives a genuinely warm atmosphere which is enhanced by the friendly staff. In summer, meals are also served on the small front terrace. The pedestrian traffic on Parliament Street is not to be compared with that on the Champs Elysees but the terrace is four steps down from street level and outdoor diners have the advantage of not feel-

ing invaded by the passing throng.

For \$7.95, chef/owner Pierre Mantonio offers a choice of soups, followed by a salad and a wide array of constantly changing main courses. On three recent occasions the gazpacho was tasty, with the seasonings restrained enough not to spoil the rest of the dinner. The cold broccoli soup was also good, although some lemon juice or herb-flavoured vinegar would give it a pleasant bite. Hot carrot soup is a rich puree, not over-thickened, and very flavourful. The salad course, a simple combination of tomato and lettuce, is small and underdressed, but fresh.

The selection of main courses on the fixed-price menu is remarkable for two reasons. First, the diner has a choice of a dozen or more dishes with meat, fish, fowl and pasta all well-represented. Secondly, while there are some familiar preparations, such as chicken a la Normande (with apples and calvados) and fettucine with clam sauce, Chef Mantonio also includes some more adventurous combinations.

Calf's liver in a sauce with orange slices and Grand Marnier was done to order and the liqueur mellowed nicely the tartness of the oranges. The trout with bananas and vermouth, a mixture I haven't seen anywhere else in town, was less successful, mainly because the

powerful taste of bananas effectively disguised the identity of the fish. The vegetable garnish which accompanied these main courses (usually carrots and broccoli) was never exciting but invariably well prepared.

The fettucine in a white wine, cream and clam sauce was too runny on two occasions, but it had a fine clam taste and lots of clams. On the subject of pasta, in the current Battle of the Red and the White (between Southern and Northern Italian schools of cooking), Le Petit Cafe is a clear supporter of the North; of the four fettucine dishes offered recently, all were based on cream.

In addition to the fixed-price dinner, one can venture on to the regular menu and have appetizers and desserts, but this will increase the bill and, in my experience, reduce the overall value of the meal. The snails, for example, are only mediocre and the desserts undistinguished. If you must have something sweet, walk across the street to Village Greens, pick up a container of Frusen Gladje mocha chip ice cream, and eat it on the way home.

The main point to remember here is value. Cost-cutting efforts such as paper napkins and a sensibly limited wine list allow Le Petit Cafe to execute a good selection of lunches and dinners at a very reasonable price. It's a place to keep in mind the next time you're just celebrating Tuesday night.



Le Petit Cafe (458 Parliament St.) offers some real bargains on fine French food, says culinary expert Richard Weiss. Weiss will be offering a regular column in Seven News on how to eat well without blowing your budget!

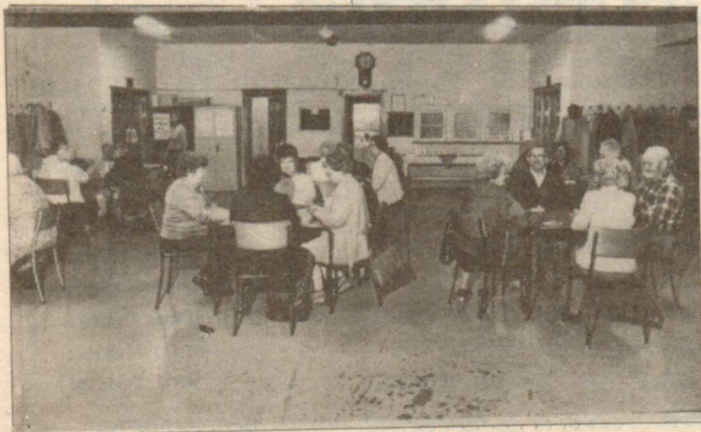
Seniors' Centre a place to call home

by K.L. BRANDY

"We want a place of our own," says Mrs. Evelyn Bly, 77, a founding member of the East Toronto Seniors Centre. The Centre is housed for now in the basement of Glenmount United Church (2029 Gerrard Street East) but the rental arrangement with the church only permits weekday use. At this time the Centre is not accessible to the handicapped. "Our objective is to get old people out of their homes," Bly says, "Some would never get out if there weren't a place to come to, and something interesting to do. But the even-

ings and weekends are often the loneliest times, so we really need our own, permanent place."

The East Toronto Senior's Centre was founded in 1979 to provide social, educational and recreational activities for isolated seniors. That tends to include, to one degree or another, most older people, since their so-called leisure time has become full-time, and it's difficult to replace the society of the workplace and family. Membership in the East Toronto Seniors Club is open to anyone over fifty-five years of age, which makes the baby-boomers eligible in a mere twenty years. After all, we North Americans live in an increasingly aging society.



Seniors find company at the East Toronto S.C., but a more permanent home is needed. Photo by Doron Reschiff.

"We offer a solid and varied programme," says Mrs. Helga Allan, the Centre's Co-ordinator and its full-time staff. "We try to attract different people to different events." Allan says that she schedules some form of live entertainment to follow educational programmes, for example a session on Crime Prevention for Seniors might be followed by the Kitchen Cabinet Harmonica Concert Band. "I use the entertainment as a draw," admits Allan, "since most people are coming to have fun." The educational programmes are designed to foster awareness of what resources are available, since the Centre's aim is to allow old people to help themselves and to maintain their standing in the community.

At least ten of the fifteen members of the voluntary board which directs the centre are seniors who are also members of the Centre. Their majority on the board allows them to retain control of their own destiny regarding the Centre. Most of the Centre's membership is seniors, that is, according to Allan, people for whom only social reasons, such as isolation, prevent their continuing activity in the community.

"We need volunteers," says Allan, "anybody who wants to help the members run their own programmes is welcome, since it

is important that the members do run things themselves." Allan will be setting up volunteer orientation, training and recognition soon. She is especially interested in hearing from students of social service work who would like a field placement. Allan would also like to talk to someone in the school system who is interested in providing intergenerational programming, that is, an exchange between young people and old people. "Older people have a lot of wisdom and knowledge," says Allan, "so many good things to give, but a lot of children are not exposed to seniors very much."

The Centre's own members give volunteer time. "Most members give fifty hours a year," says Mrs. Bly, who has contributed fifteen hundred hours to the operation of the Centre since 1979. Of a membership of around 240 people, the women are more active. Bly says that is perhaps because there are more women alive, and that she suspects that men are just more dubious about joining organizations like this one. "Some members just join for the trips," says Bly. "There are quite a few men on the trips."

At this time the Centre's programmes range from euchre to yoga. There is a regular swimming group, bingo, crafts, and

line dancing, which doesn't require a partner. The monthly luncheon is very popular. There are regular visits from a podiatrist, which can be charged to OHIP, and a dentist visits for consultations every two weeks. Membership in the Centre costs \$5 a year, but it is not necessary to be a member to participate in all programmes.

The Centre arranges day trips and longer ones, such as the Christmas trip leaving on December 5 for Colonial Resort in the Thousand Islands. "They are a very, very active group, who like to do a lot of things, and don't like to be bored."

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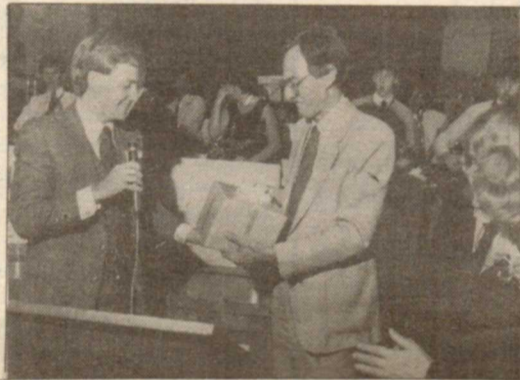
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Liz Tyrwhitt receives a certificate of recognition, presented by Sharon Ireland.



Even the catering staff enjoyed themselves. Good food and good fun.



Seven News board member John Campey thanks Metro Morning's Joe Cote for his help as Master of Ceremonies.

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The Seven News Banquet was a great chance to thank our supporters and celebrate our first thirteen years of community service!
photos by Doron Rescheff



Margaret Campbell was among those recognized for their contribution to the community.

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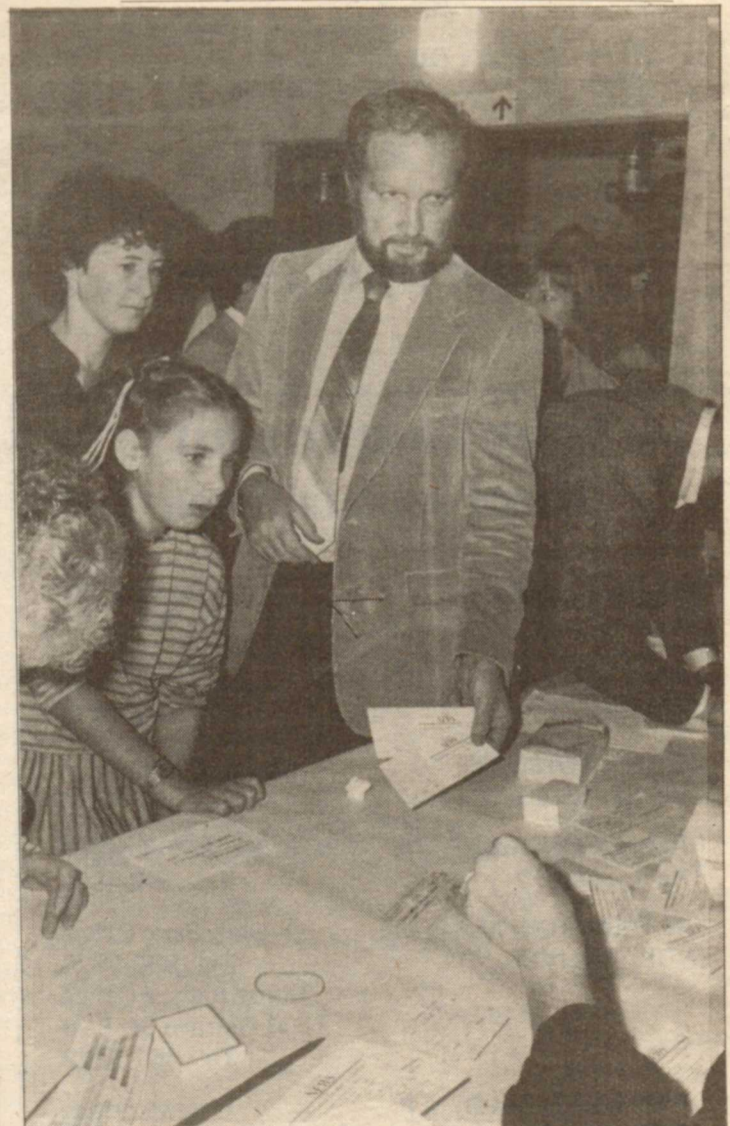
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Merylee and Jim Houston (whose art often adorns p. 3 of Seven News) and daughter Sara were three of the 300 supporters who turned out to dance, eat, and celebrate our anniversary.

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Dixon Hall Neighbourhood Centre
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Outreach Organizer

To work under the direction of SPACE (serving People and Community Efforts), a self-help group on Toronto's Skid Row.

The Outreach Organizer will:

- Work with individuals and groups on Toronto's Skid Row in the interests of generating self-help initiatives;
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- assist in maintaining and building the strength of SPACE;
- Work towards and establish a 'home base' for SPACE where Skid Row Community Development can take place;
- form a close link between SPACE and Dixon Hall.

Desirable Qualifications Include:

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Salary: \$16,650 to start with increase on Jan. 1, 1984.

Written applications including a complete resume to: Jim Ward
Executive Director/Dixon Hall
58 Sumach Street,
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Closing Date November 1, 1983.
Telephone 863-0498

What's a kid Worth?

There is no dollar figure too high to help some special people—the kids of the 100 Boys and Girls Clubs in Canada. These kids and their special friend, Ben Wicks are selling calendars to raise funds for important programs.



Yes, Ben, I want to be a kid's friend! Please send me _____ calendars at \$5.00 each plus \$1.00 shipping and handling charge. Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____
Please send my calendar(s) to:
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Please make cheque payable to Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada and mail to:
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250 Consumers Road, Suite 505,
Willowdale, Ontario M2J 4V6
Charitable Registration #0157974-09-08

Seven News brief

The members of Spruce Crt. Co-op invite you to an Open House on Sunday, October 23. For information call Jo-Anne McNamara at 923-3693. Everyone is welcome.

Seniors can find a bargain at the Toronto Hairstyling School. Located in the Dundas, Sherbourne area, the school offers top-notch cuts for only \$6. Washing and styling are included. Call 923-8324 for information.

The Riverdale Affair, sponsored by the Ward Seven Business and Professional Association, was held on Saturday, September 17th in Withrow Park. There was a good turnout and agreeable weather for the flea market, pet contest, bands and clowns. The highlight of the day was the grand auction. The Riverdale Affair Committee would like to thank all the merchants for their kind and generous gifts for the auction. Some of the proceeds of the event will go towards establishing a scholarship fund for needy students in Riverdale. Next year, we will combine our own celebrations with those for Toronto's 150th birthday. It should be a very exciting event. Anyone who would like to help with next year's Riverdale Affair should contact Bev Covey at 469-1290.

Continued from p. 1

trip was a huge success. Kubesch and Simmons entertained with stories about the area's history and about gold, there was swimming and hiking as well. "By the end of the day we just wanted to sleep," laughs Blackmore. The trip cost about \$1,200, for all 11 people, less than the price of many individual's winter holidays. The kids paid only \$25 some of the money came from the adults and some from a raffle of a Tom Oki painting at the Cabbagetown Festival. The winner of the raffle was Vivien Gare. Next summer Blackmore, Kubesch, Simmons and Chisson all plan to go back up to Vermilion for four weeks. They hope to raise money so that ten kids can come up for each week. So far they've received a large donation from Lyman Henderson of Davis and Henderson Printing Co. and they're planning a fund raiser to help as well. As of October 24, the Cabbagetown Community Band will be selling shares for the five claims which they staked last summer. For \$5 anyone can 'get a piece of the action' in case next summer's prospectors strike it rich. You also get the satisfaction of helping inner city kids to a better summer. For information about shares, or about getting your child involved you can call David Blackmore at 920-3650. This reporter has already put in a bid to be an adult volunteer. The lure of gold, and the exciting opportunity which this trip provides for Toronto kids is just too great a temptation!

1-800-268-6362

Send a UNICEF card today and help a child to a better future.

CITY ARTS

New play educates children on sexual abuse

When a touch doesn't feel good, you can say so
You've a right to say "stop" -- a right to say "no"
Touch can be funny and gay and amusing
But at other times strange and quite confusing
Touch can feel good and touch can feel bad
And touch is a comfort when I'm feeling sad.
There's touch unexpected -- "Sorry Jill, I was killing
a bug"
And touch that we need, like my daily hug
In fact touch is something we can't do without
We all need to be loved and cared about.

From: "Touch" a special song from Mission from YDOB. Words and Music by Nanci Rossov and Catherine Stewart.

by ELIZABETH MARSH

How do you tell a child about the dangers of sexual abuse without terrifying the child?

How can you teach a trusting youngster that not everyone can be trusted?

Thanks to a small group of hardworking and creative people, these questions and others similar may be answered in a very positive way.

The Metropolitan Chairman's Special Committee on Child Abuse has developed a preventive education program for children from Kindergarten up to Grade VI which centres around an imaginative theatrical presentation called Mission from Ydob.

Nanci Rossov and Catherine Stewart wrote the script and lyrics, Nanci directed and Catherine supplied the music for this thought-provoking musical play in which the heroine, Personnia, comes to Earth from the planet Ydob (body spelled backwards).

Personnia meets a variety of people, some pleasant and friendly, some pleasant and potentially dangerous. Each encounter adds to her knowledge about touching and personal safety and this is the theme of the play. A touch can be nurturing like a father's greeting kiss or a touch can be confusing and cause distress (like a male babysitter who tickles her).

Because Personnia is new on earth she always turns to her young audiences for advice on how to protect herself in trouble-

some situations and how to recognize true expressions of affection. The play's message is reinforced by the theme song, "My Body is My Own" and all children join in by clapping and singing along.

Trustees of the York, East York, Etobicoke, North York, Scarborough, Toronto and Metro Separate School Boards in Metro Toronto approved the play for use at four schools in the spring of '83 and six more schools in the fall. Schools are chosen mainly for their ethnic mix and for the willingness of staff to become involved in such a sensitive topic.

And because the material is so sensitive, special preparations are made before the presentation. Because the play stresses the need for a child to confide in a trusted adult if he or she has a problem with unwelcome touching, it's important that as many adults from the child's world as possible be involved.

Every employee in the school from administrators to caretakers sees the play, and receives special training so they will know how to respond should a child choose to confide in one of them.

The play is seen by parents at an orientation session before it begins its one-week run in the school and a parent can refuse to permit his or her child to take part, although to date, none has. Catherine Stewart says: "We want to give children the necessary information and skills to

And already requests have come in from as far away as Edmonton, Halifax and Connecticut, U.S.A.

protect themselves and to feel safe enough to come forward to report sexual abuse." It is an unfortunate but common fact that children reporting sexual abuse are often disbelieved and/or thought to be trouble-makers. The play and the role-playing afterwards repeat the message that a troubled child should keep on telling the story until someone does believe. Teachers are provided with a special resource kit containing puppets, study cards, a music tape, colourful posters and a lesson guide to be used in a two-week long follow-up program in the classroom when the message of the play is discussed and reinforced.

How has Mission from Ydob been received? Ask the kids who viewed it:

"The play was excellent... the pictures were excellent. I learned a lot of things. If it happened to me I will not think I'm alone."

"It makes me feel safer now and we know what to do if we were in a situation like this."

"It's easier to say no, now."

And one enthusiastic critic stated: "This program should go to every school in Canada and maybe even the whole world."

Though long range plans are not quite that grandiose, Catherine Stewart says that they will be looking at ways to make the program available to schools and communities in Metro on a broader basis.

Edmonton, Halifax and Connecticut, U.S.A.



Mission from Ydob will be seen at St. Martin's School during the week of October 24. Parents who wish to have Ydob presented at their children's school should contact our local trustees (see pg. 6) and write to Catherine Stewart c/o Our Children, Children's Aid Society, 33 Charles St. East, Toronto, Ontario, M4Y 1R9.

Elizabeth Marsh is editor of Our Children, a publication of The Children's Aid Society. This article was first published in August, 1983.

Booster McCrane a modern Canadian fairytale



by JAY AUSTIN

Booster McCrane, PM is the first offering of the Toronto Free Theatre's 1983/84 season. This is unfortunate because, while it has entertaining moment, it is not of the calibre of theatre that one has come to expect from the Free Theatre or from its artistic director Guy Sprung.

Basically the story is this. A well-meaning but naive lawyer (or at least he did go to law school) becomes Prime Minister of Canada when only 24 per cent of the country bothers to vote. He heads for Ottawa with and Indian friend, Chief White Eagle (Gary Farmer), his girlfriend, Crystal Wildrose (Lynda Mason Green) and a turtle. The Indian friend takes over every Ministry portfolio, the girlfriend turns in her Grebs for high heels and the turtle is installed in the bathtub as chief adviser. They then declare war on the States.

All of this is entertaining enough and certainly the idea of a Doug MacKenzie clone taking over the running of the government is an interesting one, especially when Booster very simply declares that he is going to "set this country straight" and proceeds to show us how it's done.

Unfortunately playwright D.S. Craig runs into problems. First, he complicates the story with any number of half thought-out themes. The turtle as oracle is quaint, but never really contributes to the outcome of the character's problems. Miss Wildrose is charming, but does little more than hang around and wait for Booster to marry her so she can live on Sussex Drive. It is announced from out of nowhere that the Indian is also a genius at computer systems analysis, right at a time when they need one most. A U.S. soldier crashes through the window, mumbles some complaint about being betrayed by his country and then joins our side because we are nicer people. None of these ideas are well enough developed to do any more than muddle the play as a whole.

Even the characters are unclear. Margery Fulbrow (Shirley Douglas) is the Prime Minister's executive aide and as such she first refuses to support Booster's haphazard planning, then agrees as long as he's out in three days, then seems to like the idea, then gets serious again, but it's difficult to figure out exactly where she stands as far as supporting Booster because she believes in him or because it's her job. The American G.I. doesn't have

character at all and it's hard to see him as more than a chance for the theatre to hire a black actor. Certainly he makes no visible contribution to the story. The stock characters like Ambassador Smokescreen the Texan railroader and Booster himself work best, and perhaps the author should have stuck with these more two dimensional characters than attempted a hodge-podge of the real people stuff.

As an escape the show works to a certain extent and some lines are funny. American ambassador to Canada Smokescreen refuses to comment on the Canadian situation at one point saying, "We don't interfere with local politics." The show also does much to show the complexity of and immensity of U.S. control over our country. But the pace is often slow, the themes and characterizations are under-developed and cloudy. Certainly Booster McCrane MP is not the kind of quality theatre which one expects from the stage and director who presented Translations, Night and Day and so many other outstanding plays. As a season's opener, it's a real disappointment and we can only hope the rest of the year at the Toronto Free Theatre does better.



Lynda Mason Green and Peter MacNeill star in Booster McCrane, M.P., currently running at the Toronto Free (26 Berkeley St.). The show continues to the end of the month.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Hallowe'en Fun

The Boy's and Girl's Club of Downtown Toronto, in conjunction with Regent Park Recreation Centre, City of Toronto, Department of Parks and Recreation, are hosting Hallowe'en Fun. Boys and girls are encouraged to dress up and come out on Monday October 31, 1983. The activities will commence at 4 p.m. and will run to approximately 5:30. Hallowe'en Fun is featuring the "Great Pumpkin Push," along with the "Floating Ghost, and Giants, Witches and Trolls," a Haunted House and Costume Contest. The afternoon of fun will take place at the Regent Park Recreation Centre, 415 Gerrard Street East. For more information, please contact either Jane Smith at Regent Park Recreation Centre (363-2955) or Eric Burton of the Boy's and Girl's Club (367-0648).



Saturday

October 22

Kaleidoscope: Children are let in on today's calligraphy theme when they learn how to create letter people and print. 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. York Quay Centre. Free. 364-5665.

Bazaar and Tea Room: St. Ann's Ladies Guild holds its annual sale of home baking, books, toys, crafts etc. 12-4 p.m. at St. Ann's Church, Gerrard and Degrossi St. Everyone welcome.

Hallowe'en Greeting Cards: Riverdale Library invites children to

create the scariest greeting cards ever. Fun for all ages - children under five should come with an adult. 2 p.m.

Hobby Series at Harbourfront. Calligraphy is featured today, with diplays, slides, demonstrations and workshops, noon to 5 p.m. York Quay Centre, Sponsored by the Handwriters' Guild of Toronto. Continues Sunday. Call 364-5665.

Sunday

October 23

St. Barnabas Church (175 Hampton Ave.) presents Archbishop Ted Scott speaking on Jesus Christ: The Life of the World. 10:30 a.m.

Restoring Old Photographs. The Antique Market at Harbourfront presents Michael Rumack on Restoring Old Photographs, 2:30 p.m. Free. Market Building, 222 Queen's Quay West.

Coalition Against Racism, Imperialism, Sexism and Militarism (CARISM). Workshops making connections. Call 924-2257 or 431-4701 for more information.

Molson Jazz Club: The Climax Jazz Band performs tonight at Harbourfront. 7:30 p.m. Free.

Monday

October 24

Parent Awareness Group. The author of Loving and Learning, Norma McDermott from the Canadian Mothercraft Society will be at the Riverdale Library to discuss creative and educational activities for children two and one-half and under. Riverdale Library. 370 Broadview Ave. 10 a.m. Everyone welcome. 466-2197.

East Area Schools Together. The October meeting of EAST will be at Queen Alexandra Public School in the Library at 7:30

p.m. The subject under discussion will be the Australian/Canadian education comparison and the speaker will be J. Woods. Also, we will discuss the EAST Council and where do we go from here?

ACT General Meeting. 7:30 p.m. 730 Bathurst Street.

Tuesday

October 25

Antique Market: The Harbourfront Antique Market is now open in its new and permanent home from noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. Market Building, 222 Queen's Quay West.

Theatresports Workshop: Discover new ways of getting a laugh, at this free workshop. 7:30 p.m. York Quay Centre.

Wednesday

October 26

Actor's Lab Theatre opens their new season at 155A George St. with a festival of new works. Mickey and Spadina Refugee Centre is the first show. Call 363-2853 for information.

ACT Coffee House. 8:30 p.m. Trojan Horse. Danforth and Broadview. Open Stage.

Thursday

October 27

Storytime for preschoolers: at Riverdale Library at 2 p.m. For ages three to five. Call 466-2197 for information.

Friday

October 29

Piano Tuning. 1/2 price special only \$20 for all uprights. Call 466-3711 now.

Gain new energy with dancercise by BODY SCULPTURE total fitness workout. Variety of music. Free trial class. Danforth and Chester. Call Pat 429-3607.

Misc.

House to Share. Woman wanted to share 3 bedroom townhouse with one woman graduate student. (Broadview & Gerrard) \$200 per month including utilities. Call 465-1323.

Bazaar and Auction: Woodgreen Community Centre, 10:30-3:30. Auction starts at 1:15 p.m. Items on sale include baking, clothing, toys, crafts, plants, etc. There will be a white elephant table and tea garden, games, raffles, and lots more. Proceeds to the Senior Citizen's Dept. Bring the whole family and start your Christmas shopping. 469-5211 (ext. 137) for more information.

Hallowe'en at Harbourfront: Costumes, skits and a haunted house will get kids and parents into the Hallowe'en spirit. Free. 11:30-5 p.m. York Quay Centre.

Hallowe'en Costume Party: At the Riverdale Library (370 Broadview Ave.) 2 p.m. Spooky stories, games, trickes and treats. Wear a costume and bring your friends. Call 466-2197 for information.

Monday

November 1

Rummage Sale: St. John's Presbyterian Church, Broadview Ave. at Simson. 2-7 p.m. A little bit of everything. Run by the Harmony Group.

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Recorded Message - add extra income at home part time operating telephone answering machine(s). Community Information Newtork. Call our 24 hr. recorded message for more details 466-7922.

Connexions, a quarterly magazine that publishes information summaries about resources and groups for social justice, is look-

ing for volunteers. We need help with proofreading and paste-up, office work and writing, etc. If interested in giving us a hand, call 960-3903.

Help Wanted: Permanent part-time night work to do paper inserting in a downtown location. Apply in person to 655 Queen St. E.

Services

Opening Soon: Aerobic exercise studio. Classes daily from early morning until evening. All levels, shower facilities. Stretch classes also. 756 Queen St. E. (lower level) The Shape Yard. 465-2497.