

"New Morality" nothing new - forum

Is pre-marital sex wrong? Definitely, declared several Acton parents at the third in a series of Family Life Education discussions at the high school Thursday night on the "New Morality".

But guidance teacher Brian Skerrett threw a curve at the over 100 parents and teens in the audience by confiding that a request for birth control information had come to his office that very day.

The discussion on the "New Morality" was conducted with the aid of two films. First topic of the flickers was dating behavior among teens while the second, "Love is for the birds", dealt with the importance of expectations and communication in marriage.

Panel moderator Skerrett divided the audience up into discussion groups and introduced panelists William

Bothwell, Orangeville high school teacher and commencement speaker here; Jim Hoshka, supervisor of the youth program for Missisquoi Recreation and Parks Department; and Mrs. Arlene Bruce, a teacher at the M. Z. Bennett school.

Mr. Skerrett urged the audience to call a spade a spade in the discussions, noting that students had already seen the films and were used to forthright discussions. In fact, he said, some students wondered whether they should show them to their parents.

Definition of the new morality:

Mr. Bothwell: The "New Morality" is not just sex, it is something more. Nothing is absolutely right. Sometimes being absolutely right and following the guide lines rigidly can destroy some people.

Mr. Hoshka: Permissiveness is not confined to sex but is exploding in politics, the church or any establishment which has a set of values. "Personally, I think young people are more moral than adults today."

Mrs. Bruce: I'm concerned at the outcome of this permissive behavior. It is hard mentally on a person. It is easier when rules are laid down. The new morality may be the answer for some but not everyone. One person's values are not necessarily everyone's.

Mr. Skerrett also dropped a word in for discussion of a drop-in centre for Acton.

Participants in the discussion were divided into four groups and the discussion became so interesting that at least one group delayed coming back to auditorium they were so engrossed in the issues.

New Morality? Scoffed some

adults, it is just the same now as it was when they were in their teens. New labels for old errors.

Participants agreed the first film was an accurate portrayal of life as it is. New? Hardly, the panel under Mr. Skerrett opined.

Things are more open today, agreed most, which was better.

The breakdown of the family was cited by one teen as a factor in the degeneration of morals. Society has taken over the function of the family and the family has deteriorated as a result. The influence of the church has decreased and young adults are afflicted by boredom. Some seek oblivion in drugs.

Solution? Stronger family ties. Stress love, protection, security to counteract other influences.

Teens are more honest about themselves, admitted one adult after seeing the second film on the program which dealt with marriage, communication

between man and wife and the ideals of wedlock.

The breakdown in communication in marriage can be compared to lack of communication between adults and teens, one adult thought.

Birth control pills for students?

Large differences in opinion here with some students arguing pregnancies in high school would not happen if birth control information is available.

Society is permissive enough now, one distraught parent pleaded. Next thing would be pills for children and then a special room for student love making. It would be inviting disaster.

Sweden, one participant in another forum said, was a classic example of where society had erred. Even with all the sex education and birth control advice the Swedes still have the

highest venereal disease rate in the world and the highest incidence of suicide.

He predicted North America was going to be the battleground between future permissiveness and those who believed in traditional values.

Sex education in the schools? Many agreed, but there was also some strong opposition.

A drop-in centre for Acton and district teens?

Strong opinions for from some teens with the adults divided. Why do the teens want a centre? Some things are said that teens wouldn't want parents to hear, confided one youth. A drop-in centre would be a good place to meet people and avoid cliques.

Outcome of the discussions and arguments?

Guidance teacher Skerrett told the audience. "Students are saying that parents aren't so square after all."



DARLENE ROACH receives her plate of Indian stew from Mrs. Vadeika, as M.Z. Bennett students enjoyed an Indian dinner Friday at noon hour.—(Staff photo)

Pine for prize?

A perfect setting has been found for this week's Santa-Rama draw. It'll be made in the midst of the Y's Men's Christmas trees in their lot behind the Y.M.C.A. As usual, volunteers will reach in to the huge carton of coupons to make the five lucky draws.

Last Saturday's winners of merchandise vouchers were \$30 Lynda McTrath R.R. 4; \$25 Mary Davidson, Rockwood; \$20 Ken Beerman R.R. 2, Hillsburg; \$15 John Creazy Jr., Acton; and \$10 Donald Anderson, R.R. 2, Acton.

Out-of-town residents who come here to shop were the lucky ones last week.

The draw will again be made at 3 p.m., but behind the Y rather than in front of it, for a really seasonal surroundings.

The draws are so popular that more coupons have to be printed to meet the demand. Already 40,000 coupons have been filled in by shoppers. There are three draws yet in the six-week Santa-Rama promotion.

Probation

Another of the four youths charged with about 100 incidents of breaking and entering and theft appeared in juvenile court this week and received 18 months probation. Another is already on two years' probation.

"Looks like Orange parade"

"No drag" say residents council postpones decision

Residents of the area between the Fifth and Sixth Lines of Esqueving township, north of Highway 7, continued their fight to have construction of a drag strip on the Matthews farm stopped. At Esqueving council's regular meeting Monday close to 30 residents wearing bright red badges saying "No Drag" jammed the council chambers to voice their opposition to the proposed drag strip.

The strip would consist of 3,800 feet of straightaway pavement and would allow for two cars to race each other side by side from a standing start.

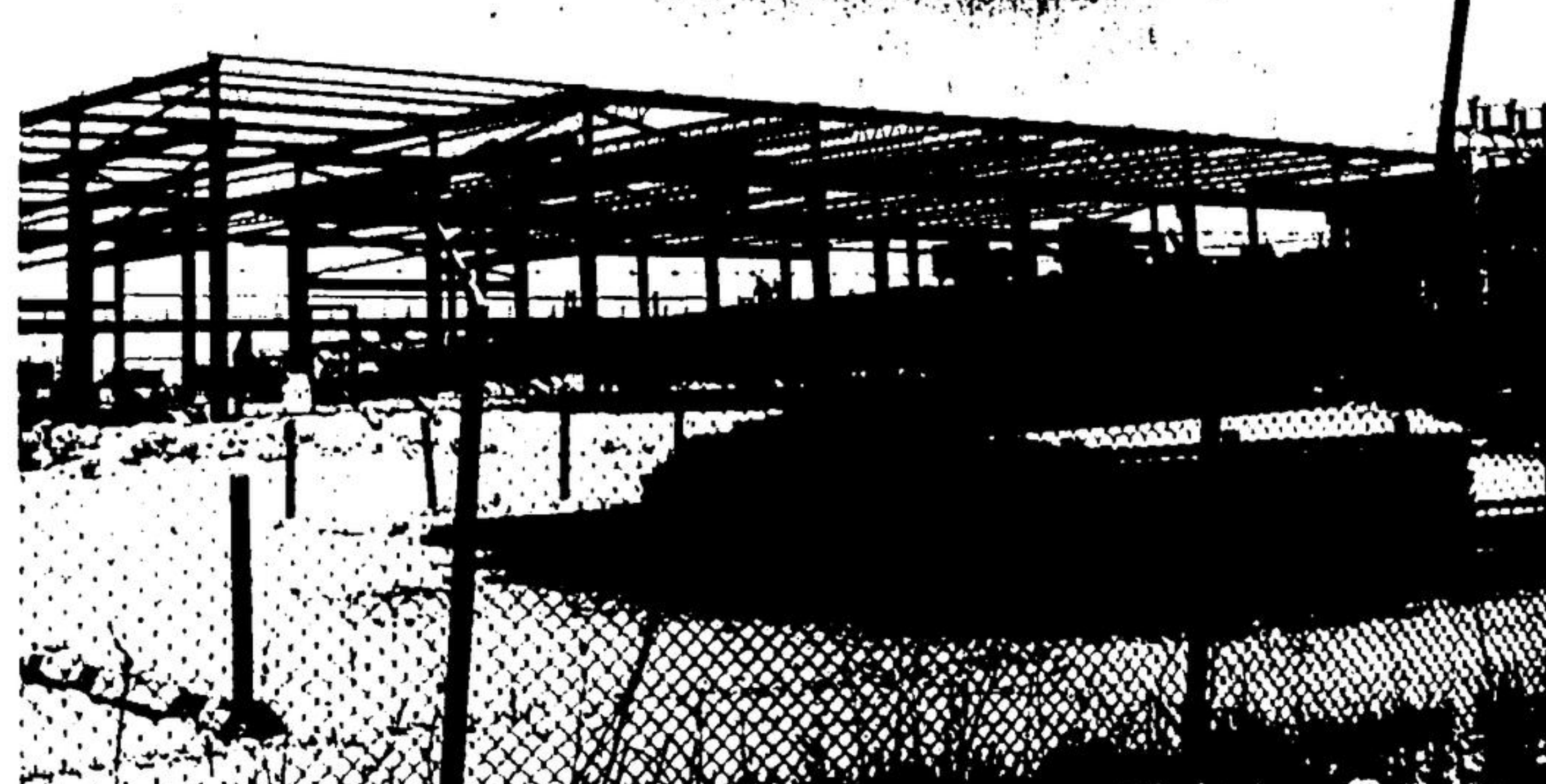
Karl Bristow, owner of the property appeared at the meeting with his solicitor W. J. Sopinka to apply for a building permit for a control tower on part of the west half of Lot 29 Concession 6.

Lawyer R. J. Swayze appeared on behalf of Peter Bowman, a resident of the Sixth Line.

Reeve George Currie puzzled by the large number of people wearing badges mused, "I see a lot with badges on, it looks like it's the Orange Parade."

Mr. Swayze asked council to deal with—the issue of the building permit for the control tower first, although it was the ninth item on council's two item agenda. But the reeve ruled that both Mr. Swayze and Mr. Sopinka should present their cases first.

Mr. Swayze told council Mr. Bowman did not wish to have a drag strip next door and added



Expansion at Micro Plastics part of \$2 million program

Structural steel framework for a 23,000 foot addition to the Micro Plastics plant on Main St. N. was almost completed when the Free Press photographer took these photos last week. The addition is part of a \$2 million dollar expansion program at the Acton plant of the company which is an affiliate of Building Products of Canada.

Completion of the expansion program which will include

installation of new and highly automated injection moulding machines, will consolidate the company's position as the largest supplier of plastic pipe and fittings in Canada.

It is expected the company will employ 20 more men when the expansion program is complete.

A totally automatic materials handling system is being installed.

No pictures - Twp. reeve

Free Press photographer-reporter Denis Gibbons was refused permission to take pictures of the large delegation in Esqueving council chambers Monday evening protesting establishment of a drag strip between the Fifth and Sixth Lines.

Reeve George Currie told Mr. Gibbons he wanted no further publicity for the protest delegation than was ordinarily granted. The delegation wore red badges with the sign "No Drag" prominent. One member even had the words knitted into his sweater coat.

Deputy-reeve Tom Hill pointed out, "If somebody buys property council has no right to ask what he's going to build."

When the deputy-reeve told Mrs. Goldie that Mr. Bristow already had a permit for a garage, she replied, "Well it's quite a driveway they're putting into it!"

Another member of the delegation asked council if the matter of whether Mr. Bristow owned all 150 acres of the land had been cleared up. The reeve said Mr. Bristow owned all 150

acres before the passing of the by-law.

Still another wanted to know if the township solicitor had taken any action.

"Our solicitor advises that you people had better take action instead of the council," Reeve Currie answered. "You come here all loaded up with badges," he glowered at the deputation.

The reeve then turned and told Mr. Sopinka "I think your client should have at least come and told council what he intended."

M. M. Coles, another opponent of the drag strip, spoke on behalf of ratepayers in the area.

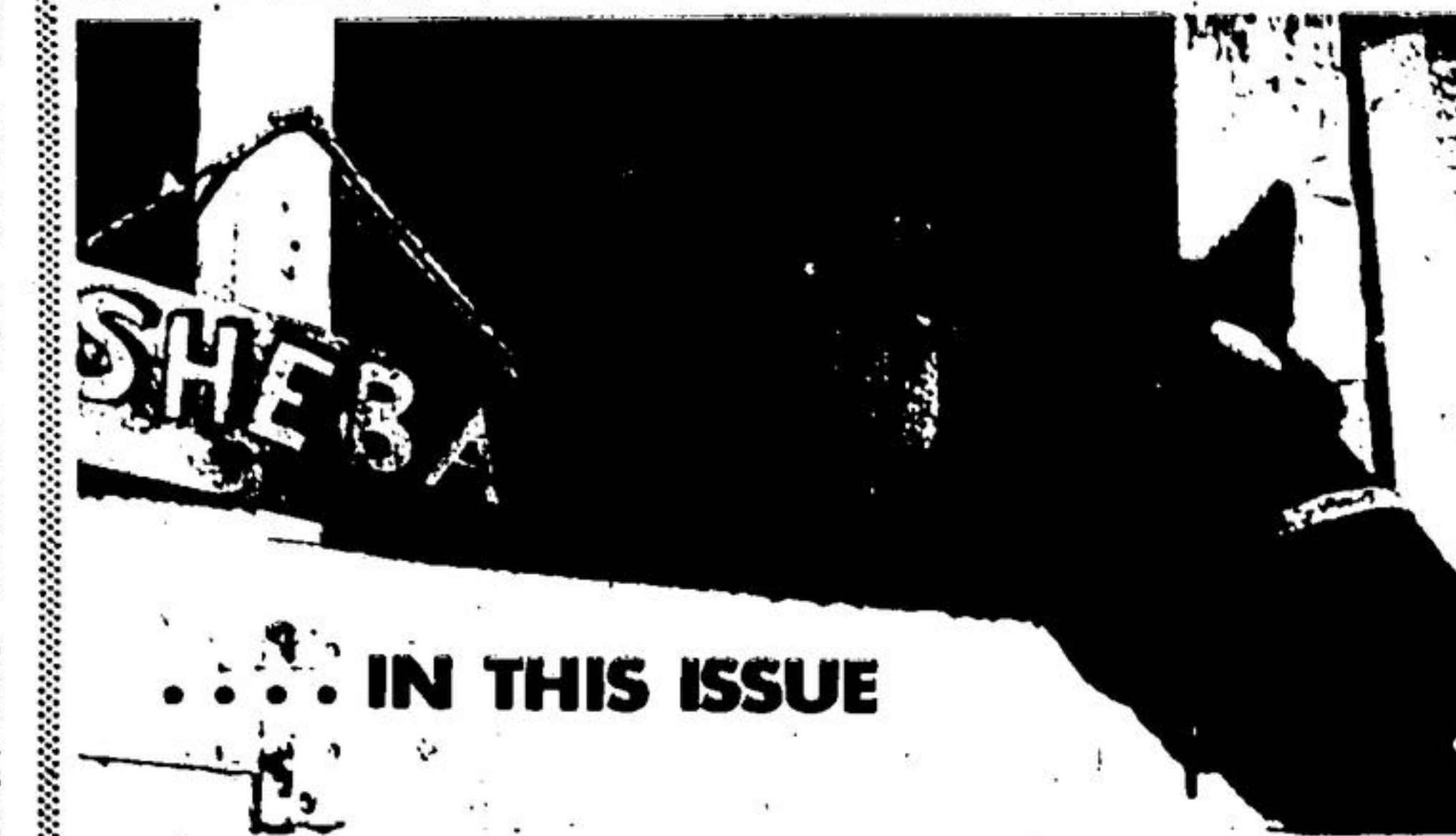
"We consider this project as a real menace as disastrous as a hurricane or cyclone" he said. "It is very distracting and distressing and we resent the stealthy approach of the promoters of this scheme."

Mr. Coles contended that no one has any right to invade anyone else's rights to peaceful ownership of their property. "Since ancient times there has been an absolute curse against anyone who violates these sacred rights," he continued.

After conferring for a few moments with building inspector Tom McLean, the reeve announced that Mr. McLean felt he wasn't in a position to issue a building permit for the control tower, since this was the first time such an application had ever been made in the township.

When Mr. Sopinka asked when

he could expect a decision on the application, the reeve answered, "We won't hold you up too long. I'll tell you that. We'll have a special meeting and you'll get notice of it."



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Report warns

Arena walls inadequate

A recently completed engineering report on the present structural adequacy of the Acton Community Centre has concluded that the foundations of both the east and west walls show signs of settling and recommends that they be investigated in more detail. The report also recommends that rotted timber be removed from the west wall and replaced with new timber.

According to the report made by professional engineer E. Kralik of Morrison, Hershfield, Millman and Huggins Limited, the south wall is in very poor condition and since it supports a portion of the roof and seating, should be rebuilt or temporarily shored before winter.

The report attributes the majority of structural decay to a poor control of drainage below the benches and to condensation. "An adequate drainage system should be installed around the rink and all timbers should be protected from run off," the report states.

The report finds the main arena roof structure, consisting of wood joists, steel trusses, steel bracing and steel columns to be adequate, but indicates that steps must be taken to prevent further corrosion, particularly at the base of the steel columns. It recommends that all steel be cleaned and painted.

The report also suggests resurfacing of the elevated walkways for portions of its length and finds that settlement of the exterior walls has caused the walkway to sag.

Since the stability of the main

steel structure is dependent upon the exterior walls for its lateral strength, the report suggests that if and when these walls are rebuilt, the steel structure be temporarily braced by means of crossed cables between the columns.

At their regular meeting Thursday night, Acton Board of Parks Management and Recreation Committee turned the report over to town council for their consideration.

Four members indicate they'll leave parks board

Council might be looking for four new members for Acton Board of Parks Management and Recreation Committee in the new year.

At the Board's regular meeting Thursday night, two present members, chairman Brendan Ahearne and Phil McCristall, indicated that their resignations are forthcoming. Both preferred not to reveal their reasons until they submit formal letters of resignation.

Two other members, Wilf Duval and Herb Dodds, who have both completed their terms

on the board, indicated that they do not wish to continue.

Mr. Dodds was not present at the meeting but relayed his intention through secretary Doris Townsley.

When asked if he could not be talked into remaining on the board, Mr. Duval replied: "No use fooling around here, when council's running it."

The fifth appointed member of the Board Bob Laughlen was not present.

Councillors Peter Marks and Earl Masales round out the seven man twin-hatted committee.

Three two-car accidents one involves '70 Pontiac

Three two-car accidents were investigated during the week by Acton O.P.P. A charge was laid following each incident.

On November 27 at 9:30 a.m. cars driven by Frank Gibbons, Churchill Road, and Bertrand Gaetan, R.R. 2, were in collision on Agnes St. The Gibbons car

received an estimated \$250 damage and the Gaetan car an estimated \$500.

A 1970 Pontiac received an estimated \$200 damage when it was in collision with a '59 Thunderbird November 27 at 6 p.m. The new car was driven by Martin Oehrlch, Mowbray Place; driver of the other car, which also had \$200 damage, was Jack Denny, R.R. 2, Acton. (This was the first new model car to be damaged in a reportable accident in town.)

On November 29 an accident occurred on Mill St., when one car braked for a pedestrian and was struck in the rear. Driver John Artemiszewski, R.R. 3, Acton, had \$15 damage to his car and driver Martin Fraas, Delrex Blvd., Georgetown, racked up \$50 damage.

Chairman raps bulb distribution

Board of Parks and Recreation chairman Brendan Aherne is disturbed about town council's distribution of 600 tulip bulbs, the Acton Liberation Committee presented the town as a gift in October.

Mr. Aherne told the Free Press last week the Board received only 96 bulbs for use in Prospect Park. The other 504, he reports, were turned over to the Halton County Board of Education for use at Acton's three schools.