LABOUR STUDIES COURSE

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Halton needs hostel for women

By Olga Darcovich Halton could use a hostel for women and children, according to several area professionals whose work brings them into contact with abused wives.

professionals. representing social agencies and the law, were members of a panel speaking at an

week in Milton to hear the panel describe the plight of abused women and deserted Participants were to volunteer for a steering committee to pursue the issue further.

Panelist John Rabeau, a social worker with Halton Regional Police, said police approximately 1,000 domestic complaints in the region last year, 200 of them in the north. If a husband and wife are fighting and it comes to the point of someone having to leave, the

question of who owns the home comes into play, he said. If the husband owns the home, it's the wife who has to leave. In such a case it would be beneficial to have a hostel in the area, Mr. Rabeau said. Presently, women have to go Inasmuch House Hamilton or to a motel for

emergency shelter. The same situation arises in the case of joint ownership, he said. In this case neither one can be asked to leave but for safety police try to talk one of the pair into going to a

motel or to a relative's home. Marian Detlor of Halton Childrens' Aid Society (CAS) said a hostel is a place of safety for mother and children and a place to defuse a hostile situation when the family is breaking up. When a family is splitting up it is better for the mother and children to stay together rather than to find separate

Having a readily accessible place of refuge would allow the mother time to collect her

thoughts about her future. Without a hostel the pressure finding accommodation leaves her little time energy for long-term planning, Ms. Detlor said. The CAS enters the case when children under 16 are involved. A woman who has

time will act when her childare threatened, Ms. Detlor reported. Or accommodation for the childchildren or police may call the agency. Ms. Detlor said she "doesn't buy" the excuse that children are asleep when parents fight and don't know what is happening. Sometimes the children get mixed

up in the battle and are hurt. When the situation is a chronic one, children may becoming a wife-beater like hostels were available for women to go to, the identification problem might be prevented.

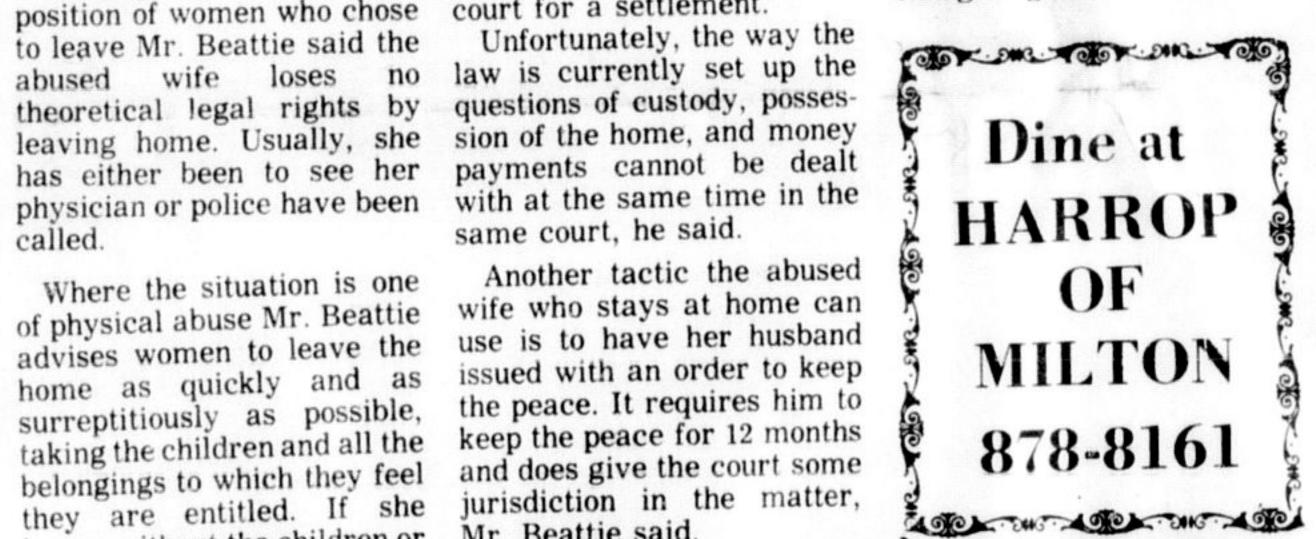
up with abuse for some

Jane Kirkwood, a supervisor in the regional departsocial services, said women alone have difficulty finding accommodation. She said it is not unusual for landlords to women don't have the funds and the agency cannot give them the money either. Motel rooms, where women

in such an emergency usually \$130 month shelter allowance for an applicant and one dependent, Ms. Kirkwood said. A motel room at \$14 a night would soon use up this

Last year in the region 300 received general welfare assistance, Ms. Kirkwood said. But the 300 are only the top of the iceberg, she added. Those not requiring financial assistance don't come to her attention. The region does not keep statistics on the number of abused wives.

If a woman decides to remain at home but lays charges against her husband,





charges. Georgetown lawyer

who has laid an assault

usually been dropped. Either

wife changes her mind.

the charge

In the chronic situation a

vicious circle is established.

Just as there is a certain type

of male who becomes a wife

beater, there is a certain kind

of female who stays around,

Mr. Beattie commented. In

this instance the hostel might

be a step for the woman to

gain a sense of independence.

for a hostel Gloria Hincks of

parent, said a woman who

will continue to explore the

possibility of establishing a

hostel in Halton, said Barb

Weaver, who was one of the

meeting. Ms. Weaver is a

with the Department of the

Secretary of State. Part of

her role is to encourage

women to participate actively

social development

instrumental

last

week's

officer

long loses self respect.

same predicament.

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CO-OP

Sheridan College, a hostel for and threats by him to drop the women was identified as an issue of concern for local Tudor Beattie said if a wife women. Wheels were set in motion for last week's session charge remains home, by the and for the formation of a time the court date rolls steering committee. Applicagrant of \$750 from the Secrethe husband prevails on the tary of State to cover exwife to drop the charge or the penses of the steering com-

last organizing Community Clinic. Jenny Amy of the Oakville Public Library chaired the session.

tion has been made for a

instrumental in meeting were Anne Allison, Cook, director of Sheridan's Women's Centre, and Peggy Balkind, a lay advocate with the Halton Legal

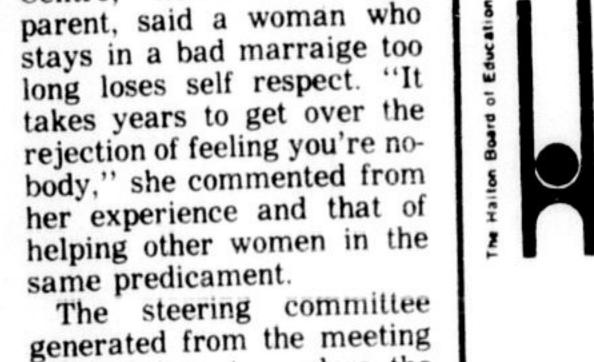
McMaster University LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL SOCIETY This course will focus on special issues of industrial society and the position of labour in relation to them. Issues such as the inequality of

wealth and power, multi-national corporations, poverty, racial and ethnic discrimination, sex roles, and the crisis of the third world will be discussed. Finally, questions of what can or should be done about these issues by individuals, trade unions and governments will be posed.

Monday evenings, from 6:30 to 9, at Sheridan College — Trafalgar Campus, starting January 30,

The courses are open to all interested persons, whether or not for credit in the Certificate

For further information write or call: Labour Studies Programme 525-9140 - Ext. 4692-3



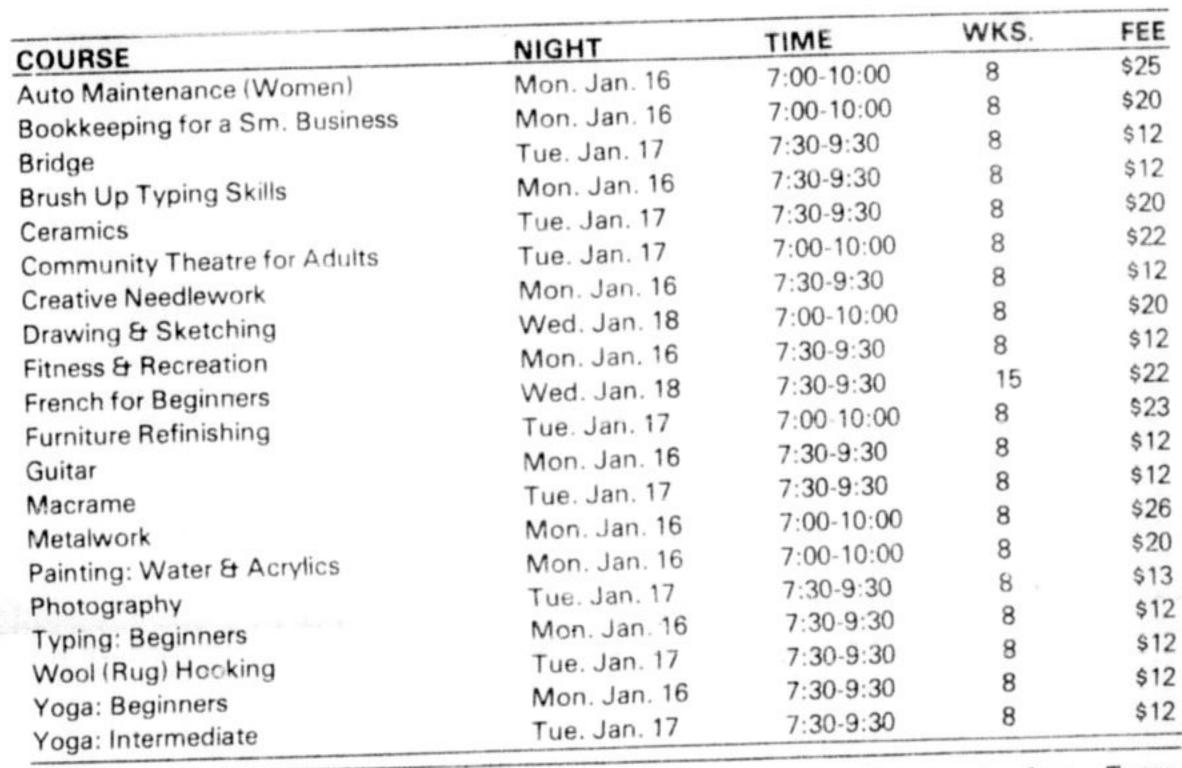
THE HALTON BOARD OF EDUCATION announces the formation of its

JANUARY NIGHT SCHOOL PROGRAM MILTON

REGISTRATION: Register in person at Milton High School on the starting date of each class.

Between the time of printing and the first night some classes may be filled. You are advised to call the Adult Education office, 335-3663, to check on registration.

> THE FOLLOWING CLASSES STILL HAVE ROOM FOR ADDITIONAL REGISTRATIONS:



NOTE: Some shop courses cost considerably more than the regular fees. Extra fees have been charged to cover the cost of consumable supplies. Students are expected to provide their own materials where applicable, e.g. Craft classes, Painting, Furniture Refinishing, etc. Ceramics students will buy their supplies directly from the instructor.

ENGLISH FOR NEW CANADIANS

Persons wishing instruction in English (New Canadians or others who wish to improve their spoken and written English) may enrol at Milton District High School on any Wednesday, from 7:30-9:30 p.m. Fee for the course is \$5.00.

IF SUFFICIENT REGISTRATION IS RECEIVED, THE CLASS WILL START ON THE DATE INDICATED. THE BOARD OF EDUCATION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CANCEL CLASSES THAT DO NOT RECEIVE SUFFICIENT REGISTRATION.

D. G. MORTON, CHAIRMAN

E. S. LAVENDER, DIRECTOR



PANEL MEMBERS exploring the issue of wife beating all supported the need for a women's hostel in Halton region. From the left are Marian Detlor, Halton Children's Aid Society; John Rabeau, social worker with Halton Regional

Police; Jane Kirkwood, supervisor for Oakville and North Halton for the General Assistance Program; Gloria Hincks, Burlington Social Planning Council; Jenny Amy, chairman of the panel; Tudor Beattie, Georgetown lawyer.

arrest a husband for being

inebriated in his own home.

position of women who chose

to leave Mr. Beattie said the

leaving home. Usually, she

physician or police have been

Where the situation is one

of physical abuse Mr. Beattie

advises women to leave the

surreptitiously as possible,

taking the children and all the

belongings to which they feel

they are entitled. If she

leaves without the children or

Checking domestic complaint risky business for police cannot her personal belongings the

are more frequently incurred during investigation of a domestic complaint than in any other line of duty, John Rabeau, a social worker with Halton Regional Police, told a meeting discussing the need for a hostel for women. He outlined some of the difficulties police face when dealing with a domestic dis-

To enter the home in question in the first place the police must be invited in. To lay a charge of assault the police must have seen the assault take place or see evidence of it. The alternative is for the wife to go to a justice of the peace to lay a private charge of assault.

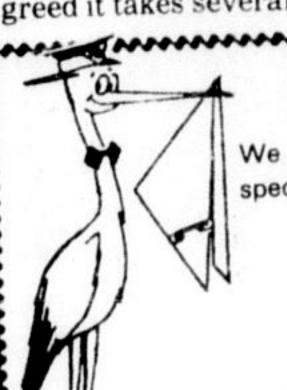
Georgetown lawyer Tudor Beattie said anyone can lay a charge with a justice of the peace without the police being called and the matter ~mmmmmmmmmmmmm

for the matter to come to

The situation where police lay the charge is governed by the Criminal Code and, in this case, it is the state or the crown which prosecutes the accused. The victim is expected to give evidence, Mr. Beattie explained. In serious matter, such as a shooting, the crown can force the matter to proceed even though the victim may wish to have the charges dropped.

Children are often caught in the middle of a fight, Mr. Rabeau said. Parents have joint custody of children and the husband may refuse to let the wife take the children with her. If the children are in danger, police can invoke the Welfare Act. authorizes police to take without warrant to a place of safety any child apparently in

need of protection. Alcohol is the major contriwill automatically proceed to buting problem in 50 per cent court. However, both men of domestic quarrels to which agreed it takes several weeks police are called he said.



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woman has to go to court to

get them. If she is joint owner

of the house, she has to go to

court for a settlement.

same court, he said.

Mr. Beattie said.





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