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VOLUME 131, NUMBER 11 MILTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 4, 1989 40 CENTS 52 PAGES

Worried the prison... overcrowded with inmates

Maplehurst guards threaten strike

By BRAD REAUME

The possibility of a strike looms large at Maplehurst Correctional Centre. According to Bill Gillies, president of Local 234 of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU), that possibility will be discussed at an emergency meeting tomorrow (Thursday) evening.

Mr. Gillies cites numerous issues including a change in the centre's inmate profile, guard-to-inmate ratios, overcrowding, pensions, and wages as points of contention.

"Double-bunking is going to be a severe problem and could lead to a potentially riotous situation," he said.

Maplehurst houses 380 inmates and employs 133 correctional officers. The ratio of inmates to guards on any particular shift is about 10-1, says Deborah Newman, the deputy superintendent.

She suggests the ratio increases at night and decreases during the afternoon shift when there is the most inmate to guard contact.

Mr. Gillies says that in one section there are 104 inmates who are guarded by one officer in a control room and two officers on the floor during a night shift.

"That is a 52-1 ratio of floor officers to inmates. With the increase of inmates it could go up to 60-1."

Management claims there are no dramatic increases in inmate-staff ratios like those Mr. Gillies suggests.

Dormitory doubled

Dormitory areas are being re-modeled to accommodate eight inmates where previously there had been four. This will increase the inmate population by 32 for a total of 412.

"When you add numbers to a cage, be it any type of animal including humans, you increase the stress," Mr. Gillies said. "You can perceive, literally feel the increase in tension."

Mrs. Newman said there is more than adequate space for the double bunking in the dormitory sections.

"The superintendent met with the staff and the response was constructive," she said. "Their suggestions were put into place."

Mr. Gillies characterizes the situation differently.

"We made some suggestions to save ourselves," he said. "The whole thing was being shoved down our throats. It was not received positively."

Maplehurst management says that the inmate profile has not changed and will not, even with the increase of 32 inmates. Mr. Gillies said Maplehurst was built for "good choice inmates" and first time offenders.

Mrs. Newman agrees with the inmate profile suggesting persons sentenced to short prison terms are the norm. These people often committed property crimes, are first-time im-

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An emotional Leanne Caputo was crowned Miss World Canada in Winnipeg Sunday. The 23-year-old Milton dancer and model will represent the country while competing for the Miss World title in Hong Kong next month.

Caputo captures national crown for Miss World

By KAREN SMITH

Milton dancer and model Leanne Caputo will represent Canada in the international 1989 Miss World Pageant in Hong Kong, on Nov. 22.

Out of 25 contestants from across the country, the 23-year-old was crowned Miss World Canada in Winnipeg Sunday.

"I was shocked when I won," she said after returning from the Manitoba capital yesterday, "and I was so emotional. One minute I was smiling and the next minute I was crying."

Among \$200,000 worth of prizes, Miss Caputo won a full-length fur coat and stereo system as well as the title of Miss Congeniality. After being crowned, she was serenaded by singer Billy Newton Davis.

Her stage experience acquired from performing and her interview skills were Miss Caputo's strong points in the competition, she said.

see HONG KONG on page 2



Photo by STEPHEN UFRANEY

On a clean note

E. C. Drury High School band members washed their way to a \$625 profit Saturday during a car wash at the school. About 30 students worked from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to raise money that will go toward the purchase of new jackets for band members. Music department head David Stothart (top right) conducts students (from left) Chris MacLean on the hood, Liz Harwood on the windshield; Reese Lewis on the sponges; Julie Anne Stangroom with the drum-stick; David Sharpe on trumpet and Heather Millard on the sax.

Councillors hear residents blast owner of Fat Freddy's

By ROB KELLY

Angry homeowners living around Fat Freddy's restaurant heaped criticism on owner Andre St. John at municipal council Monday night. They claim his business has turned a quiet neighbourhood into a centre of drunken rowdy behaviour.

In turn, Mr. St. John staunchly defended his operation, saying its rules are if anything more strict than other bars in town. Acknowledging that Fat Freddy's attracts a

young adult clientele he did not "expect or solicit," Mr. St. John said he cannot control the actions of some patrons once they leave his establishment.

"Is it my responsibility to govern their conduct? Many of these people grew up in Milton. They don't go in the restaurant for two hours, leave and become vulgar obnoxious boozers."

In the end council struck a committee comprising the

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