## 'It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World'

by Terry Dupuis

Tomorrow through Saturday, the Pen Theatre in Penetanguishene is running what is probably the biggest and best comedy blockbuster ever made - the 1963 film It's A Mad Mad Mad World. It's one of those favourite movies which I never miss an opportunity to see (so far, about 10 times, over a period of a dozen years).

What makes Mad Mad World so special? To begin with, it has the largest cast of comedians ever assembled for one movie. The leading roles are played by Milton Berle, Sid Caesar, Jonathan Winters, Mickey Rooney, Buddy Hackett, Phil

Silvers, Ethel Merman and Terry-Thomas, among others. In smaller roles there are at least two dozen wellknown personalities that turn up, including Buster Keaton, Carl Reiner, Andy Devine, Edward Everett Horton, Leo Gorcey, Peter Falk, Eddie "Rochester" Anderson and the Three

Stooges. There are also a few "surprise" guest appearances by celebrities who are not even listed in the cast credits, such as Jerry Lewis and the late Jack Benny. Last but far from least in adding to the fun is the presence of Spencer Tracy, an actor who was not usually associated with comedies.

The second characteristic This sets off a frantic chase of It's A Mad Mad World is that it abounds with slapstick, sight gags, car chases, wild stunts and special effects. It contains more slapstick per reel than any film which has come out since the days of the silent Mack Sennett comedies.

The third distinguishing feature of this movie is its original story by William Rose. It concerns a robbery and the crosses and doublecrosses that follow. A dving crook (Jimmy Durante) reveals to number of passersby the location of a cache of loot which he has buried away.

club, the Men's Club, a

There is a special program

friendship centre.

Saints'

for the money. A large amount of the credit fot the success of It's a Mad Mad World must go the

snappy, knowledgeable direction of producer director Stanley Kramer Throughout his film one senses that his affection for the oldtime chase comedies is truly felt. In fact, it is amazing that such a

hilarious comedy could be turned out by a movie-maker whose forte has always been rather heavy "message" dramas which have something important to say Kramer's films include The Defiant Ones, On The Beach, Inherit the Wind, Judgement at Nuremberg and Ship of Fools.

On the contrary, Kramer's Mad Mad World is pure escapism. If there is any "message" in this film, it's in showing the wild extremes to which people will go when there is money at stake. However, Kramer's comedy needs no moralizing

justify itself; its' entertainment value justification enough.

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### Book tells about secular church



The bookworm

by Shirley Whittington

It appears that union between the Anglican and United Churches in Canada may never progress beyond an ecumenical pipe dream, but one failure to unite proved to be a spiritual springboard for All Saints' Anglican Church in Toronto.

In 1968, a proposal to unite the parish of All Saints' with that of St. Luke's United Church was voted down by the vestrymen of All Saints.

Since then, the historic old church at the corner of Sherbourne and Dundas Streets in Toronto has been transformed into a community resource centre which ministers literally and meaningfully to the dejected and despairing residents of one of the city's seediest districts.

The story is told in My Parish is Revolting, by Norman Ellis pastor at All Saints.

Parish history began in 1872. The present enormous Victoria building was erected in 1874 and great names in the history of Toronto and Canada have been associated with All Saints.

By 1964, when Ellis came to All Saints, the congregation had diminished in number. Members lived in the suburbs, came down to their church once a week, and struggled to keep the church alive, although they were totally out of touch with what was going on in the actual Dundas-Sherbourne

The unofficial opening of

the Midtown Motel's new

restaurant takes place

The motel has been rebuilt

on part of the inside, with a

liquor lounge and licensed

lounge and licensed dining

dining room planned.

renovations.

"So the world that always suspected that the church was phony is ultimately convinced that we really are," says Ellis.

Several alternatives presented themselves. There was a proposal to tear down the building and build a high rise complex on the site, with the church on the ground floor. Then came the ill fated amalgamation proposal.

Then an opportunity for All Saints' to use their buildings for community purposes arose. A men's club that had formerly met in a disused pub asked to use All Saints' Parish Hall. A clinic from the Queen Street Mental Health Centre moved into the gymnasium.

Ellis points out that historically, the poor people do not go to church, because they do not belong to the cultural setting which the middle class church provides. The large, poor and unworking population of All Saints' parish tended to

be suspicious of what they saw in churches. Ellis's answer was the disestablishment of All Saints. Yards of pews were moved out. An eighty-seat worship centre was set up at the front of the church. The remainder of the space was covered with second hand

carpet scrounged from the Royal York Hotel, and furnished with black leather furniture, television and gaily draped coffee tables. Doors were painted bright gold and red.

"All then was open, lovely, surrounded by bright stained glass windows...a barren waste had become a place of colour and joy and

laughter.." The secular church was soon humming with activity. There was a drop-in centre for women, a room registry service, the Open Door social

area awaits final approval

from the Liquor Licence

Board of Ontario, and is

The motel is owned by

Wally Boyer, former hockey

player with the Toronto

Maple Leafs and the Win-

Hockey Association.

says Ellis, "I think of Synods and conferences... school prayers and compulsory church parades,... Bible punchers and Holy Rol-

"When I think of Christianity,.. I think of Christ and doing good and. the drunks on Sherbourne Street... whose friendship we have valued.'

There is Sunday worship at All Saints' and a weekly agape supper.

There is also a great community commitment in this inner city church. The future is uncertain pending financial support.

But, says Ellis, "as long as we are ready to adapt, and also do no worry about who gets the credit for what we do, then we feel assured that we at All Saints' will have lots of fun.'

My Parish is Revolting: Norman Ellis: Papejacks. 158 p.p.

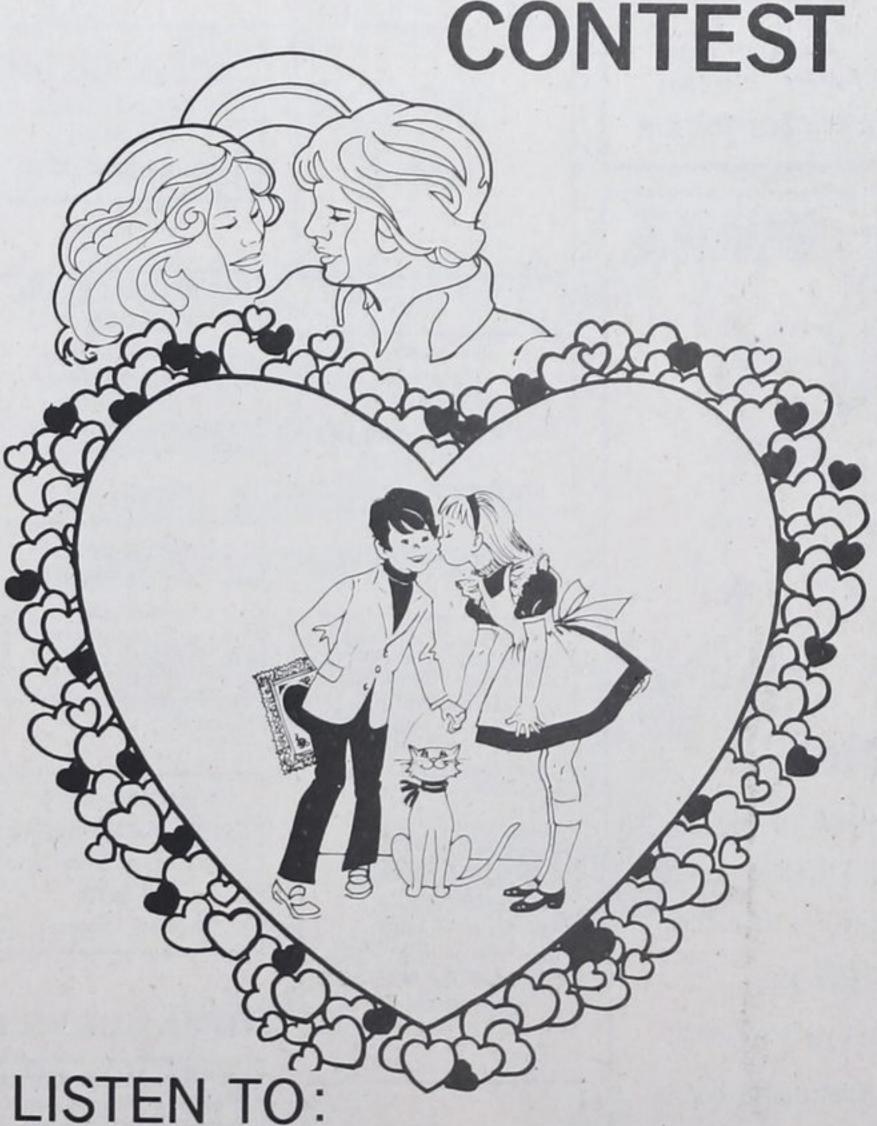
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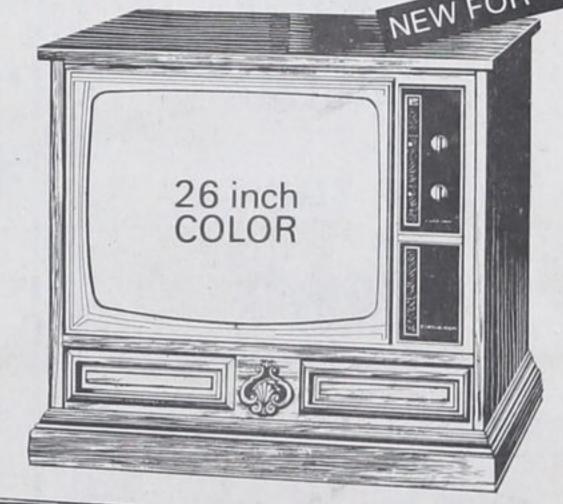
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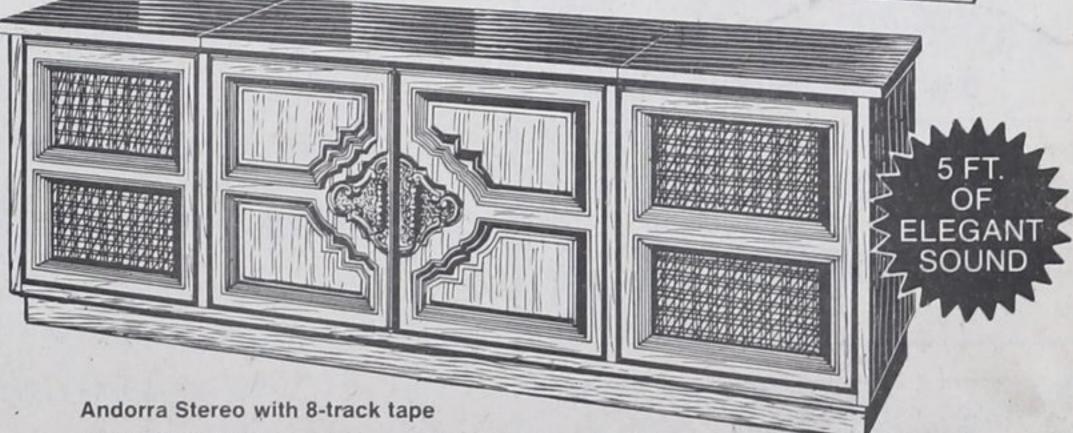
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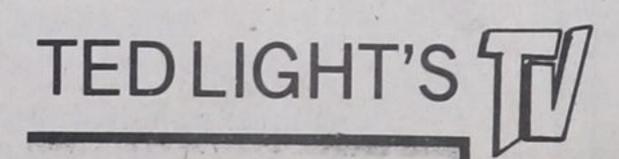
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