

# Children's Aid payroll tops budget

The accounting department of the Children's Aid Society will present its board of directors with an application for a 1979 budget tonight at 8 p.m. and will also discuss over-expenditures for 1978.

Five budget proposals for last year have been submitted to the Ministry of Community and Social Services and so far, the province has yet to approve an audited list of expenditures. Director of the Society, Gordon Cone,

and accountant Wilfred Slavell are unhappy with ministry guidelines restricting their proposed increase in funds to five per cent.

"I don't see how they expect us to live with those amounts," said Mr. Slavell. "If you take a look at other costs like Hydro which is up 12 per cent, telephone expenses, up 7-10 per cent and rents, for those of our people in group homes jumping 4-8 per cent, then you can see the Ministry's increase is unjustifiable."

Mr. Slavell said those increases were in effect in January and he still must work with 1978 dollars. Under the Child Welfare Act, the Region of York is responsible for 20 per cent of the Society's costs, leaving the province to absorb the remaining 80 per cent.

If the board approves of Mr. Slavell's presentation tonight, his group of 24 accountants (that's all he has to prepare five full budgets) will approach the Health and Social Services branch of the Region next week.

He pointed out that salaries alone already exceed the amount of money the province has earmarked for the Society. In 1977, it handled 178 kids; last year's actual figures put the total to 209.3 children. He claimed services for an extra 18 children in 1979 will cost the Society at least another \$100,000.

"Our initial budget based on 1978 experiences reflects an increase of 12.5 per cent," said Mr. Slavell. "Before recoveries, our audited statement showed an expenditure of \$1,700,931 for 1978. Take off the recoveries, or 5.2 per cent and we spent \$1.6 million."

The Society cannot include the projections for the coming year in its new budget. In 1977, it ran a surplus of \$14,000, which all went back to the Ministry of Community and Social Services. Its accounting is based on actual need and previous experience, according to Mr. Slavell.

"The ministry bases its 'magic formula' on 1975 which makes that

funding formula very inequitable. It only accounts for five areas of services we provide, when there are actually 12 that exist."

For example, the province doesn't recognize a staff worker who speaks to students at local high schools and to police training groups. It also recognizes a full time lawyer (whose caseload has doubled in the past year) only as a social worker. The Society has a co-ordinator of volunteer services and public relations, which the province ignores.

"There is a possibility we could be looking at an additional 8 per cent (total would reach 20 per cent increase). Say we had eight kids who need to stay in outside institutions. At \$35 per day for a year, that's another \$102,000," said Mr. Slavell.

## Backstage crew local

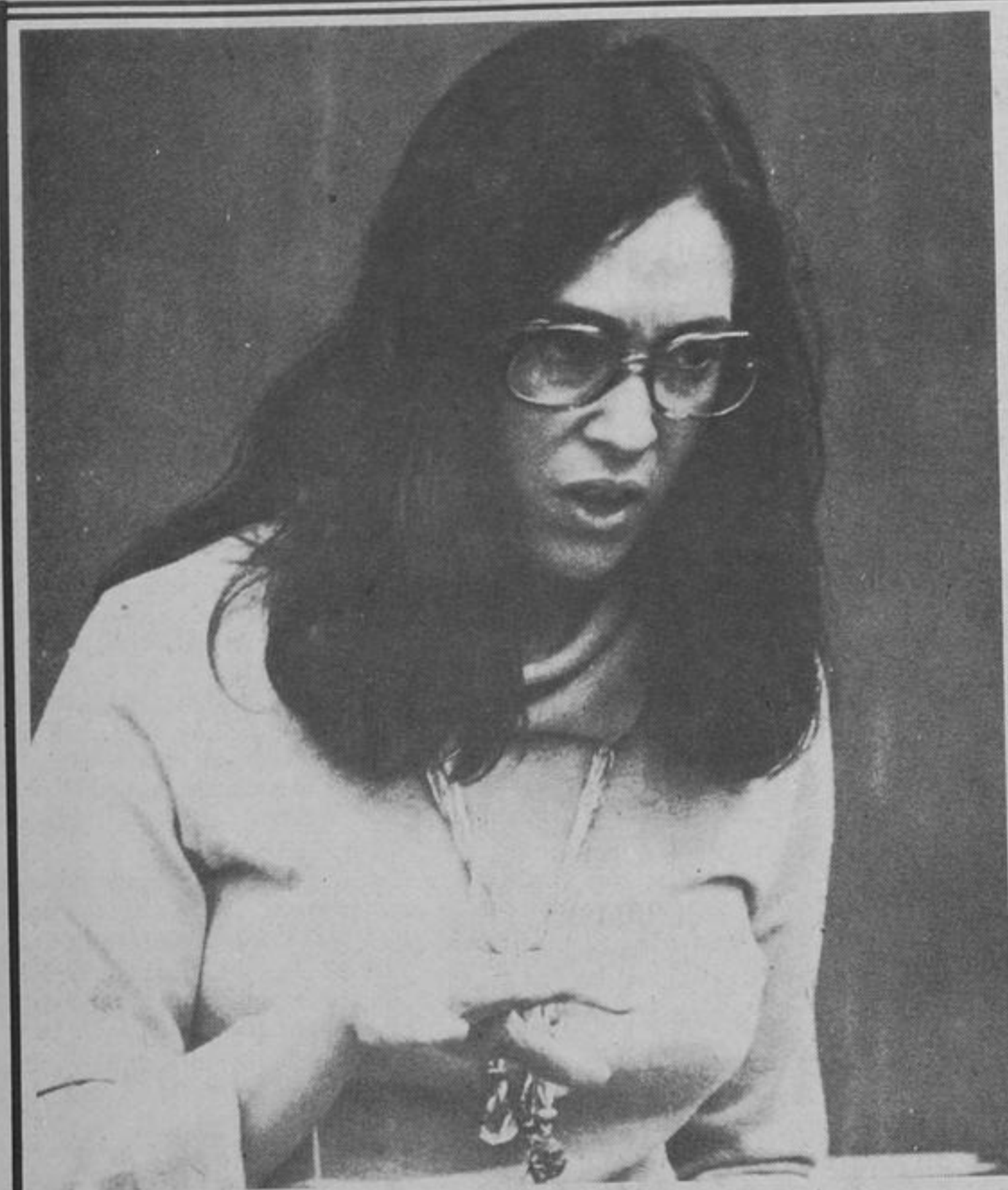
The backstage production crew of The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-moon Marigolds now totals 35 people, including workers from seven local families.

The set was designed by architect Hal Kelman, who found it quite a challenge to produce a set that looked lived-in.

This play also offers sound and lighting technicalities which present a real test to the sound personnel. Bob Painter had engineered the pre-recorded segments, with help from CFGM disc jockey Peter Darrel.

The most important part of helping an actress assume a character she is portraying is the effectiveness of a meticulously planned wardrobe, make-up and effective hairstyles.

For tickets, call Midge Nicholson at 884-3703.



SUSAN CHERNOW ADDRESSES STUDENTS

## Budding social workers learn job market poor

Budding social workers abound at Woodland Senior Public School, judging by the interest shown by one group of 30 students at Woodland Public School's Careers Day last Wednesday.

But Susan Chernow, a social worker with the Delcrest Children's Centre, said there were few jobs for social workers because of government spending restraints, even though hard times are increasing the need for social workers.

Miss Chernow gave the students six cases to work on which were similar to ones that she had actually seen. "What else would you want to know about these cases? What is the problem and what would you do to relieve it?" she asked.

The students reached the conclusion that in many cases it was the parents who needed help.

Later, Principal Denis Middleton said he knew of 30 children at Woodland, a grade seven and eight school, whose families were receiving some kind of special help. "Bringing up children is harder than it ever was. It is harder than it was ten years ago," he said. "I can sympathize with the parents. I am one."

It was the first time Woodland had had a Careers Day. In addition to Miss Chernow, students could listen to an airline pilot, a lawyer, a psychologist, a police sergeant, an actress, a physician, and more. The last two classes of the day were suspended for the occasion.

## North Star sold

The purchase of Tywill Communications Limited by Metrospan Printing and Publishing Limited was announced yesterday.

Tywill Communications Limited publishes the North Star newspaper circulated in an area of Richmond Hill and Thornhill.

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