

Lions let in New Year with a roar

New Year's revellers are already gearing up for Claremont's big Lions Club party on Dec. 31.

Festivities get underway at Claremont Community Centre at 8:30 p.m. and continue until 1987 is officially here.

An admission cost of \$40 per couple includes buffet, refreshments, party hat and favor. Music will be provided by a disc jockey.

For tickets or further information contact Frank Hill at 649-2653 or Bob Tran at 649-2832.



The United Way way!

Carmen DiPaola, chairman of York Region United Way (front right) receives a cheque from Debbie Harris, general manager, Human Resources of Markham Hydro. In background from left to right are Bill Hannah, Janet Spence, Andy Cartwright, Jack Alfred and Scott Garton — Sjoerd Witteveen

Paper criticized by press council

Although it dismissed the complaint, a recent Ontario Press Council decision criticized the Ajax/Pickering News-Advertiser for failing to inform a complainant that it had reversed a decision not to publish a statement protesting plans for a country music jamboree.

Complainant Doreen Simpson resides in the north Pickering hamlet of Brougham, near the site of promoter Rick Johnson's annual County Jamboree.

Specifically, she complained that the newspaper breached accepted media ethical standards by giving the jamboree promoter a copy of a document that attacked both Mr. Johnson and his event. It was signed by 20 Brougham residents. The following instructions appeared under the signatures: Signed us — Concerned residents of Brougham.

The document, described at times as a press release and at other times as a letter to the editor, claimed the jamboree subjected residents to noise, vandalism and violence during the three-night run. Noisy fights and language made sleep impossible. Residents had to put all movable outdoor objects under lock and key because of a previous pattern of thefts.

The complainant had two main concerns: First, although the editor told her in a phone conversation that the document contained defamatory material and he wouldn't print a word of it, he handed it to the promoter.

Second, handing out the names may have put some people at risk of

physical harm. Mrs. Simpson's feeling on this point was reinforced when a boy told her someone had shown him the document and asked whether a particular signature was his mother's.

The News Advertiser, in defending its conduct, said that after the phone conversation with Mrs. Simpson, it reconsidered and decided to use the document as the basis for a story on community attitudes toward the jamboree issue.

The text of the adjudication follows:

"Both complainant and newspaper asked the Council to decide whether the newspaper violated accepted ethical standards for newspaper conduct by giving the jamboree promoter a copy of the document signed individually by a number of Brougham residents.

"As a general principle it is standard newspaper practice to invite the object of a personal attack to respond for simultaneous use in a news story.

"However, in this case the newspaper told the complainant that it would not publish a word of the letter. Subsequently, the newspaper told the Council, it changed its mind, decided to use part of the press release in a story, and handed a copy to the promoter for comments.

"The Council considers that, in fairness, the newspaper ought to have told the complainant of its plan, including its intention to pass the letter along so she would have an opportunity to object.

"Despite this shortcoming, the complaint is dismissed."

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