

CANADIAN CLASSICAL INDIAN DANCER

One of the best-known exponents of Indian classical dance, Anjali, a Canadian, gave a recital last month in the National Arts Centre Studio.

Born in Ottawa, Anjali (Anne-Marie Gaston) began her ballet training at eight years old. Later she studied modern dance with the New Dance Group of Toronto. After completing a B.A. and a B.P.H.E. at Queen's University in 1964, she went to Madras, India, to teach with the Canadian University Service Overseas Program (CUSO). Fascinated with the temple sculpture illustrating Indian dance, she resolved to study its living form, *Bharata Natyam*, and at the same time, *Hatha Yoga*. Returning to Canada in 1966, she gave performances and lecture demonstrations at universities, Indo-Canadian friendship societies, art galleries, the Colonnade Theatre with the Garbut Roberts' troupe in Toronto, and at Expo 67 in Montreal. In 1968 she was a member of the folk-dance group that represented Canada at the Cultural Olympics in Mexico City. A Canada Council arts bursary in 1969 enabled her to return to India for a further two years to study *Bharata Natyam* and *Odissi*. During this time, she visited the state of Orissa, as a guest of the state government, and gave two performances of *Odissi*. In February 1971 she participated in the East-West Encounter at the Max Mueller Bhavan in New Delhi, both as a panelist and a performer. She toured England in the spring of that year.

Some of her recent performances in Canada have included the National Dance Conference at the University of Waterloo, Indian Students' Association at the University of Ottawa, and Sir George Williams University in Montreal. A special recital for the diplomatic corps was arranged by the Indian High Commissioner to Canada. Anjali has made several



Anjali (Anne-Marie Gaston) performs, and also plans to to teach, Indian dance.

appearances on television in India and Canada, and this medium has proved ideal for the intimate nature of Indian dance. She has travelled extensively in India, photographing the temple carvings in which the dance is recorded. At present, Anjali holds a Commonwealth scholarship and is spending the major part of this year in New Delhi furthering her studies, though she still frequently gives performances.

BABES IN HARMS WAY

Dental experts, pediatricians and federal inspectors of hazardous products have joined forces to give Canadian babies a better chance of living to a ripe old age.

The object is to boost safety factors for infants in cribs, who suck pacifiers, chew teething rings, gaze from playpens or bounce in "walker-jumpers".

This summer the Canadian Pediatrics Society will examine standards and suggest better safety measures for cribs, playpens and walker-jumpers. A pedodontics expert from the University of Manitoba has been commissioned to assess the hazards of teething rings and pacifiers already on the market and suggest how they can be made safer.

Results of the study should be in before the end of the year and government action taken to make life safer for infants.

CRIB DEATHS

One major concern involves crib deaths. In 1968 (the latest figures available) 106 babies under 11 months died in Canada from mechanical suffocation. It wasn't always easy to pinpoint the precise cause of death but the suspicion lingers that some babies turned face up in their cribs, got their heads stuck between the vertical bars and swallowed their own vomit. Others swallowed pacifiers, or inadequately-designed mouth-guards, and choked.

Child-safety experts wonder at the unreported number of babies in walker-jumpers whose fingers are pinched or mangled in springs. Perhaps a thick plastic sheath is the answer here.

Regulations dealing with the sale of liquid-filled teething rings have been tightened recently because two designs were found to contain harmful bacteria. The Consumer and Corporate Affairs Depart-