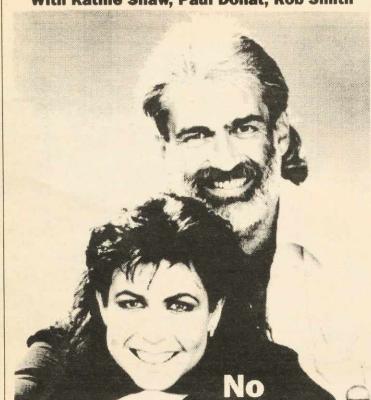
## The Skip Beckwith Group With Kathle Shaw, Paul Donat, Rob Smith



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9 pm, Friday, April 2

Cover

at the GRAD HOUSE

#### news

# **Leon Bass speaks**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

skin, I was not good enough."

Bass, in an enthralling series of recollections, recounted to the crowd that in the American South, where he trained, racism was supported by law, just like in Nazi Germany. He emotionally evoked how "I began to see how other people looked at me, and I got a terrible feeling that I was powerless to make any difference... I just could never understand institutionalized racism."

Bass related the Black experience to Jewish persecution in Nazi Europe, saying how "Jews were classic examples, for they felt they were Germans... just as Blacks felt they were Americans. German Jewsfought in World War I with Kaiser Wilhelm against the Allies. They were white, yet their religious beliefs prevented them from becoming the mainstream." And when Hitler needed a scapegoat, Bass said, Jews were easy targets, and the white majority accepted his every word.

Bass did not stop with his World War II memories, but continued through his difficult life as an educated Black who had to work in deprived environments. As a principal, his first placement was at Benjamin Franklin High School in his home-

town of Philadelphia. A feared all-Black institution, he recalls how the school's unwritten motto at local football games was "You win the game, but we win the fight." Yet he believes that he made a difference in some of the lives of the troubled youths there, although he said "you have to pay for the sacrifice. The stress was usual."

Yet at the school he presided over a guest-speaker who came to talk to

one unruly class. It was a Holocaust survivor, a Jewish former concert singer named Nina Kaleska. They talked, and Kaleska insisted that Bass had an incredible story to tell.

Since retiring in 1975, Dr. Bass has built a strong following as a lecturer, speaking across Canada and the U.S., at universities, synagogues, and churches. And what a story it is. Even after a standing ovation and an emotional question period, the hourlong talk by the fine orator, Leon Bass, left an indelible mark on the audience.

# Centre gets endorsement

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

reading material which will be available through a referral system or at the Centre itself.

A new Management Collective is being elected at the Women's Centre on Friday, March 26 from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm and all interested women are encouraged to attend. Although the Management Collective has the important task of setting policy and procedure of the Centre, it provides another important function. "The members of the Collective provide continuity for the Centre," said Booth.

On Friday evening from 8 pm to midnight, there will be a coffee house

at Domus with guitarist/singer Amy Fritz. There is a \$2.00 cover charge with all proceeds going to the Women's Centre.

The Women's Centre is open from 10 am to 6 pm, Monday to Friday, thanks to volunteers. Everyone is welcome to drop by to check out the reading material, to have a chat or just to relax.

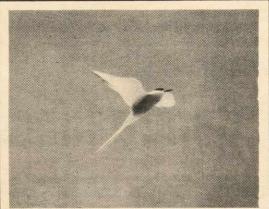
"It takes a bit of courage for women to come to the Centre," said Smith. "It's worth it."

There will be a meeting at 4:30 pm on Friday, March 26 at the Women's Centre to elect the new Management Collective. All interested women please attend.

### FRANCO-FORUM

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