

THIS HOME WILL BE LEFT IN THE INDUSTRIAL AREA AND WILL EVENTUALLY BE TORN DOWN

control of the Association. Packed by both pro-and anti-Loop forces, the meeting tottered to the brink of dissolution. The pro-road forces had pre-planned several moves to ram-rod handpicked candidates to head the Association board of officers. When anti-Loop floor strength became apparent, one attempt was made to call of the meeting entirely. All of these efforts, however, failed and roadway opponents carried. Earbara Willits, long a Loop opponent, was elected President 28 to 23. This action set the stage for the great neighborhood victory of Nov. 8; where the Haskell Loop was dealt a resounding defeat by neighborhood residents.

But the fight will not stop here. Even now, East Lawrence Citizens For Housing Preservation is baraging state and federal agencies such as the Department of Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity with information and plans for intervention in the courts. Confident of victory, these East Lawrence residents ask for the support of people all over the City of Lawrence. Having come out of the woodwork to take a strong stand against the neighborhood invasion, East Lawrence now welcomes increa-

sing letters and calls for support from the City at large.

PUBLIC NOTICE is obviously heartened by the turn of events on the East side. Having cut our teeth on the Haskell Loop issue more than a year ago, it's been satisfying to see the public discussion continue.

The issue is heated. People on both sides of the argument can make points and introduce facts to justi'y their respective positions. PUPLIC NOTICE flatly demands that those in power in this town begin to consider the problems of traffic flow and expansion of the industrial tax base secondary to the housing needs of its citizens. While the City trips over its shoelaces to see that plenty of expensive suburban homes are going up south and west of town, residents of 50 and 60 years are watching as the older neighborhoods crumble. Stealing Community Development money intended to help these neighborhoods is not the answer. And roadways don't keep the rain off anyone's neck. Only thoughtful and responsive government can meet human needs. Folks on the East side are still waiting.

The following are edited excerpts from the press release received at the PUPLIC NOTICE on Oct. 26, from the East Lawrence Citizens for Housing Preservation. It outlines their involvement with the Environmental Impact Statement which was released by the City early in October. They were the first group to review the document, which may prove crucial in the battle over construction of the Haskell Loop.

The Haskell Loop is a federally-funded, multi-million dollar roadway to be built in East Lawrence connecting the intersections of 7th and Conn. and 11th and Haskell. The project has created controversy because of the projected impact on the residential character of the neighborhood. Fecause this is a federally-funded project, the 1969 Environmental Policy Act requires that he City file an Environmental Impact Statement with the federal agencies involved in the funding. This is intended to initiate a process whereby public and private individuals and groups can objectively assess the positive & negative impacts of the project on the surrounding area. The Statement cost the City \$15.000. It was prepared by Oblinger-Smith of Wichita, consulting planners and developers. A hearing process to garner public input accompanies this statement. The Federal Highway Administration, 1263 Topeka Ave., Topeka, is required by law to accept all written comments in regard to the E.I.S. up through and including Dec. 15. You can get one at the Community Development office of City Hall, 3rd floor of the First National Fank, 9th and Mass.

The Impact Statement is rife btle and not-so-subtle biases in favor of the proposed project, such as the use of catch-words and phrases like "improvement," when reference is made to the roadway. The statement refers to the alternative of not building it as the "do-nothing" alternative, characterizing those not in favor of construction as lazy, irresponsible, unconcerned about neighborhood problems and unthinkingly opposed to progress.

The subtle misuse of language in the statement includes whole sentences and paragraphs. In refer - ence to why there will be no problems in tearing down East Lawrence's only ball diamond, at 10th & Delaware, the statement says "the baseball stadium has declined in importance in recent years because it is old and in generally poor condition." Obviously, the reason it's in poor condition is because the City neglects to maintain it.

Overall, in a statement designed to measure the positive and negative impacts of a major construction project in a residential neighborhood, only three of more than 100 pages address themselves to negative impacts.

The statement, in keeping, is a whitewash. We expected that whitewash to be a professional job. Instead, the statement is filled with unsubstantiated, inaccurate, and misleading statements; out-dated research data; inconsistencies, ommissions and contradictions.

The East Lawrence Citizens for Housing Preservation is patently opposed to the Haskell Loop and/or any arterial roadway that would remove much-needed low- and moderate-income housing from the neighborhood. The administrative staff of the City of Lawrence must take full responsibility for the kind of negligence that may well result in the destruction of a large part of East Lawrence. In their zeal to garner industrial growth, broaden the city's tax base, and satisfy the demands of downtown businessmen, the City has:

1--placed the City maintenance garage on the edge of the East Lawrence neighborhood as one more justification for the Haskell Loop, thereby generating even more traffic in the area.

2--allowed commercial and industrial truck traffic to repeatedly violate the sanctity of residential streets in E. Lawrence, to impress upon those residents the need for the Haskell Loop.

3--with full knowledge of the difficulties in obtaining funding for the Highway 59 by-pass, allowed the City Commission and neighborhood residents to believe that Haskell Ave. would not be used as a part

of the Haskell Loop.

4--intentionally allowed non-conforming industrial uses... to continue to operate to the south and west of the propesed roadway, making a mockery of the City's claim that the road is being built to buffer industrial and commercial uses from the residential neighborhood.

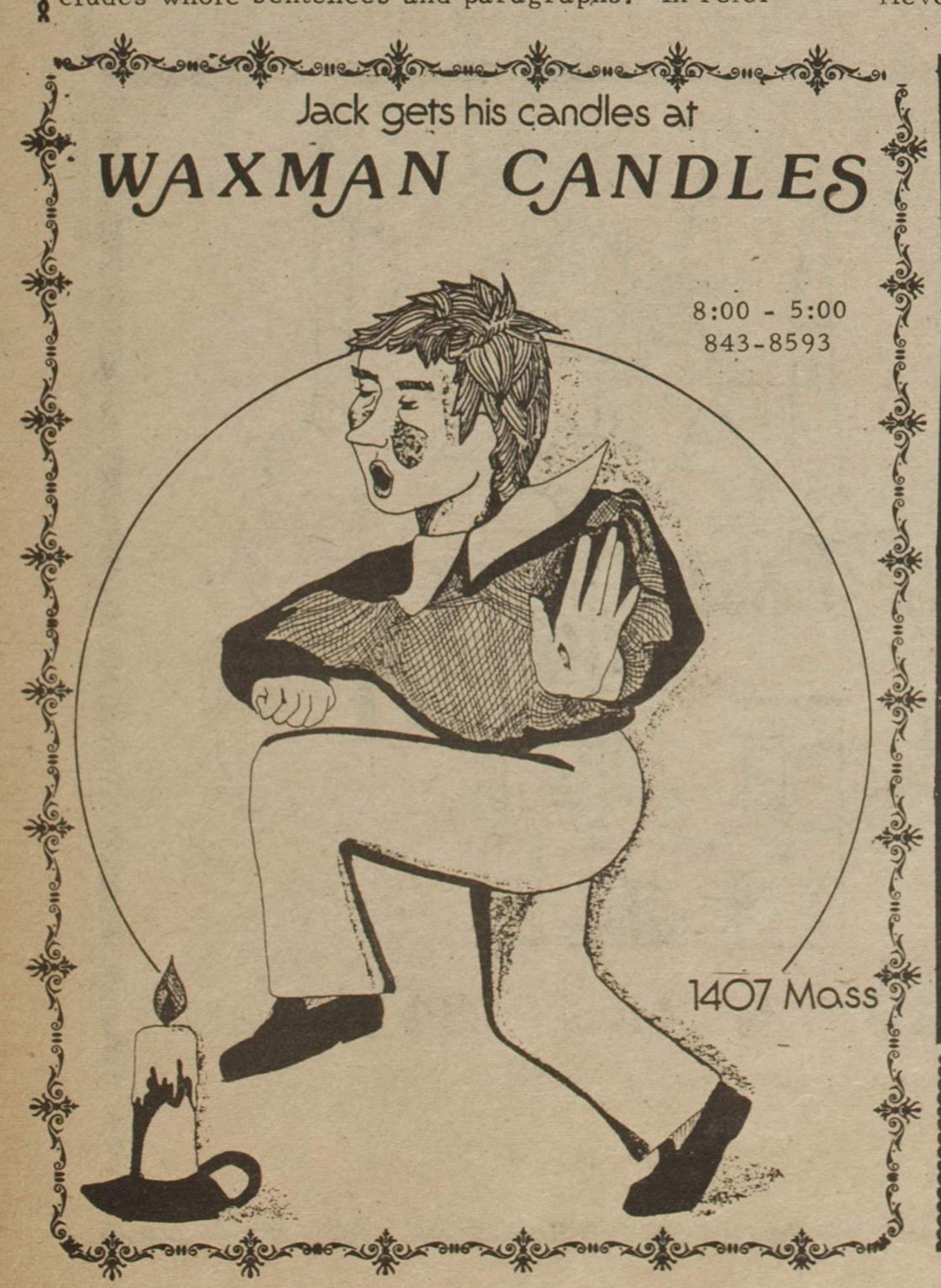
5--entered the project with the attitude of securing, demolishing and relocating businesses and residences now, before the cost of land increases, knowing full well that there may be difficulties in obtaining more construction and relocation money later.

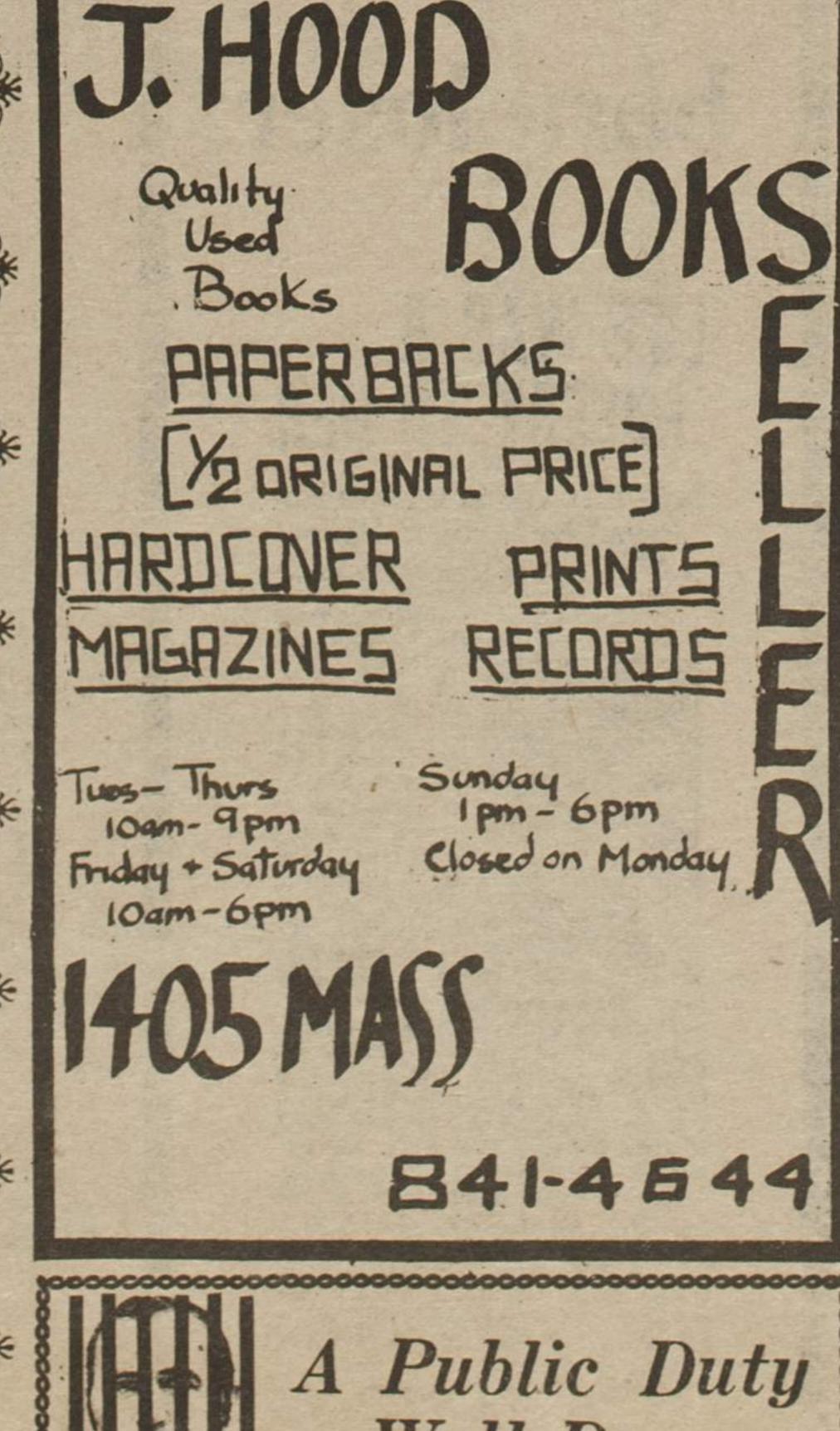
6--intentionally neglected park maintenance in East
Lawrence, then used that neglect and its effects as
an excuse to demolish those parks. The City is also
trying to close the New York Elementary School in
order to use it as a neighborhood center, replacing
the old one at 10th and Delaware, taken by the Loop.

7--misrepresented the planned use of the Haskell Loop right-of-way. Originally planned as a four-lane road, the City is now pushing for a two-lane road, and a 'greenbelt' along one side. The so-called 'greenbelt' is, in reality, space for two more lanes in the future.

8--in its use of Community Development Act funds, essentially ignored the basic housing needs of low-and moderate-income people of Lawrence. The Act is designed to promote "the conservation and expansion of the nations housing stock in order to provide a decent home and suitable living environment for all persons, but principally those of low and moderate incomes." The City's use of CD money for the Haskell Loop is nothing less than a public scandal!

The Citizens for Housing Preservation boildy challenges Lawrence's City administration to demonstrate, publicly, how they are fulfilling the design and intent of the Act which has lavished such funds on their offices, and which funds they have so rudely squandered.







teahouse