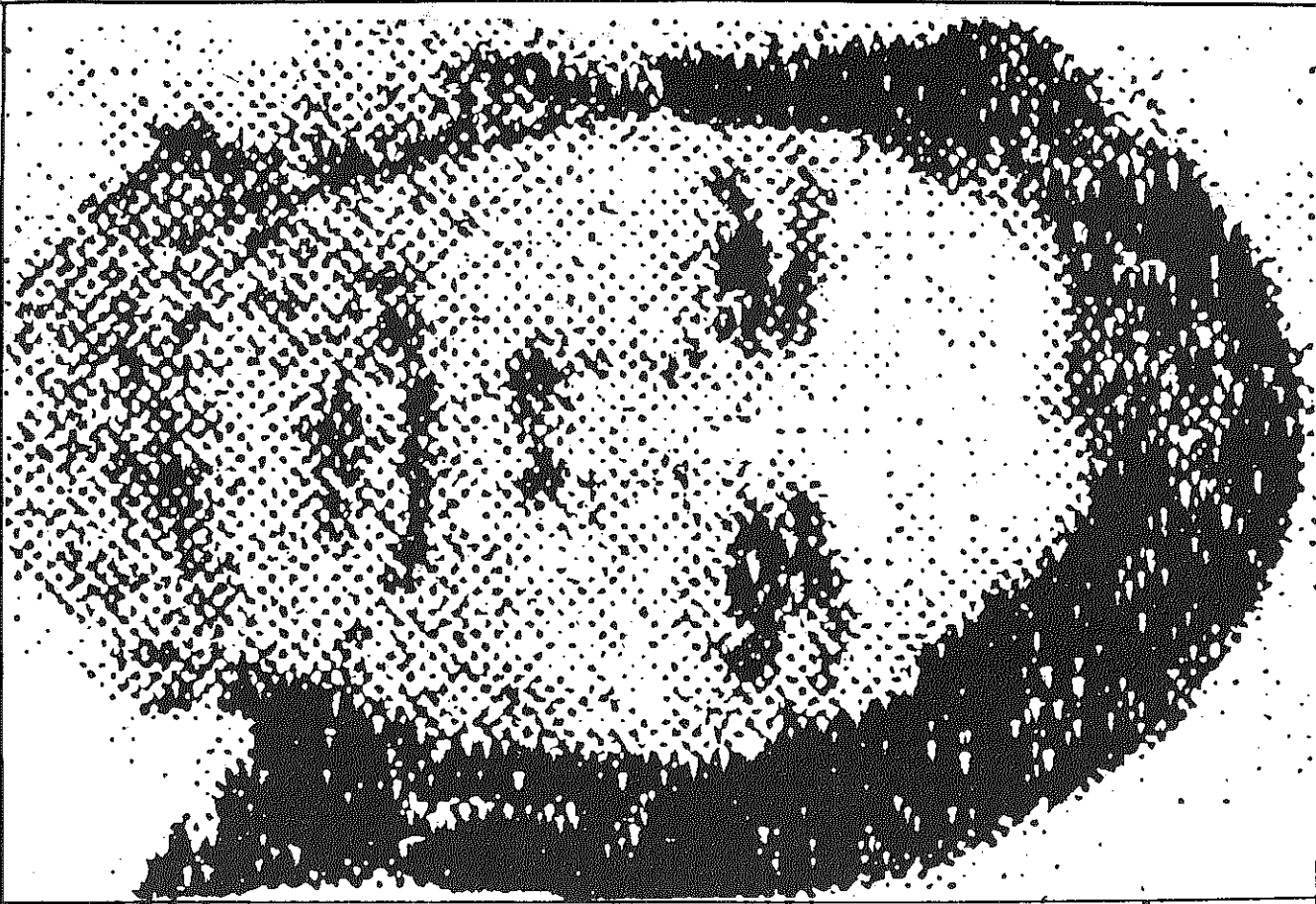


Interval House, Emily Stowe Shelter, North York Women's Shelter, Interim Place,

Women in Transition, Education Wife Assault, Yellow Brick House,



**Metro Weather**  
 Cloudy tomorrow,  
 High -5C,  
 Details, A2

COMMUNITY SERVICES  
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LIBRARY

# THE TORONTO STAR

Established 1892

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## Speak out, beaten wives told after murder

By Laurie Moscarzales  
 Toronto Star

Shirley Samaroo lived with bruises and terror for 16 years until her husband murdered her, soaked a bed with gasoline and died in flames beside her.

It is a hideous story. But women's aid groups want it brought home to thousands of other Metro wives who live in silent fear of beatings, too frightened even to phone for help.

Shirley Samaroo could become a cause celebre after a memorial service at 7:30 tonight at the Warden Woods Community Centre, 74 Firvaley Court, Scarborough.

Organizers hope her horrible life and death will train a public



**Family tragedy:** Errol Samaroo killed his wife, Shirley, last Thursday, then died in a fire he set.

Spotlight on the growing problem of wife abuse and force action to combat it.

Social workers say at least one man in 10 beats his wife. About 60

per cent of women who die violently are battered wives.

In the last year, more than 1,000 women have fled from brutal husbands to Metro's seven shelters, and hundreds more are on waiting lists, hiding with friends.

Samaroo was 34. She had been beaten every week of her 16-year marriage. Six weeks ago, she finally escaped with her teenage son and daughter to the Emily Stowe Shelter.

"Mom was so happy there," said 15-year-old Yvina. She smiled a lot more. She was going to stay away from my father for good."

But last Thursday she went back home, as she always did. This time the mistake was fatal.

Police still don't know why she ignored warnings from her family and social workers. She may have returned to the Danforth Ave. flat to pick up clothes or to change the registration of the family car from her name to her husband's.

"We told her, 'Don't go back to the apartment, you'll never have a chance to get out again,'" her daughter said.

"But they (wife-beaters) fill your head with a whole lot of nice garbage and you go back."

Errol Samaroo, a 36-year-old machine operator, was waiting in the second-floor flat.

Police said he locked her in the  
 See DONT/page A4

# SHIRLEY SAMAROO DECIDED TO GO TO A HOSTEL WHERE THERE IS SUPPORT.

Peggy Ann Walpole House, Nellie's, Stop 86 (YWCA), Anduhyaun Residence,

Women's Habitat of Etobicoke, Woodlawn Residence, Ernestine's,