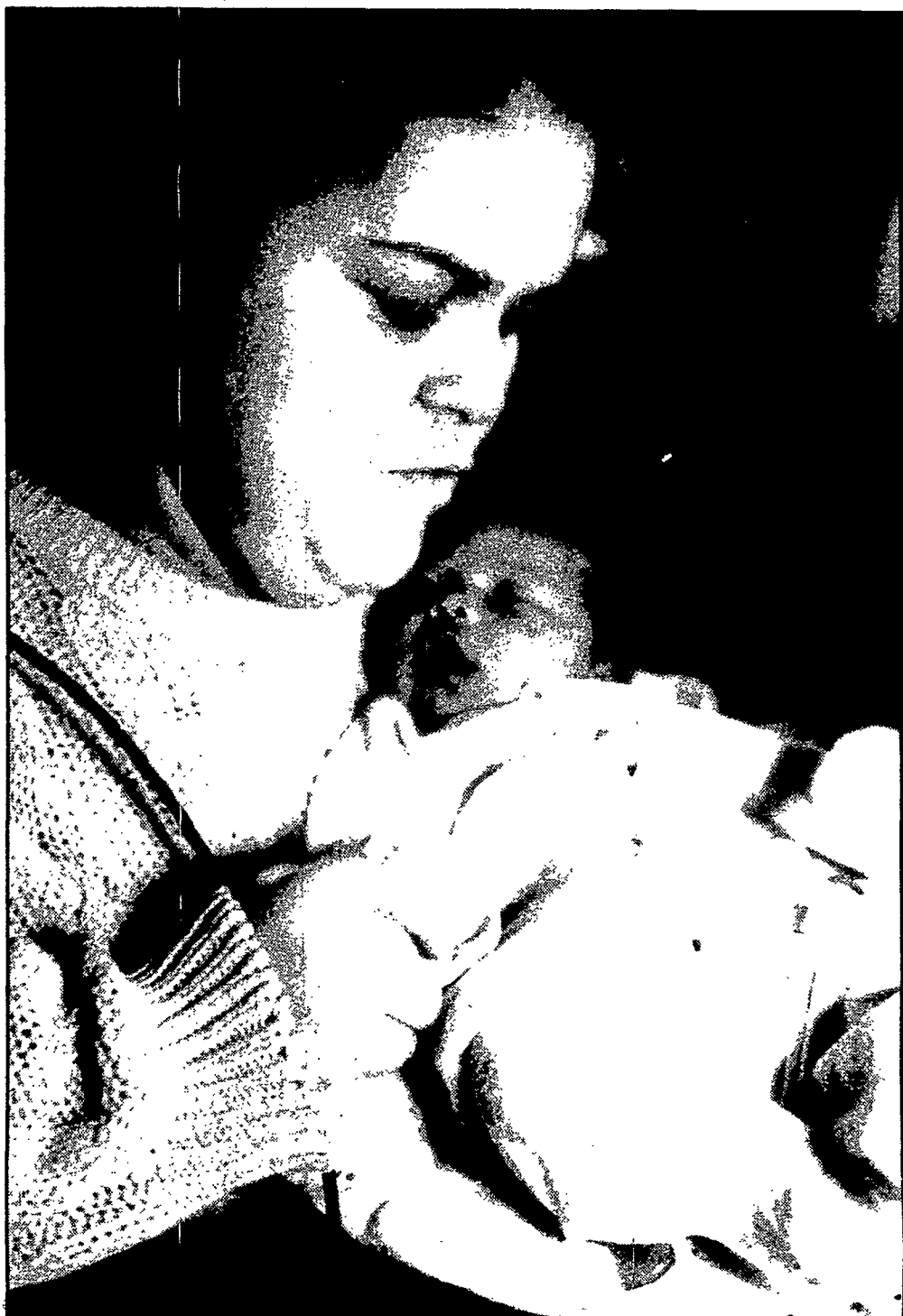




Bette G. Augustin/Photo editor  
 dicapped into Society chapel. Cindy Thrush is in the back-



Carmen Hernandez, an IHS board member, gave birth to Andre Miguel Budd on April 2, 1992. Hernandez has muscular dystrophy.



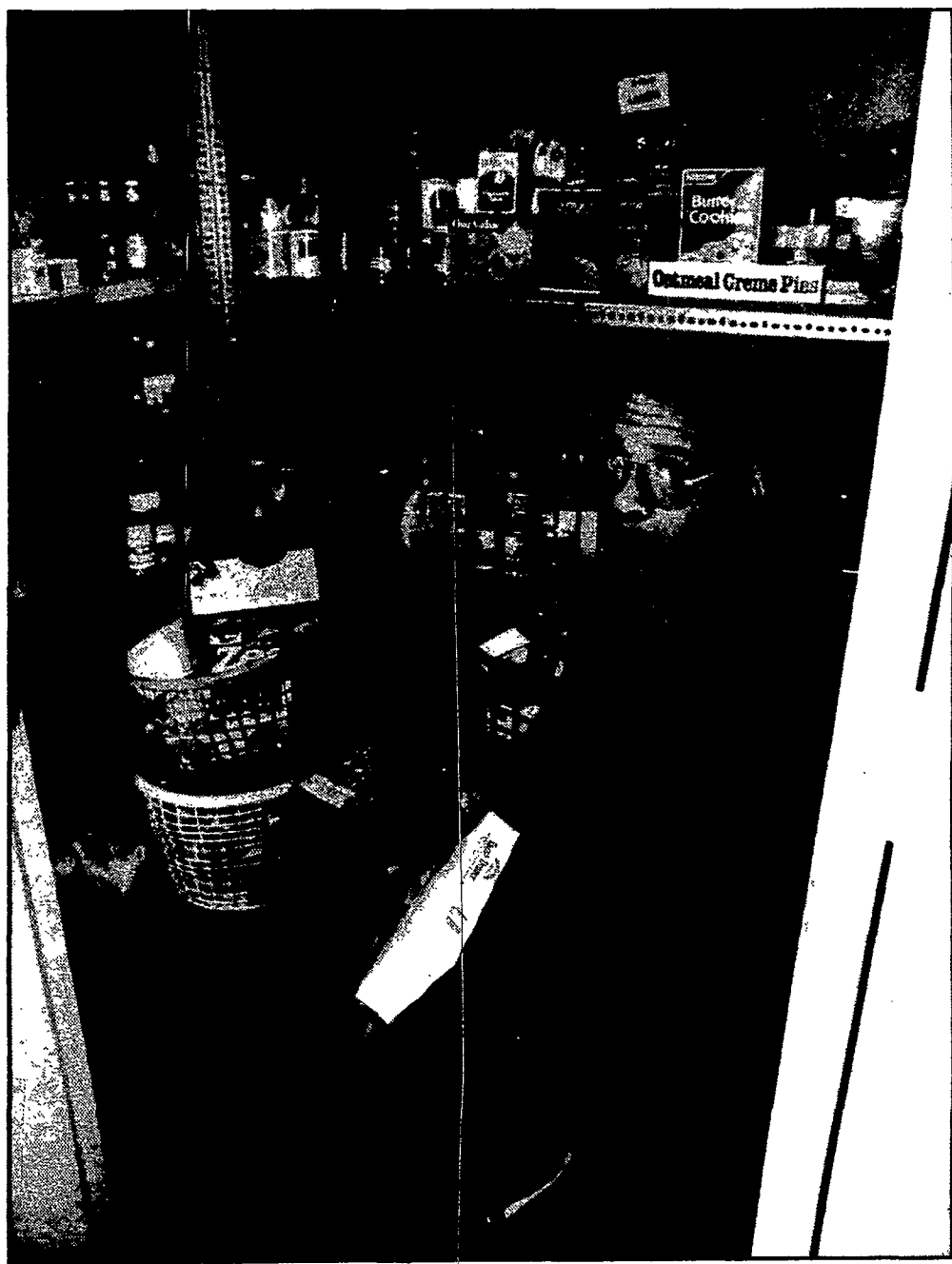
IHS board member Alice Batog listens to pre-meal announcements.



end, Kevin Figler, share a moment after an IHS group



ers Stephen Kasper some cupcakes during one of the



Among his duties as IHS program director, Father Michael Upson staffs a food pantry for residents who run out of supplies in extreme circumstances.

work out with the schedule," he said. One of the changes that Father Upson has made in recent years is increasing the number of residents on the board of directors.

"I felt the residents here should be setting the tone for the direction of IHS," the priest said.

"One of the things that's unique about the program is you have people determining their own destiny," he said, "determining their own future."

Kasper became more involved in IHS's operation as a result of Father Upson's decision. "I wanted to get more involved to get more activities going," he remarked. "I discovered that to get more activities going we needed to get more money."

Indeed, the organization — which relies on support from the United Way of Greater Rochester and the Genesee Valley, individuals, organizations, church groups, and even IHS participants — is so strapped financially that it has been unable to hire an assistant for Father Upson.

Although a priest heads the organization, and IHS sponsors religious services — including several Masses — the focus is not exclusively "Catholic," Father Upson noted, because the population is interdenominational.

The religious aspect is important, however, because one of the issues the residents face is death.

"We spend a lot of time with the process of dying," Father Upson observed. And when someone dies, especially unexpectedly, "There is a cloud that hangs over the place," he said. Thus IHS has to deal with that "cloud" and provide support for the residents, he added.

Father Upson said, however, "There are a lot of joyful situations, and I would say they outweigh (the sad situations)."

Part of what makes these events possible is support from outside Southview Towers, the priest noted. A number of people and groups come to help with activities.

But the organization's goal is not just providing things to do, Father Upson said.

"One of the things that is most important for the people here is I want to see them gain control of their lives — as much control of their lives as they can," Father Upson concluded.