

Letter to the Editor

Relaxed pot laws disturb parent



SCORE ONE FOR THE KINSMEN

The Kinsmen Club of Georgetown and the Chrysler Raiders pooled their efforts to make Friday's home game against the Owen Sound Greys a sell-out. The Kinsmen sold 1,000 tickets to the game at Alcott Arena, and the Raiders gratefully turned over a share of the gate receipts for use in various Kinsmen community projects. Helping team captains Al Nesbit of Owen Sound (left) and Juri Kudrassov of Georgetown get the game underway were (left to right) Kinsmen past president Don Pearson, current president Brian Markham and Raider executive member Stan Lorusso.

(Herald photo by Dave Rowney)

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following letter was circulated to area newspapers by a Halleybury, Ontario, resident who asked to remain anonymous. An editorial on the same topic appears opposite this page.

To the editor of The Herald:
In the near future, it is my understanding that your member of Parliament will be asked to vote on legislation to decriminalize the possession of marijuana, hashish, hash oil and other cannabis products. As a concerned parent of a teenager and a grandmother, I believe that simple possession of these drugs should always remain a criminal offence, as without this restriction the use of them will undoubtedly increase, especially the use by teenagers.

with decriminalization this will effectively be removed, decriminalization at the same time acting as a possible endorsement by the government towards the use of the drug. My concern stems from the many research reports which have been published recently about this drug, by such organizations as the Canadian Medical Association, the American Medical Association, the Addiction Research Foundation and many, many others. I am asking all Canadians to fully investigate the properties of marijuana and writing your member of Parliament on this issue. This is not the mild drug it was thought to be ten years ago. Additional research and intensive studies of its use during the past decade has caused a significant change in opinion, with reports strongly endorsing the very serious harmful effects it has on the

user. As you study reports on this drug you will find the following:
— Marijuana is a compound of an estimated 200 to 400 chemicals. THC, the active ingredient in all cannabis products becomes part of body tissues, gathering in the fatty cells of the body, remaining there for many months, affecting especially the brain and the sex glands. Lung and cardiovascular damage and damage to the immune defence systems has been reported. There are reports of chromosome damage, which precludes the problem of retardation and other abnormalities in generations yet unborn. Research also suggests that five marijuana cigarettes do as much lung damage as 112 ordinary tobacco cigarettes.
— Long-term marijuana use interferes with personality development, emotional

growth and learning ability, especially in the young. It can bring on hallucinations, delusions, paranoid feelings and confused and disoriented thinking.
— Adolescents are particularly susceptible to harm from marijuana because their metabolism is much faster than that of an adult, thereby causing greater damage. Also, the majority are not yet mature enough to evaluate the dangers.
— The psychological effects are profound. The motivational syndrome is especially sad with teenagers. It causes a loss of ambition and caring, they become lethargic and cannot function in everyday life nor deal with reality. It takes away their desire to compete, learn, and put in an effort. Thinking and memory is impaired and school performance drops dramatically. Marijuana use is reaching epidemic proportions in our schools and teachers are quick to point out the numerous problems that arise due to the use of this drug.
I do not wish a criminal record on anyone, but believe marijuana to be such a dangerous drug that its unauthorized use most certainly

warrants a criminal record. We have a responsibility to protect our youth and society in general. The decisions regarding the use of marijuana should not be left to teenagers and children. (The age of first-time users is becoming lower.) Many don't realize the dangers involved or the probable effects on future generations. Therefore the need for a strong deterrent is essential to prove to them that marijuana cannot be tolerated.
I am sure if you examine all

the facts, your conscience will not allow you, to sit idly by while Parliament sanctions legislation to decriminalize the possession of marijuana. I urge you to contact your local member of Parliament immediately and request that he act accordingly.
Name withheld by request. P.S. Don't feel that special emphasis should be placed on an educational program to make people more aware of the inherent dangers involved with the use of these drugs?

THE HAIR SHOPPE

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GUYS AND GALS STYLES FOR ALL AGES

APPOINTMENT NOT ALWAYS NECESSARY

There's space for you on No. 2

By JOHN ROE
Herald Special
Halton Hills Arts Council is less than \$2,000 short of its \$20,000 pledge towards the Library and Cultural Centre building fund - thanks to continuing strong demand for name-spaces on Georgetown Rug hookers wall-hangings.

The decision whether to go ahead with a second rug-hanging was made for both organizations this week when requests topped the 50-name limit on the first rug. The cut-off now will be 100 names or Dec. 31, 1981, whichever comes first. But given the steady flow of name-purchasers over the last weeks, organizers recommend that those planning to buy a name-space should indicate their intent now with a post-dated cheque rather than risk disappointment.

The total raised from the rugs thus far is \$5,445 - already making it the biggest single money-maker of all the fund-raising projects undertaken by arts organizations in fulfilling the Arts Council's pledge made more than a year ago.

work of art," she said, "since these hangings will hang in perpetuity, it is important that they blend with the theatre decor."

Once all names have been received, the Rug Hookers will arrange them in accord with

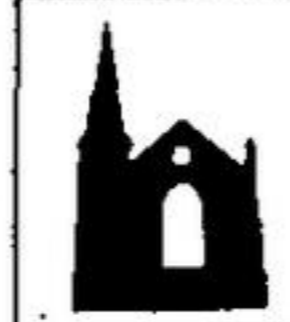
their overall design. Each name-space - which can be purchased for as little as \$10 per month for a year (post-dated cheques) or for a minimum single lump sum of \$110 - consists of 36 inches. Prospective name-space purchasers should take into account when planning "their" space that each letter will be one inch wide, with a half inch between letters and one inch between names.

All name-space purchases are recognized as charitable donations for income tax purposes. Donors will receive an official tax receipt from the Town of Halton Hills prior to income tax filing.

For full details as to how to participate in this unique fund-raising scheme, call John Roe at 877-2824 or Elizabeth Shore at 877-8160.

Name-space purchasers last week were:
The Broughton Family, Viola and Ted Gorth and Family, Graham and Irene Farnell, David, Karen and Katie Farnell, Bob Carroll and Michael Evans, Wallace and Jen Thompson, Isla and Bill Allison Family, Janelle, Duane, Alyson, Bryan and Elaine Lewis, Val and Hilda Stein.

THIS WEEK AT THE CENTRE



TODAY: The Halton Hills Public Library Board and assisting agencies present popular Canadian folk singers The Family of Man at 7:30 p.m.
THURSDAY: The John Elliott Theatre continues its busy schedule of opening activities with an afternoon school presentation starting at 1 p.m. Featured are students of Holy Cross, Sacre Coeur, George Kennedy and Joseph Gibbons schools.
FRIDAY: A second afternoon school program, again at 1 p.m., with students from Georgetown High, Stewarttown, Centennial, Christian Reformed and Harrison schools...the revitalized Georgetown public library holds a special reception, by invitation only...Normic Studio Productions presents John Smedley and Lynn Welton in "A Celebration of Song", starting at 8 p.m.
SATURDAY: A long-awaited storyline play for youngsters, "Paddington Bear" shares his adventures courtesy of the Erewon Theatre, starting at 2 p.m. A "Dance Spectacular" begins at 8 p.m. featuring representatives of the Brian Foley Dance Studio and the Alda Ligita Heniss School of Classical Ballet.
SUNDAY: Popular Canadian recording star and host of CBC Television's "This Land", Sylvia Tyson performs two concerts at 4 and 8 p.m.

St. John Ambulance teaches home nursing skills that can make home care more comfortable for both patient and family. They can also make it possible for a family member to be at home rather than in a hospital or nursing home. For information on home health care courses contact the St. John Ambulance Branch in your phone book, or St. John Ambulance at 46 Wellesley.



More local bank managers have come forward with pledges for the library-cultural centre. Under a unique fund-raising drive, bankers are encouraged to each contribute one per cent of the original public fund-raising goal of \$20,000 on behalf of their branches. Mayor Pete Pomeroy (centre) received cheques from the Royal Bank and Bank of Montreal Monday. On hand for the presentation were (left to right) Royal Bank managers Bill Ward (Main Street branch), Floyd Kyle (Guelphview Square branch) and Bank of Montreal (Georgetown) manager Jim Taylor. (Herald photo)

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REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8th.

The Branch issues an open invitation to all Georgetown organizations who wish to participate in our Remembrance Day Parade to be at the Branch at 1:15 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 8th.

PARADE WILL FORM UP ON MARKET ST., MARCH NORTH TO MAIN, WEST ON MAIN TO JAMES, ALONG JAMES TO CHARLES AND ALONG CHARLES TO THE CENTOPH, THE RETURN ROUTE WILL BE CHARLES TO JAMES, JAMES TO MAIN, ALONG MAIN TO WESLEYAN AND BACK TO THE BRANCH.

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