

Drug abuse seminar

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he said. It's the values that the peers hold that is the problem. He advised parents be conscious of whom their children are associating with and try to get them into a good peer group that holds the values they do.

DEVIANT GROUP
With peer pressure and the need to belong and be accepted strongest during adolescence, young people are most vulnerable to the values of their peers, Mr. Richardson said.

The deviant youth who abuse drugs are the most accepting peer group. All a teenager has to do is drink or smoke up with them to belong. If a young person isn't accepted by the other peer groups he'll end up joining this deviant group, Mr. Richardson said.

As for media messages through advertising, Mr. Richardson said people should learn to be more analytical of the messages they're getting in the media.

He advised parents also listen to the music their children are plugged into. "Children today, wherever they go, they have a radio," he said. "A constant message is going to them through the music and it has influence in terms of the values it's communicating. Listen to the words and the message that comes from them."

Then, parents should discuss it with their children, Mr. Richardson said. If parents respect chemicals, children will pick up their values. If parents have a problem with use of drugs their children will also see drugs as a solution to their problems. Adults have a great deal of influence as role models, Mr. Richardson pointed out.

Hostel's seminar looks at family violence

Halton's Women Place and the Milton YMCA will be holding a special day-long seminar Saturday Nov. 6 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in Milton.

The series of workshops will centre on the theme "Family Violence: The Hidden Crime".

Four topics to be discussed will be: victims and their needs; men who batter; role of the police and the legal system.

A wide range of guest speakers will be attending, such as Halton Regional Police deputy chief R.B. Middaugh, Judge D.V. Lettmer of Halton's provincial court and Francis Murphy, assistant crown attorney.

The series of workshops are open to the public. A \$5 registration fee is required, which includes lunch. The location of the workshop is 185 Ontario St. S., Milton. For more information, call 878-7757.

Booze tops with students

The number one drug choice of adults is also the number one drug choice of high schoolers.

An Oakville Trafalgar High School survey conducted in 1979 for the Halton board of education showed that 82 per cent of Grades 9 to 13 students drank alcohol in the last year.

It showed that 46 per cent used marijuana, 39 per cent used tobacco, 14 per cent used LSD and 17 per cent used non-prescribed stimulants in the last year.

The physical education and health co-ordinator

for the board Jack Richardson, said the results reflect drug taking in any community in Ontario.

He said the one-quarter of the students who used alcohol and marijuana had used it once a week or more often, while one-quarter smoked six cigarettes a day.

He said students aren't introduced to drugs in their high school years. It's in Grades 6, 7 and 8 that they meet up with them.

Thirty per cent of Grade 9 students had used marijuana and six per cent of them drank alcohol once a week or more

often, according to the survey. Mr. Richardson said.

He said 70 per cent of alcohol users started before Grade 8. Where did they get it? From home, or a friend who had access to it, Mr. Richardson said.

The same holds true with marijuana users. Thirty-six per cent of them began before Grade 8, he said. And 50 per cent of students who smoked began before Grade 6.

The high level of acceptance of alcohol in our society shows among high school students, where 42 per cent of them by Grade

13 recorded they drank once a week.

The earlier young people start to use these substances, the greater the problems created for an individual.

If you get into drugs as a 12-year old, you miss out on all the growing up of adolescence and end up an immature adult, Mr. Richardson contended.

"You fail to interact in the social ways you normally would in adolescence," he said. "At an early age you use the drugs to solve your problems rather than interact."

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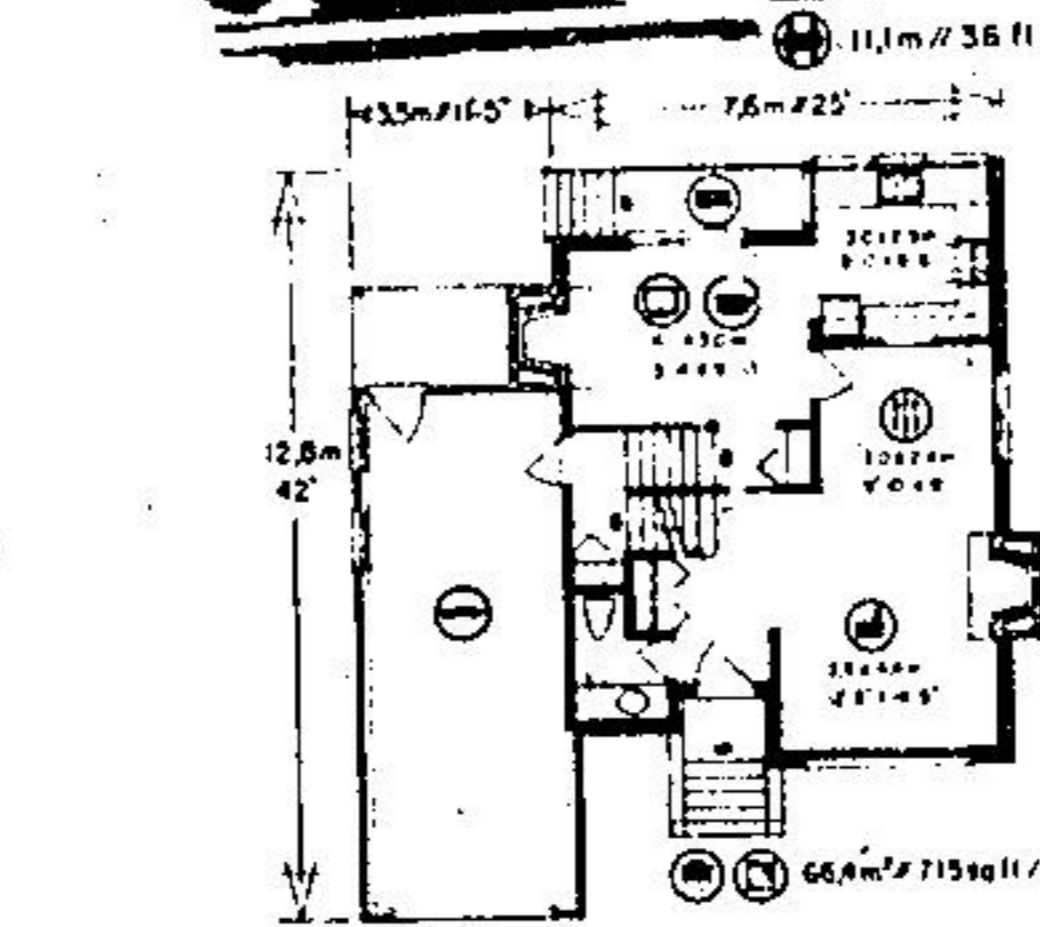
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