



No standing on ceremony

While the sod-turning ceremony to officially start construction of the \$15 million Mountainview Mall was underway just to the left of the area photographed above Tuesday afternoon, workmen

were well started on their own, pouring footings for one of the department stores slated to rise by the fall of 1982.



Sod turning start of mall

Burnac Leaseholds President Trevor Smith and Tiny Township Reeve Morris Darby used a silver shovel this week at the sod-turning to mark the start of construction of the \$15 million

Mountainview Mall on Highway 27. A Zellers, Dominion, Canadian Tire, second department store yet to be named, and 60 other stores will occupy the mall.

Drug abuse forum

Crowd hears how 'pot' damages

Approximately 50 per cent of the students in upper grades in Ontario Schools use marijuana and 80 per cent use alcohol.

This was one of the frightening statistics delivered to Elmvalle young people Wednesday evening by Alec Gabe, a consultant with the Ontario Council on Drug Abuse.

Gabe was in the village at the request of the Anglican Church Youth Group to address teenagers and parents alike on the use and hazards of various drugs ranging from alcohol and marijuana to rush, cocaine and speed.

About 45 people ranging in age from 13 to 50 were on hand for the two hour presentation, delivered in the church hall. All listened with rapt attention to the damage done by misuse of drugs by uninformed youths.

According to Gabe, teenagers are under the mistaken impression there are no side effects or dangers related to the occasional use of marijuana. He explained that the parsley-like cannabis weed contains approximately 400 different chemicals, the active one being T.H.C.

Marijuana, or 'pot' as it is commonly referred to, causes a marked loss of motivation in users, speeds the heart rate and in students, results in reduced school performance.

In comparison to alcohol, which remains in the system of a person for one hour after consumption, pot hangs around for one week, he noted.

Since only 10-15 years has been spent on the possible side effects of the drug, little is known about the long-range dangers, he said, but what they do know is that it damages the lungs, causes brain cell damage, results in personality disorders and reduces the level of male sex hormones.

Marijuana, when used during pregnancy can be damaging to the fetus, breaks down the body's immunity system and predicts scientists will find in the future, that the drug causes cancer.

Chemicals
"Young people are curious about drugs" the consultant noted. As a result they are experimenting with whatever form comes their way, including chemicals that definitely cause extensive and serious damage to their bodies.

The use of barbiturates, amphetamines and LSD is prevalent among students in the upper grades and the results of the use are startling, he warned.

P.C.P. or Angel Dust as it is commonly known, is a dangerous and unpredictable chemical that produces extreme reactions in humans.

He noted that the hospitals in Toronto are filled with teenagers

suffering the effects of P.C.P. including drastic mood shifts from deep depression to schizophrenic disorders.

He explained a common habit among truck drivers called double-doctoring using speed - the frightening results of glue sniffing and the peer pressure that often kicks-off a

young persons' misuse of drugs.

"Medical arguments don't impress kids today", he said in conclusion. They are subconsciously aware of the dangers but are trying to find the "safest" one to use. There are no safe drugs, he ended.

Following the presentation, Gabe

remained on hand to answer questions from both the students and

parents regarding the subject.

His experience as a

pharmacologist has earned him the position as a consultant in the courts

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