Like magic, drugs can mess up your reality, showman tells Grades 4-6!

by PAUL SANDERSON

Over 100 Parkview students, from Grades 4 to 6 were treated to a magic show during school hours Monday.

Wild and crazy Ron Oliver, a 24-year-old comic magician with a Toronto nightclub act, entertained students and teachers for over an hour while demonstrating that, like magic, drugs can "mess up your sense of reality."

After losing a friend in a drug-related death, Oliver vowed to do whatever he could to help cure this social sickness.

Addiction Research Foundation in Toronto told him that speaking to children in Grades 4 to 6 would have the greatest effect, because at this age they are unlikely to have begun experimenting with drugs.

Then, two years ago, the foundation provided Oliver with a researcher who collaborated with him to create "The Magic Show", a personal, positive message about enjoying life without drugs.

Oliver showed the kids how to do tricks with a cigarette instead of smoking it.

After apparently pushing cigarette right through a 50 cent piece. he teased his audience saying, "If a cigarette can do that to a coin, imagine what it will do to your lungs!"

Pretending to be addicted to cheese and pepperoni pizza, after trying it, "just once, for fun," Oliver threw dollar bills into a bowl as he bought more and more pizza.

He then moved on to harder things like pizza with mushrooms, which didn't satisfy him anymore, so he spent more money for anchovy pizza. Only after his habit had spread at

tremendous expense beyond pizza to lasagna and even fettucini, did Oliver successfully seek professional help, costing him his last dollar which he dramatically dropped into the overflowing bowl on the floor of the gymnasium.

His act was peppered with amusing and entertaining magic, like using an electric jig-saw to slice Grade 6 student Rhonda Rwan, 11, from Wyevale, in half.

But Oliver's message was drugs won't cause your problems to

disappear, "like magic". "Drugs are just another problem," he cautioned.

Wearing baggy corduroys, sloppy red running shoes, and an old pullover, the slim blond Oliver successfully avoided a lecture atmosphere.

Students playing in the leaves outside after the show agreed he was, "cool..like "The Fonz'."

After the show he was surrounded by students wanting autographs.

The majority of their questions were about drugs, not magic.

Parkview teachers, Principal including Lloyd Farquhar, P.T.A. President Marj Downs, as well as representatives from other local schools and the Midland Lion's Club, a sponsor of the event, shared in the kid's amusement as

they learned first hand

that, "you can have a good time without drugs."

His upbeat performance, "Got the message across in a way the students will remember," commented Farguhar after the show.

Best Ever is name of new initiative for sports

by GEORGE W. TAYLOR Q.C., M.P.P.

SIMCOE CENTRE SOLICITOR GENERAL Throughout the Los Angeles Olympics,

millions of people in Ontario watched their televisions as athletes from this province reached heights of excellence. Linda Thom of Ottawa won Canada's first gold medal of the games in women's sport pistol.

Sudbury's Alex Baumann won both individual swimming medleys. And there were many, many more such outstanding performances.

At a reception held in honour of our Olympic athletes, Premier Davis recently announed the Best Ever initiative.

This new program

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will provide important support and development so our athletes can train effectively for the 1988 Summer Olympics in Seoul, Korea and the 1988 Winter Olympics in Calgary, Alberta.

To implement this program, the Government of Ontario will be working with the province's 77 sport associations. In fact, these sport bodies are currently helping determine the final details of Best Ever Ontario.

This initiative will provide increased support for coaching, general participation in all sports, training and educational assistance, and talent identification.

These are the key points of the Best Ever Ontario program.

Additional steps will be taken to prepare our athletes for the 1985 Ontario Winter Games to be held in St. Catherines.

Athletes from Ontario have a record of worldclass standards as those in our area realize after having watched Brian Orser from Penetanguishene capture the silver medal in men's firgureskating in the last Winter Olympics. In 1982 and 1983, athletes from Ontario

made up more than half of Canadian teams at Commonwealth Games in Brisbane, the University Games in Edmonton and the Pan American Games in Caracas.

From these events, Ontario athletes came home with 171 individual and team medals.

With the new Best Ever Ontario commitment to our athletes, our young people will have the very best

opportunities and tools to do well in world-class competitions.

Through coaching and financial support to

promising athletes, we can expect to see this summer's tremendous performances repeated again in 1988.

Nicholas Abel

Nicholas Abel of Charles Street, Midland, died suddenly on Oct. 3, 1984, at age 11 weeks, of sudden infant death syndrome.

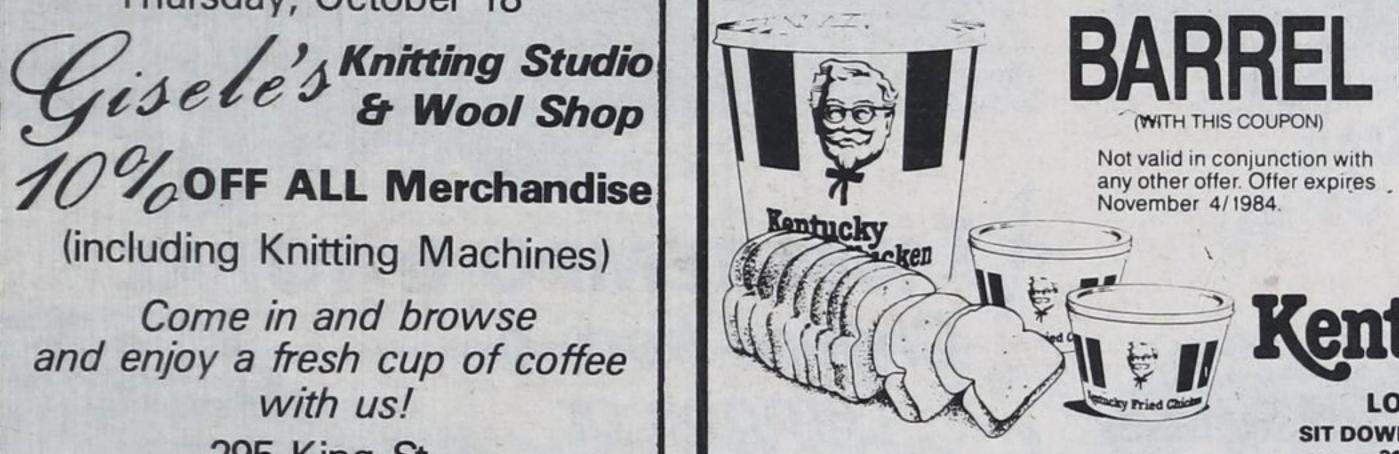
The son of Claus and Diena Johanna Abel was born in Womens

College Hospital, Toronto.

His brother Joshua Seth Abel survives him. Rev. Dr. Paul Brown officiated at the funeral service held Oct. 6 in Nicholls Funeral Home. Interment in Lakeview

Cemetery, Midland.





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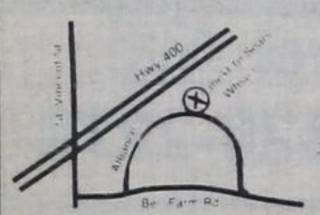
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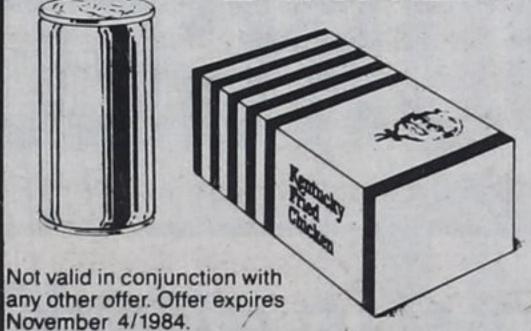
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