

The Liberal

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"To Serve And Protect"

Police Went Too Far

Disturbing is the recent news from Fort Erie of about 100 young people being stripped and searched during a regional and federal police raid on a motel night spot. First reports, and we emphasize these are first reports, indicate this whole thing was wrong. It appears the Niagara Region and Royal Canadian Mounted Police officers in this case used very poor judgment. The matter should be cleared up. It cries out for the attention of the province's law and order authorities. Provincial Solicitor General George Kerr should have an investigation. There should be a fully satisfactory public explanation or else the matter should be pursued further by the Legislature. We can't have the kind of thing reported in Fort Erie and still have a free, democratic society. The police have a responsibility to society and in our view police can't be permitted to ill-treat citizens in the manner reported. We aren't convinced the Fort Erie method is any proper way to combat the drug problem. Usually reliable news reports show over 100 men and women, mostly young and a number of them teenagers, were enjoying an evening's entertainment at the Fort Erie night spot. Raiding policewomen and policemen detained the crowd and subjected all, or most of them, to a complete search. The 100 people were stripped naked and the search in-

cluded all body orifices. Only a small quantity of marijuana was found. Only a few minor charges were laid under the Narcotics Act and Liquor Control Act. There was nothing reported which went a major distance toward justifying the drastic measures taken by police. There can be no question illicit drugs are doing much harm in our society. More and more this is so. More and more individual lives are being twisted, scarred and destroyed by drugs. Not always are these destructive chemicals entirely illicit. And again and again we are reminded the most destructive chemicals of them all, alcohol and nicotine, all the time are being more widely used. The human destruction and economic waste involved in these things appals. The temptation to take desperate measures against them must admittedly be very great for those in authority. But the measures apparently taken at Fort Erie are not the way to fight the battle against drugs. The end doesn't justify such means. Our police must be much more sure of their grounds before so invading the privacy of people. The officers are said to have acted legally under 45-year-old Narcotics Act provisions allowing such searches in public places. But it wouldn't take many more such instances before new guarantees of civil liberty would be absolutely necessary.

Let's Have Clean Up Week Every Week

Last week was "Clean Up and Paint Up Week" in Richmond Hill. The latest in street cleaning equipment was brought in to get rid of the sand and litter ground into the streets and strewn along the curbs in the wake of winter. Merchants and businessmen were observed cleaning up the areas immediately adjacent to their premises, and at week ends paint brushes were putting a clean face on private properties. There are, however, numerous eyesores, not only in Richmond Hill but in all surrounding communities. Among the most offensive of these are parking lots. Perhaps it is because the owners are absentee landlords. They don't give a damn how messy the parking lot is as long as the businesses the parking lots serve pay the rent. Unfortunately, to the public, the culprit is not the owner of the parking lot, but the proprietors of the businesses it serves. Surely this is a nuisance we should not have to endure. Tenants could bring pressures to bear on their landlords, or they could get together and throw in a few dollars a week each and hire a student to take a broom and a shovel and a few garbage bags and clean up the place. It is no big

deal and is not likely to force anyone into bankruptcy. One of the first things visitors from south of the border notice when they cross the line is how clean Canada is. They never cease to be amazed at the greenness and tidiness of the highways and byways, the cities and the towns. Then they drive into the parking lot of a small plaza or business complex and what do they see? Broken glass, squashed tin cans, litter, litter, litter. Let's make every week cleanup week, and if you are offended at the untidiness of any area in your community, do something about it. If the mess may be directly or indirectly attributed to you or your business, clean it up. If you are a customer or patron of the business, tell the proprietor what you think about the parking lot. But don't be too righteous. The mess had to come from somewhere. Did you drop that empty cigarette box, that pop can, that paper cup, that candy bar wrapper? The town has furnished very attractive trash bins in convenient locations. Use them, or keep your trash in your car or your pocket until you get home and throw it in your own garbage can.

Late Hours Getting To Public School Board

Those long, late evening hours are beginning to get to York County Board of Education, with the result it has decided to have at least one afternoon meeting. The recommendation for a change was contained in a report of Chairman Merna Colbourne, who said she felt the late hours had been a contributing factor to the ill health of some of the members. "We always seem to extend our meetings beyond 11 pm in spite of the fact that most of us have been working since about 8:30 am and have to work again the next day," she said. The decisions made at midnight or later are not necessarily the best decisions. She said she would like to try some afternoon meetings and suggested that the next regular board meeting - June 10 - be held at 1:30 pm in committee of the whole, with the public session from 2 pm until 5:30 pm with no extension of time permitted. The board would then evaluate that meeting and decide whether its first business meet-

ing in the month should be in the afternoon and its second meeting in the evening. **EXPERIMENT** She also included a suggestion by Craig Cribar of Newmarket that delegations be scheduled at the chairman's meeting, which is also open to the public, wherever possible, as an experiment for a period of three meetings - June, September and October. Trustee Robert Houghton of Richmond Hill said the board should "streamline" its present meetings instead. The committee of the whole should meet after the chairman's meeting, with the public admitted at 7 pm. The members wishing to submit questions should be allowed to have their questions, without being cut off if someone calls for the motion to be voted on in the meantime. A suggested motion on this by Mr. Houghton was lost. He also wondered if the board were willing to change its policy to allow staff time to attend any meetings that might effect them.



Premier William Davis tries his hand at stitching during his tour of inspection while officially opening the Mackenzie home at Black Creek Pioneer Village May 24. Village seamstress Shelley Boyd of Willowdale and well wishers look on approvingly. Over 1000 turned out for the colorful ceremony complete with

carriage, wagon, guard of honor (Governor General's Horse Guard and Ex. 4th Canadian Rifles) and Color Guard (Mackenzie Branch No. 414, Royal Canadian Legion, Woodbridge). The home, built in 1837, was the homestead of the Late Major A. A. "Lex" Mackenzie, a member of the Legislature from 1945 to 1967.

Honor Memory Lex Mackenzie

While his ancient, but newly-painted homestead was showered with rain, the late Lex Mackenzie, longtime Conservative MLA for York North, was showered with praise by both his friends and family, including Premier William Davis, in a ceremony at Black Creek Pioneer Village last week. The ceremony was to officially open the 137-year-old Mackenzie home, which was moved from its original site in Woodbridge to the Village in February of last year, and is now occupied by the Village clockmaker and his wife, a seamstress, where they both carry on their respective trades. The home which was donated by Mr. Mackenzie's family, has been restored to the period just prior to Confederation. Funds for the move and restoration were provided through the Conservation Authority. A crowd estimated at 750, ducked in and out of the huge tent set up on the grounds, in between rain splashes, to hear the various speakers pay their tributes to Addison Alexander Mackenzie, a major and military Cross winner in the First World War; councillor for the Village of Woodbridge from 1922 to 1926; Reeve of Woodbridge and member of York County Council from 1927 to 1935; and MLA York North from 1945 to 1967. **UNDEFEATED** Mr. Mackenzie, who retired undefeated at the age of 82, and who died three years later, was also a member of the Humber Valley Conservation Authority in 1954, and provincial government representative to the Metro Authority from 1961 to 1970. Premier Davis said that Mr. Mackenzie was "the kind of man who represented the people, who made Ontario

what it is today." He was a man of integrity, honor and humility. He was also a man of humor, and "one of the most kind and gentle people I've ever had the privilege of meeting." Mr. Davis said that he was quiet, but also colorful, "one of our very real people." He also paid tribute to the Metro Authority for its practice of reminding people of the history of Ontario. It was easy to forget, and easy for the young people not to have an awareness of history or what it meant, the Premier said. He thanked Mr. Mackenzie's family for their contribution, and the Metro Authority for what it had done and was doing elsewhere. The Premier received a gift from Fred Wade, chairman of the Metro Authority, a carving by Frank Conway, a retired Bell Canada employee from Willowdale. Premier Davis also presented a key to the house to Mrs. C. J. Agnew and Mrs. John Glynn. **A MEMENTO** They in turn asked him to keep it afterwards "as a memento of a pleasant occasion, which uncle would have loved." The Premier said that Mr. Mackenzie had always taken a great interest in the people of his riding and in the great traditions of Ontario. However, he had been less than enthusiastic at one point about the new Canadian flag. As the Union Jack outnumbered the Maple Leaf seven to one at last week's ceremonies, the major would have been very happy. Members of the Mackenzie Branch, No. 414, Royal Canadian Legion, Woodbridge, formed an honor guard and color party. Also forming an honor guard was the Governor General's Horse Guard, ex. 4th Canadian Mounted Rifles. Other platform guests included: Jesse Bryson, master of ceremonies; Rev. A. W. Dwyer, MLA Dufferin, Simcoe; R. G. Henderson, Vice-chairman Metro Authority. Barney Danson MP, York North; Mayor William Lazenby, Richmond Hill; Regional Councillor Lois Hancey, Richmond Hill; Mayor Garnet Williams, Vaughan; and Sinclair Stevens MP, York Simcoe.

ROCK TALK

By PAUL JONES
Bits And Pieces
 Well it's that time again to inform one and all what's happening with the city bands and anything else in city entertainment. Abraham's Children have changed their name to The Children, and have, after a personnel shuffle, picked up two new members. These new additions are Dave Dobko (keyboards) and Rick MacDonald (bass). They were formerly with that rock band called Black Sheep. The Children also have a new single out called Rockin In The City. Bare Mother will be playing at the Richmond Inn (Downstairs) tonight, Friday and Saturday while Don Bray will be upstairs for the same dates (June 6, 7 and 8). Joe Mendelson has finally finished the writing of both a movie script and a book. In his movie, called No Sex, No Violence, Joe is featured as director, actor and music score writer. In his book, Joe Mendelson And His Magic Marker, Joe displays his artistic offerings, known as "Karmatoons". The only problem presently holding back these projects is a lack of sufficient funds. Any takers? The latest group to hit Toronto from out West (Cal-



In the Spotlight

By DIANA COOK
Canadian Film Makers Labor Under Difficulties
 Eric Handbury came to Canada with his family twelve years ago from New Zealand, where he had been employed as a producer for one of the largest outdoor theatres in the world. Today he is the president and major shareholder of Legendrama Productions Ltd. The company's name is derived from the fact that it originally produced Sound and Light programs dealing largely with the legends of Canada. Since then, the variety of projects has vastly increased. It now covers a wide range of visual and aural techniques, from still photography, multi-images on slides and educational filmstrips to seventy millimetre film. Mr. Handbury, who is a resident of Centre Street West in Richmond Hill is at present working on a film celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the R.N.A.O. Entitled The Story of Nursing, it will be shown next year. Mr. Handbury feels that the situation for Canadian film companies today is a frustrating one. "Film is a multi-billion dollar industry in the States, but in this country very little is being done to encourage developing talent and cinematography." Inflation has worsened the situation, as has American dominance, and a reluctance on the part of the National Film Board to produce new documentaries. Where the cost for producing documentaries used to be written off in taxes, it can no longer. Another major problem is film distribution, as American films predominate in all the major film houses. More government encouragement, as well as a change in our own viewing habits and the disappearance of a national inferiority complex is necessary in order for the Canadian film industry to grow. But though the situation for Canadian film companies may be a critical and at times, frustrating one, Mr. Handbury takes great pleasure in his work. "I have a talent for organization — there is a great deal of organizing involved in being a producer." He also has a wealth of ideas that he hopes will some day be acted upon, given the required amount of financial investment. For example he proposes a theatre which uses multi-dimensional equipment to produce a total sound environment, in which the listener can immerse himself. "He creates his own sets and clothes his own actors, all in his mind's eye."

Letters to the Editors

MRS. KIRBY WAS MISQUOTED
 Dear Mr. Editor — I was seriously disturbed by Mrs. Constance Sharpe's letter in last week's "Liberal" regarding the May 14 meeting of Ward 3 ratepayers. The contents of that letter contain many serious misquotations and inferences on both this ratepayers' organization and on Mrs. June Kirby in particular. I would urge your readers to refer to the story published on Page 1 of the May 22 issue of "The Liberal" for a very accurate report of both the events of that meeting and the tone of the discussion. A large portion of the meeting was spent elaborating on issues relevant to this ward — The Big Pipe, The Future of the Langstaff Jail Farm and Ward 3 Participation on the Parks and Recreation Committee. Mr. Major's name was brought up only when the audience was requested to provide subjects for future meetings. (Prior to publication of Mrs. Sharpe's letter, Mr. Major was asked to attend the June 11 meeting of the ratepayers' group, to act as a panelist on the topic of "local government". He has accepted that invitation.) Never did I hear the quotes Mrs. Sharpe claims — "That Mr. Major's presence would only constrain the ratepayers from speaking out," or "No, Mr. Major's presence would bring politics into the meeting." The correct quotes are very clearly reported in "The Liberal" story as: "I don't think this should be a platform for a councillor," stated Mrs. June Kirby, "If anybody has a question or a complaint they can contact Jack directly. It is my feeling that a politician has enough to do without having to be at all meetings of ratepayers' groups. He has the right to attend as a ratepayer, but I don't think we should expect him to be here at every meeting." In reply to Mrs. Sharpe's comment that she was not informed, I can only say that the meeting notice, in addition to being delivered door to door by volunteers, appeared in "The Liberal" both in "Dates to Remember" and in a separate news story in a different issue. In addition I replied to Mrs. Sharpe's questions at the May ratepayers' meeting regarding not being invited to the steering committee meeting and asked her and anyone else interested in assisting to see the chairman after the meeting. No one from Wenlock Street did volunteer to work on the committee. I will not take up the readers' time arguing point by point on misquotes —

Family Services Appoint Finance Committee Chairman

At the May meeting of Richmond Hill and Thornhill Area Family Services, President John Stevenson introduced Finance Campaign Chairman John Lawlor, pointing out that there is still a pressing funding problem for family services in the region. In the area of education, the parent effectiveness training courses in King were reported to have a full registration, and the transactional analysis course has been completed at Holy Trinity Anglican church in Thornhill. Staff is considering having a PET course during the summer, but time and location have not been established. Tentative plans were made for a growth experience group on all aspects of family services (volunteers, staff, board members, etc.) to get together in a cottage or camping situation. Suggested dates were August 17 and 18 or October 26 and 27. Plans are underway for a couples' weekend in the fall under direction of Dr. David and Vera Mace of the Association for Marriage Enrichment. The York Region Credit Counselling service, an offshoot of the local family services, is now functioning in Richmond Hill under direction of Richard Edmunds. Family services reported 18 new cases, making a total of 84 for the current year. Interested persons were urged to become members, the annual fee is \$3 and life membership is \$100 per person. The fee includes subscription to the family services' newsletter. The next meeting is scheduled for June 20. **STOUFFVILLE:** Despite problems of strikes, threatened strikes, student and parent unrest, John McMurray, Whitechurch-Stouffville Trustee of the York County Board of Education plans to seek re-election for the two-year term of 1975-76.