

Sale of drug use products draws protest

By William Lever

RICHMOND HILL — Like most members of his generation, Jim Osprey, in his 50s, is worried and disgusted by the prevalent use of illicit drugs and its often tragic effect on young lives. And he's trying to do something about it — something more constructive, more honest than the simplistic "blame it on the Stones" attitude of many of his contemporaries.

The object of Osprey's wrath, in this case, is the respectable businessman who caters to and profits from the dealers and users of outlawed drugs. In Richmond Hill, there's one store in particular which has aroused his concern, and which led him to seek action from the press, police, politicians, and the management of Canada's largest shopping centre developer.

The store is the Oriental Bazaar, a bright, attractive Hillcrest Mall shop dealing in arts, crafts and gift items — and in a wide variety of paraphernalia that has no use whatsoever except to facilitate the consumption of illegal, mind-altering drugs.

Osprey, a sales manager who lives

on Elmwood Avenue in the Hill, first noticed the store's display of these items two weeks ago.

"I was shopping in the mall and went into the store looking for a chess set for a birthday present," he says.

"I saw this drug product display and I almost brought up . . . This is a beautiful store and they have enough to sell without having to deal in this stuff.

"Our whole bloody society is pretty sick if they can get away with this."

The fact is, they can get away with it. There's nothing illegal, and there's no prohibition from Hillcrest management, in displaying and selling anything in Oriental Bazaar's seven-foot-wide display case of drug-related products.

Mostly imports, they range from 25-cent smoking papers to elaborate \$34.95 hookah pipes. There's a selection of roach clips, cocaine spoons, vials for liquids, hashish containers, complete smoking kits and pipes disguised as fountain pens.

Upon seeing these products, Osprey expressed his chagrin first to a sales clerk and then to Hillcrest Mall's security chief, Thomas Mackie.

On Sept. 24 Mackie replied to Osprey with a letter stating, in part:

"Your observations have been discussed with Mr. D. H. House, shopping centre manager, who in turn spoke with the owner of Oriental Bazaar. This small chain of stores in the Metro area carries similar items in all its stores and has done so . . . without a single . . . complaint . . ."

"I have discussed this briefly with Staff Inspector Hillock, York Regional Police (who) has primary responsibility (for) police activities involving drug abuse. The staff inspector recognizes that such displays may be sources of equipment for persons who use 'pot' but appreciates, as I do, that a user will get what he requires by whatever means he can . . ."

"The problem is a moral one, involving not the display, possession or sale of the goods, but the misuse. Responsibility for misuse cannot be laid with the display, possession or sale of the goods, but with the person who departs from the normal . . ."

Osprey is perplexed and angry at the tone of the letter. He does agree the

problem is a moral one and it's obvious, he says, whose morals are at issue here.

"How do you misuse a hash pipe or a roach clip?" he asks. There is only one use for it, and that is the normal use."

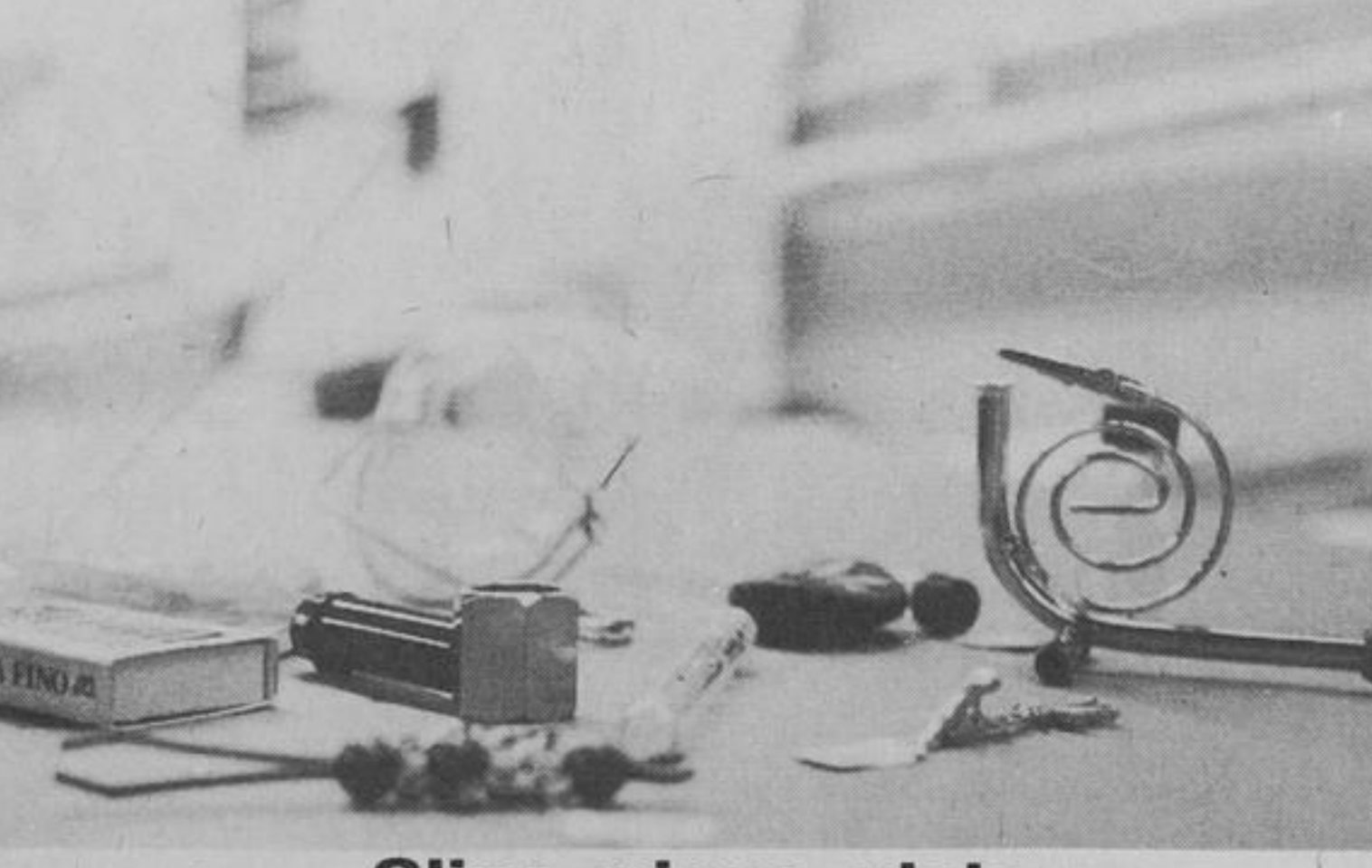
Osprey has written a reply to Mackie's letter, and in it he comments: "I am not a witch hunter, and I am not picking on the Oriental Bazaar per se, but rather all retail outlets who profit from the weakness of others."

"I know full well that, at this time, it is not illegal to sell these items. But there is a responsibility-accountability factor that Cadillac-Fairview Corporation should have for our community. And that is not to share in the profits derived from the sale of these products."

"There is a complete double standard here. It's o.k. for the retailer to sell and make a profit from this drug paraphernalia; however, the purchaser, if stopped by the police with these items in his possession, is an immediate suspect."

Osprey is sending copies of his letter to York North MP Barney Danson, York Centre MPP Alf Stong, Richmond Hill Mayor David Schiller, Regional Councillor Lois Hancey, and to the owners of Hillcrest Mall, Cadillac-Fairview Corporation Ltd.

Someone, he hopes, might do something.



Clips, pipes, vials

Here's just a partial, relatively inexpensive sampling of the array of drug-related paraphernalia currently on sale. The products, including roach clips, vials for liquids, storage jars and pipes, can all be displayed legally. But their only use is for the consumption or storage of drugs that are illegal.



Only one use for this

Richmond Hill resident Jim Osprey displays one of the legally-sold drug use products which have aroused his concern. Osprey spent close to \$20 on a handful of similar products, which he brought to The Liberal and now intends to present to local politicians.

Photographer turned down

One of the owners of Oriental Bazaar, a Mr. O of Mississauga, declined to give The Liberal permission to photograph the display of drug-related products in his store at Hillcrest Mall.

"What is the complaint?" he asked. "We also sell statues of Buddha, and someone who's a Christian might object because of that."

"And we have knives. They are strictly for decoration, but they are very sharp. You could kill people with it."

"If we were selling guns, that would be different."

Richmond Hill Edition

The Liberal

"In Essentials Unity, in Non-Essentials Liberty, in all things Charity"

Established 1878

Wednesday, October 6, 1976

76 Pages

Price 20 cents



Stankiewicz to the rescue

It's standard operating procedure for Richmond Hill Rams' goalie Brian Stankiewicz as he deflects the puck in Sunday night's Provincial Junior A opener at Aurora which saw the Rams winning 8-2. Looking

on is Aurora's Jim Theakston (18) and that's what the Tigers were doing most of the night.

(Photo by Hogg)

'Green belt' an eyesore?

THORNHILL — As the draft plan for the Parkway Belt West now stands, the southern entrance to Richmond Hill will be quite a sight — up to 16 hydro towers, a maze of horizontal wires and most of Langstaff community wiped out by a giant highway.

In its brief to the parkway hearings in Thornhill, Richmond Hill council stated it endorsed the concept of a parkway belt as a green space-urban separator, but was concerned about how it would affect the town.

In addition to requesting a commission to study the need for the proposed Highway 407 and a request that land acquisition prices be based on fair market value and relocation costs for residents, the bulk of the 16-page report was devoted to an argument that the hydro lines go underground.

"The whole question of tower obtrusiveness, aesthetics, conflict with surrounding areas . . . has been recognized for its importance in the past, but we are concerned that official policy still appears to be directed

towards pursuing the least expensive and most unattractive designs," the report said.

"We recognize the need for Ontario Hydro to get on the job; however, the main entrance to Richmond Hill is important and the town should have some say in how it is to be treated," the report continued.

The town plans to try to convince the ministry of treasury, economics and intergovernmental affairs, from whose department the Parkway draft plan originated, that there are long-term merits in including certain lands in the Parkway Belt not now under consideration.

Richmond Hill's goal to maintain community identification cannot be achieved by the present design since most of the belt will be occupied by the proposed Highway 407, hydro lines and remnants of the Langstaff community leaving only the Holy Cross Cemetery and part of that is needed for the hydro corridor, the report said.

"These uses can hardly be classified as urban separators — on paper the belt appears wide, but in reality it is not a parkway belt at all."

The hearings continue at the Thornhill community centre until Oct. 6.

Absent trustee loses his job

RICHMOND HILL — Three strikes as you're out at the York Region Roman Catholic separate school board.

The board has voted unanimously to select a new member to replace Malcolm Massie, trustee from Georgina who according to chairman John McDermott had missed at least four consecutive meetings.

Board policy is that trustees who miss three consecutive meetings without valid reason, must be excused from the board, McDermott said.

"We've reached the stage where we cannot let this go on any longer."

Massie has apparently taken a job with the library board in Orillia and may have moved there, McDermott said.

When contacted by the board after missing his first meeting early in September, Massie said his car broke down, according to McDermott.

Massie was appointed to the board in July 1974 to replace a member who had moved out of the region, he was elected to the Georgina seat in the December election that year.

Massie could not be reached for comment.



Plow champ

Richmond Hill's Ken Brown was first place winner of the International Plowing Match at Walkerton, Ont. last weekend. He's also won the Canadian championship and next year will represent the country at a worldwide plowing competition in Holland. Story, Page C-1.

No stops at rail crossings

RICHMOND HILL — A recommendation that all vehicles be required to stop at unprotected railway crossings was narrowly rejected by town council Monday.

A resolution calling for mandatory complete stops is being circulated to York Region municipalities by the Town of Aurora. On Aug. 31 in Aurora three people were killed in a car-train crash at an unprotected crossing.

Richmond Hill council, in a 4-3 vote, declined to endorse the resolution.

The majority believed such a law would be virtually impossible to enforce and would likely create additional traffic hazards.

"I agree there is a dangerous problem but there must be a better way of dealing with it," said Councillor

Gordon Rowe. "Mandatory stopping would create traffic jam-ups; some people would stop and some wouldn't."

Councillor Mike Burnie thought the proposed law would be "just another problem for the driver."

"As it is now, buses have to stop at all crossings, and it's very easy to run into them . . . With this law, we'd have a situation where one guy stops and the next one doesn't."

Councillor Andre Chateauvert called the proposal "a wide move" and said the feared car pile-ups would be "no problem if you're following at a safe distance like you're supposed to."

"It would be no more difficult to enforce than a stop sign on a street intersection. And I don't mind if it does slow up traffic; people are driving too damn fast anyway."

Councillor Al Duffy: "Driving at 50 m.p.h. with your windows up and the radio going, you certainly can't hear a train coming, and it's often hard to see them. I support the resolution."

Councillor Marylo Graham: "It's the lesser travelled roads where the

problem is, and there's not going to be a line-up of cars. If there were that much traffic, it would be a protected crossing."

Voting against the resolution were Rowe, Burnie, Bill Corcoran and Lois Hancey.

Flu shots available

NEWMARKET — Swine flu shots to people 65 and over, and to adults with chronic ailments, will begin in the next two or three weeks, York Region health commissioner Owen Slingerland said last week.

He said he should be getting limited supplies of the vaccine shortly. It will then be sent to nursing homes, homes for the aged, senior citizens' centres, plus private doctors.

The program is designed to prevent an outbreak of swine flu, which is feared may strike sometime this fall.

The provincial cabinet will meet with federal authorities and decide whether the program will be implemented in Ontario.

Fear has been expressed by some medical experts that worldwide immunization schemes could do more harm than good to younger age groups.



Angel
... in cold storage

Ruth wants Angel's body

RICHMOND HILL — Angel, the 10-year old gorilla owned by Ruth Bowman of 90 Birch Ave., was destroyed last week by the Ontario Humane Society.

The animal is being kept in cold storage, although society chief inspector Don Hepworth would not say where, until completion of an examination of abdomen and stomach tissue.

"That animal was in agony for a long time," Hepworth told The Liberal.

"The animal had a huge gangrenous

wound on its hip, gross eczema from its fingers to its elbows and its breast was absolutely raw."

Court proceedings are pending as Miss Bowman has hired investigators to locate the animal's remains so she can bury it at her Richvale home.

The black mountain gorilla, which Miss Bowman says was toilet trained and ate at her table, was seized from her residence a week ago by the humane society.

She now alleges a "tremendous cover-up" of details surrounding the

animal's death.

"I'm not convinced that the animal died six days later. I think he died in transit. I've not been able to find a single doctor who saw my Angel since he left."

"So far I have not been able to find out where my animal is or when he died," Miss Bowman said.

Miss Bowman said the Royal Ontario Museum requested Angel's skeleton, but according to Hepworth, "the ROM wouldn't touch the animal with a barge pole."

Inside The Liberal

Improving your home

Home improvement is the theme of two special pages this week. See pages C12 and C13.

The York Region fall fashion scene is reflected in pictures and story from fashion shows in Richmond Hill, King, Markham and Vaughan. Pages C4 and C5.

This week's index of news and advertising features is:

Sports	B1-4	Service directory	B5	Editorials	A4
Classified	B9-11	Church directory	C3	Letters	A4
King-Oak Ridges	C1	In the Hill	C2	Vital statistics	B11
Entertainment	C15	Scheduled events	C2	Canadian Tire	ct1-24
Real estate	B6-8	Yesterdays	A5	Kresge's	kr1-8