

**PARENTS, IT'S TEN O'CLOCK
DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOU CHILDREN ARE?**


How often have you heard this tired old phrase? Until I moved to this area I had no idea how pertinent this statement could be. Here we are faced with a generation of thirteen year olds (and up) whose every second word pertains to dope, sex, booze and violence. Here we have a generation of children who believe that hanging around the games room and smoking pot is 'cool'. Here we have a generation of children who treat adults with so little respect that many people dislike and dread dealing with them.

Is it possible that you don't know the truth about your child? If that is so then do me, yourself and your child a favour. Go for a walk one night and see what goes on at the 'in' spots. Go to the show and watch the kids instead of the movie. That strange smell you notice might be worth investigating as well. Go to the Rec Centre. Most kids won't even bother hiding the joints when they see you.

If you don't believe me then try talking to your son or daughter. Your child can't do anything but talk about grass, sex and liquor when away from home, perhaps you can get him/her to talk about it honestly at home.

Where can we put the blame for this sorry state of affairs, or should we even try to place the blame in one place? As far as I'm concerned the problem is due to several causes. One factor is that we live in a small town. Although most adults enjoy small towns the fact is that many youngsters don't. They feel that they should be humoured at all times and that small towns don't provide the proper facilities to keep them entertained. It is up to us to change this attitude. We must show our children that drugs, liquor and sex aren't everything. We have resources at our disposal that millions would give anything for. We and our children must learn how to put these resources to good use. We are not the only small towns in the area. Let's see what they are doing to overcome this problem.

A second factor is education. Education has to play a large role in our children's lives. However teachers can do little unless they know what you, the parent, want. If it becomes necessary to formally outline what we want done in school, not so much subject-wise as attitude-wise, then let's prepare a stringent set of guidelines for the schools to follow. This idea can't be restricted to secondary schools. By the time many children arrive in grade nine they are so set in their ways



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that nothing save a concerted effort by all teachers and all parents will have any effect.

The third and most important factor is YOU. Do you present a good example to your child? Do you exhibit a satisfactory attitude towards liquor, sex, other people and yes, even drugs. It's easy to blame other people and other factors for your child's problems rather than admit to the fact that you yourself are at least partly responsible.

Parents! I can't do anything by myself. It's unlikely that you can do much by yourself. Continued page 4

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