

Examine ear safety of stereo systems

By Dr. Egerton Davis
 There are increasing allegations that loud music from walk-about stereos may damage the ears; but these claims have yet to be substantiated, says Health News, published by the University of Toronto Faculty of Medicine.

Nonetheless, we cannot ignore the possibility that sound from personal stereos can cause deafness in the same way as industrial noise, if loud and persistent enough.

Many now rely on headsets for sonic privacy. Personal stereos provide good quality sound, allow people to enjoy the music of their choice, when and where they wish without disturbing

others, help make working hours more bearable, and relieve loneliness.

There are some indications of music-induced hearing loss among young people. Teenagers often play their portable units at volume settings "7" or "8" to better appreciate the music or drown out unwanted noise.

At such settings the machines produce from 106 to 113dB (decibels), equivalent to a thunderclap, a level that may produce irreversible hearing damage even after half an hour's listening.

Tests done by the Canadian Hearing Society suggest that anyone who listens to a portable cassette/radio player at setting "4" for over and where they wish without disturbing

noise greater than the official "safe" limit established for workers without ear protection. The walk-about radio models tested produced 95 dB of sound around the volume "4" setting - a noise level which although not excessively loud to the hearer, is a level that could impair hearing, according to the Canadian Hearing Society.

Other authorities contest this view, pointing out that the emitted sound of different stations varies in intensity and pitch, making it impossible to categorically fix a definite volume setting which ear damage may occur.

Risk tables show that a 90 dB exposure for eight hours a day, five days a week, leaves 85 per

cent of the population with ears unharmed after 10 years; but about 15 per cent suffer measurable hearing loss. An exposure of 85 dBA for 40 hours a week over a 10 year period leaves 94 per cent of people unharmed, with about six per cent suffering some hearing loss.

Critics condemn the practice of "tuning in" as a growing trend to "TUNE OUT" the rest of the world, as a sign of cultural isolationism that excludes social interaction.

A far greater hazard than hearing loss comes from the outdoor use of walk-about headphones, particularly on busy streets. Joggers and cyclists who plug in may court disaster

by blotting out warning noises such as the hum of a nearby vehicle or an approaching train.

In the summer of 1983, a 17-year old youth walking along railway tracks while wearing headphones was struck and killed by a passenger train. Such a fatality demonstrates all too clearly how portable stereos mask the sounds of an approaching danger.

Undoubtedly walk-about headphones are here to stay - so let's learn to use them sensibly!



Goodwood P.S. students present 'Jungle Book'

'Jungle Book' will come to life on the stage at Goodwood Public School, Thursday and Friday (April 18 and 19). Both shows begin at 8 p.m. Performing the 'tiger chase' scene at a recent dress rehearsal are (left to right): Karen Win-
 terstein (Baloo the Bear); Mark Fine, standing in for Steven Groenveld (Shere Khan); Sandra Magill (Bagheera); and Jessica Dennis (Mowgli).
 —Chris Shanahan

Editor's Mail

Spelling is a problem

Dear Mr Thomas:

I'm always pleased to read stories of a positive nature concerning young people. I'm referring in particular to the Mathematics competition in which students from Stouffville Dist. Secondary School did so well.

Without wanting to sound negative, I wish as much stress, (locally and nationally) was placed on Spelling.

If our education system has a failure, spelling is it. The majority of students today, (elementary and secondary) are failures in this regard, a problem that will plague them all through life.

There's something very wrong with the teaching process during pupils' formative school years with respect to spelling. It's not peculiar to York Region, but province-wide. It's a common complaint with parents everywhere.

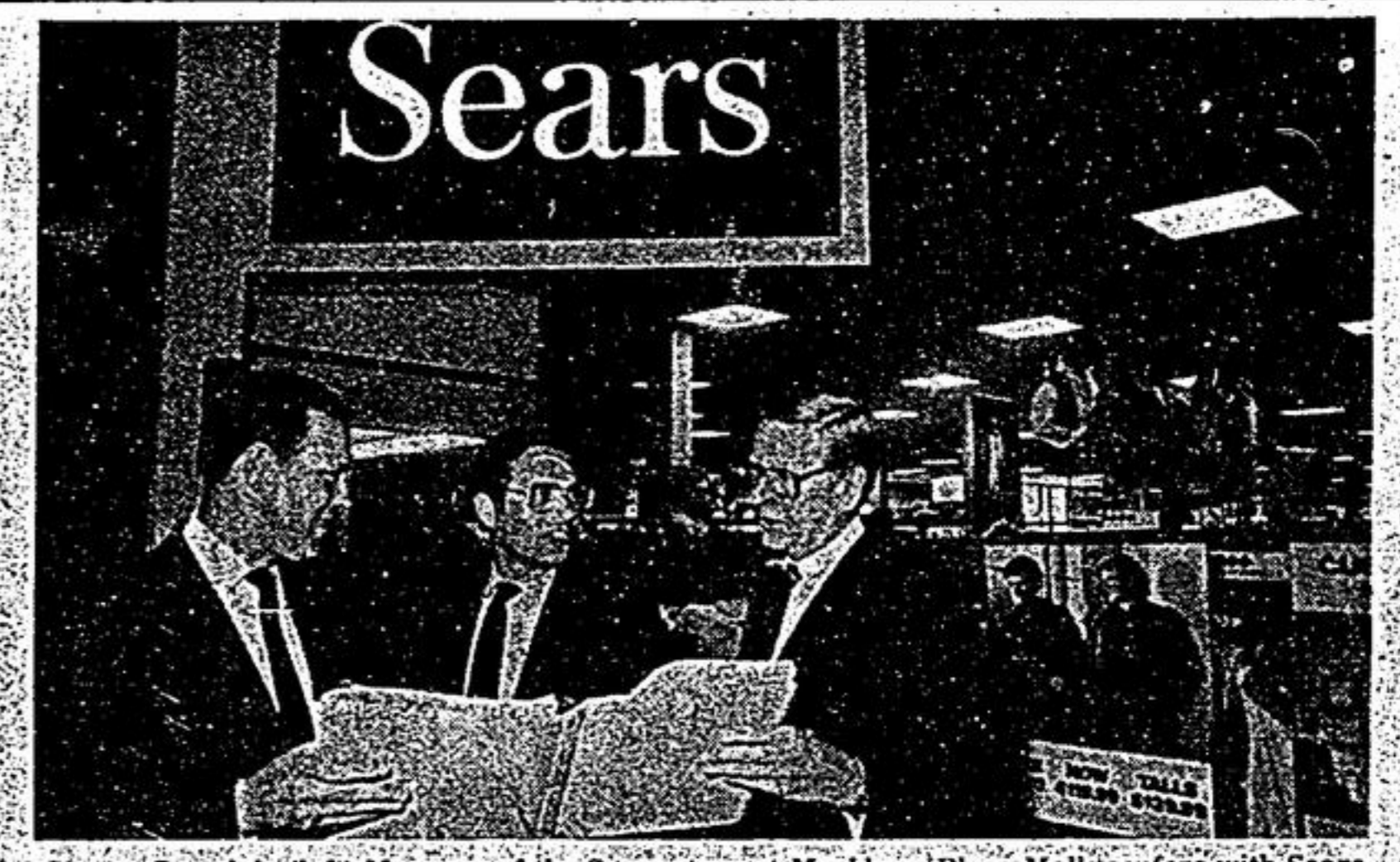
Sincerely,
 Eleanor McCarthy,
 Millard Street,
 CO'S Stouffville



Chamber holds annual meeting

Whitchurch-Stouffville Chamber of Commerce held its annual dinner meeting and election of officers, Monday, at the Regal Restaurant. Members pictured here are, front row, (left to right): Graydon Card,

Ged Stonehouse (returning president), Ann Rae, Donna Toms, Ken Sandiford and Bill Susands. Back row, (left to right): Jim Mason, Jack Chambers, Jean Barclay, Doug Weddel and Gary Bouwmeister.



Sears

George Drysdale (left) Manager of the Sears store at Markham Place Mall, confers with Sears President, Michael Bozic (centre) and Chief Executive Officer Richard Sharpe.

A battalion of Sears store managers and executives from across the country, armed with notebooks and information kits, descended on Square One on the weekend for a long-awaited tour of the new superstore.

Combining every square inch of the 107,000-square foot department store, they had explained to them in detail the retailer's new strategic merchandising concept — a \$220-million bid by Sears Canada Inc. to completely revamp the entire 74-store chain's merchandising apparatus and increase its share of goods and services sold to existing customers.

And the 175 managers and executives attending were notably impressed by what they saw.

Sears chairman and chief executive officer Richard Sharpe said, the re-merchandising effort — nearly two years in the making — combines the successful elements of a tried and tested concept by its Chicago-based parent, Sears, Roebuck and Co., with a made-in-Canada formula that year.

"We've capitalized on merchandise selection by combining the two styles; the U.S. with its successful hardware merchandising and Canada with its clothing," Sharpe said.

"I know the board of directors is going to love it when they see it in a couple of weeks," he adds.

Company president Michael Bozic said the "new" Sears is not a "radical departure, but a major refinement of our merchandising approach."

"Everything has been raked and combed," he said. "But we'll not be satisfied until every line is an action line." With several hundred product lines, Sears has already begun to roll out its most successful to the top 50 volume stores in Canada.

Sharpe said three completely new stores are set to open — in London, Ont., by August; LaSalle, Que., by the fall of 1986; and The Promenades in the Bathurst St. and Hwy. 7 area later that year.

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<p>Process Cheese Food Miracle Food Mart Single Cheese Slices Pkg. of 16/500 g 2.69 Save .30</p>	<p>Coupon Value 1.00/T107 This coupon is worth 1.00 off the 5.99 direct retail price of one case of Regular, Diet or Caffeine Free Pepsi 24/280 mL tins 4.99 WITH THIS COUPON Without coupon you pay 5.99 plus tax. Limit one coupon per family purchase. Coupon valid from Apr. 17 until Apr. 20th.</p>	<p>Clover Leaf Or Gold Seal SOCKEYE SALMON 213-220 g tin 1.99 Save .86</p>	<p>Pork Loin Roasts Rib End 3-4 lb. 2.18 per kg .99 per lb. Limit 3 per family purchase Save 1.10 lb.</p>
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			<p>Macaroni & Cheese Kraft Dinner 225 g box 2.98</p>
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