

**More editor's mail**

**Mothers urge smoking ban**

This is an open letter to Markham Council. Dear Editor:

We have recently viewed the video titled "Smoking Against Your Will". A health educator representing the York Region Medical Officer of Health's office presented the video and lead the discussion on the issue of second-hand smoke.

We as mothers, are concerned with the harmful effects of second-hand smoke; especially, as it pertains to children and unborn children. It is alarming to know that a fetus will stop breathing almost immediately after two inhalations of second-hand smoke by its mother. Second-hand smoke is comprised of smoke from a burning cigarette plus that which is exhaled by the smoker. A single cigarette smoked by the father will cause a fetus to cease breathing for one and a half to two hours. As a result of continuing exposure to second-hand smoke, the baby could possibly be born with a low birth weight — almost as

much as if its mother had been smoking. Toxic substances can be detected, after even short exposure to smokey air, in the blood and breastmilk of non-smokers.

The council's negative response to the proposed by-law amendments brought before council in July 1987 was extremely disappointing.

Even for those of us who have healthy children, Environmental Tobacco Smoke (ETS) is an irritant to the nasal and respiratory passages. For those children with existing respiratory difficulties, the problems are compounded. When walking through a shopping mall these dangers may not immediately effect a healthy child, on the other hand, an asthmatic child may not even enter for fear of an attack. The possible consequences of walking through a mall for any child is the risk of being burnt or even blinded due to a lit cigarette. (A cigarette dangling from a smokers' hand is eye level to a toddler on foot.)

The concentration of ETS in lobbies, bus shelters, hair salons, and barbershops could initiate allergic symptoms. A few examples are as follows: sore watering eyes, production of excess mucous, coughing, sneezing, headaches, and nausea.

An added concern to pregnant women is the constant exposure to ETS in the workplace.

In view of all of the above hazards related to smoking, we encourage council to act accordingly: 1) to view the video "Smoking Against Your Will", and 2) to immediately amend the present by-law to regulate smoking (#190-86) to include shopping malls, bus shelters, hair salons, barbershops, lobbies and the workplace.

We anxiously await Markham's change for a better future today.

Concerned Mothers of Markham  
Tina Marie Bachand,  
Leslie Ann Walker,  
Tami Noget.

**Woman fights purse snatcher**

A Markham woman struggled with a purse snatcher at her Dudley Ave. home Wednesday night before he wrested away her purse and fled on foot.

Police are looking for a suspect

described as an Oriental male, stocky, with dark wavy hair. He was wearing a thin grey nylon stocking over his head and a dark blue ski jacket at the time of the theft.

**VCR rentals never returned**

A 25-year-old Don Mills man was charged with two counts of theft after two VCR rentals were never returned to a Markham video store, police said.

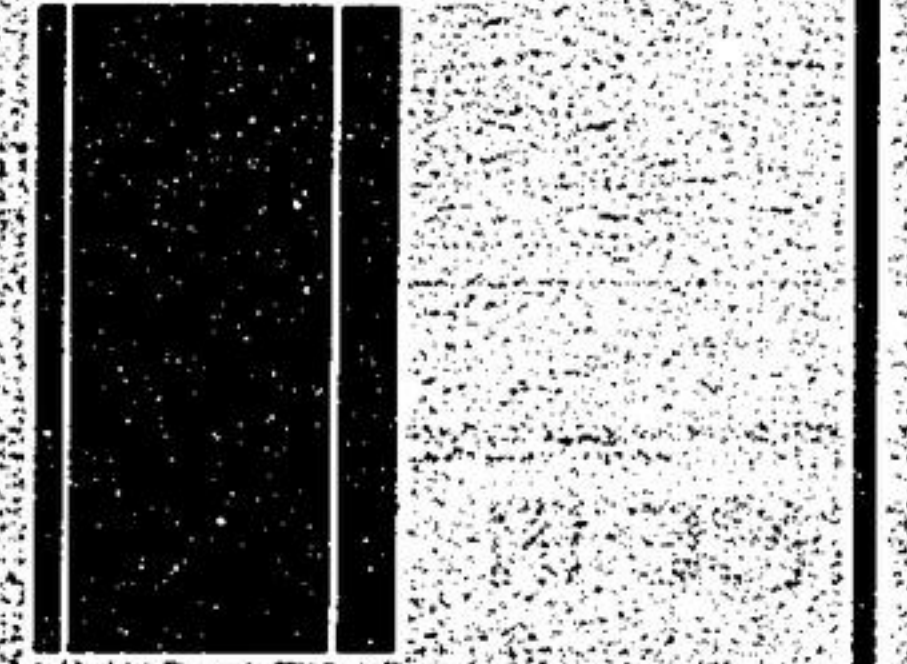
According to police reports, the

machines were rented from Video Pix on John St. on two separate occasions in September. Police recovered the VCRs, worth an estimated \$1,200.

**Man charged over threats**

Police charged a 48-year-old Unionville man with uttering threats last Monday.

Police said a man made repeated calls to a relative in Concord, threatening his life and property.



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