

A judge gambles on Michael Hickey

Can a leopard change his spots? Can a 31-year-old man given to a life marred over the past few years with break-ins and over-indulgence in alcohol turn it all around with one act of faith?

That's the question raised by County Court Judge E. Richard Lovekin, who risked the wrath of public opinion last week and gave a suspended sentence to a man accused of stealing \$2,700 worth of furs and stereo equipment from a Homark Avenue home in Mississauga last February.

Judge Lovekin, who said he had no compunctions about putting "bad apples" in jail — "and throwing away the key" decided to take a "gamble" on Michael Hickey, and place him on three years' probation "on the fond hope of experts" that he was salvageable.

Hickey, who perhaps had never

before in his life witnessed such a show of support, wiped away a tear of gratitude.

"This is a critical turning point in your life," Judge Lovekin said. "If



Connie Rae

you don't make it now, you never will; you'll be a social wash-out for the rest of your life."

"I'm not given to sloppy sentimentality," Judge Lovekin said, "but I'm impressed by the number of people

who came forward to offer support."

During his 10 months in jail at Milton and Metro West Detention Centre awaiting trial, Hickey defended a prison guard against hostile action from other inmates.

"This was a courageous thing to do, and gives me reason to believe there is some hope for you," the judge said.

Psychiatric reports showed no evidence of psychotic or dangerous behavior, and prison officials felt jail would serve no purpose for the man who had been in trouble with the law on several occasions, and still faces charges in Toronto.

Social worker Ruth Morris told the court that as a member of the volunteer program for the Quaker Committee on Jails and Justice she came to know Hickey in prison after he requested help.

Morris had so much faith in Hickey that she has arranged for Hickey to stay with her, her sociologist husband and their four children upon his release.

The man has pleaded guilty and is willing to admit that he made a mistake, Judge Lovekin said, thus saving the taxpayer from a costly jury trial.

"I have no sympathy for your alcohol problem; if you want to stop, you can," Judge Lovekin said. Hickey is required to seek help as part of his probation.

Judge Lovekin made it clear that he does not regard break and enter as a petty crime.

"By ransacking a home, you have declared war on society."

"If a bunch of idiots are allowed to run around ransacking homes, then we have anarchy, and an angry public

would take the law into its own hands and blow someone's head off. The crime cannot be tolerated, but by going to the aid of the guard, you have indicated that you are willing to change sides; and if there's one chance in ten you can be rehabilitated, we should take the chance.

"But the ball is squarely in your court," he warned. "If you don't make it this time, you're cooked."

A stunned Crown Attorney was too speechless to comment, but a jubilant Ruth Morris, in response to my rather skeptical, "I hope he makes it," scribbled these words on a piece of paper, and handed it to me, smiling.

"An act of love that fails is as much a part of the divine process as an act of love which succeeds."

I hope he makes it.

Tennessee Williams
Summer and Smoke
directed by Gerry Pearson

Humber College
Humber Theatre
Highway 27 & Finch
January 17 - 27
box office 675-3111
ext. 354

Olde Wood Stove Shoppe

Presenting the friendly warmth of Canadian-made stoves.

Guck stoves
Made from 1/4"x3/8" steel plate with lifetime workmanship guarantee, holds a fire at least 12 hours.

• Franklins • Farmers • carners & others
• Accessories • Firewood

3444 Lakeshore Blvd. W.
at 30th St., Long Branch 251-8683

daniadown
Continental Quilts - Duvet

Keep cozy warm this Winter under a traditional European down quilt made for today's modern living by Daniadown. Filled with your choice of luxurious eiderdown, natural down or dacron and covered with 100% cotton cambric ticking. Just turn and shake to make. Covers and accessories available in easy care cotton from a wide range of Daniadown designs. The ideal gift. Ask about our drape and quilt recover service. Drop in and see for yourself or send for our colour brochure.

daniadown quilts ltd.
Vancouver, B.C.
10 years of Quality and Service

"Just E. of Kipling"
5114 Dundas St. W.
Islington, Ont.
Ph - 233-8505

Check that ice

Last weekend's rain and the ensuing bitter cold have provided acres of ice surface in this area, but children should not be allowed to skate on these areas until ice-depth is checked, the Credit Valley Conservation Authority warns.

Water levels drop from underneath the ice and currents wear away the river ice.

The Times
All the news you need every week

PERMANENT HAIR REMOVAL
QUALIFIED ELECTROLOGIST
20 Yrs. EXPERIENCE
Complimentary consultation
JEAN WATERWORTH
PEEL ELECTROLYSIS CLINIC
271-0333

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND OTHERS
In the estate of DONALD PETER HICKEY, late of the City of Mississauga, in the Regional Municipality of Peel, Letter Carrier, deceased.

All persons having claims against the estate of DONALD PETER HICKEY, late of the City of Mississauga, in the Regional Municipality of Peel, Letter Carrier, deceased, who died on or about the 16th day of July, 1978, are hereby notified to send particulars of same to the undersigned on or before the 28th day of February, 1979, after which date the estate will be distributed, with regard only to the claims of which the undersigned shall then have notice.

DATED at Mississauga, this 5th day of January, 1979.
JOHN CHESTER HICKEY
Administrator

By his Solicitors
T. LEIGHROY GERHART
Barrister & Solicitor
1651 Lakeshore Rd. W.
Mississauga, Ontario

Don't be left out in the cold, play RACQUETBALL

THE NEW GAME IN TOWN!

OPEN HOUSE THIS SATURDAY & SUNDAY
10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

DROP IN AND TRY A COMPLIMENTARY GAME
IN CANADA'S LARGEST AND MOST LUXURIOUS RACQUETBALL CLUB

START A HEALTHY NEW LIFESTYLE
BY JOINING A LADIES' MORNING & AFTERNOON KEEP FIT CLASS

• Free Introductory Clinics • Supervised Pre-School Care at no charge • Juice Bar • Cocktail Lounge • Universal Gym • Pro-Shop • Saunas • Fitness Programs • Organized League Play

CALL 842-2366
AIDENLEA RACQUETBALL
474 Inglewood Shore Road, Oakville
(Just East of the Holiday Inn)

CUSTOM FRAMES
OILS & PRINTS
TOPIC PICTURE FRAMES
274 LAKESHORE RD. E.
PORT CREDIT
274-4685
CUSTOM PICTURE FRAMING FOR 30 YRS.

NOW OPEN

Come in and see us
or phone us at **279-8554**
for further information

Meadowcroft Place
for gracious retirement living
3051 Constitution Blvd.,
Mississauga
(off Dundas, west of Dixie)

Carrier
HEAT PUMPS
Save Money
for more information phone: **822-0933**
A-1 AIR CONDITIONING
OPERATED BY MESSENGER MECH. INC.