

From: doctorspooner  
Sent: 10 January 2006 15:59  
To: Alan Shearman  
Subject: acquisition of Ottakar`s

Dear Mr. Shearman,

I should like to oppose the take-over of Ottakar`s.

We now have the minimum of non-monopoly outlets for books of individual character and distinctiveness. Much of this of course has to do with the economics of bookselling which has forced out of business many small bookshops which cannot compete on the level of price. But Ottakar`s has continued to overcome this deficiency by encouraging and considering the sale of locally written books, and books from publishers outside the mainstream.

Even Waterstone`s which began promisingly has lapsed into bland presentations of the big brand names. There is a true crisis in the narrowing of choice which Ottakar`s overcomes.

Please reject this acquisition.

Yours sincerely,  
Dr. David Spooner  
awarded the Congressional Medal for Literature  
author of 7 books