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ere, 15.
LaRoche said police have asked him whether he believes in Satanism because of a tattoo on his right shoulder. It depicts a pentacle, a five-pointed star in a circle, associated with the occult.

"They think I'm some kind of devil worshipper. I can't believe it, but I guess they have to check everything out," he said, adding he does not believe in the occult.

"It's my little boy; he's gone forever, that's what it's all about."

He said his girlfriend is better after spending three days in Hotel Dieu hospital, where she underwent a psychiatric assessment.

Souliere just wants to get through the funeral and keep it private, said Patrick Ducharme, a Windsor lawyer retained by the mother last night.

"I think she's young, and I think it's hard for her to cope," he said.

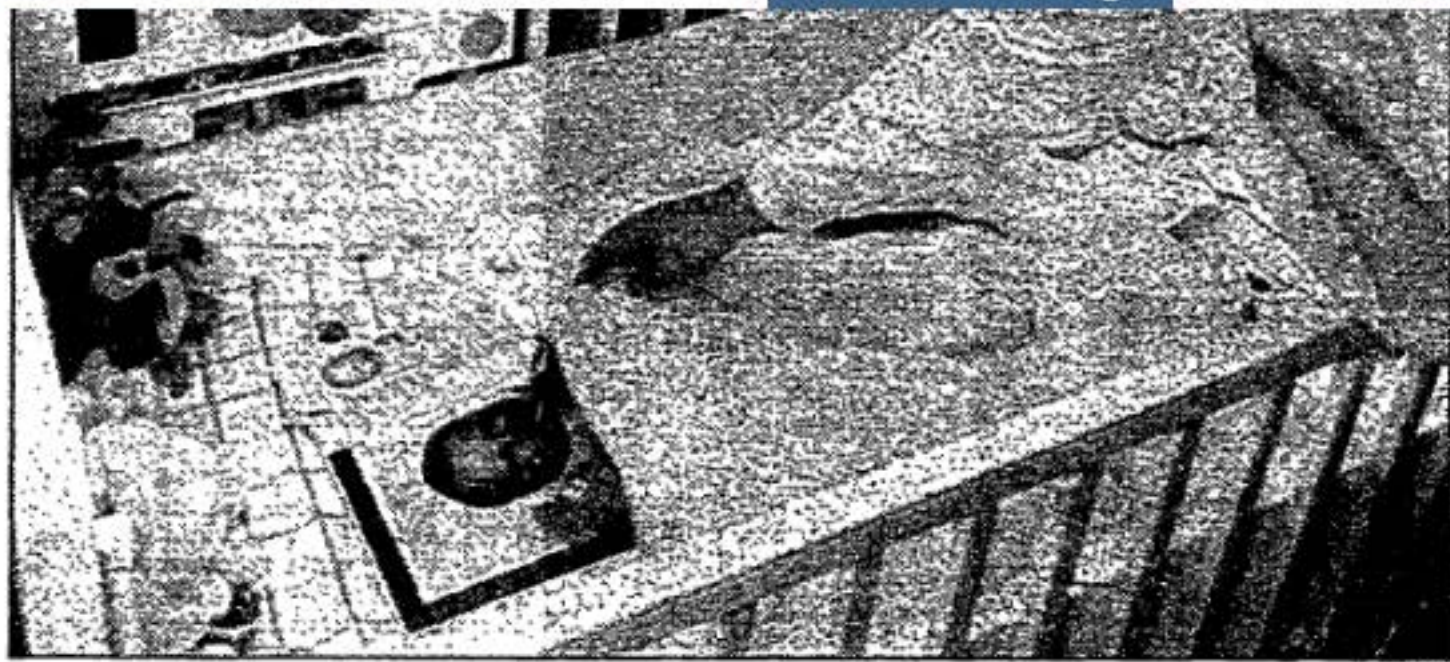
Ducharme said he spent only an hour with her last night but she seemed to be handling things as well as could be expected.

Souliere retained him as her lawyer on the advice of the couple's lawyer, Michael O'Hearn.

"Police have been discussing matters with her separately from her common-law husband," Ducharme said.

He said he's available for her if she needs him but they have no further plans to meet.

"I don't think there is any great



BABY SHRINE: Raymond LaRoche tucks a photo of dead son Raymond Jr. into the baby's crib at his Windsor home yesterday. On the photo is a rubber pacifier.

rush for her to meet with me," he said.

LaRoche has assembled a shrine in his third-floor apartment to his son, Canadian Press reports.

Along with photographs of the infant, including one in a cardboard frame, he has placed the baby's soother, blanket, stuffed animals and other toys in his crib.

The infant's body was found by fishermen in the Detroit River last

Thursday, just 3.2 kilometres (two miles) from the Peter St. apartment. The boy's parents had reported him missing Tuesday.

They said they left the sleeping baby alone for 30 minutes in their apartment while they did their laundry. When they returned, he was gone.

Windsor police broke up an angry crowd outside the couple's apartment Thursday night, when it was first reported the baby's

body was found. Many among the about 150 people wanted the young couple punished.

Windsor police are refusing to release the results of an autopsy performed on the baby because they say it would hinder the investigation. The autopsy may reveal the cause and time of death.

"What's the big deal about releasing the autopsy to everyone?" LaRoche said.

Needy call Peterson over food banks crisis

By Bill Taylor and Heidi Modro
TORONTO STAR

Needy people are calling Premier David Peterson's office to try to ask him for food.

Richard Yampolsky, executive director of FoodShare Metro Toronto, hopes the trickle of calls will turn into a flood and that some callers reach Peterson himself to tell him about the crisis food banks face.

A Scarborough food bank, for example, has been forced to shut its doors one day a week because it can't keep up with demand.

"It's time the Premier and his staff heard the heartbreaking

stories we struggle to respond to on a daily basis," Yampolsky said.

"There are thousands of people needing help every day and we want him to hear from them."

Callers to FoodShare's hotline are given Peterson's office number as well as the names of local food banks.

About 45 callers had been given the number since Monday, Yampolsky said.

Peterson office receptionists had picked up the phone "a few times" to people seeking help, spokesperson Rose Cino said.

"They're taking down the comments and they'll be brought to the Premier's attention and to the ministry in question," Cino said. "We are taking notice of them."

Yampolsky said: "Our phone is ringing off the hook and most of the time we can't help the callers because the food banks in their areas have run out of food or have actually closed.

"This is partly due to the Premier's premature slashing of . . . funding to food agencies."

Peterson's government brought in minor welfare reforms last fall in "a token response" to the crisis, Yampolsky said.

The Scarborough food bank that has been forced to close one day a week is "barely making it right now," a spokesperson said.

Meanwhile, North York secondary schools have launched a food drive until Aug. 9. The following schools have drop-off points between 9 a.m. and noon: A. Y. Jackson, Downsview, Georges Vanier, Victoria Park, Don Mills, Bathurst Heights, Emery, Northview Heights and Westview Centennial.

Gay workers' partners get benefits at Hydro

Toronto Hydro is extending health benefits to homosexual employees and their partners on the family plan.

The move gives homosexuals the same rights to health coverage for their partners as it does for heterosexuals and their common-law spouses.

Although the policy change was just announced, it was approved and enacted by the Toronto Hydro Commission on Feb. 3.

The decision entitles homosexual employees to family coverage for company medical, dental and extended hospital benefits.

The Toronto Library Board has been offering similar coverage for the past several years, said Rhoda Beecher, Hydro manager of employment services.

Employees are not required to prove that the person with whom they live is actually their lover.

"There is no test, either for heterosexuals or homosexuals," Beecher said. "We have absolutely no way to check nor would we want to."

The commission decided to make the change because it "would be discriminatory not to," spokesperson Blair Peberdy said.

Cab driver dies in hospital after being beaten with bat

A man who was hit on the head repeatedly with a baseball bat died last night in hospital.

Police have identified the victim as Leo Henningham, 35, of Chalkfarm Drive in North York.

Henningham, an independent cab driver, was attacked after an argument over a customer Monday evening. Independent cab drivers are not licensed and operate illegally.

The argument took place at about 6 p.m. in the parking lot of Knob Hill Farms on Weston Rd., police said.

Two men were vying for the same customer when one of them took a baseball bat from his car and began hitting the other, police said.

The attacker then fled in his car.

George Tanev, the store's general manager, said he rushed outside when an employee told him of the incident.

Jude Lester Prince, 32, of Eglinton Ave. W. has been charged with aggravated assault.

Police burned files, Polish paper claims

WARSAW (Reuter) — Poland's military police have destroyed thousands of secret files in a huge coverup since Solidarity took power last year, a newspaper said yesterday.

The Solidarity daily Gazeta Wyborcza said that since November, 1989, the military police burned and shredded nearly 40,000 files on its operations since 1945.

record of persecuting Jews, the case made history as soon as the judge called Konstantin Smirnov-Ostashvili, 64, to the dock.

It went downhill from there. Spectators argued with one another in the aisles and complained they could not hear.

Camera crews and correspondents overran the cramped trial space.

Smirnov-Ostashvili tried to fire his lawyer. He claimed that more than two-thirds of Moscow's lawyers are Jewish and that he deserves an unbiased attorney from abroad, preferably from Norway, Sweden, Finland or West Germany.

Dozens of supporters applauded as he gave a spirited rendition of his search for an attorney and his conclusion: "They're all in it."

Smirnov-Ostashvili then concluded by demanding the expulsion of the "leftist-extremist press" from the courtroom.

'Everything looks chaotic in the Soviet Union today'

Judge Andrei Muradov denied Smirnov's requests and ordered the trial to proceed. Unable to move partisans from the aisles, however, he adjourned the case until today.

Moscow writer Yuri Ryashensev saw the result as an unhappy symbol of "hopelessness, both civic and social."

Writer Oleg Fainstein said, "It looks chaotic because everything looks chaotic in the Soviet Union today."

Soviet Jews and progressive Muscovites hope that the case will make clear the government's disapproval of anti-Semitic attacks, verbal and otherwise.

"I hope anti-Semitism, which so far has been denied to exist at all, will at least be acknowledged," Fainstein, 32, said. "It will set a precedent."

Jews in the Soviet Union's major cities have been complaining for more than a

the Pravda article, written by a Soviet historian, identified Pamyat and others as extremist groups.

'Jews are being blamed for killing the czar'

"Jews are being blamed for killing the czar's family and the Stalinist repressions, the forced collectivization, the corruption of the national culture and the destruction of the environment," the article said.

Smirnov-Ostashvili, who carried a bullhorn into a January meeting at Moscow's House of Writers, said he was provoked into shouting anti-Semitic slogans. He said he was carrying the bullhorn for use at another rally.

He was one of dozens of Russian nationalists who interrupted the meeting with catcalls. There was a scuffle. Police were called. After an investigation that filled 11 volumes, Smirnov-Ostashvili was charged with incitement and with disseminating anti-Semitic propaganda.

"I support him because he fights for Russia," said Liliya Vogoroditskaya, 58, who quietly took a seat in Courtroom 57 yesterday. "He's fighting against Zionism and this is important."

'It's a human right to say what one thinks'

"The media is in their hands," she said, referring to Jews. "The television, the radio, the press. Culture and art, too. You won't find one worker among them, not in any factory or any village. The people I know feel the same way I do."

Outside the courthouse, on Kalanchevskaya St., another supporter from a nationalist fringe group maintained that the incident at the writers' union should be considered an issue of free speech.

"It's a human right to say what one thinks, but now they're trying to do away with somebody who openly expressed his views," said Aleksandr Kulakov.

KNIGHT-RIDDER NEWS SERVICE

CORRECTIONS

Housing comment not direct quotes

An article on July 19 placed in quotation marks some statements that were not direct quotes from Peter Moon, a co-op housing resident.

The Star regrets the error.

MPP not member of beach group

A report on July 13 incorrectly included MPP Donald Cousens (PC—Markham) in the Rowntree Beach Association, whose members won an injunction giving them control of a strip of Georgian Bay waterfront.

The Star regrets the error.

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