

on that could have got the bars sooner.

No. We're not talking about fiction here. The families of the victims suffer deep and profound and permanent grief as it is. The idea of someone making a movie and thus gaining financially is thoroughly repugnant.

No. The only value it would have is to show us how utterly depraved and materialistic and sick-minded some individuals could be.

No. The three families that have lost daughters to those maniacs have suffered too much already. It is both cruel and selfish to want a make a film on it.

YES OR NO

A very good young baseball player has just signed a contract with a major league team that will pay him a record \$252 million (about \$380 million Cdn.) over 10 years. With due respect to professional athletes' famous entertainers and top executives (with salaries, bonuses and stock options) who are the best in the world at what they do...

Are some jobs worth millions of dollars in pay?

Dial (416) 868-3900 with your yes or no by 10 a.m. tomorrow. Results on Tuesday. This is an informal survey, not a scientific opinion poll, to gather readers' views on issues of the day.

CALENDAR

Events: Queen Victoria's beloved husband Albert dies, 1861; Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen and four companions become first to arrive at South Pole, 1911; British women vote in national elections for first time, 1918; U.S. Mariner II satellite sends first close-up pictures of planet Venus back to Earth, 1962; Israel formally annexes Golan Heights captured in 1967 War, 1981.

Birthdates: French astrologer Michel de Nostredame (Nostradamus), 1503; Danish astronomer Tycho Brahe, 1546; George VI, 1895.

You Asked Us runs Tuesday through Friday. Call (416) 868-3900 to record your questions and comments.

TODAY'S BLOOD DONOR CLINICS

- Manulife Centre, 2nd floor, 55 Bloor St. W., Toronto, by appointment, 12-7 p.m.
- Royal Bank Plaza, Merchants Mall level, 200 Bay St., Toronto, by appointment, 7:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
- Toronto Blood Centre, 67 College St., main floor, Toronto, by appointment, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- Acton Legion Hall, 15 Wright Ave., Acton, 4-8 p.m.
- Square One, Health Court, lower level, 100 City Centre Dr., Mississauga, by appointment, 4-8 p.m.
- Newmarket Community Centre, 221 Cedar St., Newmarket, 12:30-8 p.m.

For appointments, call (416) 974-9911. For more information, call (416) 974-9900.

ON THE AIR: Toronto police Chief Julian Fantino gets a salute from Officer Pat Troll, the force's mascot, yesterday while launching a closed-circuit broadcast for schoolchildren.

The Police Show hits the air

Program promotes safety to students

BY CAL MILLAR
STAFF REPORTER

Technology is replacing the police officer who comes into the classroom to deliver safety messages to children.

Toronto police unveiled a pilot project, known as The Police Show, that allows an officer to broadcast safety messages to a number of schools on closed-circuit television.

circuit television.

"This is the first of its kind in North America," Chief Julian Fantino said yesterday at police headquarters. The goal is to have a network set up across all schools, he said.

Broadcasting from a studio in the College St. police building, Constable Sylvie Guay delivered messages to Grade 3 students at 12 Catholic schools, on topics ranging from pedestrian safety to drinking and driving.

Toronto police teamed up with the Toronto Catholic District

School Board and Rogers Cable to develop the show as a pilot project to measure the effectiveness of delivering messages to students through television broadcasts.

Fantino said they want to see how Toronto's police service can educate children on various issues to ensure their safety.

Police made arrangements with Rogers Cable for the equipment.

After the broadcast, Guay said there were a few glitches but thinks the students attending the live broadcast got the messages she was giving.

Public complaints sparked study

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searched. Some even suggested police officers enjoyed the practice.

Officers also had their say, telling the police board they took no joy in searching suspects, many of whom were drug addicts, prostitutes or people living on the streets.

In the report to be tabled at today's police board meeting, the force will tell the board the service should no longer collect strip-search data because it is costly and time-consuming, and their own study shows that the practice does not generate a huge number of complaints.

The force estimated the cost of capturing data concerning strip searches at almost \$160,000 a year, given that the force makes about 65,000 arrests annually.

"When all the factors are examined, the collection of statistics on complete search(es) does not benefit either the public or the service," the report states.

When the strip-search controversy erupted in late 1998, after several high-profile complaints about the force's use of the practice, former city councillor Judy Sgro was vice-chair of the board.

She and former board member Jeff Lyons spearheaded a move to reform police policy on strip searches, including a better accounting of the number of full searches carried out.

Several of the 1998 board members have left, however, and today two city councillors — Gloria Lindsay Luby (Etobicoke Centre) and Bas Balkisson (Scarborough-Rouge River) — will be sworn in.

One of their first acts as new board members will be to deal with the force's request to discontinue collecting strip-search statistics.

Norm Gardner, chair of the police board, said yesterday he will ask Chief Julian Fantino to at least periodically track strip searches by officers, much as they did during the six weeks earlier this year.

"He can work out his own time frame and do it a couple of times a year, and I think that should satisfy the public," Gardner said. "We should have some sort of tracking system to see what's going on."

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School closed due to cuts lauded for improving city

21 organizations, people honoured for contributions

A Toronto school closed by the board during recent cost-cutting exercises was among 21 organizations and people honoured by the city last night for making Toronto a better place to live.

Hughes Public School, which was established in 1912 in honour of James L. Hughes, the father of kindergarten programs in Canada, was honoured by the Toronto Millennium Stars Award for organizing a reunion last May of staff and students after the closing was announced.

As part of millennial celebrations, the awards at city hall were given out to local groups who gave their gifts, time, talent and energy to build strong communities.

"It's bittersweet because it brings back the sadness about the closing, but it also highlights what we did was right, honourable and best for the kids," said Leslie Moody, former principal of Hughes school.

Moody said she accepted the award on behalf of the community that fought for the school and made the reunion possible.

Other winners were:
■ Mara Cole and her children

Evan, 9, Darren, 6, and Griffin, 3, for collecting \$60,000 for needy children. The money was spent on items such as 1,000 knapsacks, clothing, toothbrushes, snacks and school supplies.

■ The Elspeth Heyworth Centre for Women, for a day-long International Women's Day celebration.

■ Swansea Millennium Playground Committee, for buying new playground equipment.

■ Toronto District School Board, for an oral history project that involved interviewing former staff.

■ Dublin Heights Elementary and Middle School, for creating a wall mural about global citizenship.

■ 508th Brownie Unit, for various activities throughout the year focusing on environmental, health and social projects.

■ Jones Avenue Adult New Canadian Centre, for building a small park in the school's schoolyard.

■ Canadian Women's March Committee and Low Income Families Together, for mobilizing women to attend the World March of Women, and raising awareness about women's issues.

■ Foodshare Toronto, for encouraging the community garden movement.

■ Waterfront Trail Artists, for making over 2,000 replicas in papier mâché and origami of

the extinct passenger pigeon, and raising awareness on other environmental issues.

■ Jackman Avenue Junior Public School, for building a community learning garden.

■ Dovercourt Boys and Girls Club, for organizing an all-day ball hockey tournament which allowed kids from across the city to meet.

■ McMurrich Junior Public School, for an art project about what children would like the future to hold.

■ First Night Toronto, for organizing an alcohol-free festival to ring in the new year.

■ South Riverdale Lives and Legends, for organizing a community event involving oral history, community theatre, walking tours and a Web site.

■ The Concerned Kids Charity of Toronto, for organizing an interactive puppet program to discuss issues of grief, death and bereavement.

■ Foodshare Toronto, for its six-month long program to train and educate at-risk youth for careers in the food industry.

■ Youth 2 Work, for a project to help youth with developmental disabilities plan their careers and improve their work experience and skills development.

■ Metro Network for Social Justice, for organizing Youth Activist Fair, where anti-racism, popular theatre, direct action and non-violence were discussed.