

School board refers sex to education minister

Is sex really necessary? That is, is it really necessary to provide graphic comment on its mysteries by way of films in the schools?

That was the problem pondered by York Board of Education Monday, and is one of the questions it will ask the minister of education.

The resolution to do so was moved by Trustee Donald Cameron of Vaughan, who was commenting on TV Ontario's plans to produce a series of programs on sex for showing in the schools.

The educational network plans to start the series in January and, according to newspaper reports, promises "new insights into common sexual themes such as impotence and pornography."

It was further reported that, while male and female sex organs will be displayed, films of actual intercourse won't be included.

Each program will be 25 minutes long, and will be followed by a phone-in discussion with the show's hosts and a panel of "experts."

Parent problems
Dr. Stuart Smith, co-host of the show with writer June Callwood, said they wanted to save the present generation "from the enormous sexual problems their parents had."

Smith, a psychiatrist, who conducts a sexual therapy clinic at McMaster University, said these included marital breakdowns and the lack of communication between sex partners.

He said there would be nothing titillating or sexually exciting about the material.

Trustee Donald Cameron of Vaughan said he supported sex education in the schools if it covered a valid educational area.

However, he had done

some research into the new program and found some of the problems covered applied to a limited number of people.

"I don't appreciate TV Ontario's attempts to lend respectability to sex programs by having them in the schools," he said.

The board should assure itself that the programs will have some educational value "and that the system is not being manipulated by TV Ontario in an effort to secure a greater TV audience."

Cameron said the trustees should seek the answers to several things. What moral values will the shows have? How would homosexuality come across? Would it be condoned or frowned upon? What position would the board take on

the issue?

In the matter of sex without commitment, how would the board stand on that?

Family life
Cameron said he thought TV Ontario would be farther ahead if it spent time on family life problems instead of its proposed sex series.

The board should be opposed to TV Ontario using sex sensationally, he said. Also, how would the programs help the children's attitude toward sex?

"If we accept this (program) without any foreknowledge, we're letting everyone down," Cameron said.

Trustees haven't been invited to see the programs beforehand, but there will be advance press coverage.

Mixed reactions
Trustee Dorothy Zajac of King, said it was "interesting that we're finally going to see something that we're talking about."

Said Trustee Robert Houghton of Richmond Hill: "If we start to look at every program, I think we're out of our realm."

Markham Trustee Dorothy Quirk said she felt that, as TV Ontario was financed by the government, it competed with local school boards for education dollars. As a result, she would like to know what the programs were all about.

Mrs. Quirk suggested two amendments to Cameron's first recommendation. Where it called for the board to seek an opinion from the education minister on the

need for the series, "their real educational value, if any, and their potential value for use in classroom instruction, she asked that the words Real and if any, be deleted."

Cameron's second motion called for the board to write TV Ontario requesting representation from the values education committee of the board be among those selected to assist in evaluating the first three programs before they are shown to the public.

The board approved both motions, complete with amendments.

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Police blotter shows series of break-ins

York Regional Police reported a series of break-ins in homes and business places in the southern part of the region in the past week.

One of the biggest hauls occurred in separate thefts at two business places on Guardsman Road in Thornhill, Sept. 4, where the thieves also added insult to injury.

Police said a power saw and extension cord stolen from Donaldson and Barron Limited, 27 Guardsman Road were used to break into Williams Communications Limited at No. 33. There, a quantity of radio equipment, valued at \$11,290, was taken.

Another big theft occurred at Shiretown Fish Market, Rayette Road,

Concord.
Taken were a large quantity of sea food, plus a 23 cubic foot freezer, with a total value of \$3,000.

Furniture theft
Heaviest hit in Richmond Hill was a home and storage shed, owned by Darlene Cowan, Garden Avenue, on Zelda Crescent.

Stolen were a bedroom suite, plus some other articles of furniture, valued at \$1,800.

Other Richmond Hill thefts: John Heppell, Carrville Road, reported the loss of a 30-30 rifle, a stereo and three imitation pistols in break-in at his home; Paul Nyman, Pearson Avenue, reported the theft of two antique trunks from his

garage; Van Bots Construction Company, Scarborough, had \$750 worth of construction equipment taken from a work site on Major Mackenzie Drive, Sept. 3.

Thornhill thefts
Other thefts reported in Thornhill break-ins: Peter Hanly, Yonge Street, a mobile phone and four credit cards, taken from his car while it was parked in an underground garage at his residence.

Lee Cole, Elgin Street, reported the theft of a vacuum cleaner, floor polisher and assorted clothing from his car by someone who slashed the convertible roof to get the articles; Tractor and Equipment Rentals, Old Highway 7, lost a \$250 rug to thieves.

A chesterfield, love seat and chair, valued at \$1,000, were taken from Yonge Steeles Investments Limited, Steeles Avenue.

Taken from the rear of the premises at 7480 Yonge Street, was a \$1,200 snow plow, belonging to Donald Whitney, Woodward Avenue.

Joan Jewett, Vallencliff Road, reported her dwelling ransacked and \$40 in cash taken.

Charles Stocking, Thornbank Road, reported a similar occurrence at his residence, but it was not known what was taken.

Markham theft
In Markham, John Webster, Concession 9, lost a quantity of stereo equipment, valued at \$300, in a break-in at his home.

There were also some mischief makers about.

In Concord, eight trucks belonging to Luciano Pupolin, Highway 7, had their gas tanks filled with sugar.

Damage was estimated at \$800.

Jean Wise, Martin Drive, King City, reported theft of her wallet, containing \$75, in a break-in at her home Sept. 4 or 5.

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