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Degradation of teenage girl worst in judge's experience

By BRUCE STAPLEY
CLAREMONT — "In all my years as judge, I've never heard a case where one human being has been so degraded."

So commented Judge Donald Dodds, Friday, in sentencing seven Claremont area teens to terms of from one to 15 months in youth detention centres for their

part in the beating of a 16-year-old girl following a house party last January.

The seven had earlier pleaded guilty to charges of forcible con-

finement, assault causing bodily harm and committing indecent acts.

Several of the accused sat crying in the prisoners' box as sentences were read. Because all are considered Youthful Offenders, their identities can't be revealed. The five girls and two boys range in age from 15 to 18 years.

Charges against three others have already been dealt with through the courts.

Both the accused and their parents listened intently as Crown Attorney Greg O'Driscoll summarized the nature of the case before Judge Dodds handed down the sentences.

In discussing the actions of one of the boys, the C.A. equated his behavior with "that of a psychopath."

"The victim," he said, "still has nightmares and headaches. She had to go to hospital in April because of a kidney infection related to the beating. Her family is seriously considering moving to British Columbia so their daughter can again put her life together."

O'Driscoll explained how the girl's attackers had reacted to a claim the victim had stolen some items of clothing as the teens were cleaning up the Claremont area farmhouse following a weekend party.

He described the atmosphere surrounding the assault as "like a carnival."

The girl, he said, was repeatedly kicked and punched. She was then "stripped, urinated upon, forced to roll in the mud, drink melted ice water and bark like a dog."

She was then handcuffed to a verandah.

O'Driscoll said one of the accused ground her heel into an open wound on the girl's leg while asking "does it hurt?"

She managed to escape, he said, but was dragged back and beaten again. Later, she ran to a nearby farmhouse and asked for help. She was admitted to Ajax-Pickering Hospital.

"This conduct has shocked the community," stated Judge Dodds, "each of you was involved in the degradation of a human-being in the worst possible way."

In sentencing an 18-year-old

male to 15 months, Judge Dodds expressed his disgust.

"Blows delivered to the face and body of the victim were devastating. Your conduct was vicious and cruel. For one so young, your behavior was astonishingly vindictive," he said.

Judge Dodds stated that, in his opinion, the youths "literally tried to out-do each other in degrading one of their own."

Only one of the accused had a previous criminal record. All were handed a 12-month probationary period with specific restrictions governing their conduct after sentences expire.



MPPs tour giant aggregate plants

Left to right: Durham MPP Bill Ball, MPPs tour giant aggregate plants. Right: MPPs tour giant aggregate plants.

Wolf-dogs ravage farmers' sheep flocks

WHITCHURCH — Some people call them wolves. To others, they're wild dogs. Whitchurch-Stouffville livestock valuator Dave Paisley claims they're a cross between the two. Whatever the descriptive, they're causing havoc among sheep flocks in the area. Valuation claims to the end of September total \$10,000. The Town's budget for all of 1988 is only \$6,500. So far, 50 claims have been received. Mr. Paisley says the situation will likely get worse. "With most of the rabbits and groundhogs gone, these predators become more desperate for food."

The Ministry pays no compensation for kills by dogs. Dogs are more destructive than wolves, says Paisley. "Wolves kill for food but dogs attack out of mischief." Often, they kill more than one animal at a time, he explains. Two German Shepherds destroyed more than 12 sheep. The loss totalled \$3,000. One of the dog's owners was traced. He paid half the damage. When a dog attacks, the "panic factor" sets in, Mr. Blackburn said. Sheep have been known to suffocate as they crowd together

out of fear. The problem of containing coyotes and wolves is made difficult due to the fact it's illegal to hire someone to shoot them, says Blackburn. Also, because they're such wily creatures, farmers have little success. They can be trapped, the treasurer explains, but only at certain times of the year. At a Council meeting, Oct. 4, a resolution was passed authorizing a letter be sent to the Ministry asking them to become more involved in dealing with this recurring problem.

The crossbreed, (a domesticated coyote), is bold, says Paisley. They'll come close to farm buildings and attack in daylight, he explains. Mr. Paisley is hired by the Town to evaluate livestock losses. He determines the type of animal responsible and notifies the municipality. The Town then reimburses the farmer. Losses attributed to wolves or coyotes are covered by the Ministry of Natural Resources. The evaluation fee is not included. "It's more than money," Town Treasurer Ed Blackburn says. "Some farmers have been victimized two and three times. They're becoming upset."

Lack of facts angers residents

BLOOMINGTON — What are we doing here? That's what residents of Bloomington were asking themselves at a public meeting in Stouffville's Latcham Hall, Oct. 4.

The discussion related to a proposed communal water system and the effect it might have on existing wells. Home-owner David Bourne demanded developers be required to post a bond guaranteeing the existing water supply. It should be large enough, he said, to cover the cost of hooking into the communal system should private wells fail.

Randy Alcorn of Alcorn and Associates, said existing owners could hook into the system at the outset. They would pay for the lead-in from their property lines. However, if they declined and their wells failed, they would be hooked up at no cost. Mr. Alcorn represents four would-be area developers.

Planning Advisory Committee chairman Will Morley told the meeting a communal water supply is necessary. The fear is, he said, that 101 new wells would lower water availability to a danger point.

A communal well, he explained, would draw from the lower aquifer.

Bob Lewis was strongly critical over a lack of pertinent information. He complained a shortage of

facts and figures had also been apparent at previous meetings he'd attended. Mr. Alcorn promised ratepayers a response to most of their enquiries in two weeks' time.

Contest

It can be the ugliest, the prettiest or the funniest. The choice of facial features is up to the creator.

The Tribune's first annual Halloween Jack-o-Lantern contest.

Three member committees will be judging the entries of the town, Monday, Oct. 31. All school aged boys and girls are invited to participate. Entries must be submitted no later than Oct. 25.

Prizes will be given to the winners. A special contest will be held for the winners of the contest.

For more information, contact the contest committee at 640-5590.

Rumble averted

A potential 'rumble' at Stouffville Dist. Secondary School, Friday, was prevented when staff and senior students intervened.

Principal Peter Bright said three carloads of youths arrived at the school around 1 p.m. One of the males is said to have entered the building. Permission to see an apparent 'victim' was refused.

Two teachers later went outside and identified the vehicles. License numbers were turned over to police.

Mr. Bright praised those students who refused to be intimidated by the gang. One Stouffville boy was allegedly kicked in the face but this was not confirmed.

Mr. Bright said he has no idea from where the youths had come or what initiated the altercation.

Hat in ring

STOUFFVILLE — There'll be an election in Whitchurch-Stouffville's Ward 5.

Marie Adams, owner and manager of Marie Adams Christian Supplies and Country Club Donuts, Main Street East, announced her candidacy Tuesday.

She'll attempt to fill the position made vacant by Councillor Wilf Morley's bid for the mayoralty. Doug Alles, North Street, Stouffville, is also a candidate in Ward 5.

Mrs. Adams has been actively involved in many volunteer community organizations including Home Support Services, the Whitchurch-Stouffville Strawberry Festival, the Multiple Sclerosis Association, the Committee on Affordable Housing, the Public

Library, Latcham Gallery and more.

Mrs. Adams is advocating the acquisition of quality industry, continued aesthetic improvements on Main Street and additional affordable housing.



MARIE ADAMS

Industrial site urged for town

STOUFFVILLE — Joe Lebovic and his firm Nugget Construction Company are asking that a portion of their property, east of the 9th Concession near the C.N.R. right-of-way be zoned industrial.

The company wants to erect four or five warehouse-type buildings there.

Michael Sanders, the Town Planner, has recommended Council not support the application.

Mr. Lebovic, in attendance at a Planning Advisory Committee meeting, Oct. 4, suggested if more locations for industry were made available, (other than Gormley-Hwy. 40), the price of land would remain more affordable and the industrial area would grow more quickly.

By having industrial sites close to Stouffville, businesses such as banks and restaurants would benefit, he said.

"Don't reject us out of hand," Mr. Lebovic asked, "but treat us like any other applicant."

Councillor Jim Sanders said a suggestion had been made to relocate the present Stouffville GO-Station to this site.

Mayor Fran Sainsbury noted that Stouffville required a ring-road around the former village. She said certain properties might be required for this purpose.

Mr. Lebovic promised to make available all pertinent studies and information so the application could be properly addressed.

The committee offered no hint of approval or rejection.



A sad farewell
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