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23 A Spirited effort enables Stouffville to fame Aurora Tigers at the rec centre.

ARTS & CULTURE CALENDAR

EVENT: Christmas Flavour Craft & Collectible show
WHEN: Today and tomorrow, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
WHERE: Lemonville Community Centre



13 York Region kids in need will get warmth this year due to efforts of Project Linus.

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TO REACH US: (905) 640-2100

POLICE: High-speed chase kills Oshawa father

Claremont man, 35, arrested after crash

BY JOAN RANSBERRY
STAFF WRITER

A Claremont man has been charged in connection with a fatal crash involving a high-speed police chase near Port Perry.

An Oshawa father of six children was killed in the Nov. 15 crash, while his wife escaped serious injury.

The incident has rekindled debate over the need for police pursuits.

This week, while funeral services were held for John Gibbons, Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) laid charges against David Franklin Doerfler, 35, of Claremont.

Gibbons, 47, was killed when Doerfler's pickup truck — being pursued by Durham Regional police — sped into a busy Manchester intersection, slamming into Gibbons' Cadillac.

Gibbons and his wife were returning home from Orillia's Casino Rama.

The two-minute, high-speed pursuit was launched after officers responded to a domestic dispute call, police reported.

The night of the incident, Durham Regional Police had charged Doerfler with criminal harassment and breach of probation.

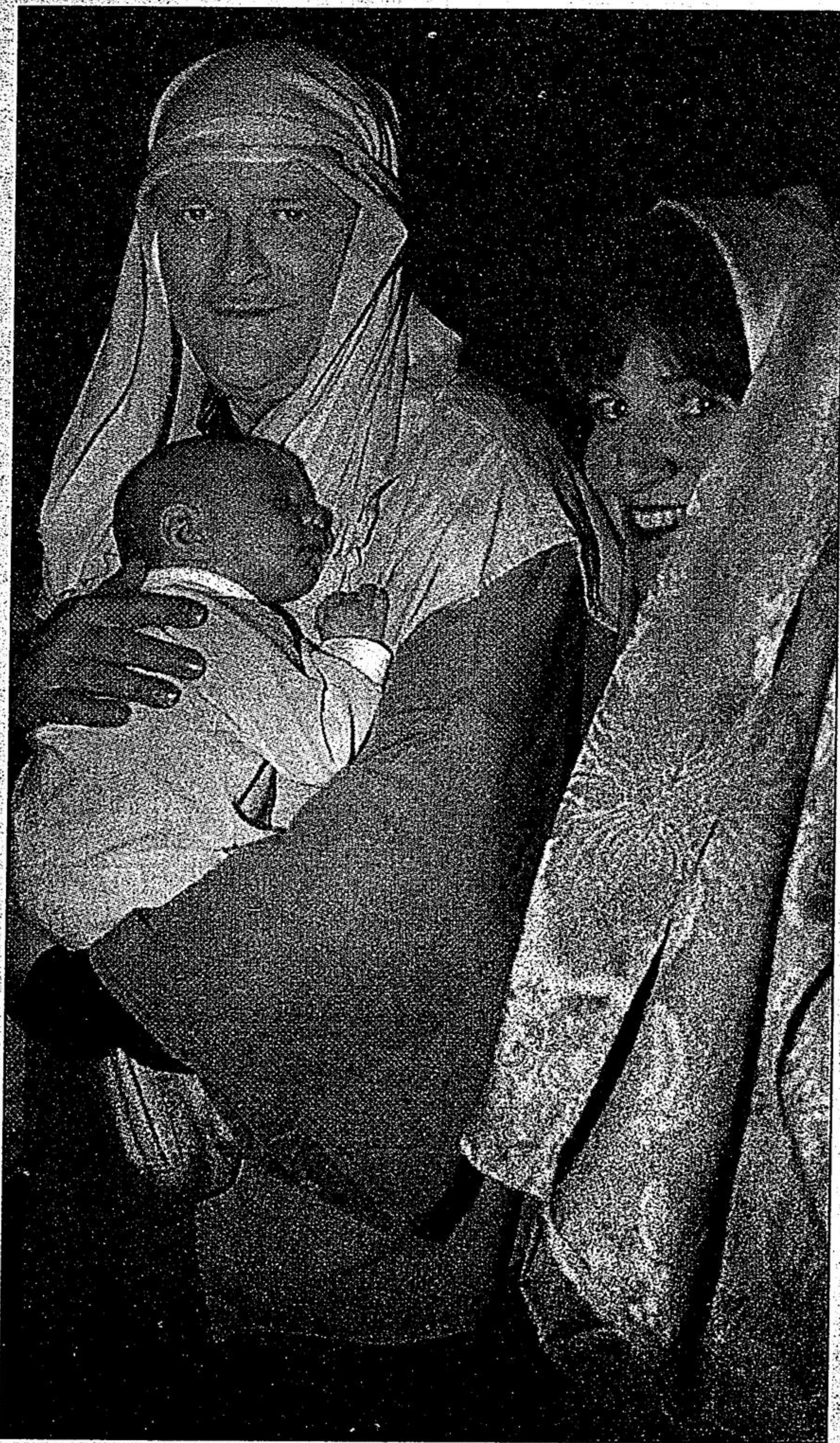
Following the crash, OPP charged Doerfler with criminal negligence causing death and criminal negligence causing bodily harm.

The incident is under investigation by the Special Investigations Unit, which probes all civilian deaths or serious injuries involving the police.

Gibbons is the third innocent per-

See FATHER'S, page 3.

SLEEPING ON THE JOB



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Neil and Mary Lynne St. John and baby Andrew play the Holy Family during the first performance of Bethlehem Live '98 at the Christian Blind Mission on Stouffville Sideroad at Kennedy Road. The eight-day performance is an outdoor Christmas experience for the entire family. Shows run until Nov. 22 and again from Nov. 26 to Nov. 29.

Teachers plan to reject offer

Board lockout only angered teachers

BY JENNIFER BROWN
STAFF WRITER

If teachers were undecided about the York Region public school board's final offer a week ago, they aren't sitting on the fence any longer.

The five-day lockout that ended Thursday has only served to anger teachers.

Even teachers who support the board's offer say it will be rejected by the majority in a supervised vote to be held Monday — by as much as 80 per cent.

Teachers will vote Monday at four schools across the region — Stonehaven in Newmarket, Sixteenth Avenue in Markham, Ashton Meadows in Markham and Yorkhill in Thornhill.

The supervised vote will be conducted by the Ministry of Labour.

Some teachers charge that events of the last week have caused their colleagues to lose sight of why they entered the profession. Others say the dispute has solidified their belief that they are a group of professionals who deserve the respect of their employer and a better contract.

"We feel more like a profession, like educators who are here for the same purpose and that's kids," said Diane More, a Grade 8 teacher at William Armstrong Public School in Markham. "At the beginning, we felt we'd never get parents on side, but the ones who have talked with us are very supportive. Parents know we are the last defence for kids and if we don't make sure what's going on in the classroom is fair and equitable, who will?"

Maple teacher Doug Lang says he will vote to accept the offer Monday and fears he will be sanctioned by the union. The Joseph A. Gibson Public School teacher did not register for strike pay and, like his colleagues, didn't get paid during the lockout.

See BOARD, page 5.

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