

# Ballantrae day care kids make way for funeral reception

BY CHRISSIE O'BRIEN  
Special

The day care centre at the Ballantrae Community Centre did not open yesterday due to suspected biker affiliations of the family of Jesse Gray, 24, killed June 8 at a post-prom party in Uxbridge.

Their reaction was to a June 11 story in the Toronto Star which reported that John Gray and Robert Gray, Jesse's father and uncle, were members of the Para-Dice Riders — a Woodbridge chapter of the Hell's

Angels motorcycle gang.

The funeral reception for Mr. Gray, was to be held in the Ballantrae Community Centre yesterday afternoon.

Local residents were concerned because the day care centre in the Aurora Road community centre is open until 6 p.m.

"I had one lady phone," said Whitchurch-Stouffville Mayor Wayne Emmerson. "I don't know why people are getting excited about a bunch of bikers."

Mayor Emmerson says the problem was resolved by the town when the day care was moved next door to Ballantrae Public School for the day.

"We felt it was in the best interest of the Grays to use the whole hall," he said.

The mayor said the decision to keep the day care in the Ballantrae school was part of a long-held contingency plan in place for emergency and natural disasters.

"This is not something we can

plan six months in advance for," Mayor Emmerson said.

"I talked to the chair of the school board, Bill Crothers. If there were a natural disaster or a power failure in the Ballantrae Community Centre the Ballantrae school would be the backup. It was decided this case would be the same thing."

Representatives of the York Regional Police say they were not expecting any problems at the funeral or the reception.

"We have not had any calls and no one is on high alert," said Sgt. Tony Browne.

Police say they are aware of the Hell's Angels affiliation, but are only keeping an eye on the situation from afar.

"We've been advised that it's been taken care of by the Provincial Biker Enforcement Unit (a joint task force of OPP, Toronto and York police). "We're not expecting any problems," said York Region Police Sgt. Alan Bonner.

## Stabbing victim had 'heart of gold,' mourners told

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of himself. And, the trio pointed out that "Jesse had a heart of gold," loved to fish, looked out for the kids and expected to live forever.

Les Szabady, a long-time family friend and senior, delivered a touching message. Mr. Szabady met the young man as a toddler. "Jesse was so charming," said Mr. Szabady.

The service closed with guitarist and singer Floyd Grunau singing Amazing Grace. The mourners joined in, while a bagpiper played in the background.

Following the interment, family, friends, neighbours and members of the motorcycle gangs gathered together at the Ballantrae Community Centre to show the Gray family their support.



JESSE GRAY: Man stabbed to death at field party buried yesterday near Musselman's Lake.

Mr. Gray is survived by his parents John and Chris, brothers Bob and Johnny and sister Rayan, grandparents, aunts and uncles, cousins and many friends.

## Teens charged in robbery of store

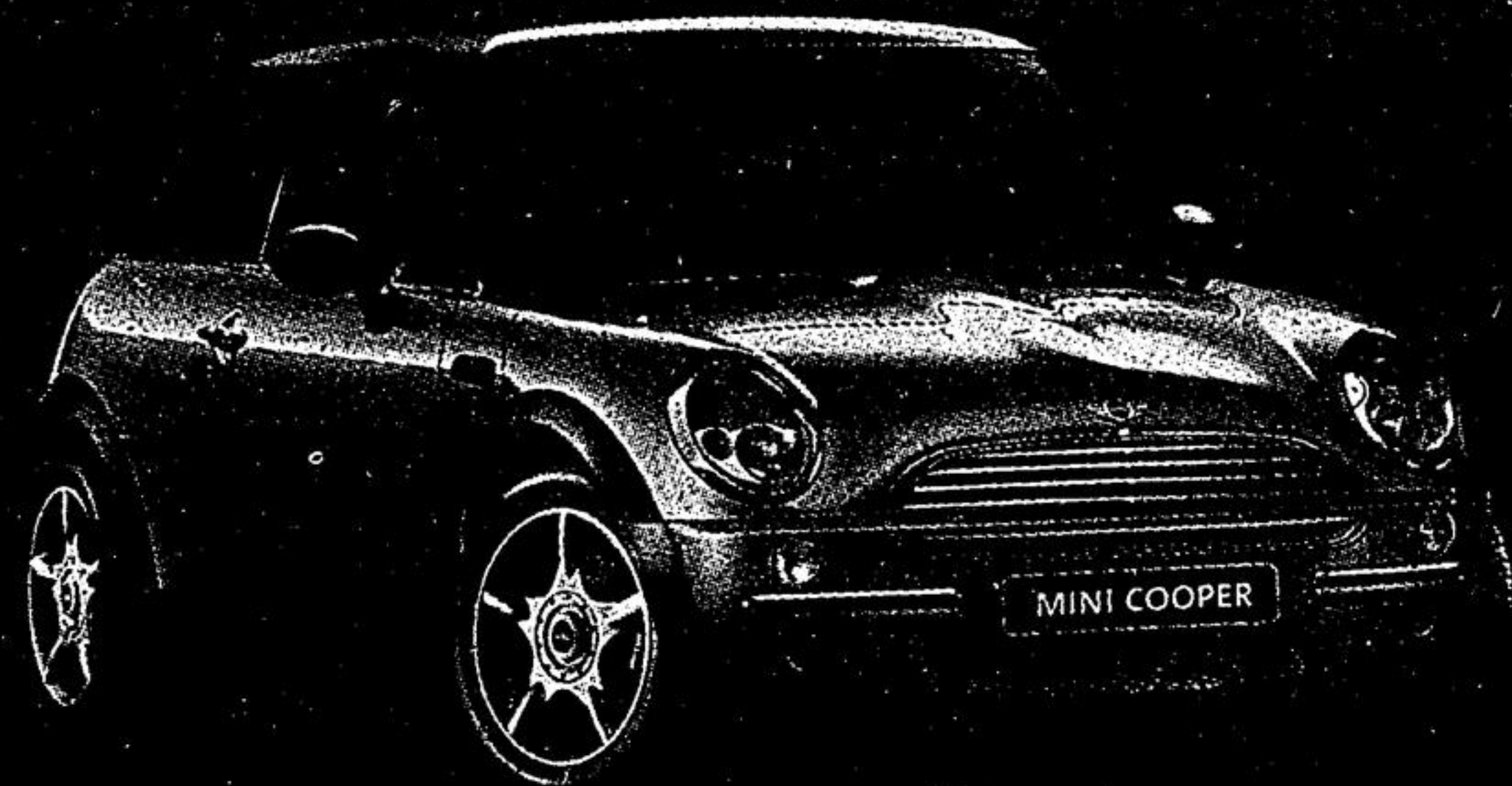
Two teens have been charged in the gunpoint robbery of a Markham convenience store clerk last month.

Police said two men stormed the Lucky Corner Convenience store on Kennedy Road, one armed with a handgun, on May 2.

They demanded cash and escaped in a stolen Acura, with close to \$1,000 worth of money, cigarettes and lottery tickets.

The men, 18 and 17, one from Scarborough, are charged with two counts each of robbery, one count each of possession of property obtained by crime and possession of a dangerous weapon. The 18-year-old faces an additional charge of breaching bail conditions under the Young Offenders Act.

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