

# Doctors fight to save boy's burned hand and foot

FRANK CALLEJA/TORONTO STAR



Risked lives: Andy Patterson, 32, flanked by Dean Ribble (left), 12, and his brother, George, 10, dragged Patterson's 12-year-old son, Billy, screaming from a Mississauga building after 8,000 volts shot through the boy's body when he caught a foot in a transformer room.

By Jackie Smith Toronto Star

Twelve-year-old Billy Patterson could lose a hand and a foot following a freak accident last Sunday, but his father, Andy Patterson, is praying Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children can work a miracle.

Patterson, 32, Dean Ribble, 12, and his brother George, 10, risked their lives to drag a screaming Billy from the transformer room of a Mississauga apartment building Sunday after 8,000 volts had shot through the boy's body.

A Mississauga woman is starting a fund to help the injured boy.

Dean said in an interview that he, George and Billy had crawled through a hole in the wall of the building at 1745 Bloor St. E. to play in the off-limits transformer room.

Billy climbed on one of the three transformers, got his foot caught between two wires, slipped and touched a switch, Dean said.

"There was fire round his foot and hand... We didn't know what to do." Then Billy fell and "we laid him on the cement." Patterson slithered through the duct leading from the hole to the transformer

room to rescue his son after one of the boys called for help.

Patterson said officials told him that if he or the boys had touched any of the dangerous equipment they also could have been electrocuted.

Patterson, 32, who's been off his postal worker job for two years because of back problems, said his son will probably lose his left hand and his right foot, but he's still hoping for a miracle because the Hospital for Sick Children has worked miracles before.

Billy's been in the operating room three times since he was admitted to the hospital after being transferred immediately after the accident from Queensway General Hospital.

Patterson said Billy lives with his mother in Rexdale, but was at his apartment Sunday for his regular visit.

Ken Postgate, director of consumer affairs for Mississauga Hydro, said yesterday the transformer room is the property of the building owner. The three 8,000-volt transformers, the wires and fuses belong to Hydro.

He said Hydro keeps the key to the

room, and officials have written to the building owners asking them to replace the grill that should cover the wall duct exits through which the boys got in and out.

Hydro has temporarily covered the holes with plywood.

Meanwhile, Anita Spiteri, who lives in the apartment building, is preparing to start a fund to help the Pattersons. She said the boy will probably need an artificial hand and foot, which aren't provided under the Ontario Health Insurance Plan.

Ms Spiteri wants anyone wishing to donate to the Big Battle for Billy Fund to call her at 624-9286.

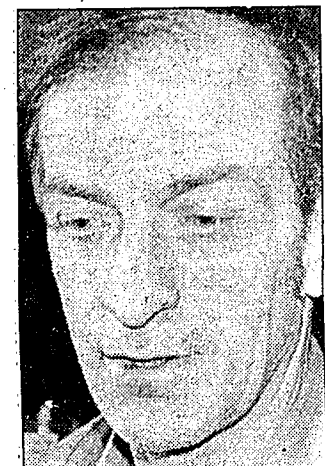


DOUG CRIFIN/TORONTO STAR

# Stephenson gets tough on fee hikes

By Trish Crawford Toronto Star

The University of Toronto will have its government grant cut if it goes ahead with a proposed 40-per-cent tuition fee hike for commerce students this fall, Education Minister Bette Stephenson says.



Jean Charbonneau: saved friend.

"If they persist in that movement, there will be a reduction in grants" she said in an interview yesterday.

The government allows universities to charge up to 18.3 per cent more for tuition fees this year and Dr. Stephenson said the 40 per cent increase for U of T's commerce students is too far beyond those guidelines to be ignored.

The reduction in grants to the university will only involve the 1,250 commerce students, she said, as the remaining increases averaging 14.6 per cent across the campus for 34,000 students are within the rules.

The university's academic affairs committee voted 15 to 13 last night to support the proposed increases raising fees an average of \$125.

More than 100 protesting students ended a two-day occupation of U of T president James Ham's office to attend the committee meeting.

Vice-president Harry Eastman said he was unaware of Dr. Stephenson's position on commerce students, and the university would contact ministry officials today to clarify the situation.

Dr. Stephenson said the grant money the university would lose would roughly equal the revenue from fees — \$210,000 — above provincial guidelines.

The minister had promised students during a bear-pit session at U of T earlier this week she would investigate the situation of 1,250 commerce students in the faculty of arts and science who face a \$300 increase in annual fees.

# Bravery award for man who saved 'fireball'

A Sherbourne St. roomer who turned a fire extinguisher on a "human fireball" has been recommended for a bravery citation by Metro police.

Jean Charbonneau, 44, has been credited with saving the life of Fernand Laframboise, 53, who is in serious condition in St. Michael's Hospital, but expected to recover from burns to half his body.

"We've been friends for six or seven years," Charbonneau said today in an interview, "but this is something I would do for anybody. I'm not a hero. It's just the normal thing to try and save a life. You do the best you can."

Inspector Peter Scott said he will recommend Charbonneau, who was singing by the flames, for a civilian citation.

Charbonneau said he was watching television early this morning when he heard a noise from Laframboise's room and decided to check.

"The door was open a couple of inches and when I looked inside he was sitting in a chair in a ball of flame," Charbonneau said.

"I grabbed a fire extinguisher from a wall in the hall and emptied it on him," Charbonneau said. "He was conscious, but he couldn't get up from the chair and he was too hot to handle."

Charbonneau pulled the fire alarm, causing the remaining six tenants to evacuate the building in their night clothes.

Firefighter Tim Randall rescued Laframboise from the smoke-filled room.

# Lawyer charged in drug case

Lawyer Richard Morton Goldman of Wellesley St. E. has been charged with possession of marijuana for the purpose of trafficking, Metro police said today.

Goldman, 35, was arrested and charged after police searched a vehicle last night and found 66 pounds of marijuana, with a street value of \$70,000.

He was arrested after an investigation by the Metro police intelligence bureau and the Ontario Provincial Police intelligence bureau, a spokesman said.



Protest ends: U of T students who occupied the president's office for two days to protest a proposed 40 per cent tuition fee hike for commerce students, got the backing of the university's academic affairs committee last night, which wants tuition increases held to 14.6 per cent.

# Rooming house where 2 died illegal: city

By Kevin Scanlon Toronto Star

The owner of an "illegal" east-end rooming house where a man and a boy died in a fire Wednesday night had been ordered twice in the past 18 months to correct fire and housing bylaw violations, the director of Toronto's building inspection division says.

"We couldn't pin down the occupancy, so we couldn't close it down," Robert Bonner said. "We had to know the total occupancy of the building for a successful prosecution in the courts."

Bonner said the house on Hiawatha Rd. had no rooming-house license as required by the city and violated several other city bylaws.

Roger Moulding, 43, the owner of the rooming house next door, and Raymond Hayman, 11, died in the fire that swept through the first-floor apartment. The boy's mother, Marilyn, escaped.

Moulding's rooming house had also been inspected and Bonner's staff had been unable to serve him with a December work order, which required the installation of a firefighting system — alarm, smoke detectors and extinguishers. Bonner said Moulding's house was also "illegal."

Bonner said the house that burned was inspected 50 times in the past 18 months for a variety of housing, building and fire bylaw violations and two work orders were served on owner Alan Ferr of Waterbury Dr., Etobicoke.

Ferr says the repairs were done but, "We never did really get the people out of the basement," where there are two apartments.

# 11 to investigate equal-pay beefs

Labor Minister Robert Elgie says he is adding 11 investigators to a staff of 67 to make sure women get equal pay for performing substantially the same work as men.

The 11 new officers of the employment standards branch will investigate complaints dealing with equal pay, something the branch hasn't had the staff to do.

Just as big a problem as equal pay, the minister said, is equal opportunity, which he said he is promoting aggressively in the private sector.

"While some employers have affirmative-action programs that are beginning to yield results, it is clear to me that much remains to be done."

Elgie said the government is committed to taking all reasonable steps to reduce the wage gap between working men and women.

"It is generally recognized that there is a continuing and unacceptable wage gap between males and females based, at least in part, upon sex-related factors," Elgie said.

# Clarke psychiatrists vote to stay in OHIP

The 42 staff psychiatrists at the Clarke Institute of Psychiatry have voted not to pull out of the Ontario Health Insurance Plan in a protest over fee schedules.

The staff psychiatrists are unhappy that their colleagues in private practice can charge up to \$69 a session while they are limited to \$48.

"But we are just going to live with the \$21 difference," said Dr. Frederick Lowy, director of the institute. He said doctors were worried that a pullout would have alarmed patients.

"It might have raised the fear that the specialized services that we offer would no longer be available to all, irrespective of income," he said.

# News digest

Ontario universities because of delays in her latest film.

Ms Fonda, twice a winner of the Academy Award for best actress, had been scheduled to speak at the University of Toronto March 26 and at universities in Ottawa, London, Kitchener and Hamilton.

Police chief honored

The Rotary Club of Toronto was to bestow its highest honor on Metro Police Chief Harold Adamson today for his active role in police-community relations.

Adamson is to be given the Paul Harris Fellowship and a \$1,000 scholarship for foreign study will be presented by the Toronto club in his name to a student yet to be chosen.

# Addicts blamed in fire

Drug addicts looking for narcotics are blamed for starting a \$50,000 fire in a medical building on Finch Ave. west of Weston Rd. Wednesday.

Police believe the fires were set by angry addicts who could not find any drugs or money in six medical suites they ransacked.

# Jocks meet frocks

Sportscaster Howard Cosell and Star columnist Joan Sutton will be commentators for the Frocks and Jocks Fashion Show Luncheon at noon Wednesday in the Canadian Room of the Royal York Hotel.

More than 50 of Canada's large corporations have bought tables of 10 for \$1,000 each, with proceeds to go to the event's sponsor, the Canadian Cancer Society. Scheduled to appear with 23 fashion models will be Bobby Orr, Lord Athol Layton, Clyde Gray, George Knudson, Rick Bosetti, Mark Bragagnolo and Lloyd Duffy.

# Fonda cancels tour

Jane Fonda, actress and political activist, has cancelled a tour of several

In an interview yesterday, Ferr, an accountant who bought the house as an investment three years ago, said he argued that the rooming house should not be prosecuted because it was "a legal non-conforming use."

Inspectors first visited the house in June, 1978 to investigate a complaint of termite infestation and found it was an illegal rooming house.

"We were not aware... that it was occupied illegally," Bonner said. "When we became aware, we issued an order for him to make certain repairs and to vacate the cellar and install a fire alarm system."

But the owner appealed the work order and was granted a 60-day extension.

# It's the coldest day of winter

Continued from page 1

(inches). For April it is 7 cm (2 3/4 inches). Last April, by comparison, 25 cm (almost 10 inches) fell.

This winter, every month has been well below normal in snowfall. Statistics show: November with 1 cm (.39 of an inch), when the average for the month should be 11 cm (4.3 inches); December with 25 cm (9.8 inches) when it should have averaged 28 cm (11 inches); January with 11 cm (4.3 inches) instead of 35 (13.7 inches) and February (despite the extra day for leap year) with 14 cm (5.5 inches) instead of the usual 30 cm (11.8 inches).

Mean temperatures have been 1.9C above the average this winter.

We were .3C ahead of the mean in November, 2.4C above in December, 1.2C higher in January and only in February — when a week-long cold spell at the beginning of the month and the current cold snap held sway — did we dip below average, by .2C.

Mean temperatures this winter have been 1.9C above normal. Only in February has the mean dipped below the monthly average, by .2C.

The mean monthly temperatures so far

this winter have been 3.7C (38F) in November, -1.1C (30F) in December -5.1C (23F) in January and -7.2C (20F) this month.

On an average, the airport readings are 2C below those at Environment Canada's Bloor St. W. station at the University of Toronto. All statistics quoted here are airport figures.

In the same way snow or rainfall at the two locations can fluctuate, as was the case on Dec. 1 when the first major snowfall of the season dumped 27 cm (10.6 inches) on the Bloor St. instruments, but only 3.5 cm (1.3 inches) at the airport.

The milder winter meant rain instead of snow. We've had almost twice as much rain (216 millimetres or 8.5 inches) as the average (124 mm or 4.9 inches).

In November, 95 mm (3.7 inches) fell instead of the usual 50 mm (2 inches); in December 85 mm (3.3 inches) instead of the average 31 mm (1.2 inches); in January 31 mm (1.2 inches) instead of the normal 23 mm (.9 inches).

This month, the trend was interrupted by two cold periods so that only 6 mm (.24 of an inch) fell, when the monthly norm is 20 mm (.78 of an inch).