

Man gets term after lying about police actions

By CONNIE RAE
Times Staff Writer
Judge Barry Shapiro last week sentenced Randy Pihoda, 20, to eight months in jail after a county court jury found

Pihoda guilty of perjury. The sentence begins March 18 when Pihoda's two-year sentence for the armed robbery of a Mac's Milk store here ends. Pihoda was charged

with perjury after he alleged there was police brutality during voir dire evidence at his robbery trial. Judge Shapiro agreed with defence lawyer Peter

McWilliams that if a videotape system was used during police interrogation, both the public and the police would be protected. In this case, Shapiro said, the allegations

against Detectives Fred Gibson and Roy Woods "endangered the reputation and careers and questioned their integrity." Perjury strikes at the

heart of our judicial system, he said. "Although it's not easy to prove, those found guilty must be brought to justice so others who might make false and spurious

allegations might be warned." There are channels for complaints he noted—the internal investigation bureau of Peel police, the Provincial ombudsman's office.

Police officers honored

Five Peel police officers have been honored by Mississauga Real Estate Board Policeman of the Month awards.

In April of this year, Constable Kenneth Fleger was the first officer to arrive at the scene of an attempted murder outside a Bromsgrove Road apartment building, where a woman had been shot in the chest.

Fleger applied first aid and consoled the victim until the ambulance arrived. He is credited with helping to save her life.

In May, Constable Edward Reynolds of the criminal investigations branch, stopped a suspicious vehicle after a Mac's Milk store in Brampton had been robbed. His action led to the arrest of two armed-robbery suspects. The two men were driving a stolen auto and were wanted in connection with other investigations.

Also in May, Constable Kenneth Cull stopped a vehicle reported stolen two days earlier and arrested a juvenile female driver. This led to the subsequent arrest of two other suspects and the recovery of stolen property.

In July, Constables Donald Droy and Lloyd Vaughan of the tactical and rescue unit disarmed a man holding a knife and threatening his family, himself and a police officer.

Vaughan distracted the man while Droy grabbed his arm and removed the knife. There were no injuries.

Election sign bylaw under fire

The election sign bylaw passed recently by Mississauga council discriminates against new candidates for council, says Don Wilson, who is running for the Ward 4 seat in the Nov. 13 civic election.

Wilson says the bylaw is unfair because it was drawn up and approved by incumbent councillors who did not have to conform to such a "restrictive" bylaw in previous elections.

"Elected councillors already enjoy a distinct advantage over aspiring candidates because of their prominent positions in the community," says Wilson.

"Placing restrictive barriers on how and where they can put their signs seems to suggest that the architect of such a bylaw would be out to protect his own self-interest."

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