

# Gregoire scandal sparks pedophilia debate

MONTREAL (CP) — The sex scandal involving Quebec national assembly member Gilles Gregoire has triggered heated public debate over political accountability, press objectivity, and the pros and cons of pedophilia.

The debate over adult-child sexual relations surfaced last March when Gregoire was charged with contributing to the delinquency of seven minors.

Graphic accounts of the first day of the trial, particularly Gregoire's tryst with a 12-year-old girl, prompted juvenile court Judge Andre Sirois to bar reporters and the public from the trial, saying the coverage in some tabloids bordered on "pornography."

On Tuesday, Quebec Superior Court rejected a request by Gregoire, who was found guilty of two similar offences in 1980 and fined \$600, to appeal his latest conviction. Gregoire's lawyer says he may try to appeal the length of the sentence — two years less day.

The Gregoire controversy took an unexpected turn when several Quebec intellectuals argued that the politician had done nothing wrong and that sex between adults and minors should be legalized.

Montreal psychologist Alain Bouchard wrote a lengthy letter to La Presse defending pedophilia.

"A child has a right to know everything about his sexuality and pedophilia is part of that knowledge," wrote Bouchard, a homosexual. He argued that violence is not usually involved in adult-child sexual acts and there is no evidence that children are "traumatized" by such experiences.

Bouchard later appeared on the top public affairs show on the CBC French television network and host Denise Bombardier.

When Bouchard lauded man-boy relations as "a beautiful expression of mutual tenderness," Bombardier retorted that as a mother she could not condone pedophilia. She accused

the psychologist of defending abnormal behavior.

Bombardier's persistent and emotional questioning sparked a complaint to the Quebec Press Council, an independent media watchdog, on the way she handled the 10-minute interview.

The council concluded the TV host had "prevented viewers from having a total view of the subject matter," and said her actions had publicly "discredited" Bouchard.

The press council statement was denounced in newspaper columns and in letters to the editor. La Presse columnist Lysiane Gagnon observed that women are rarely charged with sexual acts with children, that men seem less concerned about pedophilia than women and that the seven press council members who studied the complaint were all men.

"It is unfortunate that the council has fallen into the trap of those trying to make pedophilia acceptable, to pass it off as behavior that is not

only normal but progressive," Gagnon wrote.

The emergence of Quebec's pedophilia lobby was underlined recently by the publication of a book by left-wing sociologist Luc Racine. The book, *Enfance et société nouvelle* (Childhood and the New Society), argues that "social liberation" can only develop through the establishment of sexual relations between adults and children.

Pierre Bourgault, a writer and former leader of a pro-independence party, and poet Paul Chamberland also have spoken out in favor of pedophilia. They have noted that many novels and poems have explored the issue.

"Okay for freedom of expression," Gagnon commented. "But those men should recognize that others have the same rights and stop crying repression when we do not agree with them."

Bombardier said the press council missed the point of her TV interview. "The problem is, pedophilia

has always existed, but society never tolerated it. But now we have advocates who are finding rationalizations for this aberration — all in the name of sexual liberation and tolerance."

Government officials, child care workers and editorial writers all have come to Bombardier's defence.

Remi Voghell, Montreal director for Quebec's Youth Protection Committee, which oversees the province's youth protection law, said society's respect for children should be "unconditional."

Celeste Johnston, a psychiatric nurse and child abuse researcher at Montreal Children's Hospital, dismissed pro-pedophile arguments as "armchair philosophizing."

"There may not be physical violence in most of the cases," she said in an interview, "but there is psychological violence."

"Such incidents even have an effect on the second generation, the children of the victims."

Whether pedophilia is right or

wrong was not the issue, Press council director Jean Baillargeon replied.

Bombardier "has a right to her ideas, but she is not there to impose her ideas in her position as an interviewer," he said. "She is there to let her guests talk."

Although Baillargeon said the council received some angry, anonymous calls both supporting and opposing the decision, its stand received little sympathy from letter writers to Quebec newspapers.

Gazette reader Arthur Roberts complained that "to have the council uphold the complaint against Ms. Bombardier is mind-blowing. Is the council made up of a bunch of spineless wimps who cannot tell the difference between decency and perversion, right and wrong?"

The lack of political accountability highlighted by the case also drew angry reactions from the public.

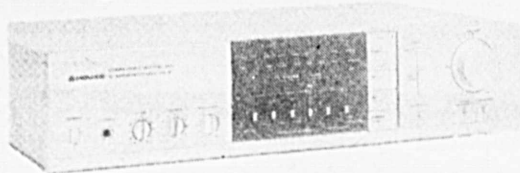
Gregoire was forced out of the PQ caucus after he refused to resign his seat.

## WEEKEND SPECTACULAR

JULY 28, 29 & 30

**PIONEER**

**Best Buy**



**PIONEER**

**SX-4 AM/FM RECEIVER**  
• All electronic presets  
• 20 Watts per channel

**PIONEER**

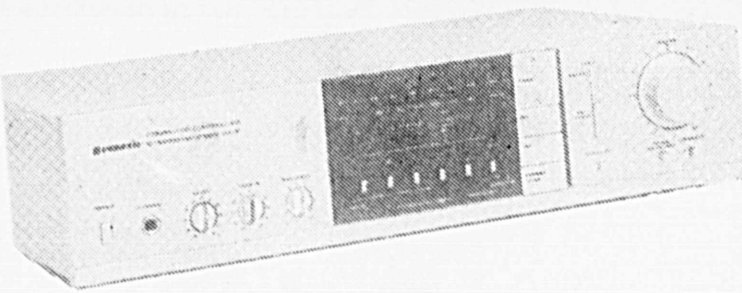
**PL-2 TURNTABLE**  
• Semi-auto  
• Shure Cartridge

**AUDIO PULSE AP-820 SPEAKERS**  
• 8" 2 Way  
• Great sound

**\$509<sup>95</sup>**

GOOD VALUE  
at \$969.85, NOW

**PIONEER**



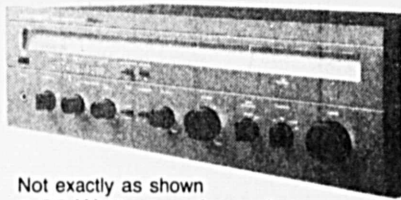
**SX-4 AM/FM RECEIVER**

- All electronic presets
- 20 watts per channel

ONLY ..... **\$199<sup>95</sup>**

**vector research**

**VR-2000 AM/FM RECEIVER**



**PIONEER PL-4 TURNTABLE**



Not exactly as shown  
• 25 Watts per channel

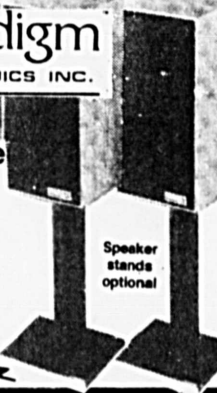
**PICKERING**

**XV-15/625 E CARTRIDGE**

**PLUS**

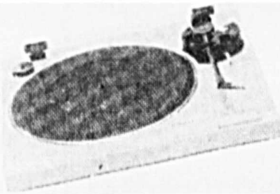
**Paradigm ELECTRONICS INC.**

**Model 7 Speakers**  
**Good value at**



**MUST BE HEARD**  
**\$769<sup>95</sup>**  
Good Value at \$1095.90

**PIONEER**



**PL-4 TURNTABLE**

- Direct Drive semi-auto
  - Almost "Shockproof"
- Good Value at \$209.95

NOW ..... **\$179<sup>95</sup>**

**INTRODUCING**  
**4 New Models**

**DYNATRONIC**  
SOUND LIMITED

Exclusive Canadian Distributor for Magnadyne

**CAR STEREOS**

AM/FM In dash cassettes  
Starting at

**\$99<sup>95</sup>**



2 for only  
**10<sup>99</sup>**

**Come In**  
**And See**  
**The New**

**PIONEER**

**CAR & HOME STEREOS**

**MANY MORE IN STORE SPECIALS**



**STEREO SOUND LTD.**

...LISTEN TO US

1244-4th Ave.

564-3616