

## Rights charter also protects youngsters

Students' right to freedom of speech and assembly are ensured under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms just like everyone else, School District 57 trustees were told Tuesday.

"Therefore, as a district, we need to become sensitive to the new explicit statement of students' rights contained in the charter," Trustee Gordon Ingalls said during Tuesday's meeting of the board.

Ingalls was commenting on information he'd received during a B.C. School Trustees Association conference on the charter and education law, which he and Trustee Vic Rouse attended in Vancouver Nov. 21 and 23.

He said he plans to recommend that board policies be examined to ensure they conform with the charter, followed by a series of meetings and workshops throughout the district to inform principals and teachers of the need to respect these rights.

In the U.S., students' rights to freedom of speech in the school setting and the right to claim discrimination by a principal or other school authorities has been upheld by the courts, he said.

The U.S. courts have also upheld students' rights to dress and do their hair as they wish.

"I don't anticipate a rush of problems but we need to look at our policies and procedures in dealing with students and discipline," Ingalls said.

He also predicted B.C.'s School Act will be revised to conform with the charter.

The act now requires daily Bible reading and the recitation of the Lord's Prayer in all classrooms, he said.

But, although it permits teachers to exempt themselves from this duty and parents to exempt their children from being present during Bible reading and the Lord's Prayer, it doesn't permit students to exempt themselves, Ingalls said.

"So you could have a case where a student disagrees with their parents on whether or not they should attend," he said.

"There is also a strong probability that Bible reading will be ruled unconstitutional."

## RCMP beat man, judge orders compensation

VICTORIA (CP) — Two RCMP officers kicked, beat, threatened and spat at a 22-year-old man, then charged him with resisting arrest, assaulting a police officer and damaging a police car.

County Court Judge Peter Millward dismissed the charges against Errol Barrie this week and ordered the Crown to pay his \$300 court costs.

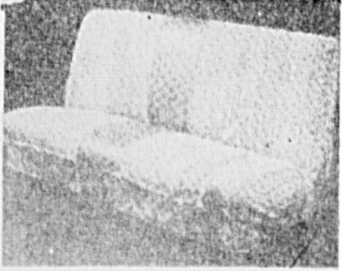
Millward said awarding costs was "more as a token than as an attempt to fully compensate Mr. Barrie."

During the lower-court trial, Colwood RCMP Const. Ken Moser said he kicked Barrie in the groin and punched him in the head at the police station. Const. David Glancie said he spat at Barrie and threatened him with a nightstick.

The RCMP members had no legal authority to force Barrie to answer their questions, Judge Millward said, and they "abused their positions as officers of the law."

The judge said it was "appropriate and just that some recognition be given to the injustice that has been inflicted upon Mr. Barrie."

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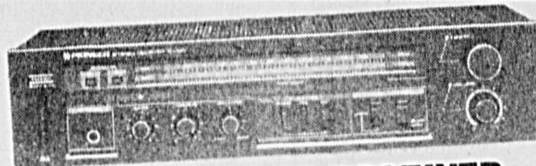
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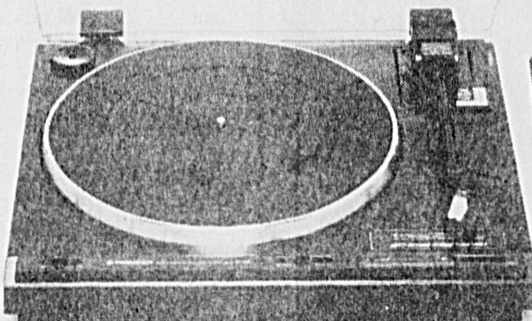


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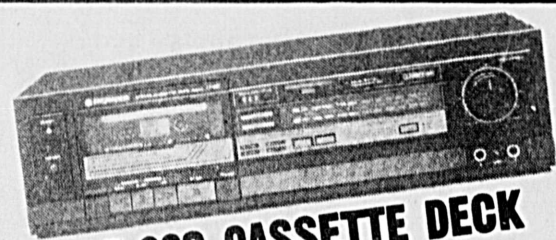
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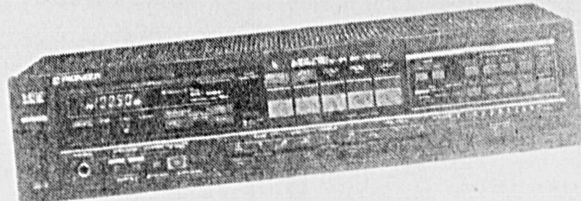
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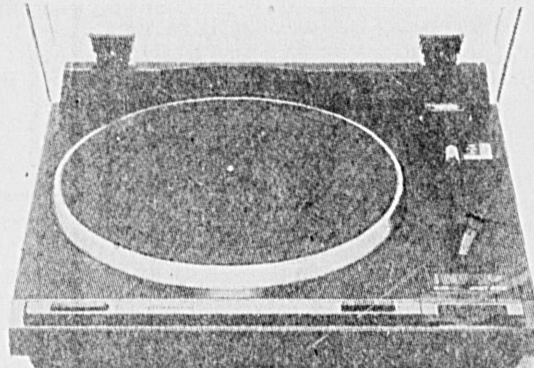
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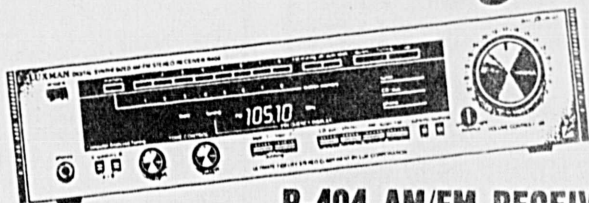
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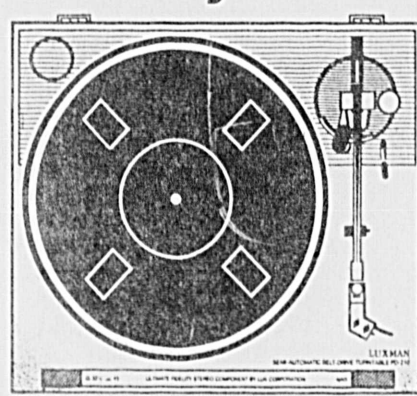
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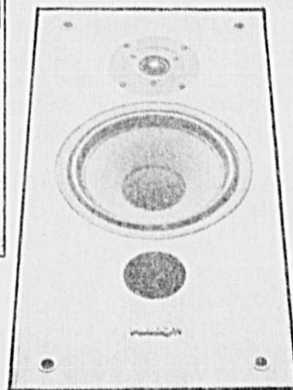
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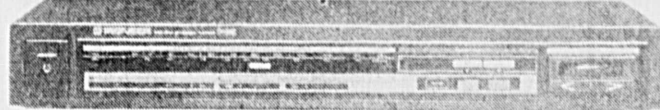


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