

NEW BIRD FLU DANGER

SCIENTISTS FIND A MUTATION, A13



CANUCKS DOWN OILERS 4-1

SPORTS, E1

THE VANCOUVER SUN

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SERIOUSLY WESTCOAST SINCE 1912

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 2006

Surrey teacher stays in class despite police probe

BY JANET STEFFENHAGEN
VANCOUVER SUN

A Langley man who has been under a year-long police investigation for an alleged sexual assault of a minor continues to teach in a Surrey high school because he is not deemed to be a danger to students, a school district spokesman said Tuesday.

"We are satisfied . . . that there is not a threat," Doug Strachan, Surrey's communications manager, said in an interview.

The man came to public attention in recent days when posters identifying him were tacked up around Langley to alert the community to his presence. The posters were put up anonymously.

Strachan wouldn't indicate whether the district has also investigated the 55-year-old teacher but said school officials decided, in consultation with the RCMP, that he could remain in the classroom.

The female complainant was under 18 years at the time of the alleged offence and was not a former student of the teacher, said Langley RCMP spokeswoman Diane Blain.

It's the second time this year that the Surrey district has had to explain why someone accused of a sex-related offence is still teaching. But Strachan said this case is fundamentally different from that of Shawn Seong Su Yu because Yu was charged with a criminal offence.

In this latest case, there have been no charges. The RCMP's Blain said the investigation, which began a year ago, is continuing but she refused to give details, saying only that it is "a pretty sensitive investigation" and police are "looking into other things."

She said the man does not have a criminal record and was not previously known to police.

See YU AND A2

Female firefighters claim harassment in Richmond

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RICHMOND FIRE CHIEF JIM HANCOCK (RIGHT)
Discusses his department's issues surrounding female firefighters



GLENN BAGLO / VANCOUVER SUN FILES

BY MAURICE BRIDGE
VANCOUVER SUN

All four female firefighters in the Richmond fire department are off the job after alleging sexual harassment and discrimination, including a claim that human feces was placed in one woman's boots and pants.

Richmond fire Chief Jim Hancock said Tuesday the situation has placed the department in "a bit of a crisis," but it is working hard to create an atmosphere that will be acceptable to women working in it.

He admitted there have been problems, as well as "some emotional injury."

The four women, who work with about 200 men, have all expressed concerns about attitudes in their workplace.

One has filed a lawsuit in B.C. Supreme Court, another has filed a complaint with the B.C. Human Rights Tribunal, and the other two have filed internal grievances.

All four took leave at different times, and Hancock said he hopes three will return within a few weeks.

The lawsuit filed last fall by firefighter Jeannette Moznik cites the feces incident, along with instances in which her clothing was shredded or sprayed with chemicals after her locker was broken into.

The statement of claim says her gloves and helmet were stolen, later turning up in another firehall; a condom filled with an unidentified fluid was left in



Firefighter Jeannette Moznik has sued claiming harassment.

her locker, and threats and obscenities were written on her locker.

The incidents cited in the lawsuit, which has not yet gone to trial, are reported to have occurred between 1997 and 2001. In her statement of claim, Moznik says she has not worked since then, although she remains part of the department.

Neither Moznik nor the other three women could be reached Tuesday for comment.

Hancock said the problems have been brewing since the 1995 integration of the fire department at Vancouver International Airport into the Richmond department.

See CONDUCT CODE A12

Heat from sewage could warm athletes' village

German technology extracts energy from waste flow and pipes it to buildings

BY FIONA ANDERSON
VANCOUVER SUN

Vancouver is seriously looking at tapping into the city's sewer system to heat the Olympic village's buildings and water, Tom Osdoba, manager of the city's sustainability group, told the Vancouver Board of Trade on Tuesday.

In developing the 32-hectare site in southeast False Creek, the city was looking for infrastructure that best balanced economics with environmental performance, Osdoba said in an interview after the meeting.

"When we balance that out, tapping the sewer to extract the heat out . . . is the best overall choice for that location," he said.

Using sewage heat would work much like systems that heat buildings by taking warmth from the ground.

The system would involve using a sewer pipe that has heat exchange pipes inside. These collect the heat from the sewage and carry it off to a centralized heat-

ing system, which would distribute heat to buildings.

What makes the sewage preferable to heat from the ground is that it is about five to seven degrees Celsius warmer, meaning less conventional heating is needed for the buildings and water supply, Osdoba said. "So it's quite a bit more efficient."

While sewer heating might cost a bit to install than natural gas heating, greenhouse gas emissions are cut by about half, Osdoba said. And as the city requires new buildings to be one-third more energy-efficient, those greenhouse emissions will probably drop by even more as people need less heating, he said.

"So that tiny increment [in cost] that we might see for sewer heat rather than natural gas is not even a material factor because energy use is going to be so much lower," Osdoba said. "[So] we can choose to put in that technology and the broader environment gets a big benefit."

See SYSTEM WOULD A6

Setting the bar for the Green Games

The village that housed the athletes at the Turin games is an example of the 2006 organizing committee's commitment to sustainability.

WESTCOAST NEWS,
B2 & B3



Adult kids stick to home in Vancouver

BY CHAD SKELTON
VANCOUVER SUN

Can't get your kids to leave home? Stop living in Greater Vancouver.

A new study by Statistics Canada shows residents of the region have a harder time getting their children to move out of the house than in any other city except Toronto.

In fact, nearly half of Vancouver-area parents with children in their 20s and 30s — 46 per cent — have at least one kid still living under their roof.

That's well above the national average of 32 per cent and just behind Toronto at 54 per cent.

Martin Turcotte, who wrote the study, attributed the high numbers to several factors.

"In large cities, the cost of living is much higher than in rural areas so adult children might have more incentive to stay at home longer," he said.

Adult children in urban areas also have the option of attending university in their home city, said Turcotte, while those in rural areas often have to leave if they want to continue schooling.

"The other reason is . . . immigrant parents, especially immigrant parents from Asia, are much more likely to live with adult children," he said.

Indeed, Turcotte's study found

Staying at home

Key numbers in Statistics Canada's report on non-empty-nesters:

73%

Share of Canadian parents born in Asia with adult children at home.

26%

Canadian-born parents whose children aged 20-34 are at home.

41%

Probability that parents who live in Vancouver have an adult child at home.

17%

Rural and small town parents, cross-Canada, who share their home with one or more adult children.

See 'BOOMERANG' A2

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- TRAIL: 900 Spokane St.

INSIDE BY THE NUMBERS
A guided tour to figures that stand out today:

20 Kilograms of chocolate making up Mayor Sam Sullivan's gift egg, which broke on the flight home from Turin. **Westcoast News, B1**

\$900 million
The amount the Tim Hortons IPO, expected Friday, should produce. **Business BC, D1**

3 Cups of vegetable rotini (spinach, egg and tomato flavours) are needed for our Tricoloured Pasta Salad. **Food, C4**

'Boomerang' kids rising trend in Vancouver area

From A1

parents born in Asia were three times more likely to have adult children living at home than parents born in Canada were.

Of those parents who immigrated from Asia since 1981, 82 per cent had at least one adult child living at home. "The family ties are a lot stronger in a lot of these Asian families," said Lawrence Woo, chairman of the SUCCESS Foundation, which helps fund services for new immigrants. "They tend to stay together a little bit longer than traditional Canadian families, which are a little bit more independent."

However, Woo said children in Chinese families usually move out by the time they get married.

That contrasts with Indo-Canadian families, where newly married couples often move in with the groom's family.

In 1981, just 22 per cent of British Columbians aged 20 to 29 lived with their parents. In the 2001 census, that figure had nearly doubled to 40 per cent.

And the biggest increase was among those aged 25 to 29. In 1981, just seven per cent of them lived with their parents. In 2001, it was 20 per cent.

And even when kids do leave home, it's not always for good.

The study found one-quarter of parents with an adult child at home were living with a "boomerang kid" — one who left home once, then returned.

Popular culture often portrays parents of at-home children as eager to have them leave.

Canada's dairy producers have an ad campaign with the slogan: "Can't get your kids to leave home? Stop cooking with cheese."

And in the recent movie *Failure to Launch*, a couple hires a consultant to convince their 35-year-old son to leave home.

But the Statistics Canada survey suggests most parents are actually quite happy having their kids still at home.

Parents with kids at home were significantly more likely to say they were happy with the amount of time they got to spend with their children than empty nesters were — although they also fought more with their spouses.

"In most cases, the situation works out quite well," said Barbara Mitchell, a professor of sociology at Simon Fraser University and the author of *The Boomerang Age: Transitions to Adulthood in Families*. "Both parties tend to be fairly satisfied and report positive experiences."

David Baxter, executive-director of the Urban Future Institute, said parents may be reluctant to admit how much they enjoy having their kids around.

"It's like listening to country music," he said. "You don't want to really say that you like it, so you make these little jokes."

While the study suggests high housing prices are a factor in why children in big cities don't leave home, Baxter isn't so sure.

"This is a social phenomenon," he said. "They can stay in their parents' nice big house and have somebody do their laundry and have the refrigerator full all the time. . . . If housing prices were to drop, these kids wouldn't all move out the next day. They like where they're living."

The Statistics Canada study found income and education levels appear to have no impact on the likelihood of an adult child sticking around.

The physical size of the family home, however, does.

Parents living in detached homes or duplexes were significantly more likely to have their kids still with them than those in an apartment.

And parents who themselves took awhile to move out on their own were also much more likely to have their children sticking around.

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PULSE OF CANADA

How do the attitudes about life in your city stack up against those of residents in other Canadian cities? A poll conducted for CanWest News Service and Global News canvassed Canadians in major cities across the country for their opinions on topics close to their hearts. The following are some interesting results.

Q. Most evenings my family and I have a sit-down dinner together.

	Vancouver	Calgary	Toronto	Average
Agree	59%	60%	65%	67%
Disagree	41%	40%	35%	33%
Respondents	597	292	1,370	8,431(total)

Q. Mothers should stay at home to raise their children.

	Vancouver	Calgary	Toronto	Average
Agree	44%	48%	45%	46%
Disagree	56%	52%	55%	54%

Q. University tuition is too high for me or my kids to consider higher education.

	Vancouver	Calgary	Toronto	Average
Agree	60%	56%	57%	57%
Disagree	26%	27%	25%	27%
Neither	14%	16%	17%	17%

Q. I have thought of quitting my job for work nearer my home to avoid commuting.

	Vancouver	Calgary	Toronto	Average
Agree	25%	23%	30%	23%
Disagree	58%	58%	51%	62%
Neither	17%	19%	19%	15%

Q. I find that day-to-day living here can be quite stressful.

	Vancouver	Calgary	Toronto	Average
Agree	20%	19%	22%	20%
Disagree	65%	63%	60%	65%
Neither	15%	19%	18%	16%

Get more Pulse of B.C. poll results on *Where You Live* this week on *Global's News Hour* with **Tony Parsons** at 6 p.m.

Yu and the Surrey teacher hold valid teaching certificates

From A1

In the Yu case, the school district admitted there was a breakdown in communication and that former superintendent Fred Renihan had been informed in 2004 that Yu had been charged with sexual interference involving a 14-year-old student but did not advise the school board.

Yu was transferred to another school but was allowed to continue teaching for 19 months, until his case was made public on the eve of his trial and he was quickly transferred to non-teaching duties.

His trial, which included a videotaped statement that Yu gave to police saying he had touched the breast of a Grade 8 student as a result of a "lack of judgment," is expected to resume at the end of the month.

The B.C. College of Teachers, the regulatory body for teachers, principals and superintendents, said at the time that it was highly unusual for a school board to allow a person to continue teaching after charges involving sex-related offences with students have been laid.

Both Yu and the Surrey teacher hold valid teaching certificates. The Surrey school district does not have a policy about the suspension of teachers accused of such crimes, Strachan said.

Sun education reporter jsteffenhagen@png.canwest.com

NEWSPAPER VOICES

The Vancouver Sun Read Aloud

This story can be heard online after 10:30 a.m. today at www.vancouver.sun.com/readaloud.

DAILY READER'S GUIDE

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At The Vancouver Sun, we strive to inform, enlighten and entertain our readers so as to improve the quality of their lives.

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TONIGHT on Global

GLOBAL NATIONAL 5:30 P.M.
with Kevin Newman
Brigitte Bardot shows up in Ottawa, hoping to get Prime Minister Harper's attention on the sealhunting issue.

NEWS HOUR 6 P.M.
with Tony Parsons
They're not big, but big enough to fill a void. A look at the influx of tiny but reasonable downtown condos hoping to entice buyers.

TRYING TO JOIN A NATION DIVIDED
The chief of a Minnesota Indian nation is urging a redefinition of what it means to be a true Chippewa so that his people's Ojibwa cousins in Canada — separated by an "imaginary border" that divides them — can join the American tribe.
By Randy Boswell

HIGH COURT HEARS MEXICAN
A former senior Mexican politician will ask the Supreme Court of Canada Thursday to overturn his extradition on fraud charges on the grounds that a new federal law violates his constitutional rights.
By Janice Tibbetts

A NEW KIND OF CHALLENGE
Brent Peterson spent 11 years playing in the NHL, but the Nashville Predators assistant coach and father of three now faces the biggest battle of his life: Parkinson's disease. But he's getting help from his family and friends such as Cam Neely and Michael J. Fox.
By Bob Duff

CLOSER TO HOME
About 2,200 people working on Canadian Coast Guard vessels will soon be able to access personal e-mail, voice-over-Internet phone and digital television services on board. Within 30 months, all 38 Coast Guard vessels will offer their crews much closer ties to home.
By Bert Hill

WAITING FOR THEATRE: The Arts Club Theatre steps away from such safe theatre as its recent run of *Beauty and the Beast* to test audiences with one of the most anarchical plays ever written, Samuel Beckett's absurdist masterpiece *Waiting for Godot*. Peter Birnie talks to cast member Peter Anderson about the play and about working with iconoclast director Morris Panych. **Westcoast Life**

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