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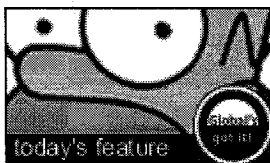
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PROGRAMMING



The Simpsons

Lisa befriends college girls who are unaware of her age; Bart must live in a bubble after being bitten by a Chinese mosquito.

full TV program lineup

GLOBAL'S GOT IT

Dinotopia

A millionaire (Stuart Wilson) and his two teenage sons (Tyron Leitso, Wentworth Miller) crash-land on a lost continent where dinosaurs and humans live in harmony. (Sunday @ 6:00 pm)

The X-Files

The agents' investigation of a mysterious death in a suburban neighborhood leads them to a man

GLOBAL WINNIPEG STORY

School counsellor convicted of sex abuse now working as Catholic priest

ED STRUZIK, Edmonton Journal
Canadian Press

Saturday, May 11, 2002

(CP) - A man convicted of sexual abuse in one of the residential school scandals settled out of court last week in the Northwest Territories is working as a Catholic priest in Carman, Man.

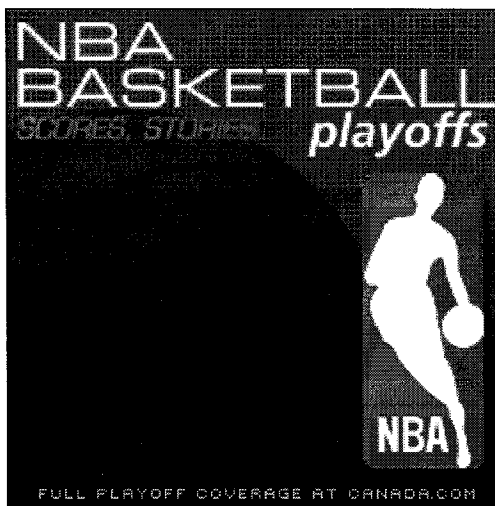
Martin Houston was a lay supervisor at Grollier Hall in Inuvik in the early 1960s, and served his time after his conviction in 1962. But his ordination in 1990 has angered many of the former Grollier Hall students who settled their claims last week in a historic out-of-court settlement with the federal and territorial governments and the Catholic diocese of Mackenzie.

Houston was welcomed into the clergy in Manitoba even after two Catholic organizations in Ontario and Alberta asked him to leave institutions that train priests.

"It is a bad situation," said Denis Croteau, Bishop of Mackenzie.

"I would not have hired him in the present circumstances."

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YOUR fin

Free

obsessed with "The Brady Bunch." (Sunday @ 8:00 pm)

The Practice

Lindsay becomes hysterical with fear after paranoid-schizophrenic Lawrence "Hannibal Lecter" O'Malley is not found guilty. (Sunday @ 9:00 pm)

The Celtic Tiger

Ireland has become the home of the world's most global economy. (Sunday @ 10:00 pm)

Dinotopia

Karl begins training at the hatchery, where his saurian partner, 26, is born, while sick David gets medical care; as the Sunstones continue to fail and dinosaurs rampage the continent, Zippo urges the senators to send an expedition to the World Beneath. (Monday @ 7:00 pm)

When contacted Thursday, Houston referred the matter to his lawyer. Archbishop Emelius Goulet of Manitoba did not return calls.

Houston is one of four men convicted of sexual abuse, indecent assault and other charges involving aboriginal boys at Grollier Hall in the 1960s.

Paul Leroux, a former supervisor who went on to work as a complaints supervisor for the Canadian Human Rights Commission in Edmonton, was sentenced in 1998 to 10 years in prison. Jerzy George Maczynski was sentenced to four years on five counts, including indecent assault, gross indecency and buggery, and Jean Comeau was sentenced to one year for indecent assault.

Croteau says he first learned that Houston had become a priest from a letter that lawyer Richard Hardy had written to a Yellowknife newspaper in 1998. Hardy lived at Grollier Hall when Houston was a supervisor.

Hardy said in an interview that he decided to write the letter to put that chapter of his life behind him for good.

In the letter, addressed to Catholic leaders, Hardy recounted how at the age of 12 in 1959, he and other children from the community of Fort Norman (Tulita), N.W.T., were jammed into a single-engine Otter like cattle, trying to breathe air rancid from the vomit of the children who couldn't take the rough ride.

"You brought Martin Houston to Grollier Hall to destroy us," Hardy wrote.

"You knew that he was into things such as getting the entire senior boys' dorm out of bed around midnight and having us run around the gymnasium bare-assed naked for hours for his enjoyment.

"You knew and you did nothing. You knew that he was sexually assaulting us in his room beside the dorm. You knew and you did nothing."

Croteau, who has been praised by many northern aboriginal leaders for trying to make amends for the wrongs that occurred at Grollier Hall, said he was shocked by the letter and called Hardy for a heart-to-heart talk.

"I called Bishop Antoine Acault in Manitoba to find out what the score is," Croteau recalls.

"I asked him if he knew (Houston) was a sexual abuser in 1962. He said he was aware of it but that 'We cannot hold someone prisoner of his past if he has not done anything reprehensible in the past 25 to 30 years'.... That was his attitude."

Croteau notes that Houston was just 19 years old at the time, has served his sentence and has not committed any wrongdoing since, as far as he knows.

Still, Croteau thinks it was "imprudent" to have brought him into the clergy.

Church sources say Houston first made known his desire to become a priest when he was in prison. He wrote to former bishop Paul Piche asking for forgiveness and expressing his desire to join the Oblate order, which had a network of missions and residential schools across Western and

Northern Canada, including the dormitory at Grollier Hall.

Piche, however, would have none if it, according to church sources.

Sometime in the 1980s, Houston showed up at the Oblate Novitiate in Arnprior, Ont., hoping to become a priest. He was asked to leave after three months because of behavioural issues.

He then showed up at Nicodemes House in Edmonton, hoping to do the same thing. After three months, he was asked to leave for the same reasons.

Croteau says the Oblates at the time never knew about his past at Grollier Hall.

A former Grollier Hall student living in Edmonton says he was repeatedly abused by Houston.

"When I asked the priest there in Winnipeg how they could have allowed this man to enter the priesthood, he insisted that Houston was cured," said the man, who asked not be identified.

"I couldn't believe it."

So far, more than 9,000 of 92,000 residential school students still alive have filed lawsuits for the physical and sexual abuse allegedly inflicted by priests, nuns and lay people working at the 130 schools across the country before the last one was shut down in 1996.

Catholic, Anglican, United and Presbyterian church leaders have apologized for the abuses, but they strongly deny they were as widespread as the lawsuits suggest.

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