

Conrad Black to return to U.S.
WILL APPEAR IN COURT NEXT WEEK - A14



Contract on Paul Martin?
INFORMANT TESTIFIES ABOUT PLOT - A10

LETHBRIDGE HERALD

Wednesday, November 23, 2005

Hotshots clash

Last night's matchup

Two of the NHL's hottest rookies, Sidney Crosby, and Alexandre Ovechkin clashed last night in Pittsburgh

See **STORY** on Page B1



Sheila Fraser's report

RCMP in dire straits?

Auditor General Sheila Fraser has identified a handful of areas of concern in her report released on Tuesday, including policing problems

See **COVERAGE** on Page A10



Quiet kids?

Road trip tips

Beating the backseat blues with ways to make road travel with kids more bearable

See **STORY** on Page C1



HERALD PHOTO BY IAN MARTENS

Magical moment

Kindergarten student Sophie Makela pets a dove she helped make appear as a volunteer with magician Steve Harmer during his presentation Tuesday at Lakeview elementary school. Harmer, a motivational magician, did a show for students which stressed respect. See related story on Page A3.

LETHBRIDGE BUDGET

Requests presented to council

CONTROLLING CROW PROBLEM ONE OF INITIATIVES HEARD BY COUNCIL'S FINANCE COMMITTEE

BY DELON SHURTZ

Controlling crows in Lethbridge could cost taxpayers another \$25,000 a year if council approves a new pest control initiative recommended Tuesday. Doug Hawkins, infrastructure services director for the city, told aldermen during Day 2 of budget deliberations the city would now be a contractor to train and remove crows. [http://www.ledherald.com](#)

Speaker works his magic on students

Ed Wilson has tricks to keep students interested

By **SHERRI GALLANT**
Lethbridge Herald

After elementary students hear someone like Steve Harmer speak — dazzled by his magic tricks and inspired by his messages — the atmosphere at their school becomes palpably different.

"I believe it does change things," says Ed Wilson, principal at Lakeview Elementary, where Harmer did a show on Respect Tuesday. "If you watch the students you see how they pay attention, they're focused. They eat it up."

Harmer, a motivational magician with a lofty teaching career behind him, offers several entertaining, thought-provoking programs on timely issues. A former elementary teacher, his audiences are mostly that age but he has programs for the middle-school set as well.

"Our kids (at Lakeview) are quite mannerly," Wilson said, an observation echoed by Harmer.

"But the message is an important one. I've been teaching for 30 years and I believe I have seen a decline (in the quality of children's etiquette). This is the perfect way to kick off our focus that we have this year."

Harmer was a principal, counsellor and teacher with the Calgary board of education for 22 years. As a professional magician for 30 years, he's performed thousands of magic shows, more than half of which have been in schools.

His presentations on character education, bully prevention, success, leadership, respect and substance abuse prevention capture the imagination of all age groups in what some have called the perfect

blend of magic and message.

Based in Calgary, Harmer said he'll take gigs within driving distance, but that includes everything from Vancouver to Swift Current and most points between. In some places, he'll look at the children and see faces that appear tired, hungry or angry. But it's not always an indication of how receptive — or courteous — they are.

"I believe it all rests with the culture and the leadership of the school," he said. "There are teachers and principals who lead this way. Students can be taught respect, they can be taught manners, they can be taught anything. Somebody just has to do it."

Those who sat so rapt on the gym floor Tuesday laughed, pondered and learned. They heard the story of two boys who each received money for their birthdays. While one boy felt hard done by and unloved, the other thought himself rather lucky and set out to share his good fortune.

Harmer's knack for combining content with dazzle drove the message home again and again.

Parents may not be teaching the basics of yore as thoroughly anymore because of the pressures they're under themselves, Harmer said.

"No disrespect to parents," he said. "The parents are busy surviving. But the parent is (supposed to be) in charge. Parents don't have time to spend with their kids, so they do what they can to appease their kids."

The end result can be indulged children who don't respect adults, don't know much about etiquette and walk around feeling entitled to everything.