



Friday, March 11, 2011

moneyville.ca Wheels.ca healthzone.ca parentcentral.ca yourHome.ca toronto.com

3°C Forecast | Traffic



Login/Register

Search bar with magnifying glass icon

thestar.com Web find a business advanced search full text article archive

Home News GTA Opinion Business Sports A & E Living Travel Columns Blogs More

HOT TOPICS MARCH BREAK EARTH HOUR TCHC CANADA BLOOMS BLUE JAYS ROYAL WEDDING LEAFS DR. CHARLES SMITH more Autos Careers Classifieds Deaths Rentals

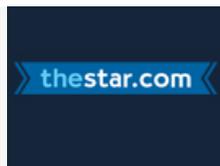
Home News Crime



Dave Foley fears arrest over child support



Plastic bills here this fall



Canada: Coastal residents await waves



Massive tsunami in Japan



Life magazine 'duped' over photos

# Underwire bra supports drunk driving defence

Article

Published On Thu Mar 10 2011

Email Print f Share 51 [social icons]

Betsy Powell and Jim Wilkes Staff Reporters

An underwire bra is at the centre of an impaired driving case after police asked a suspect to remove her lingerie over concerns it could be used as a "weapon."

Sang Eun Lee, of Richmond Hill, is asking an Ontario judge to dismiss an impaired driving charge against her after a York Regional Police constable ordered her to remove her bra.

Defence lawyer Leora Shemesh is arguing that Lee's rights against an unreasonable search or seizure were violated under Section 8 of Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms after she was arrested early Jan. 30, 2010.

Const. Jennifer Martin testified in Newmarket court Thursday that after she arrested Lee, 38, for suspected impairment, she conducted a pat-down search at the Richmond Hill police station



Sang Eun Lee, shown leaving the Newmarket Courthouse

- Advertisement -

## ServiceOntario

Click. Done.

Use more than 30 other services online at [ServiceOntario.ca](http://ServiceOntario.ca)

LEARN MORE



Providence Healthcare Helping You Home

## Must Reads

- » 54 things to do during March Break
- » Pete Doherty a suspect in guitar theft
- » Turn clocks ahead this weekend
- » Charlie Sheen writing memoir: 'Apocalypse Me'
- » Subway closings this weekend

## Follow The Toronto Star



and "could tell she was wearing an underwire bra."

Thursday, was asked to remove her bra after being arrested for drunk driving as police deemed the wiring could be used as a weapon.

LUCAS OLENIUK/TORONTO STAR

Martin, who was an acting sergeant that night, said that within her platoon there is an unwritten policy of asking women in custody to remove their bras if they have underwire support. She said she asked Lee to remove it — which Lee did after removing her coat and sweater, exposing her breasts. Martin then turned it over to her supervisor. The bra was returned to Lee before she was released.

In earlier testimony, Martin's supervisor said it was standard practice to have female officers require all accused women to remove underwire bras.

Martin testified she has heard of examples of "accused persons trying to kill themselves with their bras." The wire can also be removed and used to damage police holding cells and is a risk to officer safety, she said.

Other items, such as belts, are seized for similar reasons, she said. The pat-down search is conducted to search for evidence and ensure people in custody aren't hiding drugs, weapons or alcohol, she added.

Shemesh challenged Martin to "find one occurrence involving someone attempting to hang themselves with an underwire bra."

"I don't know specifically," Martin replied. "I know people have tried to hang themselves with their clothes."

The cells are fully monitored and videotaped, she said. Martin also testified that she would ask a woman to remove a bra — even a cotton garment — if she thought the straps were long enough to be used as a noose.

Ontario Court Justice Anne-Marie Hourigan asked Martin why she specifically directed Lee to remove the garment. Martin said it was a combination of Lee's emotional state — she was distraught during the booking procedure — and her allegedly impaired state.

Other Greater Toronto police services have no established policy for bras, but some say they'll seize anything — including women's undergarments — if an officer believes a prisoner might harm themselves.

In all cases, searches of female prisoners are done by female officers, they explained. "Officers are supposed to search for, among other things, anything that has the potential to be used as a weapon," said Sgt. Zahir Shah of Peel Regional Police.

"When a search is done, if an officer comes across something that, in his or her judgment, could be used as a weapon, it's seized." Shah said that could include an underwire bra, although Peel's policy doesn't specifically mention bras.

Dave Selby of Durham Regional Police Service said if police seize clothing from prisoners, they provide quilted smocks or coveralls to keep them warm.

"We do remove anything that we believe could be used to harm themselves," Selby said. "That includes belts, drawstrings, a brassiere, shoelaces — anything they could use to harm themselves, we take that away."

Conrad Black's wife Barbara Amiel ran afoul of regulations banning underwire bras at Florida's Federal Correctional Complex in Coleman, where the disgraced media baron served time for fraud and obstructing justice.

## Making News



**James Travers**  
1948-2011

James Travers, an award-winning national columnist...



**Toronto Community Housing Corporation**

The latest stories and developments on the...



**Agent Orange**

A Toronto Star investigation has revealed that the...

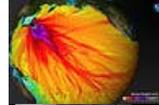
## See for Yourself »



Japan Tsunami



Hawaii tsunami



Tsunami data



Alexander McQueen



[More Photos and Videos »](#)

## Ads by Google

### Family Law In Ontario

Divorce, Custody, Child & Spousal Support. Free Initial Consultation!  
WaisbergFamilyLaw.com

### Toronto Defence Law Firm

25+ Yrs Legal Defence Experience  
We Fight to Win, Free Consultation  
TorontoDefenceLawyers.ca

### Criminal Defense Attorney

Full Criminal Law Firm in Toronto  
Experienced Paralegals & Lawyers  
www.tyalaw.ca

### Ontario Criminal Lawyer

GTA Criminal Lawyer Can Win DUI's  
Free Consult For All DUI Offences  
www.ImpairedDrivingDUILawyer.com

England's *Independent* newspaper reported in 2008 that Amiel had to retreat to a parking lot to remove wires from her bra.

They quoted her as saying that after "twenty minutes of beaver-like gnawing, wires removed, I pass inspection."

The Newmarket case adjourned until June 1.

Email | Print | Republish | Report an error | Share 51

Top Stories:

Widespread destruction after deadly Japan quake, tsunami

A Canadian's first-person account of the Japan earthquake

Canada: Coastal residents await waves

Hawaii: Waves as high as two metres hit islands

USA: First waves from tsunami reach U.S. mainland

Choose from over **30** direct flights to European destinations

Discover today's **FEATURED PRODUCTS**

air transat

Other Star Sites

<p>7 tax mistakes that could trigger an audit</p>	<p>Why you should stay out of the left lane</p>	<p>The hidden agenda of bedtime stories</p>	<p>A mattress for every taste</p>	<p>Sweet dreams are made of cheese?</p>	<p>Family-friendly events, attractions, camps, dining &amp; more</p>
---	---	---	-----------------------------------	---	--

thestar.com

- Corrections
- Contact Webmaster
- FAQ
- Site Map

Toronto Star

- About
- Subscribe
- Subscriber Self Service
- Contact Us
- News Releases
- Star Internships
- Careers @ the Star

Advertise with US

- Media Kit
- Online Advertising
- Print Advertising
- Special Sections

Initiatives

- Santa Claus Fund
- Fresh Air Fund
- Speakers Bureau
- Classroom Connection
- Community Giving

Stay up to date

- RSS Feeds
- Twitter Updates
- News Alerts
- Newsletters
- Mobile Devices

wheels.ca | toronto.com | Stock Photography | Cheap Flights | New in Homes | Car Insurance Quotes | Leasebusters.com | Save.ca | ShopTV | starsavers.ca | more



