

Crown and sash taken

Miss Latina Canada 'shocked' by theft

By JONATHAN JENKINS, SUN MEDIA

Carolina Rabsiun is a queen without a crown ever since a thief stole the regal trappings of Miss Latina Canada.

"It's pretty sad these things had to get lost," Rabsiun, 21, said.

"It's a really big loss for me, I think. I was pretty sad when I found out and I was pretty shocked that someone would actually take that."

'SYMBOLIC VALUE'

Crowned last August, Rabsiun usually makes an appearance every week in the crown and sash of Miss Latina. Since the theft last Thursday, she's not sure what she'll do.

"The money value that crown has is nothing compared to the sentimental and symbolic value it has," she said.

"It's the symbol that allows me to represent the Hispanic community. That's really big to me and no amount of money can compare to that.

"Hopefully the person who took it will find it in their hearts to return it. It's important for me to have it. I would like to have my crown and my sash to continue to go to events and keep doing what I do."

The crown -- worth about \$300 retail but now irreplaceable since the line has been discontinued -- and the sash were in a case in Elizabeth Singh's car left parked at the Warden subway station.

Singh, the executive producer with ES Team Productions, the company that runs the Miss Latina Canada pageant, said she returned to her car and found the door damaged and the stereo ripped out.

'IT'S A BIG DEAL'

The case in the car with the crown and sash was also gone.

"I think what happened is they might have opened the case and saw the glittery stuff and thought 'Oh my god, this is really valuable' and took it," Singh said.

"It's not so much the monetary value of the crown we're worried about. It's a big deal to the Latin community that this stuff is gone.

"It's a symbolic representation of the Latin culture in Canada."

