

Criminal charges laid against photographer

By JAMES BAILEY
A freelance photographer who was arrested outside Mississauga Hospital while taking pictures of a hysterical mental patient was yesterday charged with assaulting police and causing a disturbance by shouting.

with intent to resist arrest as he was taking pictures of a woman who was being taken into the hospital by ambulance. The new charges were laid after an investigation by detectives. Police said the woman became hysterical because of the photographs and Kalnins was warned twice to stop taking pictures. When an officer stepped in front of him to prevent further photographs,

police allege Kalnins shoved him out of the way. A struggle ensued as Kalnins was arrested, handcuffed and placed in a police cruiser. Kalnins appeared in an interview on CFTO-TV the following night and charged that police had roughed him up. Kalnins said his camera equipment had been damaged in the fracas and that he was seeking an apology and offer from the police to pay for repairs. The report indicated that Kalnins was contemplating laying countercharges against the two policemen who arrested him.

Kalnins told The Times the incident began as he spotted an ambulance arriving at the hospital as he was leaving. "I got suspicious and thought I'd stick around. The door opened and a cop jumped out. I thought to myself that was unusual so I started taking some pictures."

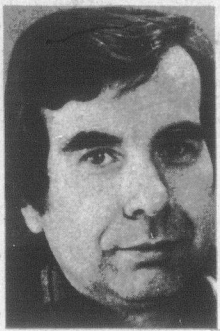
"I took about four or five and they (the police) said 'Hey, you stop taking pictures.'"

Kalnins said he was backing away to take some pictures of the general scene when his flash accidentally went off. "They grabbed me and started dragging me toward the cruiser although I said I was quite willing to go."

"One of the guys said 'Line him up against the cruiser' so they pushed me and knocked my hand against the cruiser. They tore the cameras off me physically."

Kalnins said he was pushed to the ground and "they started kicking me." He said the officers had difficulty handcuffing him because it was "cold and slippery," then searched him and seized his wallet.

"They just pushed me into the cruiser — they don't



ALEX KALNINS

gentlemanly put you there," he added. "The handcuffs were so tight I almost screamed. I asked them to untie me but they refused."

Kalnins said he was driven to 12 Division and eventually released about 1.45 a.m. He estimated that he was arrested about 9 p.m.

Kalnins concluded "Basically I was badly roughed up. I was kicked around a bit, but not really beaten." He returned to the hospital for an examination after his release. "There was nothing broken, but I had abrasions and a swollen hand."

The photographer described the fracas as an "isolated incident. Generally I have great respect for the police. I've always had tremendous rapport with police, it's just unfortunate this thing happened."

"If I had been told she was a private mental patient and had done nothing wrong, there would have been no incident — I would have walked away. It would have taken a couple of seconds and it would have solved the problem."

Inspector Robert Middaugh said "I have examined the incident, including the evidence of the police officers, the ambulance attendants and the civilian witnesses and I'm satisfied that our officers acted within their authority."

Kalnins will appear in court Feb. 15 on the charges.

Proposal for townhouses rejected

A proposal to put 200 townhouses on the former Springbank Sand and Gravel Co. property on Mississauga Road has been rejected by the Ontario Municipal Board.

In a judgment released this week, the board refused an appeal by Mississauga-Peel Land Consultants Co., controlled by city builder William Sorokolit, to build the townhouses.

At a hearing last year, ratepayers from the Mississauga-Oakridge Association had strongly opposed the plan, saying that townhouses would destroy their single-family area.

It was the contention of the developer that because of the need to regrade the gravel pit and the cost of the land, it was not economically viable to build anything but townhouses. The ratepayers' association produced its own economic evidence arguing that 41 single-family units could be developed on the land, still yielding a considerable profit for the owner.

In its seven-page judgment, the board stated that it is "not convinced that a single-family development could not be viable."

The board also noted that Mississauga-Peel bought the land unconditionally, with no concern for zoning. This suggests that the owner felt that even if the townhouse proposal was rejected, some development of the land was still possible.

City council, after a public meeting on the application, rejected it unanimously. It agreed with a report by Planning Commissioner Russ Edmunds which said the townhouses would be an unwarranted intrusion into a predominantly single-family area.

The OMB ruling also noted that the single-family area had been "resolutely maintained" despite considerable development pressure over the last 10 years.

It is expected that Mississauga-Peel will re-submit an application to the city to develop the land, this time

for single-family homes. The developer still has the right, however, to appeal the OMB decision to the Cabinet or to the Supreme Court of Ontario.

Five charged in fraud which netted \$10,000

A Mississauga man and four Brampton residents have been charged in connection with a fraud operation which netted an estimated \$10,000 in goods through the use of stolen credit cards and phony cheques at Square One, the Bramalea City Centre and Brampton Shopper's World.

Inspector Des Howland said that more complaints from stores in Toronto are also under investigation.

One of the five accused, Steven Balla, 21, of no fixed address, was released on \$2,500 bail with no cash deposit. He faces three counts of possession of stolen property and two counts of fraud.

man, 34, of Henron Court, Susan Balla, 27, and her husband Peter Balla, 22, all of Brampton, were ordered into custody to await trial, after bail hearings.

Det. Doug Fowlie of the fraud squad testified that Susan and Peter Balla were "speed"-users, and that the pair were on bail when arrested Jan. 6. He added that they were leaving a house in Malton with suitcases.

Fowlie said police chased their car and forced it off the road.

The detective said Susan Balla faces nine charges of fraud, uttering and impersonation, with possibly 10 to 20 more charges in Toronto.

She is also awaiting trial on a charge of possession of speed for the purpose of trafficking which was laid last year.

Police found 12 syringes in the couple's luggage when their car was pulled over and two needles had blood on them indicating that they had been recently used. Fowlie testified.

An assistant crown attorney argued the two would continue to commit crimes if released, noting that they both had criminal records for similar offences.

Lozon is charged with three counts of possession of stolen credit cards and will appear in court shortly. Bowman is charged with possession of property obtained by crime.

Two armed robberies in city over weekend

Peel police are investigating two armed robberies which occurred in Mississauga's south end over the weekend.

A man armed with a rifle entered Scott's Chicken Villa at 1369 Lakeshore Rd. W. Friday night about 10.40 p.m. and forced the girl attendant into the manager's office at the rear of the store. The bandit demanded money and was

given \$454 in cash. He fled from the store on foot. The suspect is described as white, in his mid-20s, of medium height and build. He was wearing a red wool scarf around his face to conceal himself, a waist-length winter cloth coat and blue jeans at the time of the robbery.

Detectives were called out again early Sunday morning to investigate the holdup of a cab driver behind Dixie Plaza.

Police said the driver, Joseph Morris, 21, of Oakville, was driving southbound on Dixie Road about 12.20 a.m. when he saw a man signalling him as he approached Dixie Plaza.

When the man got in the taxi, he pulled out a gun and ordered Morris to drive to the rear of the Sayvette store in the nearby plaza.

The bandit took \$85 in cash and the keys to the cab, then fled on foot. He is described as white, in his 20s, with dark blond shoulder-length hair, wearing a dark leather jacket.

Police believe the two robberies are unrelated.

Condominium hearing set

A provincial government study group examining condominium ownership will hold public hearings for Peel Region at the Bramalea Civic Centre tomorrow.

The Ontario Residential Condominium Study Group will hold hearings at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. in Banquet Room A and will hear presentations from any interested individuals or organizations.

Attempted ride to North, man faces weapon charge

A Brampton man who last year tried to reach the North Pole on a motorbike has been charged with possession of two restricted weapons.

James Taylor, 41, of R.R. 4, Brampton was arrested after police seized a Luger pistol

and a .38-cal. revolver from a home. He is also charged with defacing serial numbers on the revolver.

He was ordered released from custody Thursday on \$10,000 bail with no cash deposit.

Bylaw misconstrued

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"We have a problem because we've got bylaws that are for a basically rural community in many cases," says Mrs. Spence. But increasingly, domestic and especially stray animals are causing problems. She says some people are "being disturbed and harassed by cats."

In one instance, residents of Fair Birch Drive have even petitioned the city about the problem.

"We're just trying to provide a basis for enforcement for those people who are being irresponsible," claims Mrs. Spence.

If a neighbor has a habit of picking up a stray cat, not having it spayed and then keeping one kitten and throwing out the mother and the rest of the litter, then the bylaw can be used to stop the practice.

"If the bylaw prohibits things like that and if it's causing a problem and we get a complaint, then we can follow

up on it. Nobody is trying to be unreasonable with this thing."

Mrs. Spence says that the "ridiculous emotional exaggeration" which always seems to accompany the animal problem was one of the things the city was trying to avoid with the bylaw. The Ward 2 councillor says she's afraid that "people who have to get on this emotional bandwagon about animals will stop reasonable regulations."

A motion was actually placed before the animal-control committee asking that cats be specifically exempted from the bylaw, but that idea was defeated.

The original animal-control committee which laid the groundwork for the bylaw included politicians, representatives of the Ontario Humane Society and several veterinarians.

The public meeting on the bylaw will be held at 8 p.m. on March 14 in the council chambers at city hall.

EFFECTIVE PARENTING LEADERSHIP

at Sheridan's Brampton Campus (McLaughlin Road at Steeles Ave. West)

The Family Life Education Council of Peel, in cooperation with Sheridan College, is sponsoring a Leadership Training Program, starting Saturday, January 29, 1977.

The aim of the program is to train people from various backgrounds to assume the role of parent educators in the community, and to lead parent groups as "adult educators" under the sponsorship of the Council. Leaders will receive remuneration from the Peel Board of Education.

The course will be held on six consecutive Saturdays 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., plus three evenings, 7:00-10:00 p.m. within the period. Fee \$45.00.

For further information, and registration forms call Continuing Education, Brampton Campus, 459-7533 or 826-4360

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