

# Man who shot 2 gets 4 years

By CONNIE RAE  
Times staff writer

Robert Curnoe, the man who faced a life sentence for the shooting of two men at Mississauga's Avion Motor Hotel, was sentenced to four years in penitentiary in Peel County Court Wednesday.

The sentence wrapped up a dramatic eight-day trial in which Curnoe told police he would be "gunned down in court" by friends of his victims. The Supreme Court jury took six hours to reach a verdict of guilty of attempted murder and guilty of shooting with intent to endanger life.

Curnoe, a Weston mechanic who owned his own business and acted as unofficial bouncer at the Avion, told court he had been threatened by patrons at the hotel and feared for his life. Just six days before the Dec. 23, 1978 shooting he purchased a .38 calibre revolver for protection.

Defence attorney Paul Tomlinson maintained that Jeffery Myron, 23, and Michael Lance 19, made threatening gestures to the accused, and Curnoe, fearing they were part of a gang plot to "get him" shot Lance in the face and

Myron in the neck and stomach as Lance approached him.

Before sentencing, Curnoe told Mr. Justice A. W. Maloney, "At no time did I attempt to lie or deceive this court. This whole world is just going crazy."

In passing sentence, Justice Maloney said Curnoe was "crying out for calamity" by walking around a crowded tavern with a loaded revolver.

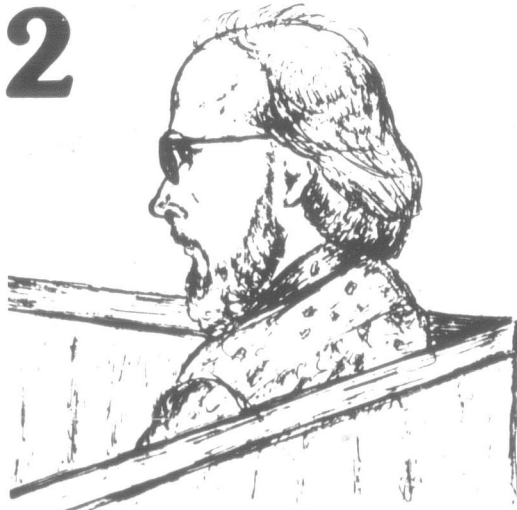
"If you had been threatened you could have spared confrontation by simply staying away from the Avion's Leaky Tap Tavern," he said.

"I find it difficult to accept that you did what you did, but I am impressed with your background and I am convinced that you feel true remorse."

"I impose a four-year sentence because the public must know the courts will not countenance such conduct."

Crown attorney Leo McGuigan, who commended Curnoe for an "academy performance" on the witness stand, argued for a stiff sentence. "It's a miracle it's not two counts of murder this man is facing," he said.

"Curnoe shot two people down like dogs, and one of the men is partially deaf and both will bear emotional scars for life."



CONNIE RAE/THE TIMES

Robert Curnoe: Feared for life

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## Board will close Clarkson school

At least one of four Clarkson area public schools under review by the Peel Board of Education will be closed by June, 1982 because of declining enrolment.

The board's planning and building committee decided last week that the decision to close either Park Royal, Willow Glen, Hillside or Elmcrest public schools will be made in June, 1981.

Homeowners in the Clarkson area offered little

opposition to the proposed closing.

The decision was the first of a series of proposed school closing decisions that will be made this month by the committee following months of staff studies and homeowners' input.

The proposed closing of Westacres and Applewood public schools will be discussed by the planning and buildings committee tonight.

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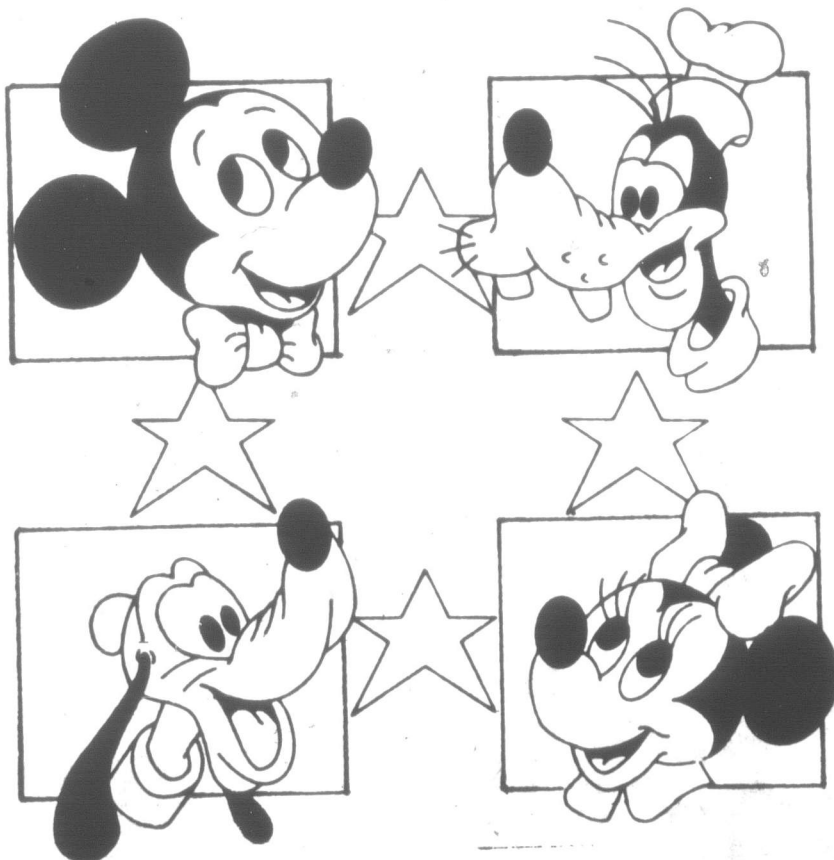
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