

# Alderman gets 3rd impaired driving conviction

Toronto Alderman Ed Negridge will appear in provincial court tomorrow for sentencing on his third conviction for impaired driving.

The 42-year-old Ward 2 alderman could get three months or more in jail for the conviction, his third in three years.

Negridge was sentenced Monday to 14 days in jail after he was found guilty

last month of his second impaired driving charge.

He has been released on his own recognizance while defence lawyer Peter Budnick appeals the second conviction and sentence.

"There is no question in my mind that the accused was impaired at the time he was driving," Provincial Judge Aaron Brown said as he convicted Negridge yesterday.

Brown at first refused to admit the results of breathalyzer tests administered to Negridge the night he was arrested, less than two weeks after the second offence, because, he said, a clear 15 minutes had not elapsed between the two tests.

Such tests must now be conducted at least 17 minutes apart, according to

an Ontario Supreme Court judgment.

But to the surprise of both prosecuting and defence lawyers, Brown later ruled the breathalyzer test results could be entered as evidence to be interpreted by an expert witness called by the crown.

The tests showed Negridge had 190 and 180 milligrams of alcohol per 100 millilitres of blood when

breath samples were taken an hour after his arrest. A driver with a reading above 80 milligrams is considered impaired.

Constable Edward Trines testified Monday that Negridge smelled of alcohol, was unsteady on his feet and slurred his speech when he was arrested.

John Howes, a chemist with the Centre for Forensic

Sciences, told the court it was his opinion, based on testimony at the trial, that Negridge was impaired.

Breathalyzer readings of 190 and 180 milligrams showed "a very high level" of alcohol in Negridge's blood and would have caused "serious impairment," he said.

Budnick asked Brown to disregard the breathalyzer

tests because, he said, Rogers failed to take a room-temperature reading at the time of the breath sampling. The court was told a wide disparity in the room temperature and the temperature of chemicals in the analysis machine could result in incorrect readings.

But Brown said he was satisfied Negridge was impaired, based on the arresting officers testimony and

other descriptions of the alderman's condition.

Crown Attorney Paul Culver tried to have sentencing delayed four weeks because Negridge would not admit to his two previous convictions.

In such cases, the crown must produce three witnesses to testify to the convictions.

Although Culver said it would be almost impossible

to arrange for witnesses on short notice, Brown scheduled sentencing for 10 a.m. tomorrow.

A charge of failing to remain at the scene of an accident, stemming from the same May, 1976 incident, was put over yesterday to Jan. 9 to set a trial date. A charge of driving with more than the legal limit of alcohol in the blood was withdrawn.

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REACH FOR A STAR. MOST PEOPLE DO

### Harbor danger discounted

There is no danger in the Toronto harbor or on the Toronto Island system because of low lake levels this year, Metro Executive Committee decided yesterday.

The committee unanimously adopted a report from parks commissioner Tommy Thompson, who rebutted criticism that police and fireboats could not negotiate canals on the island because the lake is nearly two feet lower than normal.

Mary McLaughlin, a former member of the Toronto Harbor Commission, said there were serious limitations on rescue routes and the fire boat cannot navigate in the lagoons and thus protect the houses and concessions.

### Gunmen hit gas station for \$175 haul

Police in Scarborough are seeking two men for a \$175 hold-up last night of a 16-year-old cashier at a Kingston Rd. automobile service centre.

Laura Taylor told police a man wearing a stocking mask demanded the money at Simpson's Shell and Car Wash service centre near McCowan Rd.

She said a second man with a revolver stood behind the masked man and she handed over the money. The two men ran east on Kingston Rd. and disappeared in a ravine near Bellhaven Rd.

### Metro votes to give \$10,000 for Cobalt relief

Metro Executive Committee voted unanimously yesterday to donate \$10,000 to the town of Cobalt for its fire relief fund.

A report from Chairman Paul Godfrey said the Ontario government will match four for one any dollar donated to Cobalt, some of a May 23 fire that destroyed much of the town. So Metro's donation will really mean \$50,000.

### Around the Town

#### TTC, union sign 6% wage pact

The Toronto Transit Commission signed an agreement yesterday with the Amalgamated Transit Union giving drivers a 6 per cent wage increase retroactive to July 1.

The agreement, approved by union members last week, gives fully-trained drivers with one year's experience a wage of \$7.54 an hour.

#### Godfrey to study U.S. subway

Metro Chairman Paul Godfrey has been asked by the Toronto Transit Commission to visit San Francisco to examine its Bay Area Rapid Transit System.

Godfrey, a TTC commissioner, will study the San Francisco system's use of pass cards to operate turnstiles. The value of each ride is electronically deducted from the cards when they're used.

A TTC report earlier this year recommended adopting the system in Metro.

#### Police station stars in movie

The old police station on College St. will see action again soon — as a movie set.

Metro Council voted yesterday to rent the no-longer-used building for \$300 a day to producers of the film Coup d'Etat and the television series The New Avengers.

## Steeplejack 'just fell' into his job

By JOHN SPEARS  
Star staff writer

The main difference between Don McRae of Ajax and the average construction worker is that McRae doesn't mind working while he's dangling from a bosun's chair 200 feet in the air.

McRae is a steeplejack, and you can see him or his workers during the next few weeks repairing the spire of St. Michael's Cathedral at Queen and Church Sts.

McRae, 36, has been climbing up and down church steeples most of his life ever since his father, also a steeplejack, took him up a spire for the first time at the age of 12.

After that, "I just fell into it," he shrugs, using an inappropriate metaphor.

Although tradesmen who call themselves steeplejacks abound it's not so easy to find the old-fashion kind, McRae says.

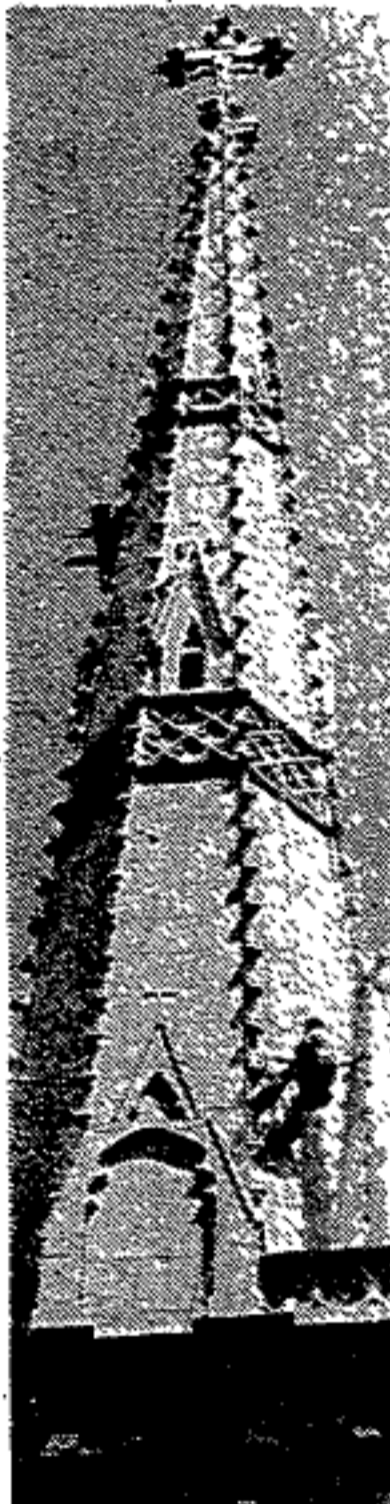
"They're classed as steeplejacks, but to get them to work on a church spire is a different story."

To get at a spire, the conventional tradesman would have to construct a massive scaffold around the steeple, McRae says. But the steeplejack builds a wooden ladder in sections, fixes a block and tackle to the cross at the peak, then hangs the bosun's chair.

His firm, which employs about five men on a regular basis, has as much work as it can handle and working on churches as far away as St. Catharines.

But McRae isn't encouraging his 13-year-old son to follow his father and grandfather into the trade.

"It's just too tough. We'd like to see him go to school and see how the other half lives."



PAINTER AT WORK  
200 feet above ground



A BOSUN'S CHAIR — just enough to seat him — is all that supports Bill O'Connell as he works on St. Michael's spire. Wooden ladder was built to top of spire and a block-and-tackle attached to the cross supports the workers' chairs.

## Alcohol ban sought in bars featuring nudity

In its continuing war on nudity, Metro Council asked the province yesterday to ban the sale of alcohol in places featuring any type of nude entertainment.

At the same meeting council endorsed the hiring last week of special prosecutor Morris Manning to obtain injunctions against unlicensed body-rub parlors and places offering nude services.

In a motion from City Aldermen Dan Heap and John Sewell, council also asked Ontario Premier William Davis to contact the federal government to ensure that the province has full power to carry out the ban.

If the request is approved, alcohol would not be sold in establishments with any form of nude or semi-nude entertainers or employees.

#### NO LEGAL RIGHT

In July 1975 the Supreme Court of Ontario ruled that the Liquor License Board of Ontario has no legal right to censor entertainment in public places. The board had threatened a London, Ont. bar with loss of license if it didn't cancel its entertainment.

Sewell told council it is degrading for women to disrobe to sell liquor or beer, and "it is unfair to allow that to happen to human beings."

"It's not that we don't like women selling their bodies only in body-rub parlors or nude entertainment places," he said. "We don't like them doing it anywhere."

Sewell said if Metro and the city are serious about cleaning up the Yonge St. Strip, "hiring a lawyer to get some injunctions isn't going to do it alone."

#### 90-MINUTE DEBATE

Manning's \$100-an-hour job became secondary in the 90-minute debate, as member after member asked why nothing had been done sooner.

"Why was there no action until this death?" asked York Mayor Phil White. "Where was our own legal counsel? Were we over-worked or understaffed?"

"How is it that everybody's busy now trying to clean up Yonge St.?" asked East York Alderman Leslie Saunders. "A month ago there was nothing, but now after a little boys die we're suddenly doing something."

Metro Chairman Paul Godfrey denied Metro had been inactive in its control over licensing and in prosecuting sex shops, body-rub parlors and nude entertainment centres.

"More than 150 body-rub parlors were open in 1973 when Metro passed its body-rub legislation. Many closed, but others opened

under other names. A number of charges were laid.

"Then this term, Metro again asked the province for enabling legislation to control nude entertainment places. We have been told by the province that this power is coming, but not until the fall session of the Legislature."

Godfrey said the decision to seek to close the sex shops through permanent or temporary injunctions was made two weeks before 12-

year-old Emanuel Jaques was found dead on the roof of a body-rub parlor Aug. 1.

Manning's job started Aug. 8 when Godfrey, after meetings with the city and provincial officials, hired him to seek injunctions. At least four writs have already been served by Metro, giving owners of nine nude entertainment spots until Aug. 23 to appear in court to answer the applications.

## Five stores badly burned in plaza fire

Five stores were badly damaged in a fire that burned out of control for more than seven hours at the Lawrence Plaza at Bathurst St. and Lawrence Ave. early today.

About 65 North York firemen fought the three-alarm blaze through the night, trying to contain it in the basement area of the stores. Three firemen collapsed and were treated in hospital for smoke inhalation.

The fire, which firemen finally got under control at 8 a.m., is believed to have started in the Stork Club, a men's health spa in the basement.

It quickly spread to four other above-ground stores — Coles, Radio Shack, Kelly's Stereo Mart and 7-Star Billiards — which share a common basement and roof.

The scene of today's fire is just three stores away from the site of a blaze that destroyed eight stores and caused \$500,000 damage last year.

The man who turned in the alarm on the fire last year also called firemen today.

Kemal Niyazi, part owner

of 7-Star Billiards, said he was cleaning the bathrooms about 1 a.m. when he noticed smoke coming up through the floor.

"I went outside and saw that Coles and Kelly's were completely filled with smoke," he said. "After calling the police I called my partner and said, 'Nick, this time I think the place has had it.'"

North York Fire Chief Joe Gibson said he thought several times that the blaze was contained, but flames crept up through the walls and set fire to the roof.

Gibson said cause of the fire was not immediately known and he was not able to estimate the damages. Cause of last year's fire was never determined, he said.

Firemen were hampered by thick gray smoke and had to use oxygen masks during the entire time. They had to cut open steel doors to get into some stores.

"This type of fire is one of the most difficult there is to fight," said one weary fireman. "It's hot, you can't see a thing, and because we're on the oxygen packs we get tired much faster."

## TTC HOPES TO FIND NEW YEAR'S SPONSOR

The Toronto Transit Commission would like to find a new sponsor for free rides on New Year's Eve because they "could save lives" by keeping drunks off the road, general manager Michael Warren says.

He was commenting yesterday on a decision by McGuinness-Distillers Ltd. to end its subsidy for a program which has provided free rides from 8 p.m. to 4 a.m. New Year's Eve for six years.

The TTC decided yesterday to continue operating its vehicles for the extended hours on the holiday, but to charge its normal fares.

McGuinness paid \$30,000 for the free rides in 1972, but the cost rose to \$55,000 last year. It was estimated that it would cost \$65,000 to \$70,000 this year. About 350,000 riders used the TTC last New Year's Eve.

## First sentencing in war on sex shops gets woman \$300 fine and probation

A woman convicted of keeping a bawdy house on the Yonge St. Strip was fined \$300 yesterday and put on six months probation.

Sandra McWhirter, 22, pleaded guilty to the charge laid against her in April, 1976. She has since married and is superintendent of a west-end apartment building.

"These people have to be fined in order to deter them from working in these places," Provincial Court Judge Donald Graham said, in sentencing the first per-

son convicted since the current police crackdown began. "A strong attitude must be taken to deter them."

Crown counsel Thomas Ounapu, in charge of prosecuting Yonge St. morals charges, said undercover police entered the Lady Blue parlor near Gerard St. on a number of occasions and were offered acts of sex for \$60.

He said Mrs. McWhirter managed the shop whose business was estimated by police at \$1,800 to \$2,000 per week.

He granted an order to have the landlord or lessor close the place down.

Stanley Mang, listed in a recent City Hall report as owner of the building, was

unavailable for comment yesterday but a woman at his home said the building's tenants have been gone since the first of the month.

### Robber gets cold shoulder

Two employees of the Loblaws store at Danforth and Greenwood Aves. were locked in a meat freezer for 99 minutes last night after an unsuccessful robbery attempt.

Orville Meeke, 48, said today he and Frank Mon-

aco, 23, were locked in the freezer where the temperature was 36F but that the armed robber didn't let them freeze.

"I told him we'd freeze in there and he turned the fan off," he said.

The chamber is empty so there is no bang but Replica Models Inc. can even supply fake bullets.

Besides the snub-nosed model there were other replicas on display yesterday at King Sol Outdoor Store on Queen St. W. near Bathurst St., including models of the German Lager.

A salesman, when asked

about the snub-nosed model, said there were no restrictions or permits required for the sale.

In the light of the store it was not hard to see the black blob of metal down in the barrel which is the most obvious indication that it is not a real revolver.

Miszal, 51, died Monday night on Ossington Ave., after being shot by a police-

man when he pulled a similar replica from his shirt.

Miszal was shot twice in the chest by Constable Christopher Bailey, 27, following complaints that a man had been threatening pedestrians with a gun on Ossington Ave. near Bloor St.

Bailey, who thought the gun was real, shot Miszal after calling to him twice to stop.

An inquest will be held in the first week of November.

Deputy Chief James Noble said yesterday he felt Bailey had no alternative but to shoot when the man pulled the gun.

"As it turned out it was an imitation. But the officer didn't know that at the time. It's a very realistic thing."

He said that as Bailey and his partner were re-

sponding to a call involving firearms, Bailey had his .38 calibre police revolver resting on his lap rather than in his holster.

The salesman in the King Sol store described the replica he offered for sale as a "collector's item" and said many bought them to put on display. Collectors wouldn't want to put a real revolver up on a wall to be stolen, he added.

## Gun replica turned out just as deadly as the real thing

By DON DUTTON  
Star staff writer

It is just a replica but so much like a real snub-nosed revolver that it cost Alexander Miszal his life — and it is for sale in Toronto for \$34.95.

The Alexandria, Virginia, company distributing the made-in-Japan replica describes it as the "famous detective model, used by

police agencies across the United States."

And it not only looks like the real thing with its stubby black steel barrel but it also feels like the real thing.

The checkered grip fits snugly in the hand and with a firm pull on the trigger the hammer comes back, the cylinder revolves and the hammer comes down.

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