

# The Canadian Echo

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## NEWSLINES

### Chamber sponsors GTA reform meeting

The Milton Chamber of Commerce is hosting a panel discussion on the recommendations of the Golden Commission for Greater Toronto Area reform.

The event is on Thursday, Feb. 8 at 7:30 a.m. at the Muddy Duck restaurant.

The panel includes Halton regional Chair Joyce Savoline, Milton Mayor Gord Krantz, Burlington Mayor Walter Mulkeewich and Halton Hills Mayor Marilyn Serjeantson.

The business community and public are invited to attend this discussion on the impacts of the recommendations on local businesses and residents.

Breakfast is served at 7:30 a.m. with the panel discussion commencing 30 minutes later. Questions will be accepted from the floor.

Tickets are \$12 for Chamber members and \$15 for non-members. Call 878-0581 to reserve your seat.

### Road fatalities have decreased from 1994 total

Highway fatalities in Ontario decreased in 1995, according to statistics released yesterday by the OPP.

In 1995, 647 people died in the 545 fatal motor vehicle collisions the OPP investigated. The numbers translate into a 4.4 per cent drop in fatal crashes compared to 1994.

Figures also reveal that in 1995, fewer people were killed on Ontario roads as traffic deaths decreased by 4 per cent from 674 in 1994.

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## Bob Kranstz cleared of all assault charges

By KAREN SMITH

The Champion

A smiling Bob Kranstz looked both happy and relieved as he left an Oakville courtroom.

Allegations by six Maplehurst Detention Centre inmates that the correctional officer assaulted them during a strip search go against everything he believes in, Mr. Kranstz testified before being acquitted of assault.

The prominent local jiu-jitsu instructor, who was thrice world champion, was found not guilty of six counts of assault following a three-day trial, which began in Milton November 8 and wrapped up in Oakville Monday.

As operator of the Milton School of Jiu-Jitsu, Mr. Kranstz, 55, told Ontario Court (provincial division) that the charges involved acts contrary to the philosophy of martial arts. "It goes beyond everything I believe in - respect for people."

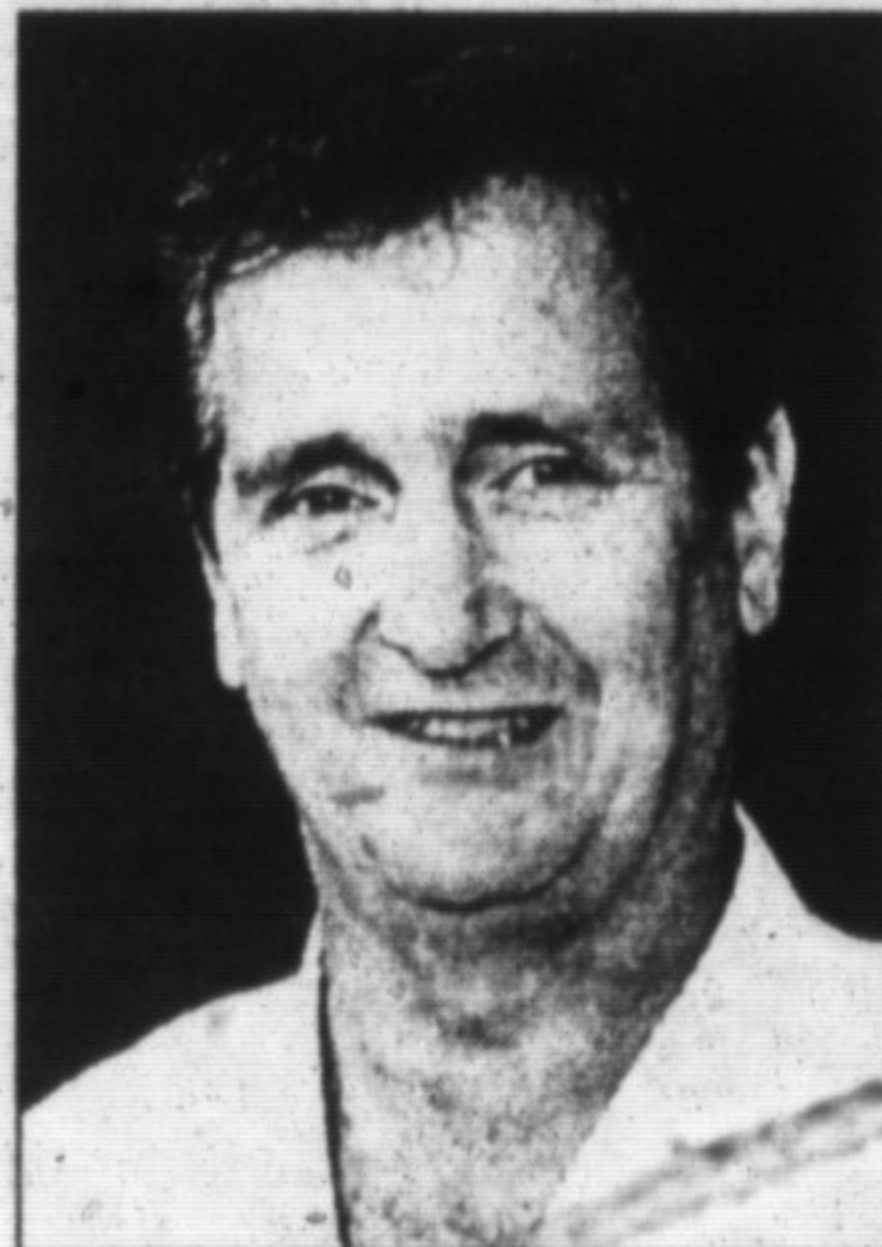
Judge Doug Latimer called for order in the court following an outburst of cheers by Mr. Kranstz's family and colleagues when the verdict was announced.

"This is not a side show," Judge Latimer admonished before dismissing the case.

Judge Latimer said the defence, led by lawyer John Liss, proved reasonable doubt that Mr. Kranstz sprayed the inmates' buttocks with cleaning solution during a strip search on April 23, 1995.

Mr. Liss suggested that the inmates wanted to use the allegations to seek financial compensation from the Ministry of Correctional Services, although he didn't prove the theory.

Mr. Kranstz, who served in the navy, told the court he believes the inmates accused him of assault because he's more strict than most other correctional officers when it comes to jail procedures.



Bob Kranstz

Correctional officers George Gunn and Mike Kaszycki and Lieutenant Tim Pedder, Mr. Kranstz's supervisor, testified on the third day of the trial Monday that no correctional officers sprayed any inmates during the routine search.

"It's not allowed," said Lieut. Pedder, who oversaw the search in the shower area. "I would get into a great deal of trouble and so would the officer in question," Lieut. Pedder denied warning inmate Dwight Facey not to talk about being sprayed, as Mr. Facey had testified earlier in the case.

Mr. Kaszycki told the court an inmate sprayed another prisoner during the strip searches, and the correctional officer said he took the bottle from the instigating prisoner and put it on a nearby ledge.

The other inmates who allege they were sprayed included Joseph Pacheco, Mark Trem-

• see KRANSTZ on page 2

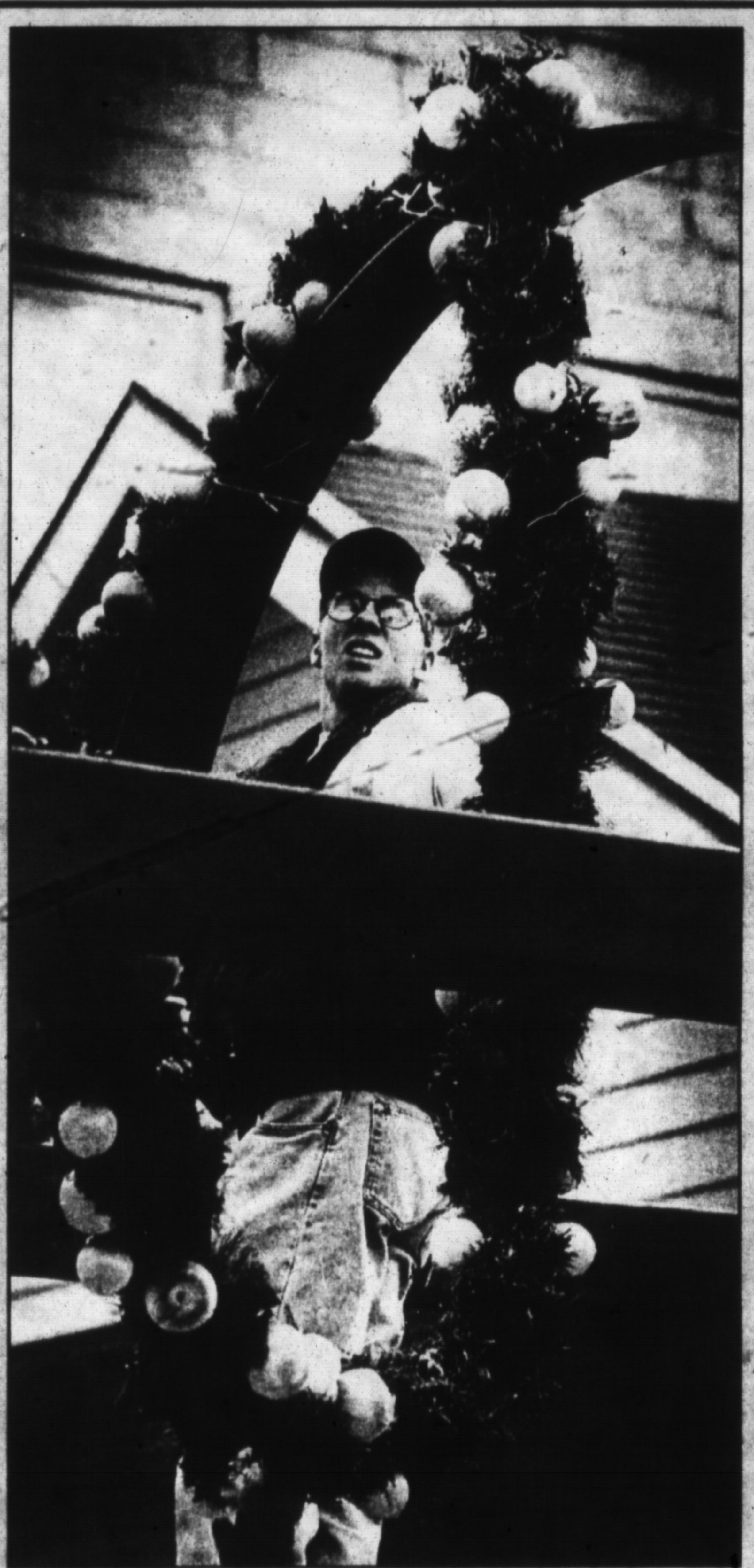


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

## The bitter end

A maintenance worker braves the recent bitter winds to remove Christmas decorations from Carriage Square for another year. The holiday season may be over, but winter just keeps on going.

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