

TAYLOR, ROSEMARY

# Rosemary's daughter torn between 'reality and fiction'

By DECLAN FINUCANE Staff

Amy Taylor told a criminal court jury yesterday she may have given false statements to police nearly two years ago to get herself off the hook.

That admission was part of the conflicting testimony jury members heard from the daughter of a public school trustee facing conspiracy charges.

Amy Taylor, 21, testified in Ontario Court, general division, she may have unintentionally misled police because she was under stress and she wanted to keep herself out of trouble.

Her mother, Rosemary Taylor, came to court last week to face allegations that she put up a phantom candidate during the Nov., 1994 municipal election, in an effort to take votes away from a rival candidate.

In a video statement made to police following the election in Nov., 1994, and shown to the 12-member jury yesterday, Amy Taylor told Peel Regional Police Sergeant Bruce Chapman her mother was afraid of losing the Peel Board of Education Ward 6 trustee race to George Carlson, a former trustee, and subsequently sought out a person to be listed as a candidate at the top of the ballot.

Amy Taylor's boyfriend, David Buchanan Hunter, 22, agreed to be that person, she said in her statement to police, and entered himself in the race as David Buchanan, at Rosemary Taylor's request.

However, yesterday, Amy Taylor testified those statements — made to police in Nov., 1994, and at a preliminary inquiry under oath in Jan., 1996 — were not true.

"My statements might not have been true because I was under a lot of stress, and in a state of shock. I didn't know the difference between reality and fiction then, nor do I now," Amy Taylor told a jury in Brampton court. "I didn't intentionally lie to Sergeant Chapman. I thought if I told him what he wanted to hear, he'd let me go. I knew subconsciously what he wanted to hear. I didn't intend to lie."

Amy Taylor also told court yesterday that it was Hunter's idea, and his alone, to enter the race, and that he had said it might be "fun." Further, she testified she believed her boyfriend was doing nothing wrong by entering the race under the name Buchanan, and that her mother hadn't put him up to it at all.

Amy Taylor also said that Hunter eventually wanted out of the race, due

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## Coke ring busted up by RCMP

A raid on a Mississauga house yesterday helped to conclude an eight-month investigation into an international cocaine ring.

Milton detachment Royal Canadian Mounted Police simultaneously exercised 10 different search warrants in Brampton, Mississauga and Etobicoke yesterday. The investigation has involved Canada Customs officials and police in Halifax, Guyana and St. Lucia.

Seized from the Mississauga house were two loaded firearms, two kilograms of crack cocaine, two kilograms of cannabis resin and about five pounds of marijuana.

The RCMP says the cocaine originated in Guyana and was shipped to

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## Shot twice man lives to tell tale

A Scarborough man who was shot recently in Malton suffered a gunshot wound in the same neighborhood just over a month ago.

Peel Regional Police say the victim, a 21-year-old male, was walking along Morning Star Dr., near Goreway Dr., about 1:45 p.m. September 13 when two men standing near Westwood Secondary School called to him by name, and warned him to stay out of Malton.

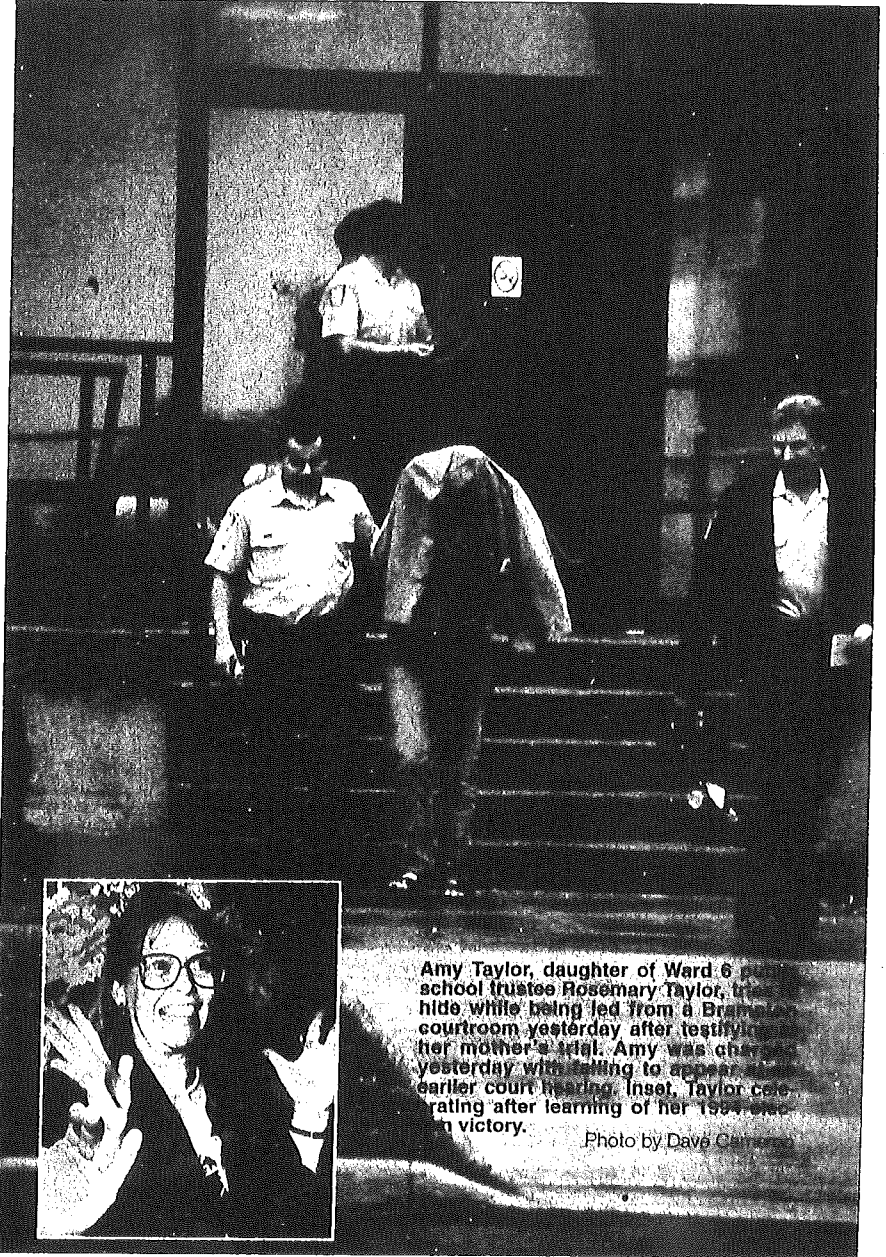
The two men followed the victim on foot to a townhouse complex at 7555 Goreway Dr., and one of the culprits pulled a handgun and fired shots into the air, police say.

The suspects then approached the victim and one of them shot him in the cheek, and a second shot hit the victim in the shoulder and continued on into his head, police say. The victim was brought to Etobicoke General Hospital, and treated for non-life threatening injuries.

The victim also had a gunshot wound from a previous shooting at a Malton house early in late July, police say.

A Mississauga man has been charged in connection with the July shooting.

Geoffrey Paul Beckford, 18, has been charged with attempted murder, aggravated assault and weapons dangerous.



Amy Taylor, daughter of Ward 6 public school trustee Rosemary Taylor, tries to hide while being led from a Brampton courtroom yesterday after testifying in her mother's trial. Amy was charged yesterday with failing to appear at an earlier court hearing. Inset, Taylor celebrating after learning of her 1994 election victory.

Photo by Dave ...

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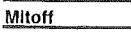
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## Runway brouhaha put on hold

An attempt by Mississauga residents to stop construction or operation of the new north-south runway at Pearson International Airport has been temporarily put on hold.



Mitoff

Lawyers for the federal Department of Justice and the Council of Concerned Residents (CCR) have agreed to adjourn the residents' law suit for the moment.

The legal arguments were set to start Friday in a Toronto courtroom but lawyers for the two sides mutually agreed to the postponement. The federal government has agreed as part of the adjournment that the CCR claim will proceed as a class action suit.

Lorrie Mitoff, co-chair of CCR, appeared before City councillors last

Wednesday to urge them to get behind the residents' efforts to halt the new 3,500 ft. runway, which is scheduled to open in the fall of 1997.

Originally it was planned to use the

6,000 ft. of runway already constructed this fall for Dash 8 and other smaller aircraft but that plan has now been abandoned according to Bruce Reid.

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## And the survey says ...

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# Taylor case wraps up after quick two-weeks

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to the publicity surrounding the election.

Citing several inconsistencies between Amy's testimony yesterday and testimony given by her at the preliminary inquiry in January, Peel assistant crown attorney Steve Sherriff wrapped up the crown's case.

Defence attorney Michael Czuma said he will not present a case for the defence.

Madam Justice Moira Caswell told the jury she would address them today, and that the case would be in their hands by tomorrow morning, after both sides deliver their summations.

Rosemary Taylor, 44, in her third term as a trustee, has pleaded not guilty to charges of conspiracy to utter forged documents and conspiracy to commit fraud.

The charges stem from a complaint filed by the City of Mississauga's Clerk's Department over the legitimacy of Hunter's candidacy in the Nov., 1994 race.

Court has heard that a police investigation immediately following the election revealed that a fictitious candidate named David Buchanan was added to the ballot to take away votes from Carlson. Taylor defeated Carlson by 23 votes in the bitter race. Buchanan received 415 votes.

The police investigation at the time found there never was a David Buchanan, and that Hunter was posing as Buchanan.

By running as Buchanan, he went to the top of the alphabetically arranged ballot, just ahead of Carlson.

The theory is that uninformed voters often choose the top name on the ballot, giving that candidate an extra three or four per cent of the votes.

Yesterday morning, Katia Honsa, 21, told the court that as a favor to her long-time friend, Amy Taylor, she signed Buchanan's nomination form in Oct., 1994. Further, she testified that Amy Taylor told her Buchanan's candidacy was an effort by Rosemary Taylor to have someone placed ahead of Carlson's name on the ballot.

Last week, Hunter told the court Rosemary Taylor persuaded him to enter the race in order to take votes away from the other candidates.

Carlson testified Monday he became suspicious of Buchanan's candidacy after discovering the signatures on his nomination form belonged to family and friends of Rosemary Taylor.

"I felt it was a case of monkey business in local politics, and that Mrs. Taylor was behind it," Carlson testified.

Meanwhile, Amy Taylor is facing charges of conspiracy to utter a forged document. She was also arrested by police immediately after testifying yesterday, for failing to appear in Brampton court Monday, where she was to answer to the conspiracy charge.



Staff photo by Chris Harkin

## Reflecting on a deal

Up to 3,000 bargain hunters stopped by *The Mississauga News* garage sale Saturday in search for that little something special. Here, a threesome peer through a glass showcase to check out some watches as the glass reflects back the jewelry. The event also raised \$500 for *The Mississauga News* Christmas Bureau fund through the sale of refreshments. The next event presented by *The News* is the Winter Registration Show, October 26 at Square. For information about this show call 273-9193.

## Couriers picked up drugs

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Canada through Barbados, St. Lucia, New York and Florida. Members of the drug ring allegedly smuggled drugs into Canada through couriers who picked up the drugs in the foreign countries and smuggled them back into Canada in their luggage or hidden underneath

their clothing. Charged with conspiracy to import cocaine, importing cocaine and conspiracy to traffic cocaine are Mark Browne, 27 and David Rudder, 30 of Brampton; and Kim Turner, 28 and Doreen Slauenwhite, 61 of Nova Scotia. Arrest warrants have been issued for three other men.

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