

Peacemaker recalls stabbing

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A young Christchurch man stabbed in the head by an unwitting party guest thought he was "a dead man walking" and told his father he loved him as he lay in his arms on the street.

Details of the night Samuel Doyle, then 20, had a 9-centimetre blade driven into his left temple in Flockton St, St Albans, have emerged at a Christchurch District Court trial.

Nivard Juan Caine Smith, 20, is charged with wounding Doyle with intent to cause grievous bodily harm on or about February 16.

Smith accepts he stabbed Doyle but denies intending to cause him serious harm.

The Crown case is that Smith knew what he was doing but told a police officer on the night, "I'm not going to stab someone in the face. I know the consequences."



Thoughtless act: Nivard Juan Caine Smith outside Christchurch District Court in Durham Street after an earlier appearance.

Defence counsel Phillip Allan said Smith was "drunk, dazed, scared and confused" when he stabbed Doyle and regretted what he had done.

"This is a case about a scared kid who's done something stupid without thinking," Allan said.

Crown prosecutor Deidre Orchard said Doyle was "very, very lucky" to have made a "more or less" full recovery.

Doyle, who is left-handed, broke his left wrist a few days before the party.



Lucky survivor Sam Doyle had a 9cm blade driven into his left temple at a party.

When he was stabbed, he was unarmed and his hand was in a cast.

"He [Doyle] could hardly have been a threat or perceived to be a threat," Orchard said.

She said Doyle was in fact a peacemaker at the party.

Trouble started after Smith, who had mutual friends with Doyle, arrived with a group Doyle believed was not invited.

Doyle and Smith attended Shirley Boys' High School and had an amicable conversation when they first saw each other at the party about 10pm.

Smith was "completely fine" in terms of sobriety, Doyle told the court.

"Things deteriorated into the evening. There were scuffles and fights - one involving a member of Smith's group in a pool hat."

Doyle, his friends and father eventually "shepherded" the group out on to Flockton St.

Out on the street, the evicted group walked away, but Doyle saw Smith and one of his own friends fighting on nearby Speight St.

He went to intervene and told Smith, "you've just got to go", he said.

"Basically he turned around and went towards his mates," Doyle said.

He followed Smith, telling the group to keep walking and possibly gesturing with his hands.

Someone, who was not Smith, then tackled him from the side onto the road.

"As I stood up, that was when the knife entered my head."

At first he thought it was a broken beer bottle.

When he reached up and felt the knife, he unsuccessfully tried to pull it out.

"I thought I was going to die. I just wanted to get to my family to tell them I loved them, just in case," Doyle said.

His father met him and held him in his arms.

They were "just saying we love each other."

Smith denied involvement when questioned by police that night, but admitted days later he was the stabber but it was in self-defence.

A knife sheath, which the Crown says matched the weapon, was seized by police from a reclining chair in a sleepout at Smith's home.

In a cross-examination, Allan suggested Smith thought Doyle wanted to have a go at him when he approached him on the street.

Allan put to Doyle that he was in fact stabbed when Smith was facing away and Doyle was going towards him.

"I disagree with that completely," Doyle said.

The Crown will call 17 witnesses, including party-givers, police and the surgeon who treated Doyle that night.

Judge Brian Callaghan presides.

Women make finals

Eight Canterbury women making their mark in the community and in business reached the finals of the inaugural Women of Influence awards.

Last night in Auckland the top honours went to sports administrator Therese Walsh of Wellington.

The awards are organised by Fairfax Media and Westpac to recognise the achievements of women in different sectors of society.

Walsh heads New Zealand's 2015 Cricket World Cup campaign and was formerly chief operating officer of the company behind 2011's Rugby World Cup.

Fifty influential women from across the country were selected as finalists, including Christchurch art gallery director Jenny Harper, Rangiora High School principal Peggy Burrows and Canterbury Employers Chamber of Commerce general manager Lesam Watson.

In the community and social category Nicola Coom, manager of organisational development at Canterbury District Health Board and a founder and director of The Gift of Knowledge, was one of the seven Canterbury finalists.

Emily Gualter, an engineering student and a recipient of the University of Canterbury Emerging Leaders Scholarship, was also a Canterbury finalist.

In the business entrepreneur category, owner of design firm Redesign, Jo Penycuik, and Nicola Martin of lighting company Solar Bright were local finalists. Lisa Plato of advertising company Plato Design made the finals of the emerging leader category.

Five other women were also announced as winners of their respective categories last night.

In the local/regional section, former Wellington mayor Fran Wilde took the award for a "standout contribution" to business, politics and the arts.

Academic and former MP Marilyn Waring was also honoured for her contribution to innovation and science.



Festa fun: This weekend's Canterbury Tales performance parade will include tall puppets that will not fit under wires being installed for the Christchurch tram. Photo: BRIGITT ANDERSON

FESTA FESTIVAL FACTS

Festival director Jessica Halliday answers questions about Festa.

What are the headline attractions? Canterbury Tales is the obvious one. That's a carnival procession through the city on the different Canterbury Tales.

Other people have told me they are really excited about the Nomadic Sauna, which is a Native American inspired sauna running Friday, Saturday and Sunday night. There's the Picture House - a mobile cinema for two - and the Transitional Cathedral tour is really exciting too. There's just so much going on it's really hard to pick.

How many days does it run for? We've got 48 events planned over the four days of Labour Weekend.

How many people are you expecting? That's a hard one because last year we thought we'd be lucky to get 2000 or 3000 but we ended up getting 30,000. We're planning for about 20,000 a night but, it really depends on the weather.

What food and drink is there? For Canterbury Tales we've got a huge range of food vendors and drinks there, including pizza, Thai, coffee and gelato. Other vendors such as Black Betty will be open, as well as Casses and Sons, Smash Palace, The Twisted Hop and the Darkroom.

Where's the best place to park? We've got a map around Madras, St Asaph, Kilmore and Durham streets. We've suggested that people do not come within the boundaries of those roads.

Which streets will be shut for the event? For Canterbury Tales we have road closures in place on Saturday and Sunday from 5pm. These will be: Oxford Tce from Cashel St to Worcester St; Worcester St from Oxford Tce to Manchester St including around Cathedral Square; Hereford St/Oxford Tce intersection will be closed; Hereford St/Colombo St into the square only closed; Gloucester St/Colombo St into the square only closed and Worcester St/Manchester St into the Square only closed.

New tram wires have forced organisers of a giant puppet parade to alter their plans after it was found some of the models could get snagged.

Canterbury Tales, the signature event of this weekend's Festival of Transitional Architecture (Festa), will include numerous tall puppets parading from the Bridge of Remembrance to Cathedral Square.

About half of the route has been wired for the tram, but

Duck, it's time for a parade

ensure electrical current is turned off. Canterbury Tales replaces last year's Lark Chorus, the colourful night-time architectural installation event.

Spectators are encouraged to wear fancy dress. It runs on Saturday and Sunday from 6pm to midnight.

The procession starts at the Bridge of Remembrance. It is understood that performers will get underneath the wires when necessary. The city council will

TOMORROW
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Red Zone demos
The dismantling of the city's ghost suburbs

NEWS BRIEFS

Deputy mayor
Selwyn District Councilors appointed Sarah Walters as deputy mayor at a meeting last night. It will be the Selwyn councillor's second term as deputy and third term around the table. Mayor Kelvin Coe, who Walters unsuccessfully challenged for the mayoral chains, said it was an unanimous decision to appoint Walters.

'Fixit' legislation
The Government will today attempt to push through emergency 'fixit' legislation to close a legal loophole which is shrouded in secrecy. Parliament will go into urgency after Question Time to pass a bill which corrects a "mistake" relating to police. A backstairs deal was seen up to ensure the legislation has the support from both Labour and the Greens.

\$4m facility
Consultation has opened on plans to build a \$4m sports and leisure centre in the fast-growing West Melton area. The new multi-purpose facility, likely to be built at the West Melton domain, would include an indoor sport court space, a public hall, kitchen, meeting and office space. Two drop-in sessions, where the public can look at the plans for the new building, comment and share ideas, will be held at the rugby clubrooms in West Melton Reserve on October 30 and on November 2. Submissions on the proposal close on November 15.

Big Wednesday
There were no Division One or Division Two winners in Draw No 485 last night. The numbers were: 3, 30, 33, 39, 42, 47.

CoIn toss: Tails
Division prizes (No of winners)
Div 3: 2456 30
Div 4: 521 2230
Div 5: 513 20602
Div 6 Bonus ticket 20,894.

Keno
Draw No 9520: 2 4 8 20 21 24 27 35 38 46 47 58 63 67 70 71 74 78 79 80. Draw No 9521: 10 12 16 18 21 28 30 32 43 48 50 54 55 59 62 67 68 69 78 80.

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