

## Bad press kills fox hunt

By ROB KELLY

A cloud of controversy may have ruined what some rural horse enthusiasts thought of as a harmless hobby because critics view it as cruel treatment of animals.

The Ennisclare Hunt Club's weekend fox hunt apparently fizzled out when only 11 riders out of an anticipated 50 showed up to take part, according to The Burlington Spectator.

That newspaper ran a prominently displayed story last Friday in which an animal rights activist criticized the hunting exercise. A fox is sometimes tracked, should the hunt hounds catch its scent, but never killed.

Nassagaweya councillor Barry Lee was angry at the way the issue was treated in the Burlington-based newspaper. "This adverse publicity has added insult to injury," councillor Lee said Monday night.

Those critical of the pastime don't understand it, he contended. "To come along and clobber the activity without knowledge is sad. I think it's ridiculous. If they knew anything about the function, I don't know how they could object."

Councillor Bill Johnson, who rounds out the trio of elected officials for Nassagaweya, cheerfully lampooned the Ennisclare Hunt Club because they faithfully follow many of the traditions established in England, where the sport originated.

Johnson, himself an expatriate of the United Kingdom, said the group is mimicking the mannerisms of the English gentry, something he doesn't care to do. "I didn't come to this country to be an Englishman."

An anti-hunting activist, Johnson smiled and added, "I only hunt sharks - political sharks."

No members of the hunt club were available for comment at press time.

Ellen Waugh, president of Animal Aid, was quoted as calling the hunt "barbaric and sadistic" because any fox unlucky enough to be detected by hounds flees the pursuing pack in fear of its life.

Fellow Nassagaweya councillor Bruce Attenborough too disagreed with Lee's interpretation. Councillor Attenborough said he was "dead opposed" to any activity that involved "chasing down animals."



Eight grade five students from Limehouse School visited the Independent offices last Wednesday, (Nov. 21) to learn how a newspaper is produced. The students toured the advertising, editorial, and composing departments to see the different steps in assembling a newspaper. Staff photographer

Ted Brown shows the group a number of flats in the composing room, ready to go to press. The tour familiarized the students with the procedure so they can produce their own newspaper at school.

## Technics

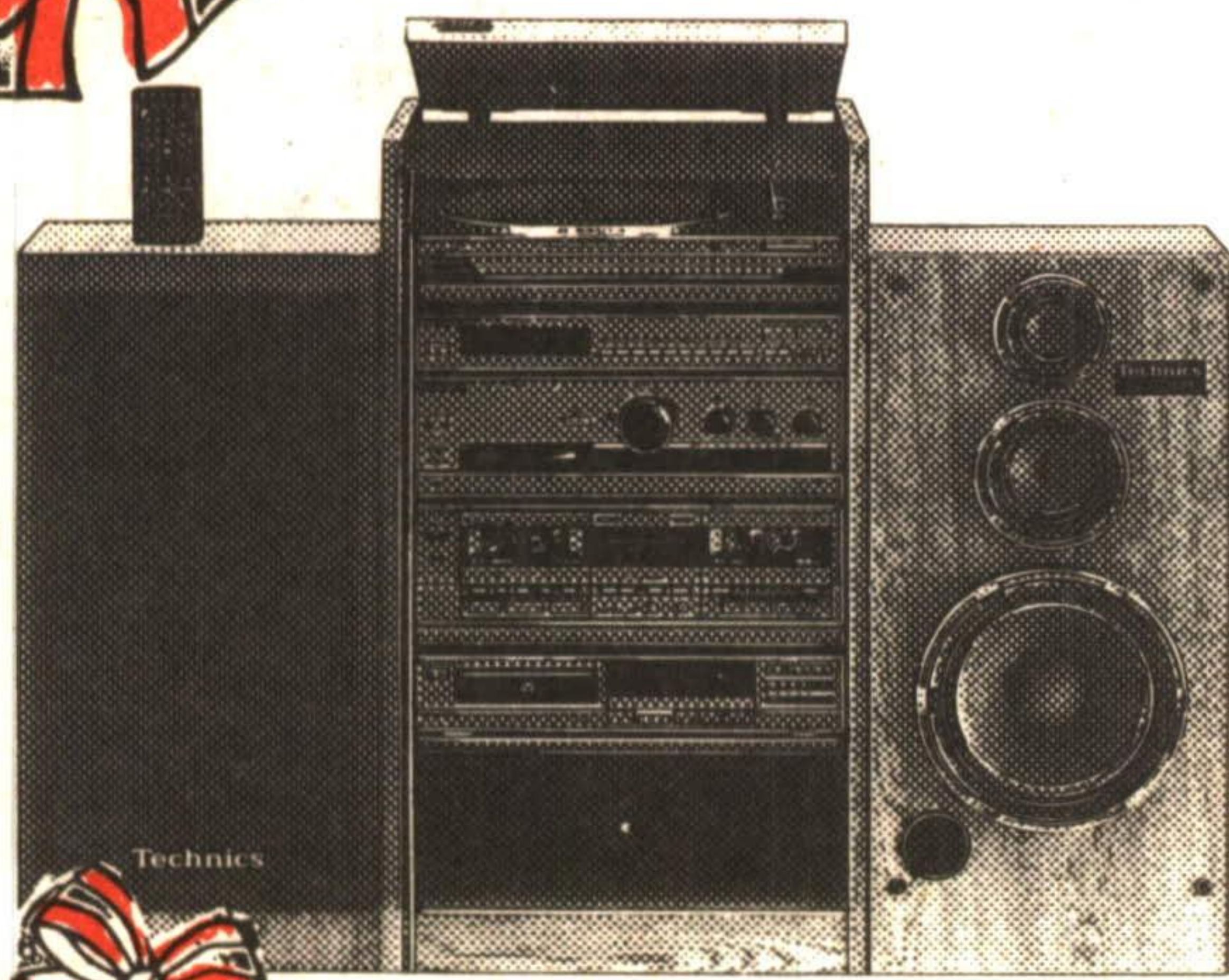
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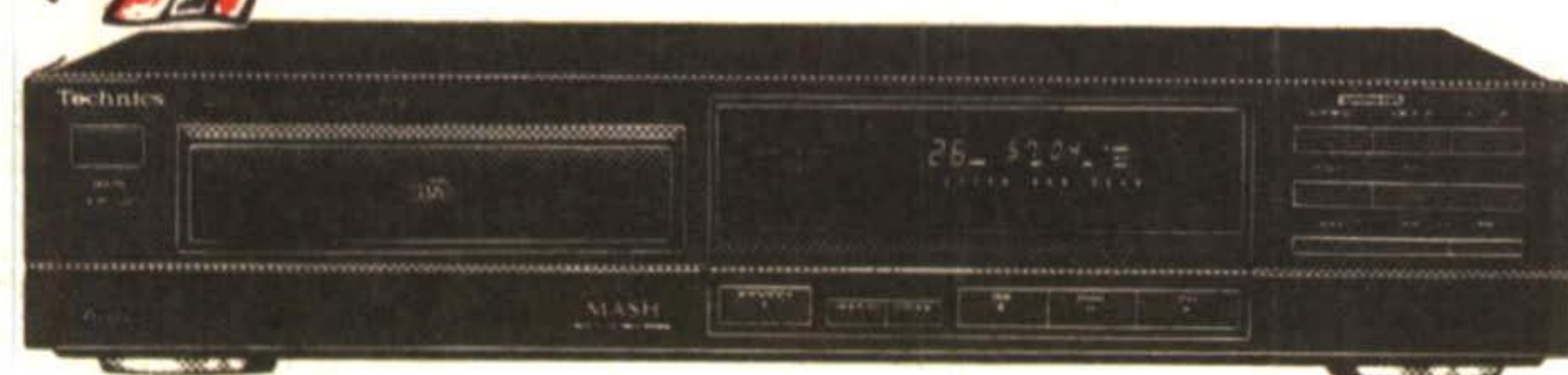
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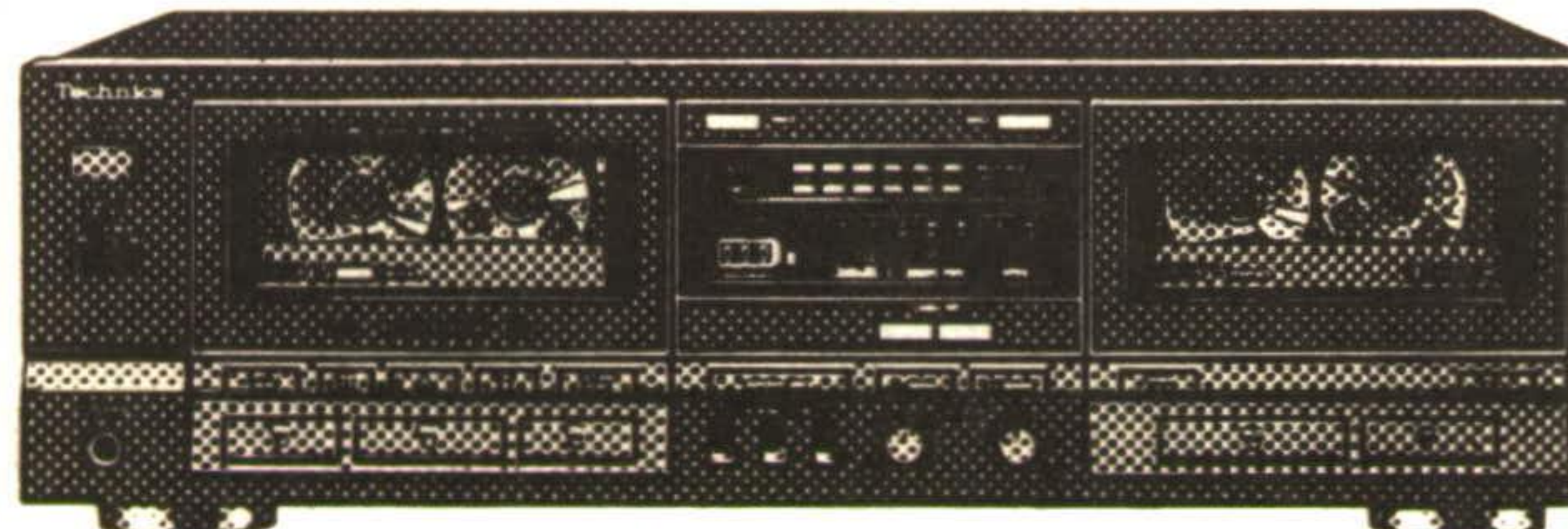
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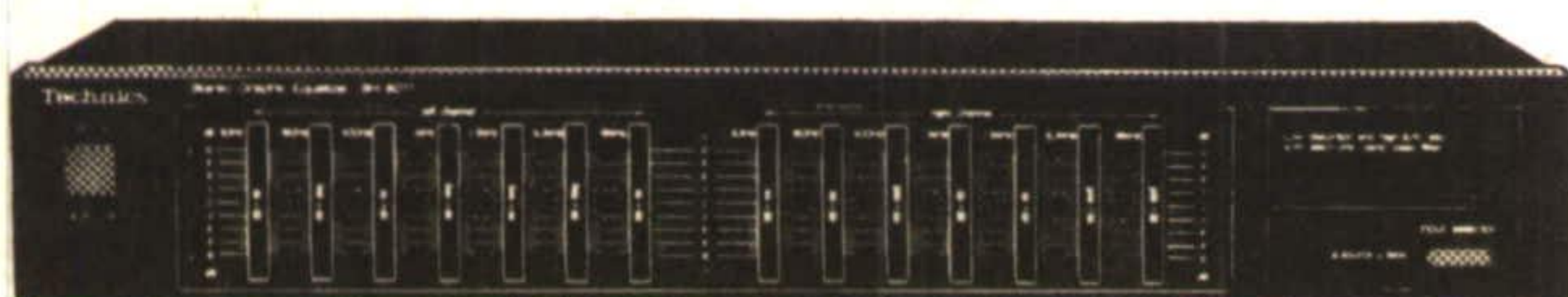


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## Wetlands not wastelands

Imagine yourself boarding an airplane for a holiday. Before taking off, you happen to notice a mechanic removing rivets from the wing. Of course, being concerned for your own safety, you question airline staff about such important parts being removed from the plane.

"Money," the employee states. "The airline has decided to borrow some rivets from this plane in order to complete construction of a new aircraft. This will allow us to double our profits."

"Well, how many rivets does it take to hold a wing together?" you ask. "I don't really know," the staff explains. "We've never had to remove this many before."

There aren't many of us who would be willing to risk the deadly consequences of flying in an airplane that wouldn't support us. But the fact is, a scary scenario like this is being played out around us every day in Halton, and it is affecting something very important to all of us - wetland habitat.

If you replace the rivets of the airplane with individual wildlife species; the wings with specialized natural habitats (such as wetlands); the plane itself with our earth's delicate ecosystem; and the airline's second aircraft as the advancement of our society, the consequences would be the same - the extinction of the plane's passengers!

Wetlands filter water, removing impurities ranging from silt to chemicals. Wetlands act as a reservoir, holding back water and releasing it slowly throughout the changing seasons. Wetlands retain floods and reduce erosion. Wetlands provide a home for more wildlife than any other habitat. Quite clearly,



Nature's Way

By KEVIN CALLAN

wetlands are not wastelands. The time has come that we can no longer look toward "future" wetland preservation. We are already gripping our seats and preparing for the crashlanding. No longer can we greed for money or ignore the destructive powers of ecology. Yesterday was the time for action.

During this age of environmental "awareness" I wonder if we have really looked at the ill effects of playing God with the earth. Governments may highly promote the protection of remaining significant wetlands, but with the balance of Sustainable Development always being put off-tilt by the weight of developmental pressure, we might as well prepare ourselves for the sudden impact.

When wildlife species disappear at unnatural proportions, despite legal protection, it is a direct indication that something is wrong with the environment. And because the environment is "our" habitat, the problem facing the loss of wildlife and its natural habitat, such as wetlands, is our problem as well.

We don't necessarily know the direct importance of each form of habitat or every individual species living within them, but the unpredictable benefits of a species are reasons enough to work for its protection. After all, each rivet in the plane's wing only becomes invaluable after it is gone!

## NDP say will limit rent increases

Minister of Housing Dave Cooke has introduced legislation which will limit rent increases while the government develops a new system of rent control.

Cooke tabled the necessary amendments to the Residential Rent Regulation Act in the legislature, Nov. 28.

"The moratorium will enable us to protect tenants over the next two years, while we turn our full attention to public consultations on a permanent rent control system," Cooke said.

He said the moratorium is a temporary measure to protect tenants from high rent increases allowed under the current rent review system. The moratorium rules will apply to rent increases taking effect from Oct. 1, 1990 and will continue until new rent control legislation is passed.