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Verdict is still out on illegal guns court case

By SCOTT KLINE
 No decision has yet been made on whether more than two dozen

weapons shipped to a Halton Hills business are illegal.

In a hearing Wednesday, Provincial Court Judge Douglas Latimer learned the weapons — 35 Heckler and Kosh MP5-A3 rifles — were shipped to a Limehouse firm last January.

In what could be a precedent setting decision, Judge Latimer will have to determine whether or not the weapons should have been allowed in the country in the first place.

"The only issue this court has to decide is whether or not these firearms are prohibited weapons or simply restricted because of the barrel length," Morton Greenglass, the Limehouse firm's lawyer said.

According to Crown evidence presented in Milton court Wednesday, a relatively simple conversion can make the weapons capable of firing in a fully automatic mode.

According to the Criminal Code of Canada, fully automatic weapons — those capable of firing more than one bullet with each depression of the trigger — are illegal.

Originally manufactured as fully automatic weapons, the MP5s shipped to Collector's Source were converted to semi-automatic weapons.

But the man who actually shipped the weapons to Canada — a British firearms distributor — said the conversion is very dangerous and not easily performed. "You have got to know what to do (to perform the conversion)," Anthony Hallan, the owner of Charnwood Ordnance in England, said. "We tried to convert one and smashed the grip."

The hearing will continue later this month and a decision on the fate of the weapons — which could be ordered destroyed — is expected shortly after.

Parents meeting

The Bishop Reding Parent's Association will hold their monthly meeting on Monday, Feb. 4 at 7:30 p.m. in the Resource Centre at Bishop Reding Secondary School. Bruce Mazer, head of computer studies and student life at the school, will speak about computers in the school program. Everyone is welcome.

Old Munich Night

An Old Munich Night will be held Feb. 15 at Bishop Reding High School 7 p.m. to midnight. The dance will feature music by the Black Forest Band from Kitchener and the school's concert band. It will be held in the Cafetorium and tickets are \$15 per person, with funds raised going to the Bishop Reding Concert Band. All parents and adults in the community will be welcome to the event, which is licenced by the LCBO.

IN BRIEF

Gun frame stolen

The frame of an Uzi sub-machine gun and a color television were stolen during a daylight house entry Monday. Sometime between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. the culprit entered the Lot 24 Concession 11, Terra Cotta residence through a rear garage door. Halton Regional Police are continuing their investigation.

Door broken

A steel security gate at Georgetown Sports on Guelph St., Georgetown store sustained about \$500 damage during a break-in attempt Wednesday night. The gate prevented the culprit from gaining access to the store.

Skidoo stolen

A brand new Skidoo Safari with less than 40 miles on it, was stolen from the rear of a Tenth Line business between Jan. 17 and 24. The machine was worth about \$4,000. Another snowmobile parked nearby had the ignition harness removed and police believe the culprit may have used a similar technique on the stolen machine.

Business entered

About \$100 cash was removed from a Main St. business sometime between last Tuesday evening and the early morning hours Friday. An officer on patrol in the downtown area discovered the shop's front door was insecure. He checked inside and found the rear door removed and some panelling kicked in to allow the culprit entry. The cash was removed from the till. The investigation continues.

Truck fire

A mechanical/electrical failure is to blame for a small fire in a pickup truck parked at a Meadvale Rd. home in Acton last Saturday afternoon, according to the Fire Department. Damage to the vehicle is estimated at \$2,000. No injuries were reported.

Rag ignited

Firefighters responded to a Guelph St. mall in Georgetown Tuesday afternoon after a small fire ignited in the engine of a parked car. The fire began after a rag dropped onto the exhaust manifold and ignited. No damage was reported.

The Newfie Store

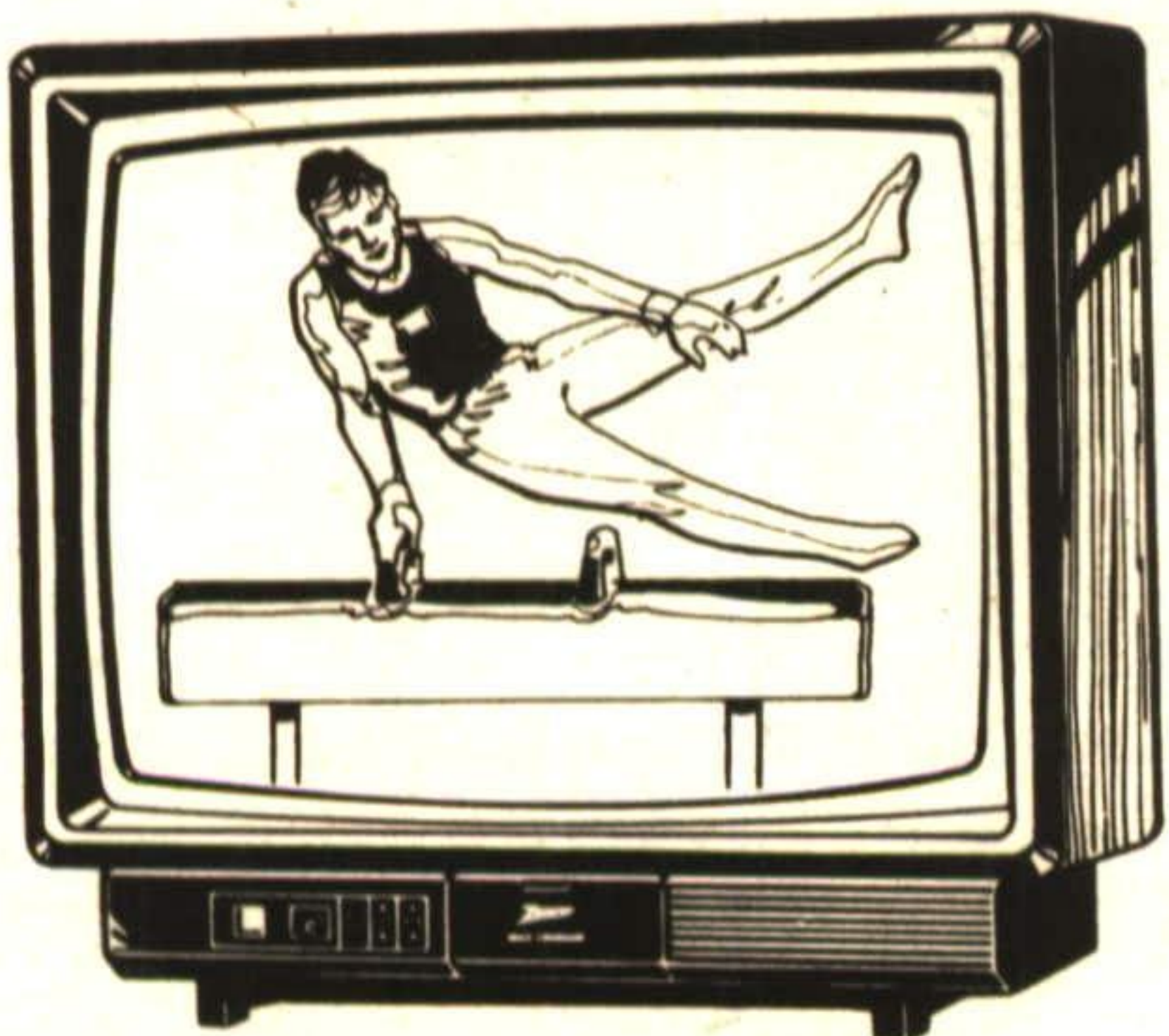
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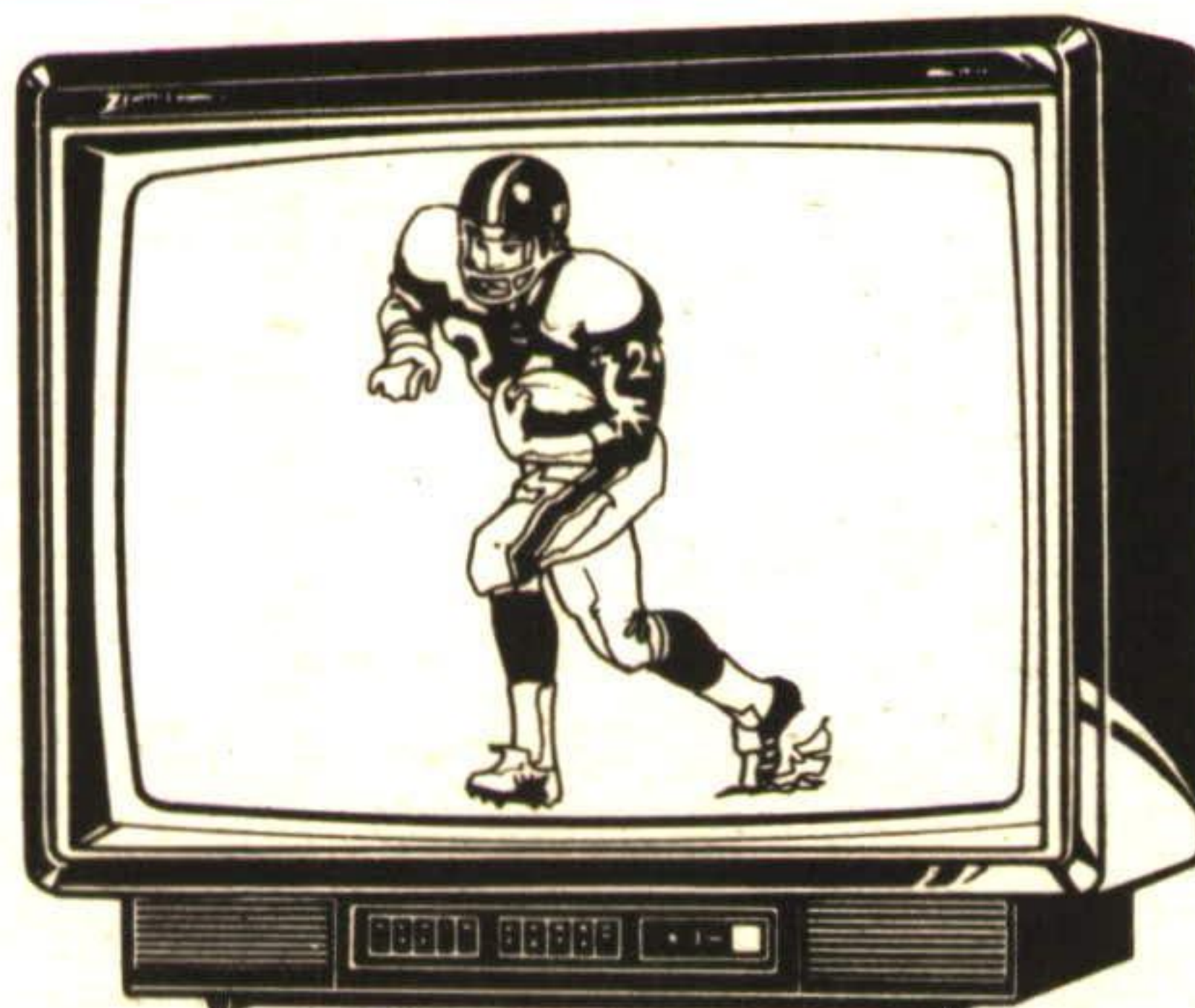
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