#### Investigation clears local force

# Police looking for letter-writing officer

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He also praised the reaction OPP investigators got from Halton officers during the probe. "I must say, the Halton police were most cooperative when our investigators were there. They couldn't have opened their doors any wider. They had absolutely nothing to hide."

Inspector Van der Lelie said "everybody is sort of glad this is over," on the force. "Whenever the private life of an officer is queried, it spooks us all a little bit. The (police) service itself is brought into question. All of that taints

morale."

While stressing that he didn't want "to put her on the spot," Inspector Van der Lelie said police officers are disappointed with the manner in which councillor Johnston handled the letter. "We feel what she did was inappropriate. In hindsight, I'm sure she may wish to reconsider."

"I did what I thought was right," councillor Johnston said Monday. She reiterated her previous stance, saying she never expected the letter to become public.

Councillors were clearly taken business."

by surprise when Johnston dropped copies of the text on their desks shortly before the June 3 meeting began.

They voted to shred the letter rather than discuss it. Johnston had already left the meeting, later citing a previous engagement.

Johnston "did what she thought was right," but "I would have dealt with it in the way it should have been dealt with," Quinn said. The controversial letter belonged at the police board instead of regional council. "It's not regional council's

Quinn said he got complaints from constituents who criticized devoting police manpower to investigating allegations "dealing with rumors. I got calls from people in the community saying 'what is it that you're doing?'"

Quinn deplored the fact that "two senior (OPP) investigators were taken off duty" to beat the bushes in

the matter.

He also would like to see the issue dropped, now. "I don't think there has to be any other follow up. People have to get on with serious policing matters."

undercover drug operation in Halton, 32 people face a total of 149 drug related charges. Officers from the Halton

Police charge

32 in drug bust

Following a four month

Regional Police Drug Squad began an investigation code named Project Burloak in March 1992. The investigation, aimed at street level traffickers, began after police gathered information from citizens and Crime Stoppers of Halton. Project Burloak concluded with the arrest of 22 individuals over two days earlier this week.

Crack cocaine, LSD, hash, hash oil and marijuana, with a street value of \$5,000, along with \$4,000 in stolen property, was seized during the operation. The accused have been charged with trafficking in narcotics, trafficking in a restricted drug, possession of narcotics and breach of probation. In addition to the persons charged, warrants have been issued for the arrest of nine people.

Charged to date are 16 Oakville residents, two Burlington residents, two Mississauga residents, one Branchton resident, two correctional institution residents and two people of no fixed address. The oldest age of those charged is 38. Five young offenders have

also been charged.

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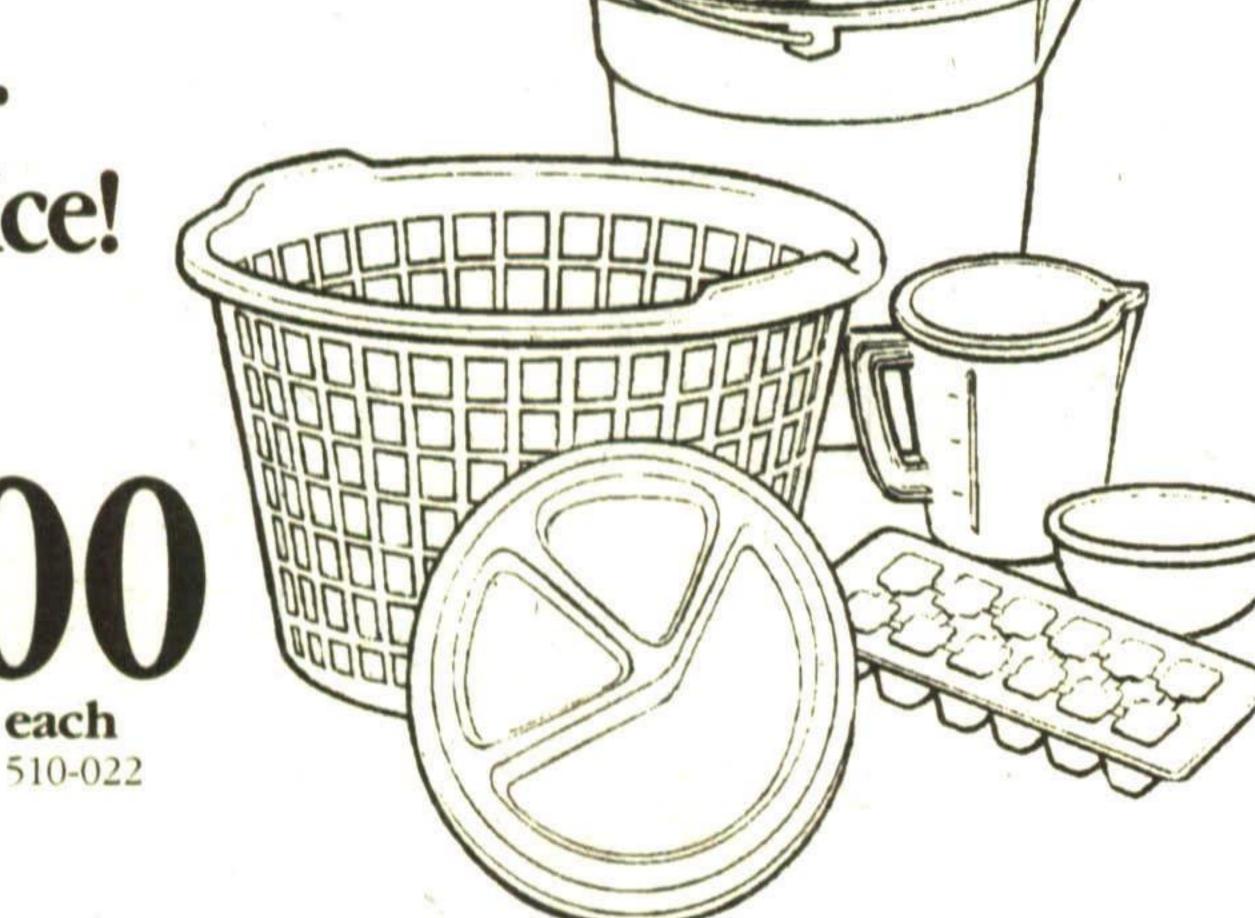
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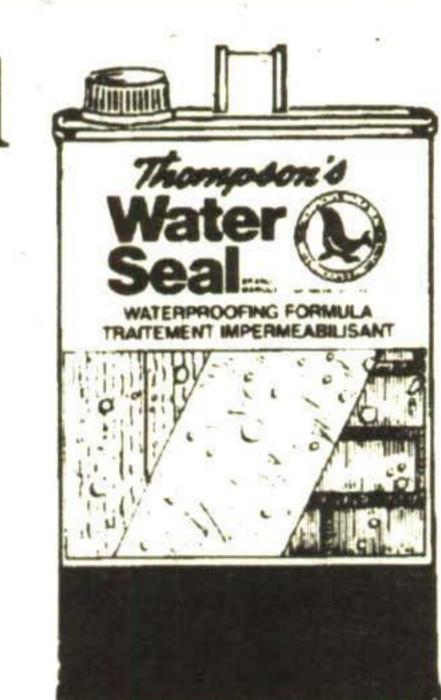
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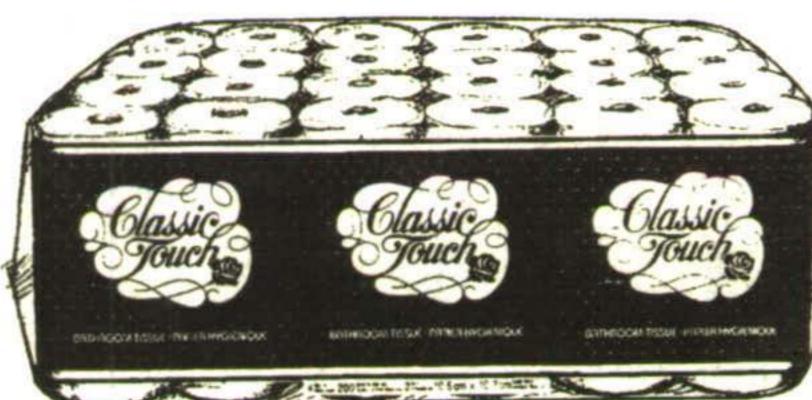
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