

Football equipment stolen
Police are investigating the theft of about \$11,000 worth of football equipment from a storage facility on Winston Churchill Blvd., south of Steeles Ave. The incident occurred sometime between Thursday, July 23 and Sunday, July 26. Police say the equipment was stored there by the coach of the Mississauga Wolverines Football Club. Police say the security gate at the facility was broken during the period of the theft, so access was gained easily. The padlock on the door of the unit was removed, and replaced with another padlock.

Police Blotter
theft of \$50 from a purse left in the gymnasium at M.Z. Bennett School in Acton Monday afternoon. Police say the purse belonged to a woman who was looking after some children outside of the building. When she returned to the gymnasium she discovered the money was missing.

Tuesday. Police are investigating.

Kegs taken
Police are investigating the theft of three beer kegs from a Mountainview Rd. S. Georgetown restaurant sometime Tuesday or Wednesday. The kegs, valued at \$532, were stored in the restaurant's cooler. Police say nothing else was stolen, and that access could have been gained through a rear door.

Golf clubs stolen
A Georgetown man reported to police that a set of golf clubs, valued at \$1,370 was stolen from his car parked at his McFarlane Dr. residence overnight Monday and

Grass fire
Halton Hills Fire Department responded to a grass fire along the railroad tracks behind Princess Ann Dr. in Georgetown. The fire was likely caused by sparks generated from a passing train.

Missing money
Police are investigating the

Small claims courts expect to get busier

Anyone in Ontario can now sue for claims of up to \$3,000 instead of the previous \$1,000 in small claims court.

This brings the rest of the province in line with Toronto, which has had a \$3,000 limit since 1980. The claims across the province will be increased to \$6,000 starting April 1, 1993.

The aim is to make the court more accessible for everyone in the province, from the average person with a claim for faulty repairs, to the small business owner trying to collect a bill. Small claims court is especially important to small business owners and average consumers during difficult economic times.

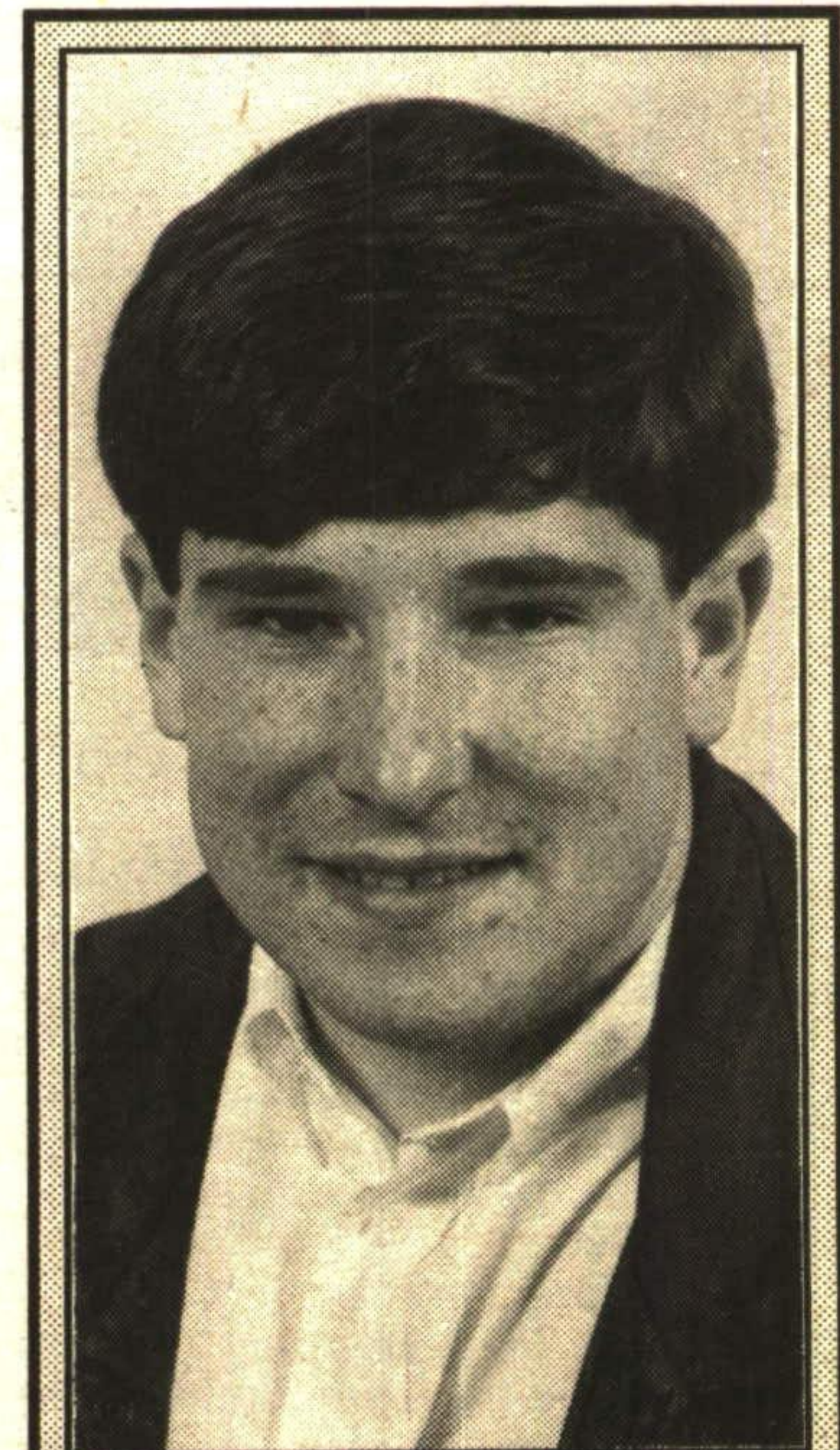
"It's a cheaper, quicker, and an equally effective way," of resolving claims, Jeff Steinburg, the executive director of the Halton Hills Community Legal Clinic said, adding the change will help people, because it will reduce court costs. People can launch or defend their own suits concerning money, debt and property damages without hiring a lawyer in Small Claims Court.

"I think it's a terrific idea," confirmed Terry Jackson, manager of the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce. "I called a couple of businesses, and they said that when it was over \$1,000, then the lawyers' fees were sometimes more money than they got" from the claim.

Provincial statistics show that demand for small claims court will increase 25 per cent during the first year, and an additional 15 per cent after limits are increased to \$6,000.

Before the increase to \$6,000, the government will consult with court users, the judiciary and lawyers on ways to make the small claims court system more responsive and efficient. This includes considering how to improve the service and ensuring that standards and proce-

dures are suitable to a people's court. In order to cover increased court costs, court fees will be raised, but they will be less for lower claims. The exact amount of fees has not yet been released yet.



Good work

This week's recipient of the Halton Hills Recreation Department Customer Service award is Jason Robb, who works at Dick Licata Pool, Georgetown. Jason teaches numerous age groups at the pool and is always concerned about the comfort and safety of his students. With the customer service award, Jason receives a pair of tickets to Canada's Wonderland, compliments of The Georgetown Independent/Acton Free Press.

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