

# Region officials optimistic of Acton development deal

By LISA TALLYN  
Staff writer

Chances of a deal being struck with the region, and federal and provincial agencies regarding the availability of water and services in Acton improved significantly at the Ontario Municipal Board hearing Wednesday.

"I think we are getting somewhere now," said Benson Leung, manager of special studies with Halton region, after Ed DeBruyn of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) was recalled to testify at the hearing again. "I think all the agencies are going to be able to work together as a team."

DeBruyn clarified some of the DFO's requirements of the two studies they are requesting be undertaken by the region.

DeBruyn said the region would not have to improve water quality in Black Creek just "maintain the existing situation, post-development."

DeBruyn also said one of the studies required by the DFO, which Leung first understood would take two years, would not likely take that long.

Leung said after DeBruyn's clarification it was understood assessment of the effects of more water

being pumped from the Prospect Park well on fish and their habitat could be done based on information the region already has.

Leung said a three-season audit of the sewage treatment plant, which is also required by the DFO, will not require the region put out any money for capital works on the plant before the audit is done.

Leung said the region will be able to do that audit, using current information, and will "have to demonstrate there is room to make the plant perform better using fine tuning and computer simulation."

"We are hoping the Ministry of the Environment and Energy (MOEE) will issue a permit to take water so development could take place in parallel to the studies," said Leung.

Wes Lammers of MOEE is to be back at the hearing on Monday, Aug. 16, and Leung hopes to get an answer from the ministry then regarding the permit to take water.

Leung is optimistic the MOEE will issue the water permit for up to the entire 10,000 population in Acton, and leave it up to the region to decide how allocations will be staged in the future.

Leung said if all goes as planned the region would expect to issue

authorization for 80 additional units during the first year, on top of the 520 units that have been approved.

The region will have a better idea of all the details of the two studies required by the DFO, by August 10. A meeting of representatives from the DFO, Ministry of the Environment and Energy, Ministry of Natural Resources, Credit Valley Conservation Authority, the town, and would-be Acton developers has been set for that date.

Leung said parameters of the studies will be determined then, and just what the DFO means by "status quo" in relation to water quality will be defined.

Just who could be charged if there is increased pollution in Black Creek, when, and what type of charges they could be facing will also be discussed at the August 10 meeting.

"We are getting assurances that they (DFO) are not going to charge us if we are doing all the improvements and showing due diligence," said Leung.

But those assurances would have to be in writing before region staff would recommend that regional council endorse the studies and future development in Acton.



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## Serious condition

A 24-year-old Hillsburgh resident is in serious condition after a single car accident Sunday on Steeles Ave. near Wheelabrator Way in Milton. The man was driving west on Steeles Ave. when his car went out of control. He was taken by air ambulance to St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto. The investigation into the accident is continuing.

## Truck rearended

A 1990 Ford truck was rearend-

## Police Blotter

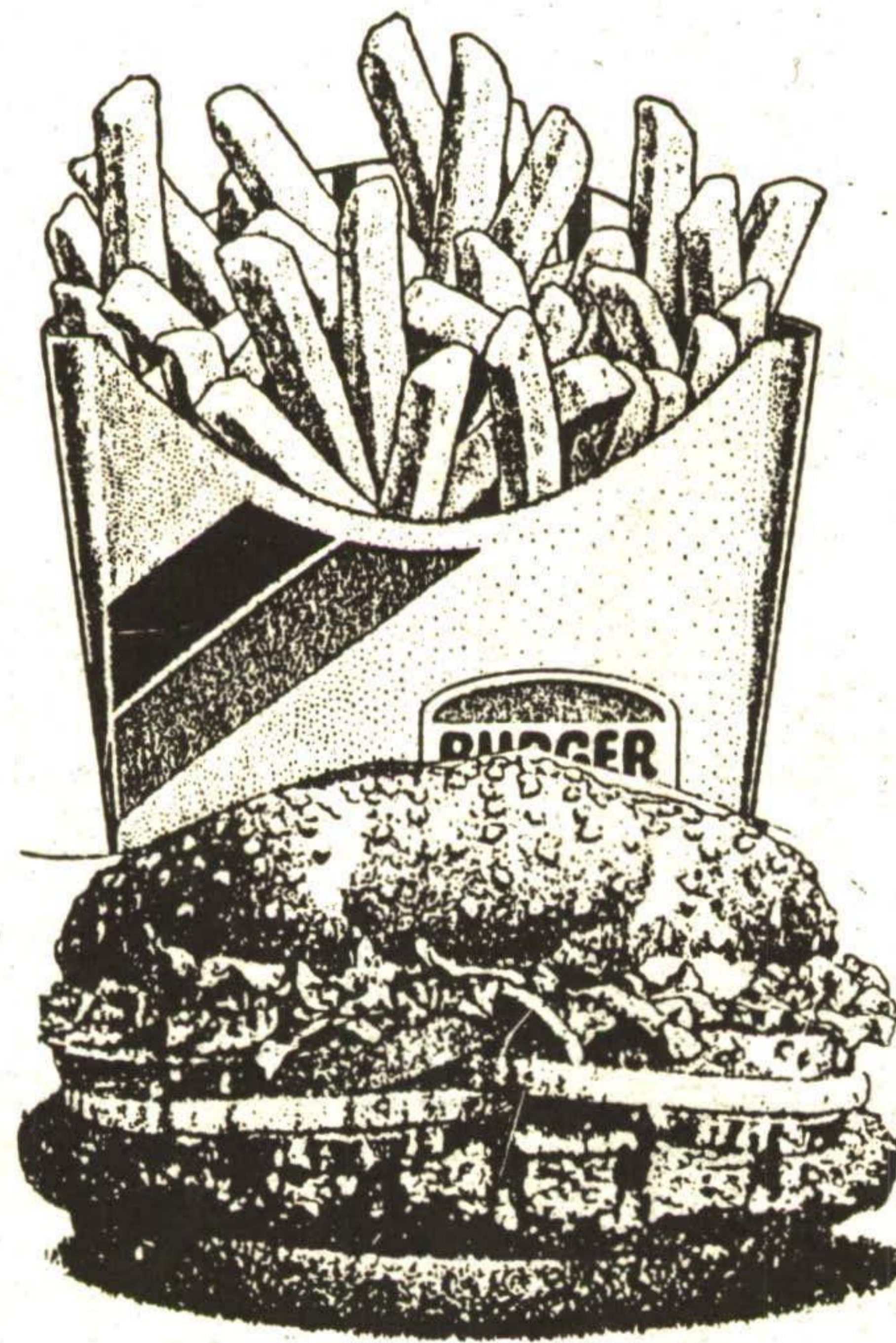
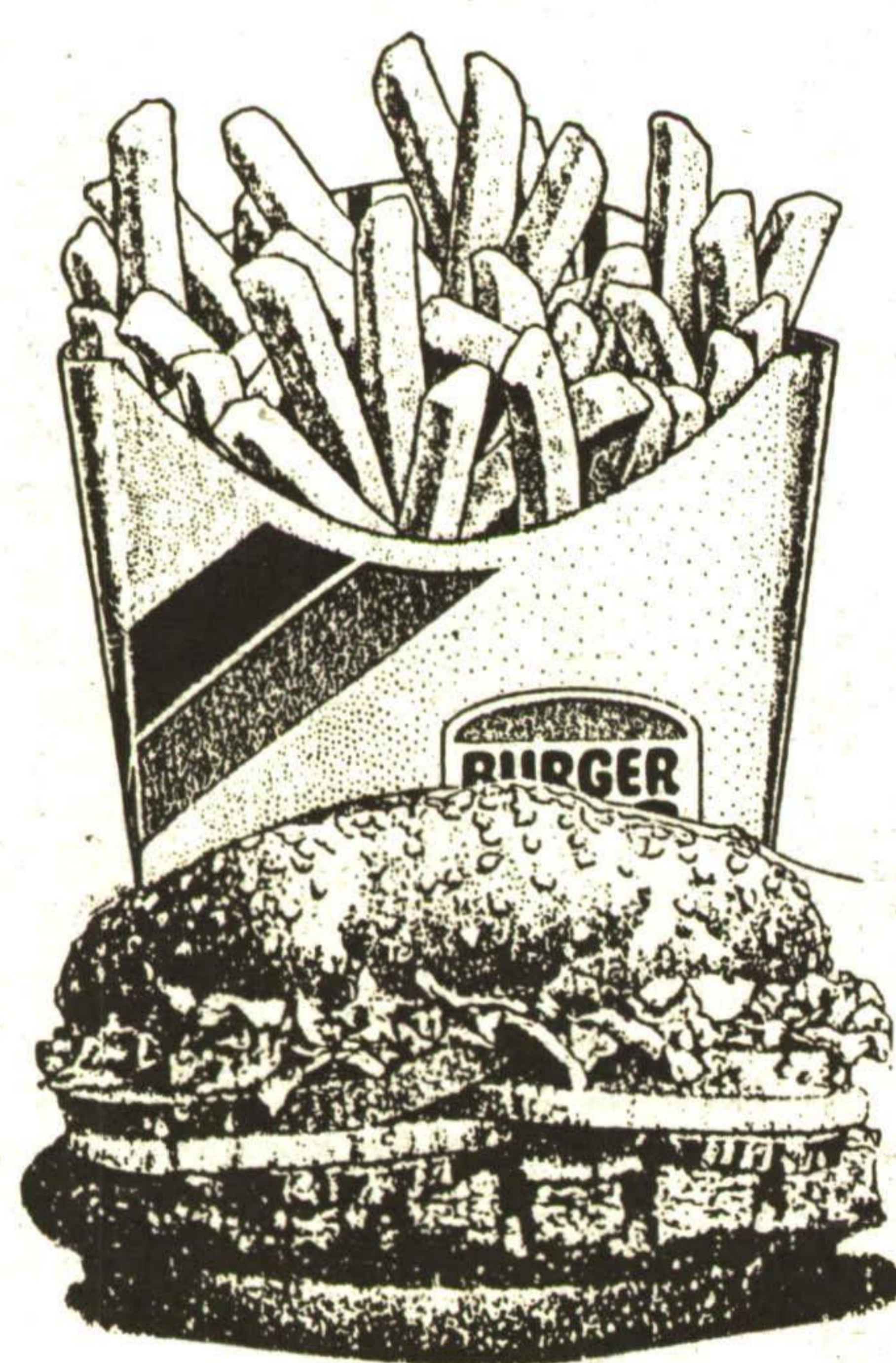
ed at Trafalgar Rd. and 10 Sideroad at 1 p.m. Wednesday. The truck was stopped and preparing to turn left when a 1991 Volkswagen came up behind and hit the back of the truck. The Volkswagen was severely damaged, while the truck was lightly

damaged. No injuries were reported.

## Three arrested

Three young offenders were charged with theft under \$1,000 by police Monday afternoon. The owner of an arcade in Georgetown Marketplace noticed that the till was open and some money had been removed, police said. Three youths were apprehended and a fourth fled on a bicycle, police said. The investigation into the incident is continuing.

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