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Rash of break-ins

By KAREN SMITH

The Champion

Eight local businesses were targeted over the weekend in an extraordinary number of break-ins, police say.

The thieves made off with only \$4,000 worth of goods, but damaged property and caused headaches for business operators and police.

"Normally you get one or two break-ins a week. When you get that many in one weekend that's quite a bit," said Staff Sgt. Roy Smith of Halton Regional Police.

The break-ins occurred mostly at office buildings overnight Friday and Saturday.

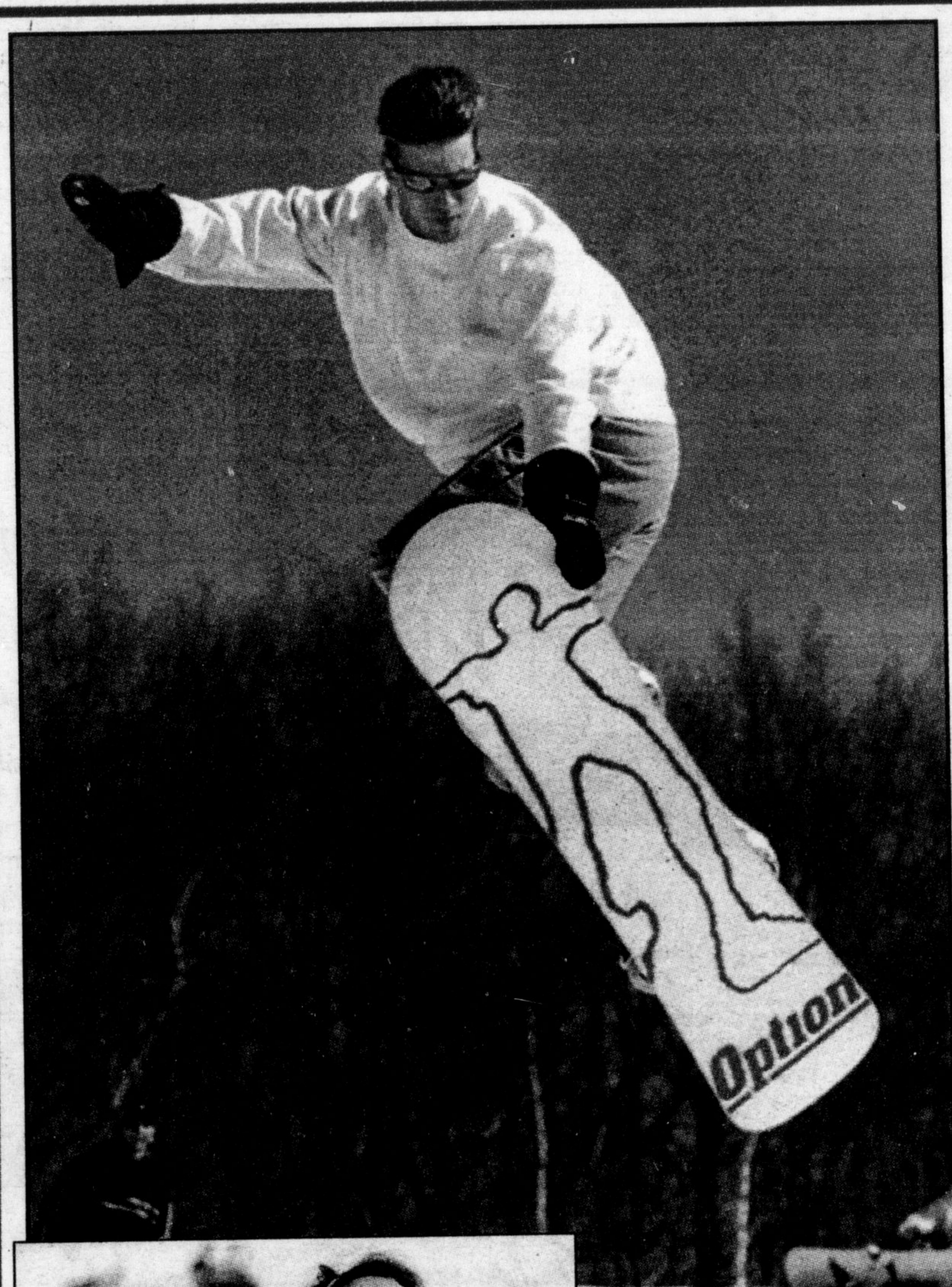
An alarm activated at an office building at 555 Ontario St. shortly after 9:30 p.m. Friday.

Police believe the thieves entered the 22 Ontario St. building that houses Lex Reporting Services and the Southview Dental Clinic, but were scared off by the alarm. Nothing was stolen.

The same culprits are believed to have hidden inside the premises of the Milton Racquet Club and Remax Realty offices until it closed, but again stole nothing.

But the thieves are believed to have made off with \$4,000 worth of electronic

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Photos by GRAHAM PAINE

Ridin' high

Doug Pollard takes to the air after clearing one of the jumps at Glen Eden, while (inset) fellow enthusiasts Erin Kielo and Beth Meehan soak up some rays. Skiers and snow boarders were out in full force this past weekend to kick off March Break.

Milton doesn't want to hear the latest pitch

By IRENE GENTLE

The Champion

The last time Burlington representatives came pitching ideas of secession from Halton Region, Milton councillors gave them a firm 'thanks, but no thanks.'

Now, like a persistent suitor, Burlington is back knocking on council's door.

This time, Milton is eager to save them a trip.

Councillors have overwhelmingly voted to reject a request for a return engagement.

The Burlington aim was to discuss that city's latest administrative blueprint, the White Paper on Governance.

The paper, drawn up by Burlington city manager Tim Dobbie, listed a number of ways for area municipalities to greet the next millennium.

Most of them involved unraveling Halton Region. The preferred option was to form a central services board, where municipalities could simply shop for services such as water and policing.

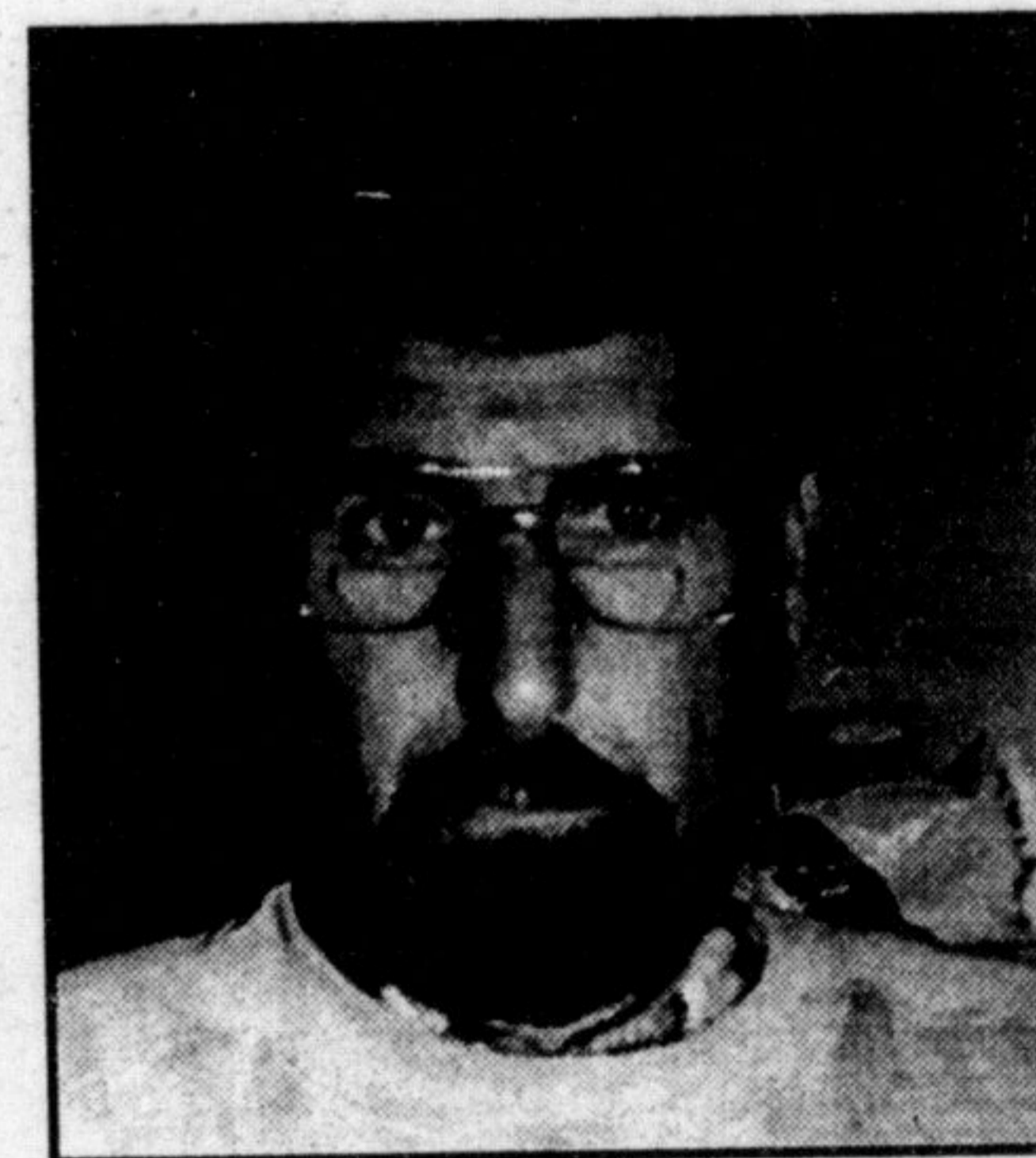
Whatever they're pitching, though, Milton council wasn't buying at last week's meeting.

"I'd like to suggest that we not invite Burlington. They've been here before," said Councillor Barry Lee.

Mr. Lee has historically been the most vocal in opposing Burlington's attempts to forge a new path for itself through everything from amalgamation with Flamborough (which has recently backed out of negotiations) to the newer white paper.

"I've been criticized before for not being progressive but I think this has the potential to be quite disruptive," Mr. Lee said.

Before Burlington asks the municipalities to dance, it should at least make a bow to Halton Region, said Councillor John Challinor.



Barry Lee

"This process really doesn't engage the right partner at the right point, which is the Region," he said. "I think it's important that we support the Region in this."

Councillor Lieven Gevaert agreed Halton should be Milton's prime consideration.

"This was done the wrong way," he said. "I don't want to upset the Region."

Councillor Wally Hunter took a tougher stance, suggesting Milton talk straight in telling Burlington it doesn't want to deal.

"I don't see any point in having any discussions at this point but let's be direct and tell them we're not interested in meeting with them," he said.

Councillor Rick Malboeuf argued that Burlington doesn't have any clear ideas for where they're going on the issue.

"I don't think they know what they're proposing. They're throwing out a lot of lines and hoping someone will

• see SPURNS on page 7

NEWSLINES

Blood donor clinic on soon

The Hamilton Blood Centre needs your help to help others.

A blood donor clinic takes place at the Milton Seniors' Activity Centre, 500 Childs Dr., Thursday, Mar. 18 from 1:30 to 8 p.m.

Supplies are low and organizers stress that they need a good turnout despite the March break holiday.

Call 1-888-871-7201, ext. 4253, for more information or to book an appointment.

TUESDAY INSERTS

- Canadian Champion Telephone Book
- M&M Meats (rural)
- Shoppers Drug Mart
- Spectrum Flooring (P)
- Zellers

A volunteer hot spot

Local organizations in need of volunteers are invited to promote themselves at Milton Mall's Volunteer Recruitment Day. The event takes place Saturday, May 1

and is free.

To pre-register, call the mall office at 878-3900.

Space is limited.



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