

Murder victim didn't have any drugs in system: trial

By LISA CARTWRIGHT
The Champion

In a signed statement, forensic toxicologist Dr. Ismail Moftah reported he didn't find drugs, alcohol or poison in the spleen, liver or stomach of murder victim Stephen Andreopoulos.

Crown attorney Brian O'Marra read the statement to the jury during the on-going murder trial in Superior Court in Milton Thursday.

Defense lawyer Robert Nuttall said he agreed with the statement.

Dr. Moftah, from the Centre for Forensic Sciences in Toronto, couldn't get results from the organs because the body was badly decomposed, Mr. O'Marra told the

jury.

Mr. Andreopoulos, 36, was last seen July 2, 1996 leaving a Maple, Ontario gas station with former Milton resident David Fiorino, 27, who's charged with first-degree murder.

The victim's body was found 18 months later buried in a six-foot grave on a Derry Road property.

According to the statement, the stomach was tested for prescription and non-prescription drugs as well as heavy metals and poisons such as cyanide.

The liver was also tested for prescription and non-prescription drugs as well as street drugs.

While there were traces of carbon monoxide found in the spleen, the jury has heard the gas naturally forms once the body begins to

decompose.

Also on Thursday, Richard Smyth, who works at the U-Haul location on Royal Windsor Drive in Mississauga testified at the trial.

He told the jury that on July 3, 1996, a U-Haul cube van was towed to his office after it was found abandoned in the Longo's parking lot on Hwy. 5 and Trafalgar Road in Oakville.

The jury heard the U-Haul was the same one Mr. Andreopoulos rented the day before.

Mr. Smyth told the jury the 17-foot cube van had a dead battery, a missing logbook and was in as good condition as when it was rented.

He said it's unusual to find a clean abandoned U-Haul.

The trial will continue July 11.

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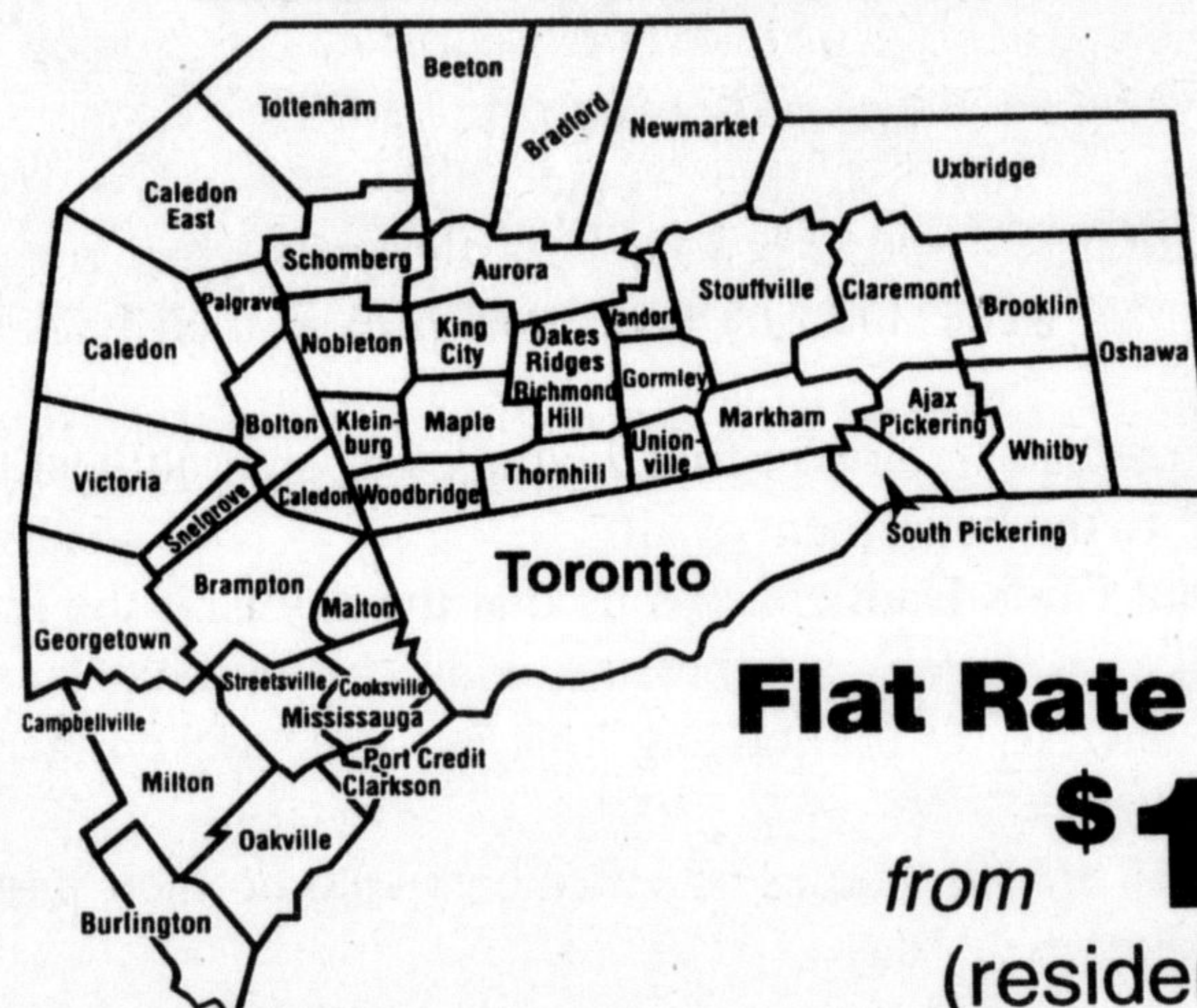
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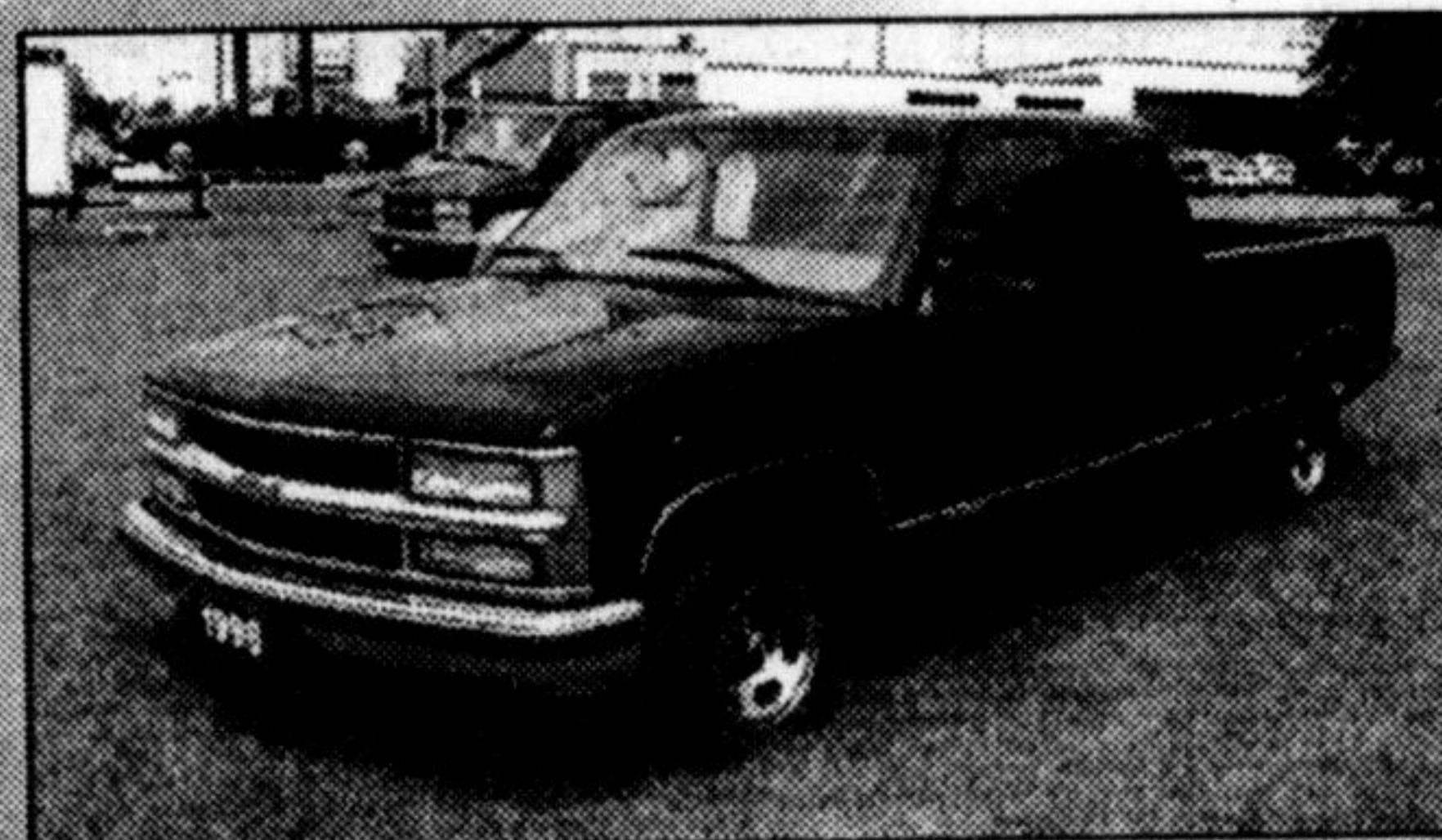
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