

Recommendations in prisoner's death expected this week: inquest

A four-week coroner's inquest into the death of Joshua Durnford, an inmate who died at Maplehurst Correctional Complex in 2000, ended Thursday.

Over four days in February while in the correctional facility, Mr. Durnford became sicker and sicker as his illness — neuroleptic malignant syndrome — grew more serious.

Although he repeatedly complained to correctional guards of feeling ill, Maplehurst staff testified they thought he was just enduring withdrawal from street drugs.

He died February 15.

He was, the inquiry heard, a 7-year-old boy trapped in an 18-year-old's body. His mother, Diane Durnford of Belleville, who also suffers from a developmental delay, and his late father Max Durnford, who had kidney problems, couldn't care for their son.

At the age of 10, Mr. Durnford was given up by his parents to the custody of the Province, beginning a painful odyssey through 16 group homes and juvenile treatment and detention centres. His brief school career was marked by episodes of anger and acting up, while doctors prescribed an assortment of medicines, none

of which quelled his aggression.

On February 7, it was an outburst of temper that resulted in his final confinement. He threw a coffee mug, hitting a group home worker in the head. The worker called police and insisted the youth be charged with assault.

When he appeared in Brampton court the following day, a children's aid society worker told the judge the society had no place to send him and didn't object when the judge ordered Mr. Durnford be sent to Maplehurst Detention Centre.

The jury is expected to deliver its recommendations later this week.

Village Pine Shoppe fraud case postponed

Two Milton women charged with fraud over \$5,000 in connection with dealings at the Village Pine Shoppe in Campbellville will return to Ontario Court (provincial

division) in Burlington September 24.

Oriena Currie and Sheri Duff made a brief appearance in court Thursday with the intent of setting a trial date.

But because a resolution meeting had yet to be held with lawyers representing the accused, setting a trial date was postponed until next month.

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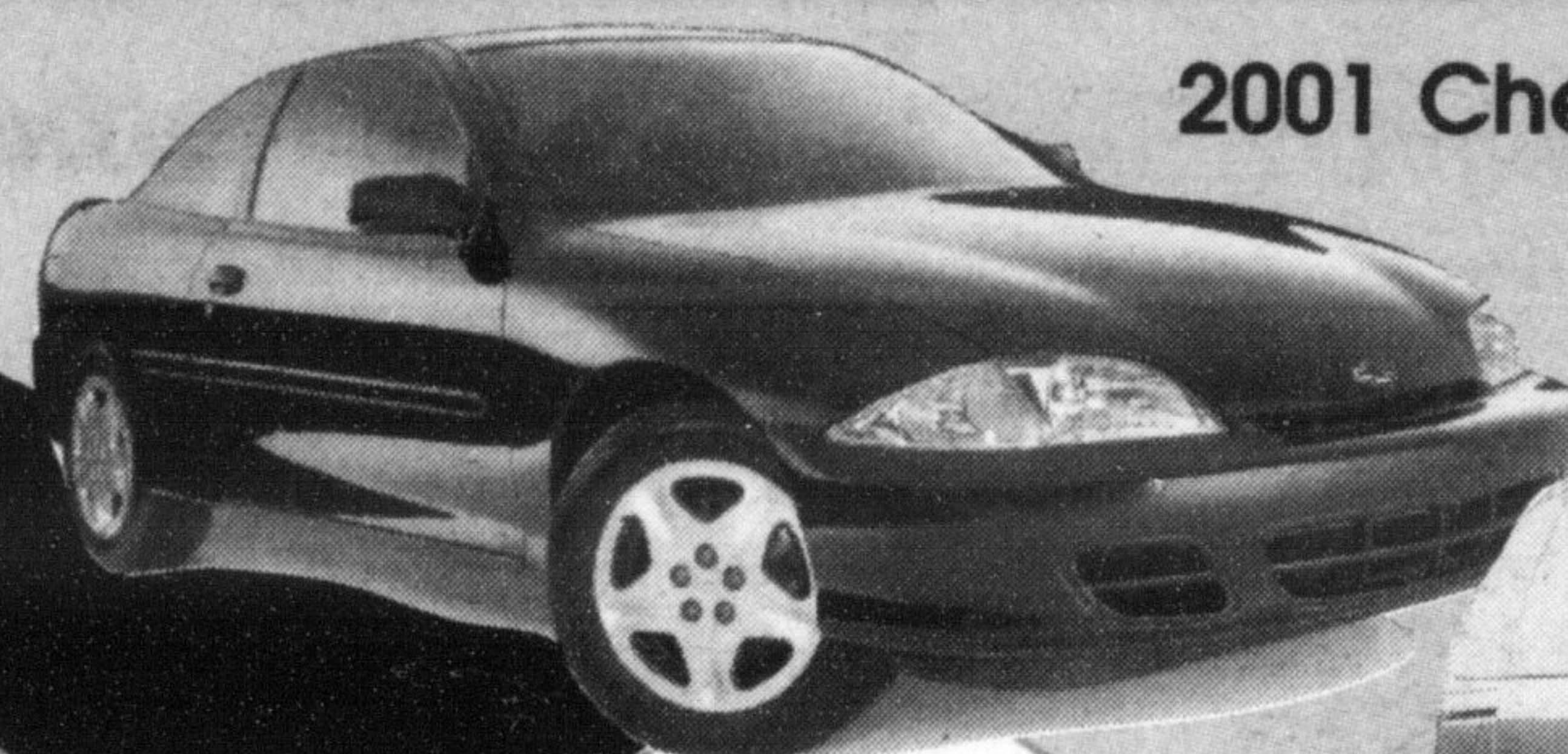
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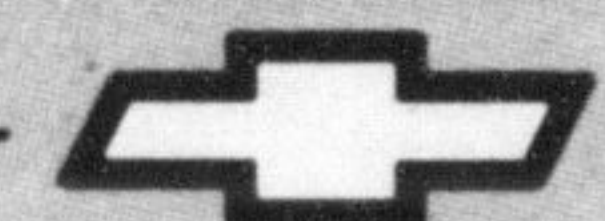
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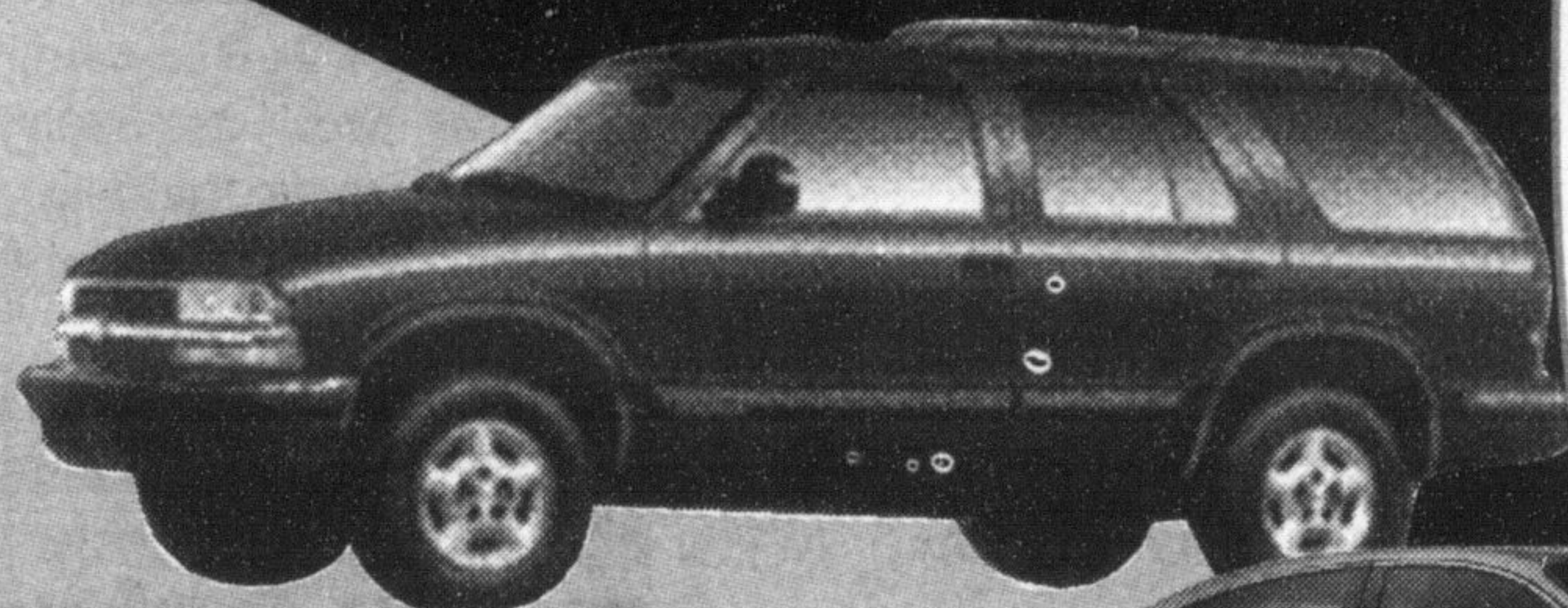
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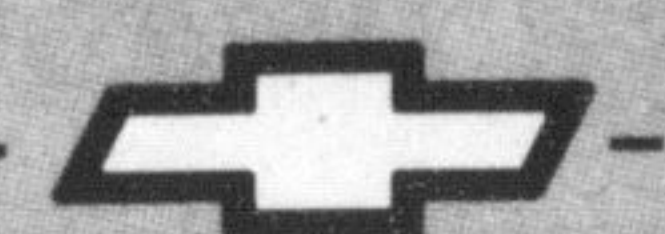
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