

# Fuel spill at Glen Eden the work of vandals: Burchett

Clean-up estimated at about \$100,000, CH board told

By FANNIE SUNSHINE  
The Champion

A recent diesel fuel spill at Glen Eden Ski and Snowboard Centre is being blamed on an act of vandalism, the board of directors of Conservation Halton were told at Thursday's meeting.

Overnight February 2, nearly 1,700 litres of fuel emptied onto the snow just west of the Twister chairlift, as a result of a fuel nozzle left on the ground. The leak was discovered the following morning.

"At no time did the tank leak or the equipment fail," Bob Burchett, director of conservation lands services stated in a report handed out to board members. "When the extent of the spill was realized, hill staff sprayed new snow on the spill to act as a sponge while the Ministry of the Environment staff were notified. The Ministry recommended that we contact with a firm specializing in hazardous waste spills (Echelon Response in Hamilton) and they were on the site in less than two hours."

Over 25 truckloads of soil were removed from the site and taken to hazardous waste facilities in Hamilton and Kitchener.

The soil tested negative for hazardous contamination, Mr. Burchett noted.

An inspector from the Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA), Ontario's fuel regulation body, inspected the site and concluded the pumps were up to Provincial standards.

"It took a little more than 24 hours to clean up the site," Mr. Burchett told the board. "We had the tank inspected by the TSSA and it met all the criteria (for Provincial pumping standards). The tank didn't mal-

function. We didn't expect this type of vandalism and we're looking into additional security, maybe a berm around the tank."

Although Mr. Burchett has yet to receive the bill for the clean-up, he estimates it will be in the range of \$100,000.

"It may come in less," Mr. Burchett was quick to point out, after comments the dollar amount seemed high. He added \$25,000 was covered by insurance. "Am I particularly pleased with this figure? No."

Because the area in which the spill occurred isn't in the public domain, the ski and snowboard centre remained open during the clean-up, Mr. Burchett told The Champion.

"The area where the spill occurred isn't groomed for skiing. Did the spill present any kind of risk to our customers? No."

He said one employee of the centre noticed the fuel nozzle lying on the ground around 3 a.m. Saturday, but assumed it had come loose from the tank.

"It wasn't pumping at the time, it had already run dry."

The spill wasn't discovered until three hours later, Mr. Burchett said, adding he didn't know how long it takes for the tank to pump dry.

Although Halton Regional Police and Conservation Halton staff have yet to question any suspects, several people were seen near the tank around midnight Saturday, Mr. Burchett said.

"The area was closed," he said. "Skiing isn't allowed on the hills after 10 (p.m.) and we turn the lights off around 11 (p.m.)"

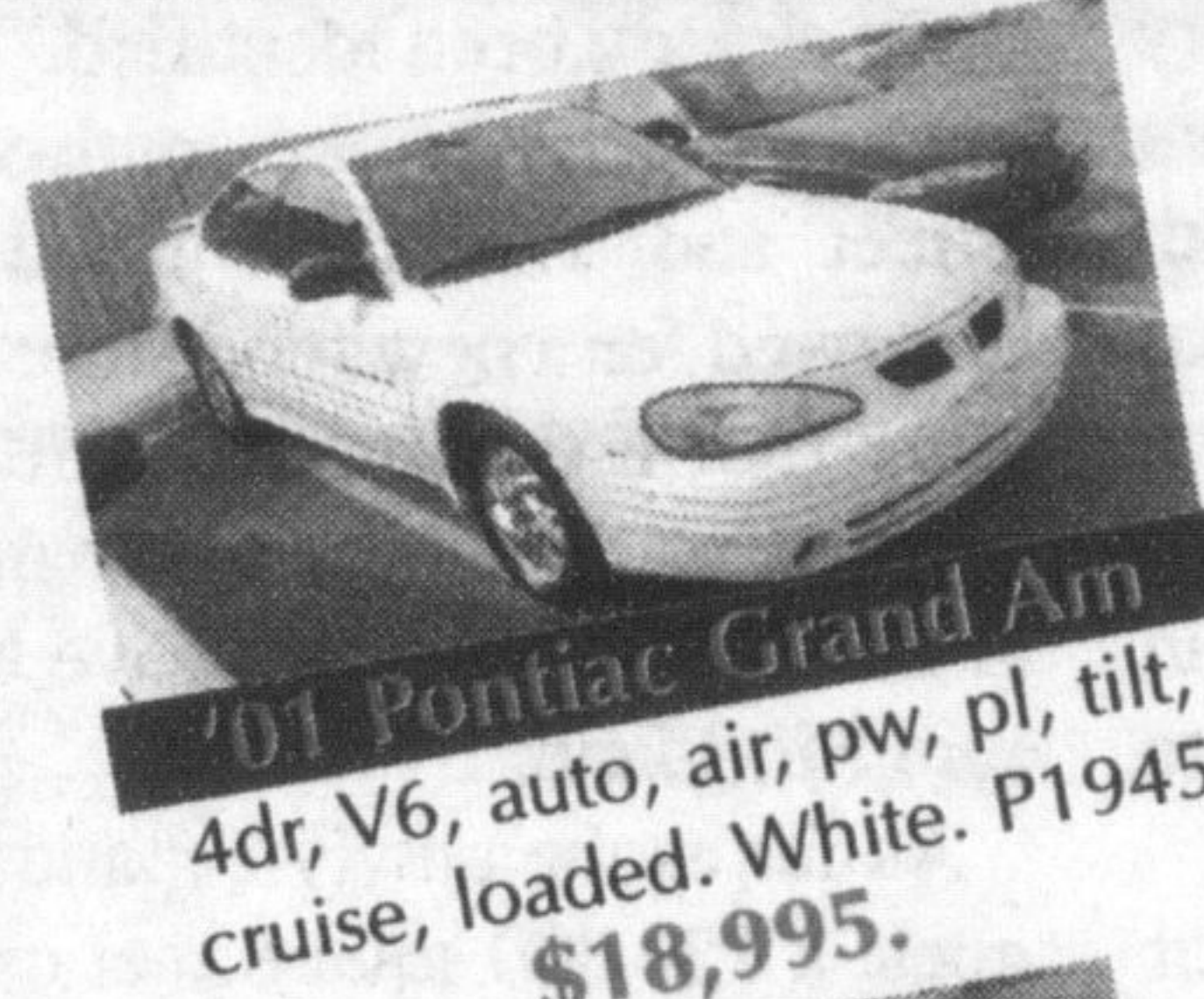
"These people could be seen off in the distance, but we don't know who they are or if they were responsible for the damage."



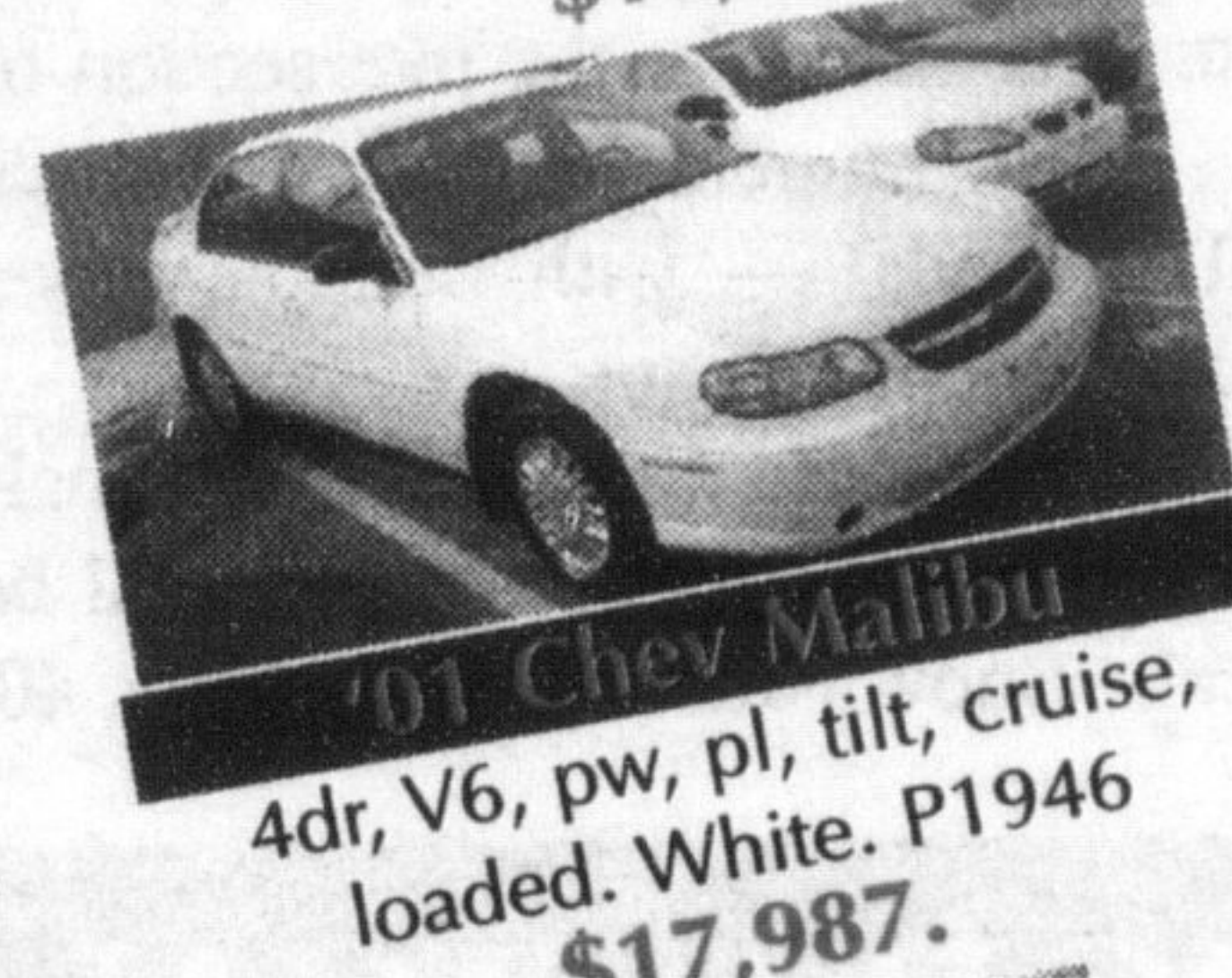
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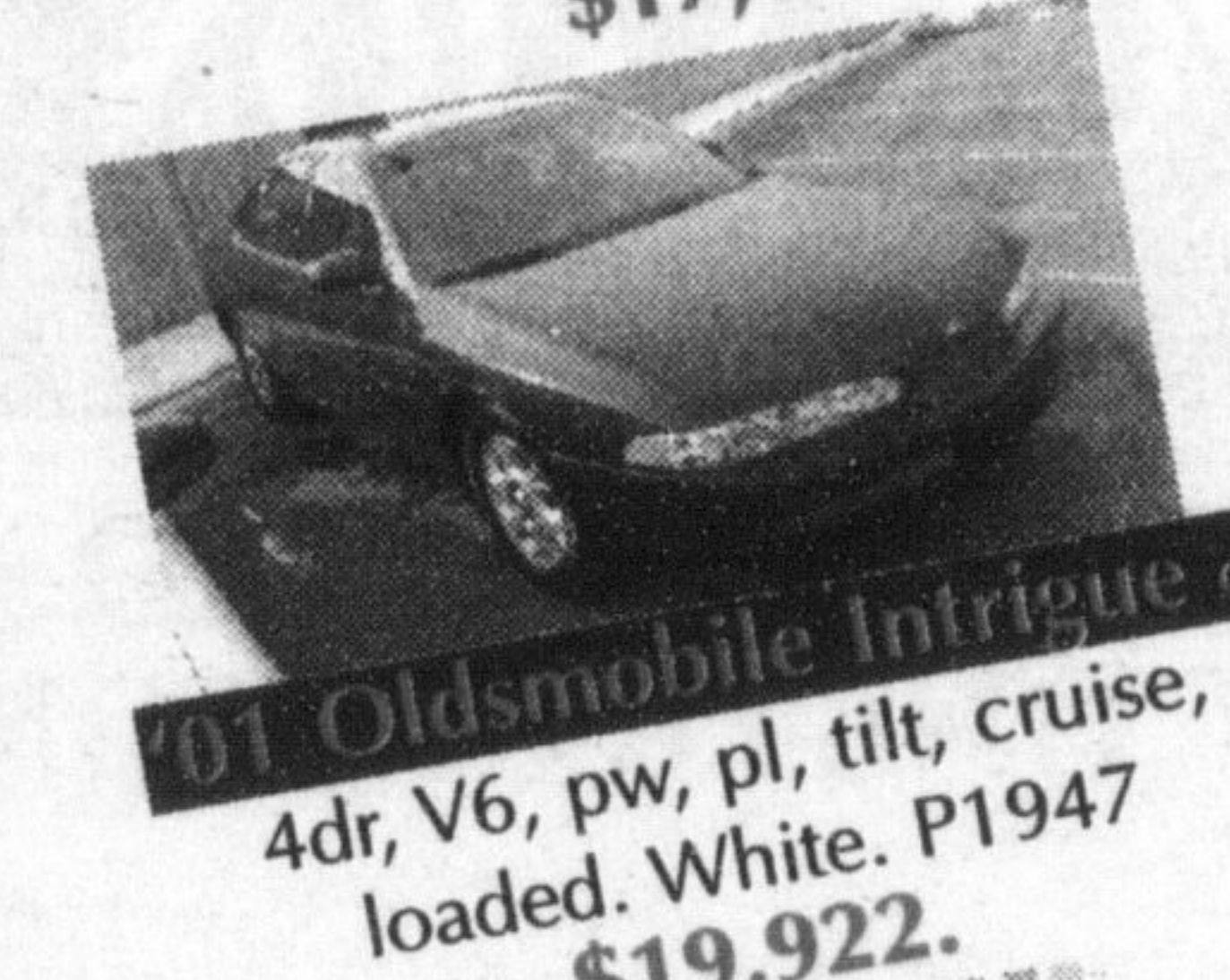
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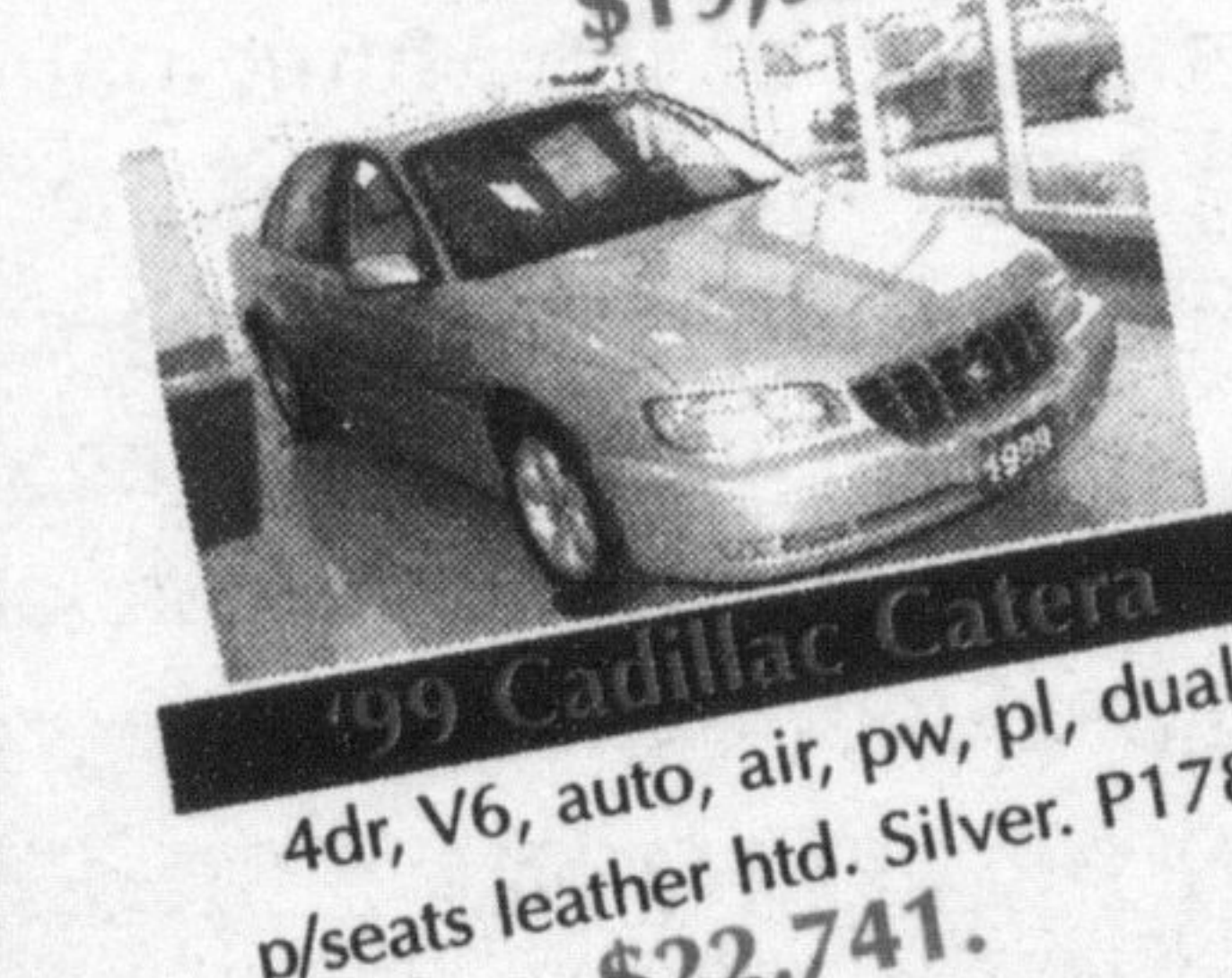
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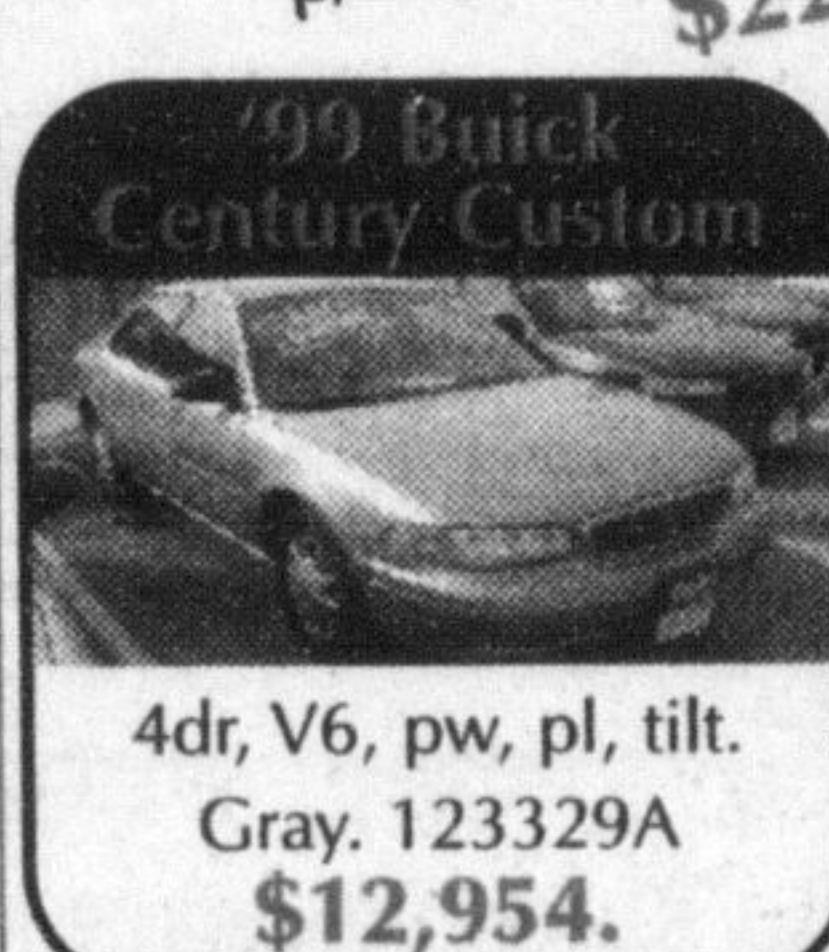
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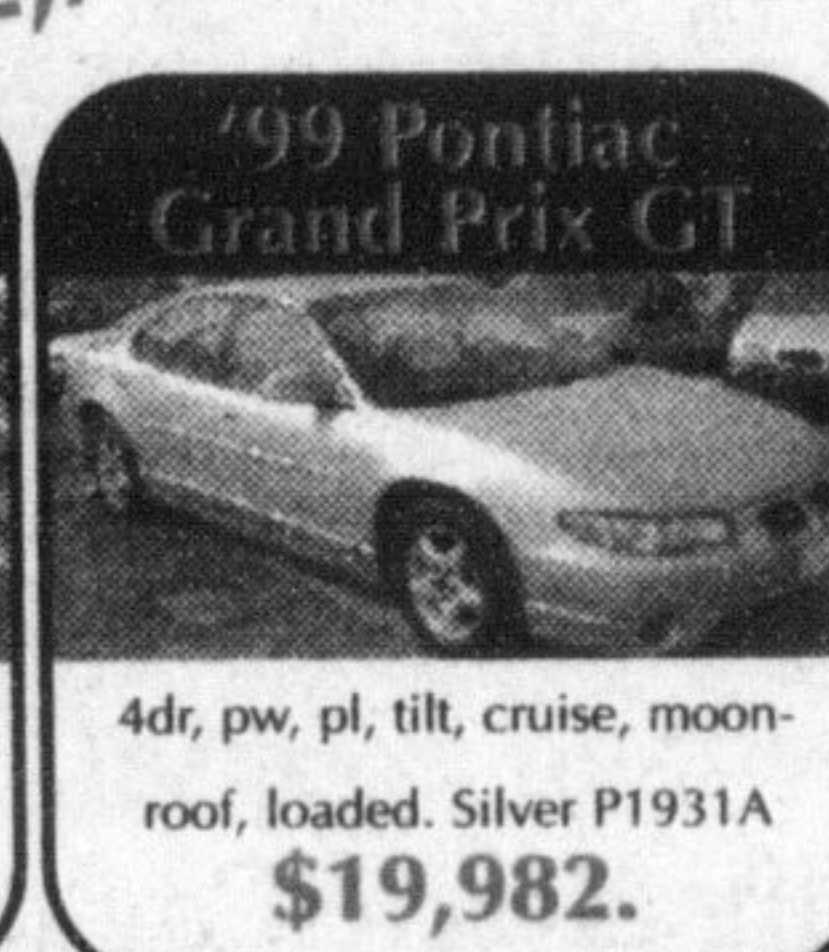
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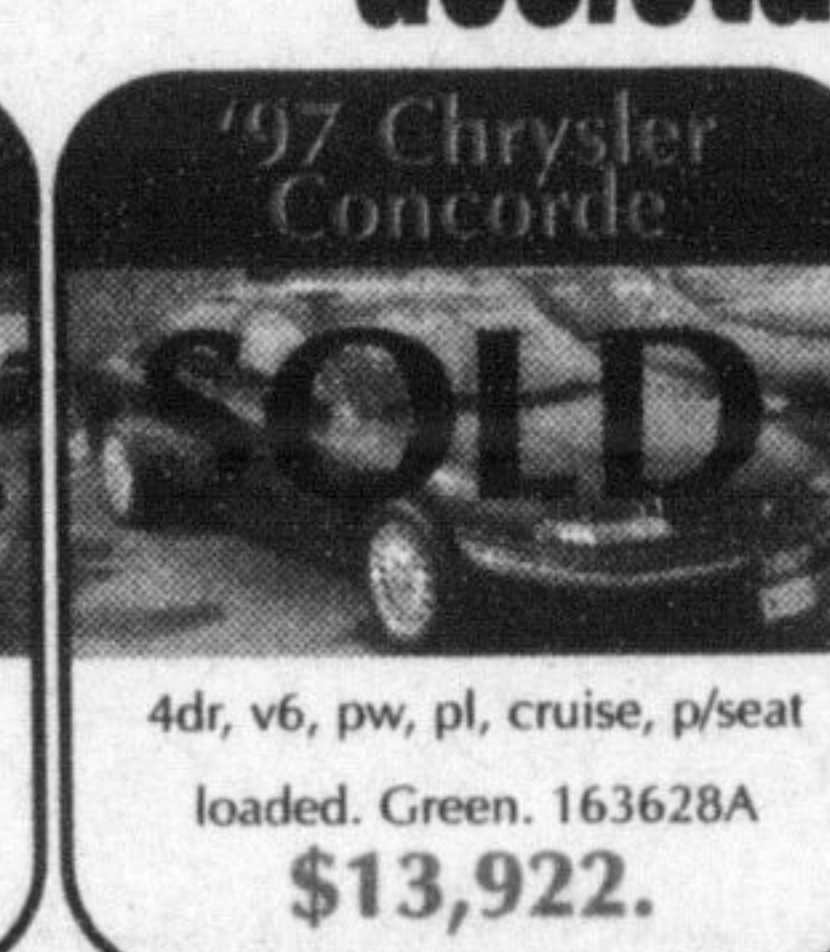
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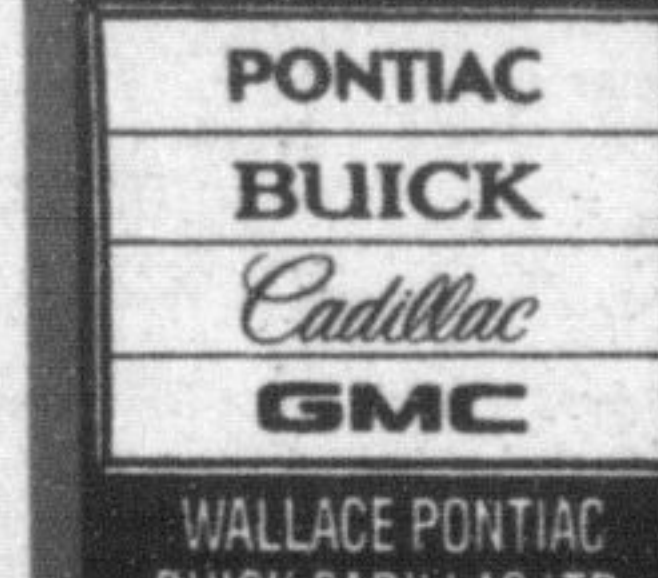
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