

## Booze major worry

A provincial judge presiding in Newmarket Court said recently he believes alcohol, and not drugs, is the number one problem of today's court offenders.

"Demon rum is the big problem today," Judge H.W. Silverman told a Newmarket courtroom audience which included a high school class.

Judge Silverman blames the advertising media for promoting "a macho image" with booze and said the "ads portray the idea that alcohol makes great lovers, great athletes, and the like."

"Get your six-pack and get out there," Judge Silverman claims the ads portray.

The provincial court judge's comments came before he sentenced a 26-year-old Toronto man to three months in jail for failing to appear at his court trial last November.

Armand D. McWatch had pleaded guilty to the charge. His lawyer told the court that because McWatch is a severe alcoholic, he hadn't remembered the court date.

The court was told that the Toronto man had also forgotten to attend four previous trials in other courts.

"He has an extensive criminal record and a severe alcohol problem" counsel had pleaded in seeking leniency.

Judge Silverman said that failing to appear for trial on so many occasions "is like thumbing your nose in the face of the court."

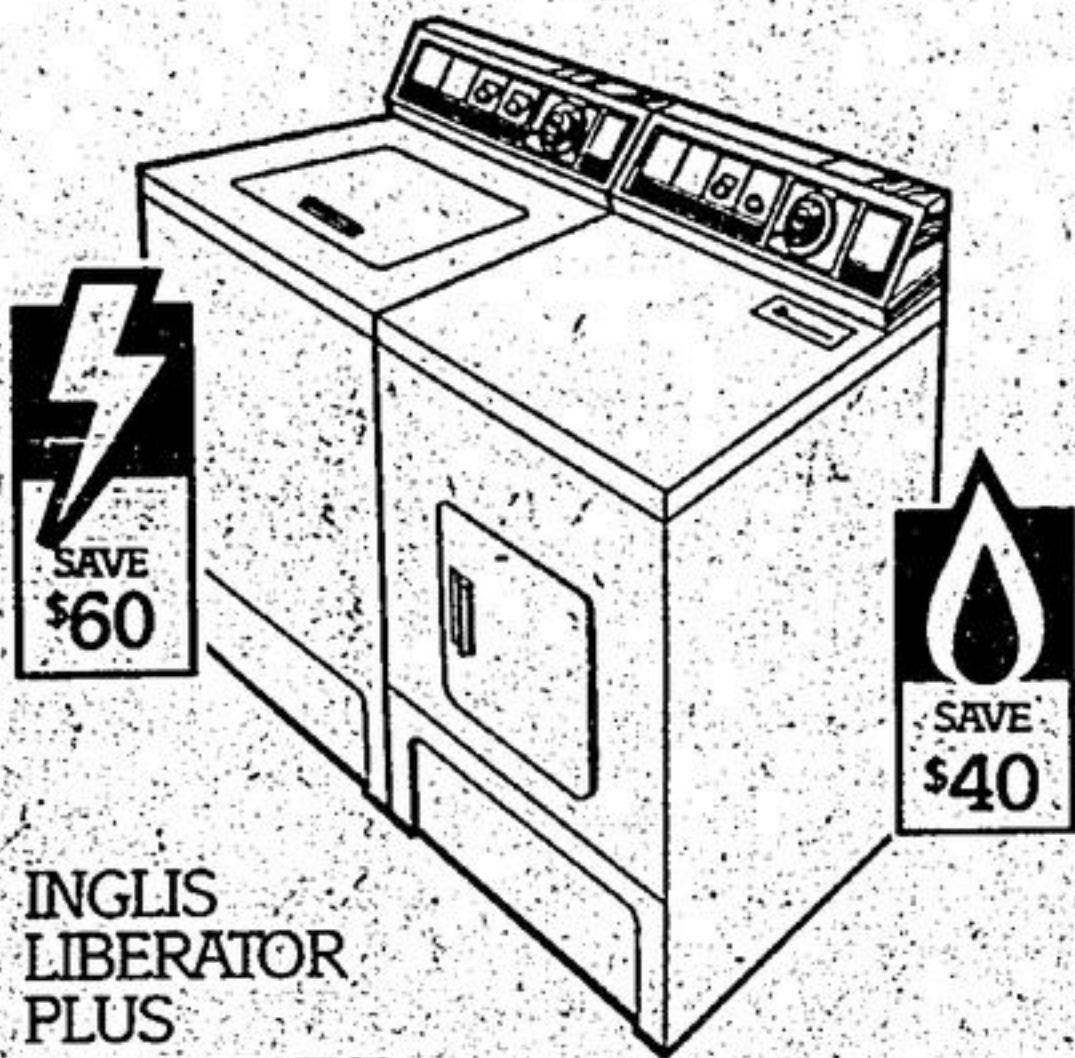
The judge also noted that McWatch's non-appearances have also been costly to the courts.

McWatch and his brother are also charged with the theft of steel from the Vaughan Township area and will appear in County Court for trial September 14.

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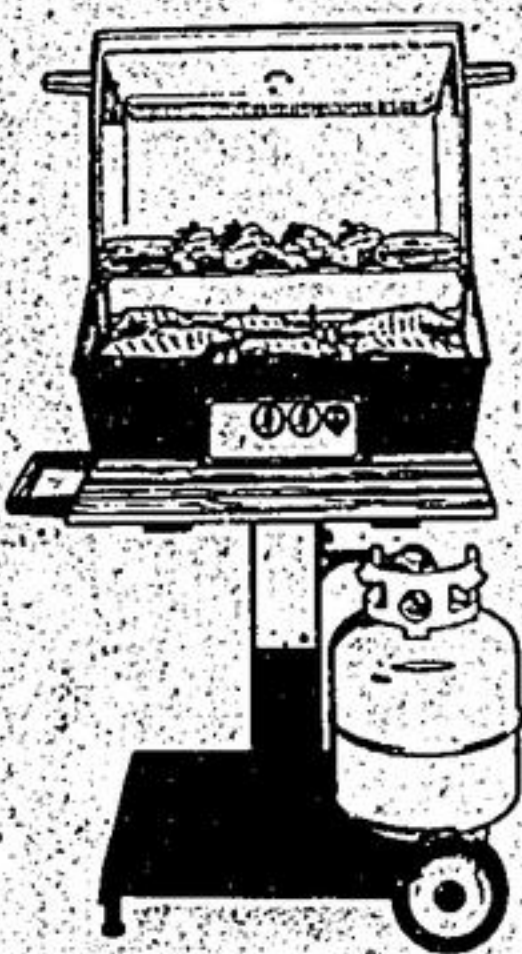
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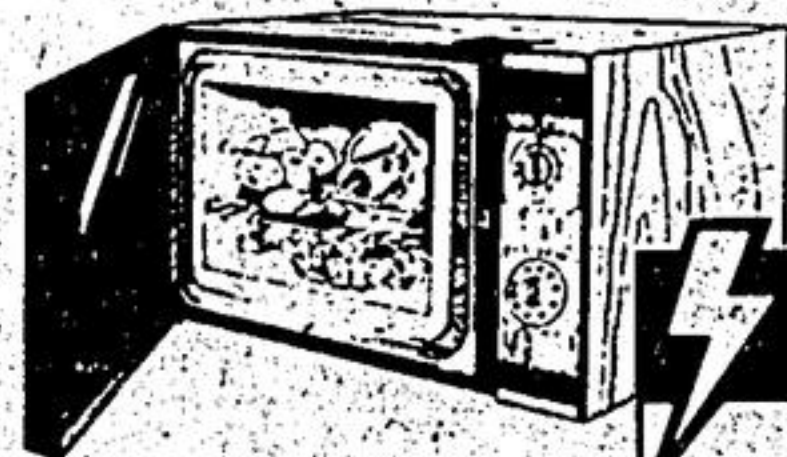
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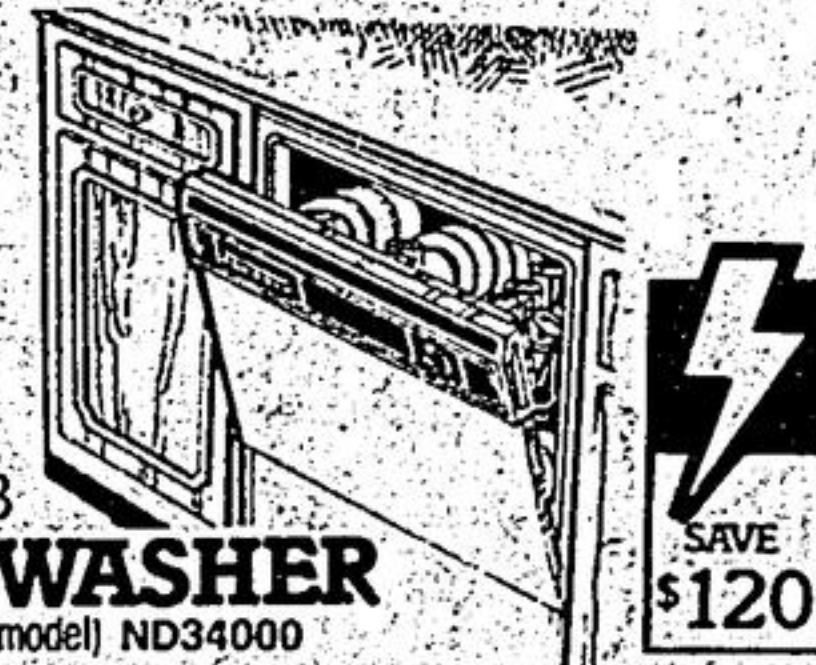
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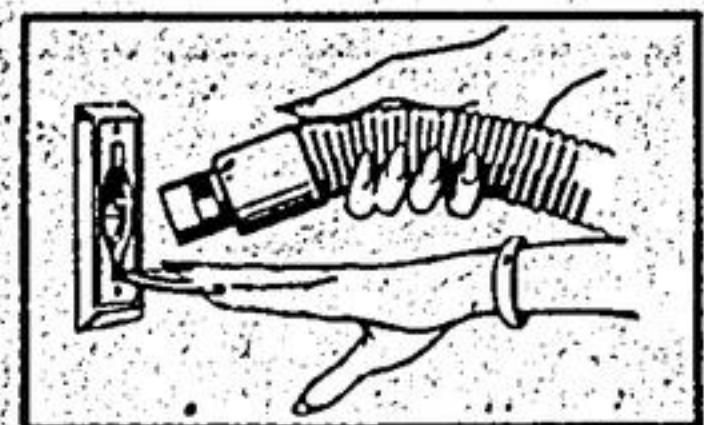
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