

COURTS: Tape recorders shut off just before struggle

'Don't do it,' heard on tapes

FROM PAGE 1

spokesperson Sally Fur: "All we can do is wait and see."

Bloomenfeld said Enzo has been holding up well since witnessing the fatal shooting of his father.

"He's a strong guy," Bloomenfeld said. "His family's the salt of the earth, he's the salt of the earth."

Flanked by about 25 relatives and friends, Enzo and his mother Linda quickly made their way through a media gauntlet outside the courthouse.

Bloomenfeld said he will be applying to have the strict bail conditions against his client removed.

"All I can say is I'm not going to give the Crown any rest until my client is vindicated," he said.

Bloomenfeld refused to comment on media reports that have revealed some of the contents of the secret police tapes.

The tapes were made on micro-cassette recorders hidden in the pockets of York constables Randy Martin and Mike Hoskin.

According to two Toronto daily newspapers, Martin can be heard saying, "Don't do it, don't do it, don't do it," seconds before the tape recorders shut off, prior to the shooting.

The veteran officer was grazed by a bullet on the nose, apparently after he grabbed the barrel of a police handgun during a struggle with Tony Romagnuolo.

The officers had gone to the Romagnuolo home with two Durham Regional Police officers to investigate a threat made against Hoskin over the telephone.

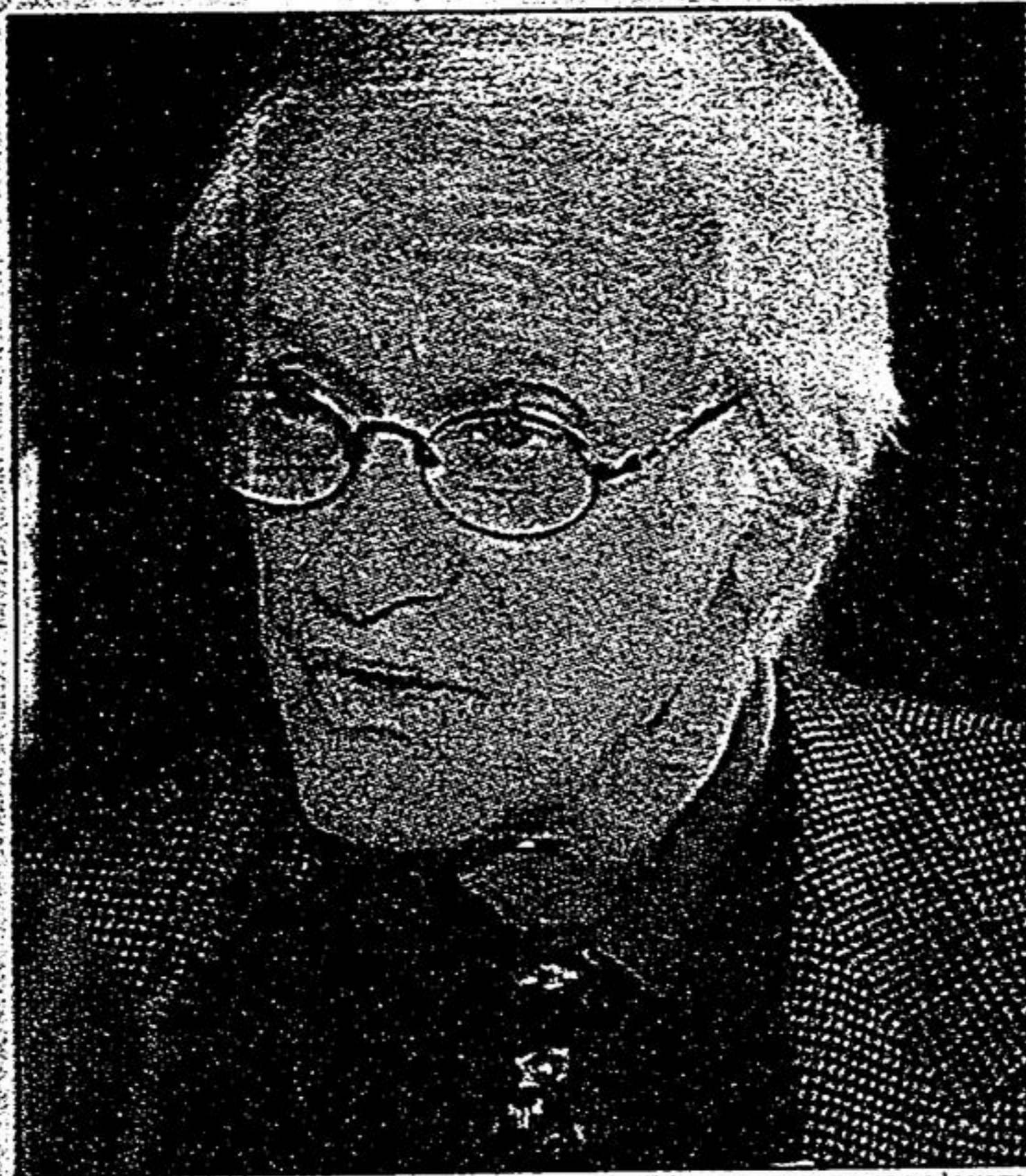
While the tapes recorded the angry words of Tony Romagnuolo leading up to the shooting, no gunshots are heard.

The SIU is testing the tape recorders to see if they could have been shut off during a struggle.

Lawyers for Hoskin and Martin said the tapes show the officers acted professionally.

"The officers' tone was calm, professional and non-confrontational," Dave Humphrey said of the more than 10 minutes of conversation recorded.

"This is a very frustrating position to be in," he said. "I would like nothing more than to argue the



STAFF PHOTO/ROB ALARY

Enzo Romagnuolo's lawyer, Joseph Bloomenfeld talks to reports outside Newmarket courthouse Friday.

case right now, but the SIU will complete its investigation in its own time."

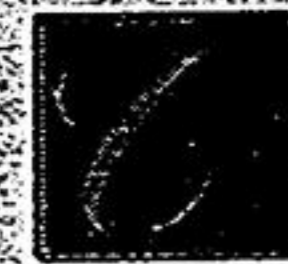
Police sources have speculated the Romagnulos' dog, reportedly a pitbull, could have prompted the officers to draw their weapons.

SIU communications director Gail Scala would not comment on what role, if any, the dog played in the tragedy.

"Suffice it to say we are looking at all the circumstances, as much as we can learn, and looking at them very carefully," Scala said, adding the majority of the forensic evidence has been collected now and most interviews have been completed.

She said there has been "dialogue" between investigators for the three York Region officers but "nothing definitive" in terms of setting up interviews. Humphrey declined comment on when, or if, York officers will agree to be interviewed by SIU investigators.

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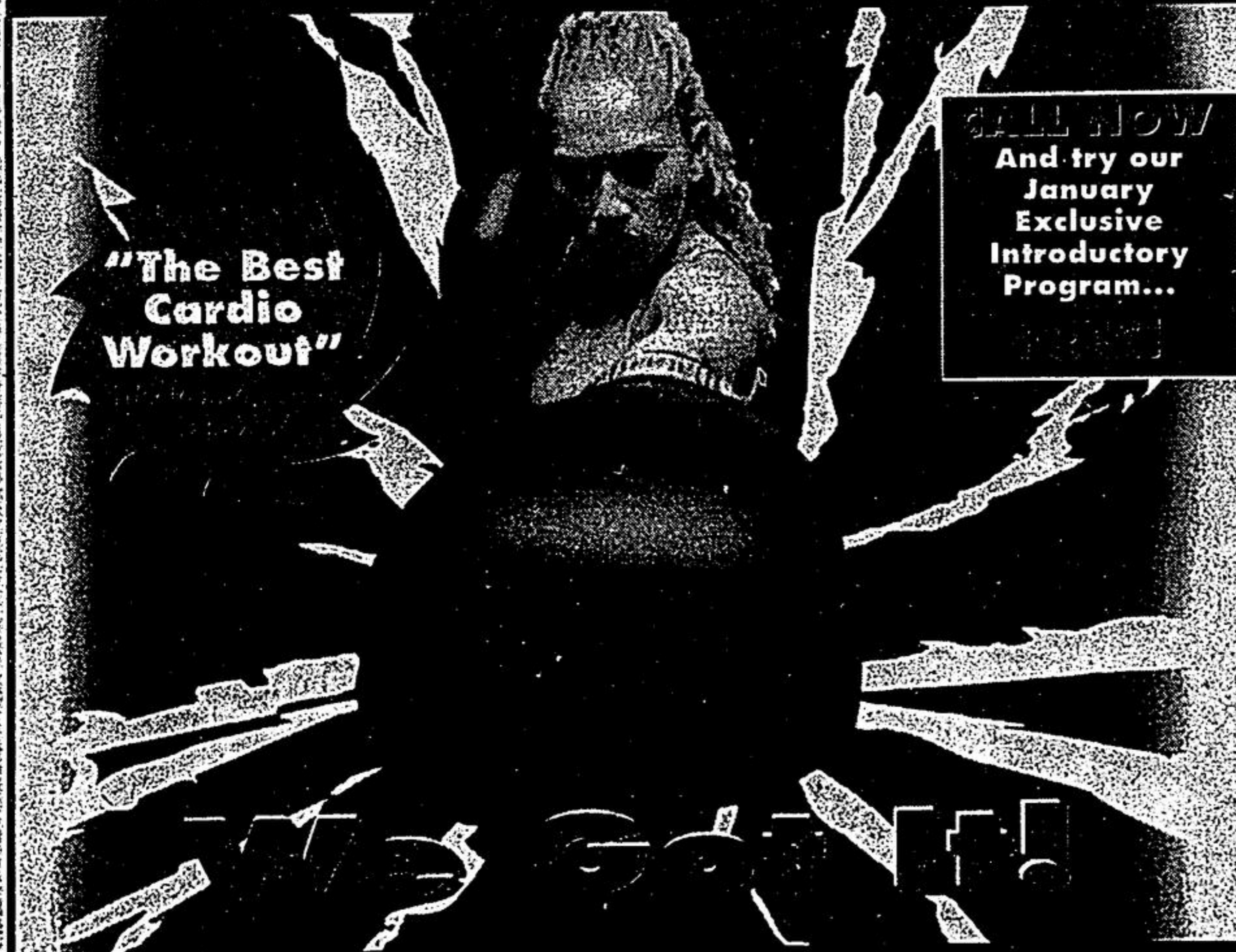
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