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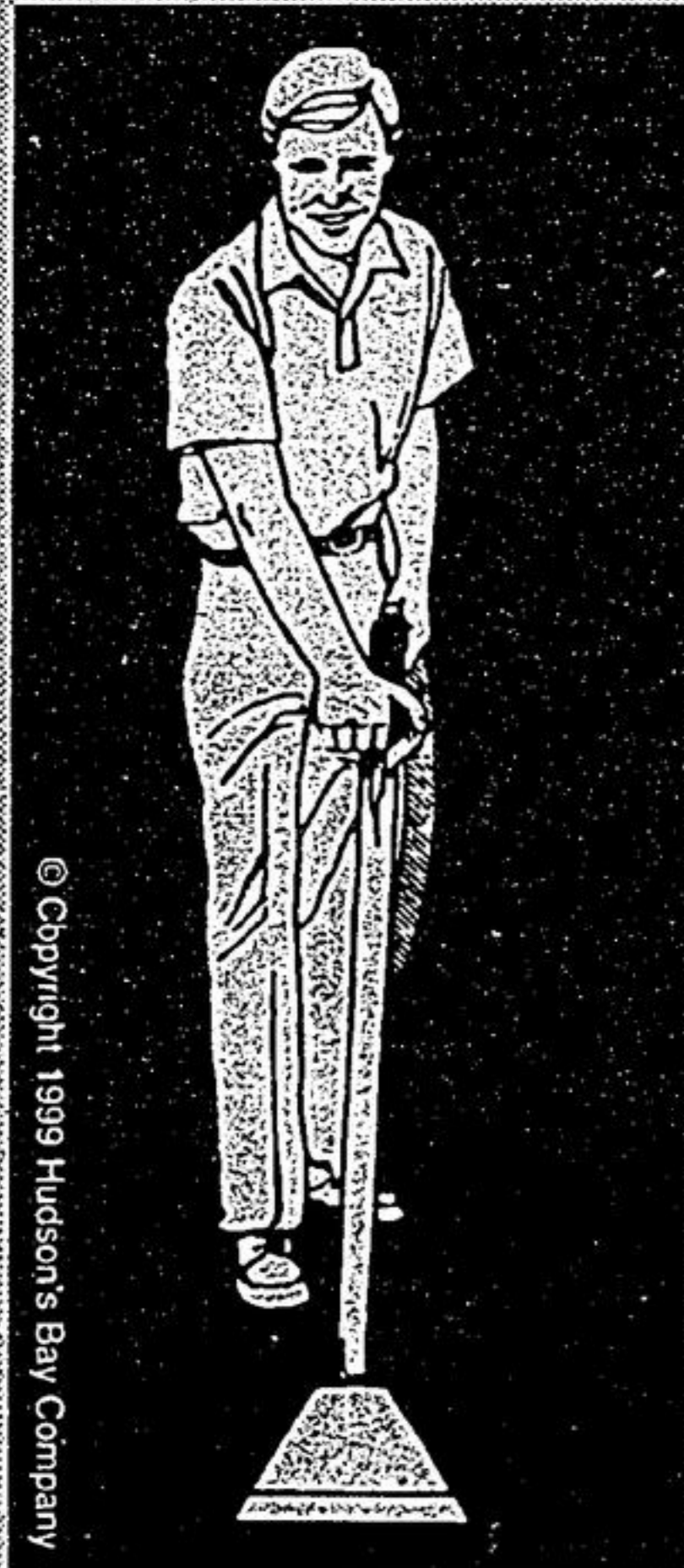
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POLICE: \$80,000 in "ecstasy" seized in raid on Unionville house

Date rape drug lab busted

BY KATHLEEN GRIFFIN
 STAFF WRITER

A 23-year-old Unionville man, allegedly producing a date rape potion in the basement of his family's home, has been charged after \$80,000 worth of drugs was seized by police Thursday.

A month-long probe, boosted by information stemming from the \$10-million marijuana bust in December, led police to the Library Lane home.

Executing a search warrant, police discovered four litres of gamma-hydroxy butyrate, known on the street as liquid ecstasy, worth \$40,000.

Ecstasy in tablet form, about 1,080 pills, and a quantity of opium was also seized.

Det. Sgt. Bruce Powley said liquid ecstasy is sold on the street in small \$20 vials. People use it with alcohol to get high and it's also known as the date rape drug.

One vial emptied into a drink will produce a feeling of severe intoxication, leading to an almost comatose state for four to six hours, investigator Robert Cullen said.

Too much can cause cardiac and respiratory arrest, he

added.

Victims will wake up, with no lingering effects like a hangover, unable to remember anything.

Powley said it is usually emptied into a mixed drink or fruity cocktail which disguise its salty taste.

The drug, dissipates quickly and often doesn't show up in toxicology tests.

And because women don't remember anything after having a drink, cases can be hard to prove.

The chemicals required to make the drug can be acquired legally, and are used in various industrial applications, like paint remover and other caustic substances.

Mixed together, the chemicals produce a clear liquid that is thick and syrupy.

Dealers then cut it, liquefying it further, before filling vials.

Tablet form ecstasy is not manufactured in North America and is imported from Europe, Powley said, adding the opium seized is a "new version," that can be smoked like crack and is less expensive.

The lab was in the basement of an up-scale Unionville home. The suspect's father was away at



STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

Det. Sgt. Bruce Powley shows some of the \$80,000 worth of ecstasy seized during a raid on a Unionville home.

the time, and his mother is deceased, police said.

Drug paraphernalia, including 87 vials, was also seized.

Charged are Michael Moyer, 23, of Unionville and Jeffrey Hutchinson, 24, of North York.

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