

FRAUD INVESTIGATION RANGED FROM CALIFORNIA TO MONTREAL

# Brother arrested at man's \$3-million fraud hearing

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Staff Writer

A man who travelled from Montreal to appear at his brother's \$3-million fraud bail hearing was arrested himself when he showed up.

Robert Bishara, 27, of Verdun, Que., was charged with 15 counts of fraud Tuesday after a year-long investigation by detective constables Joanne Waite and Terry Jordan.

Rex International, a company on Victoria Park Drive in Markham ordered millions of dollars worth of products, including spices, various kinds of nuts and canned goods. Suppliers were not paid.

About a year ago, Rex closed up shop overnight, terminating operations.

Bishara was president of the company.

The investigation ranged from California to Montreal, wrapping up Tuesday with Bishara's arrest at a Toronto hotel.

Upon his arrest, Bishara asked to speak with his brother Maged and police agreed.

When Bishara appeared in Newmarket court yesterday morning for a bail hearing, his brother was there for support — that is, until police arrested him as well.

Maged Bishara, a Rex International employee, is charged with one count of fraud over \$5,000.

Police said, where possible, the merchandise will be returned to the original owners.

The investigation is continuing and may lead to further arrests. Police are seeking former employees of the company for further information. If you can help call 881-1221, ext. 7541.

## Adult entertainment club worker robbed at gunpoint

A Vaughan adult entertainment parlour employee was attacked and robbed at gunpoint Tuesday with thieves netting \$31,000 in cash and jewelry.

The robbery happened shortly after 10 a.m. when the 36-year-old man arrived for work at the Club Pro Adult Entertainment Lounge.

He was sitting in his office when two masked suspects barged in.

One brandished a semi-automatic handgun, pointed it at the man and demanded cash. He was ordered to the floor and was punched and kicked while the other suspect grabbed the cash.

The employees watch, ring and gold necklace — worth a total of \$16,000 — were stolen as well.

The thugs then fled in an unknown direction.

The first suspect is a white male, five feet, 10 inches tall, weighing 165 pounds, wearing a black jacket and jeans and carrying the gun. A second suspect is a black man, six feet tall, 175 pounds, wearing a yellow top, jeans and a brown jacket.

Anyone with information is asked to call 881-1221 or Crime Stoppers at 222-TIPS.

## Vaughan boy threatened with a knife on school bus

A 14-year-old Vaughan boy was threatened with a knife by a fellow student on a school bus Monday afternoon.

Police were called to the boy's home that night after the boy told his father.

The boy said he and another youth were play-fighting in the back of the bus on the way home from school.

The student pulled a knife out of his gym bag, held it to the boy's throat and threatened to use it. The victim asked him to put the knife away and several minutes later, he did. The investigation continues.

## Western Union bilked of cash

A 36-year-old Markham man is charged with bilking Western Union of

more than \$11,000.

The Western Union branch was located in the MotoFoto at the Loblaw's plaza at Warden Avenue and Hwy. 7.

Between August and October 1999 clients turned over cash to be wired to various locations, cash that was to be deposited in an electronic bank account.

When Western Union tried to obtain the funds, they were missing.

The man faces one count of fraud over \$5,000 and appears in the Ontario Court of Justice in Newmarket July 17.

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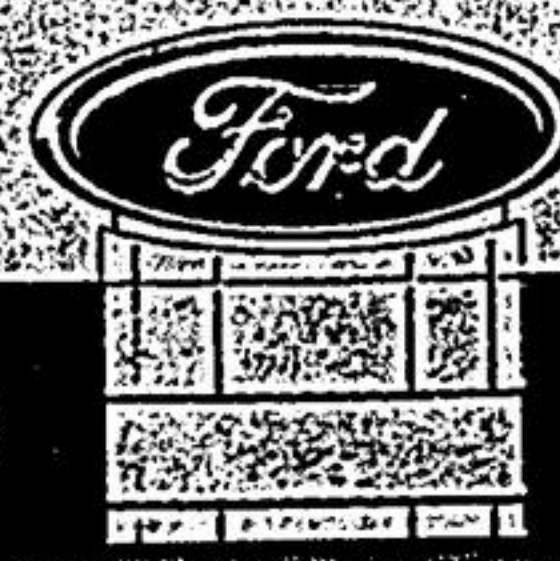
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