

LOBSTERFEST

From Tuesday, September 24 to Sunday September 29, The Corner House presents another LobsterFest. Fresh, East Coast Lobster presented in four mouthwatering ways:



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Immigration ring may be behind disappearance

BY KATHLEEN GRIFFIN
Staff Writer

A 30-year-old Ethiopian woman visiting Markham has been missing more than a month and police are worried she may be getting bad advice from an underground immigration ring.

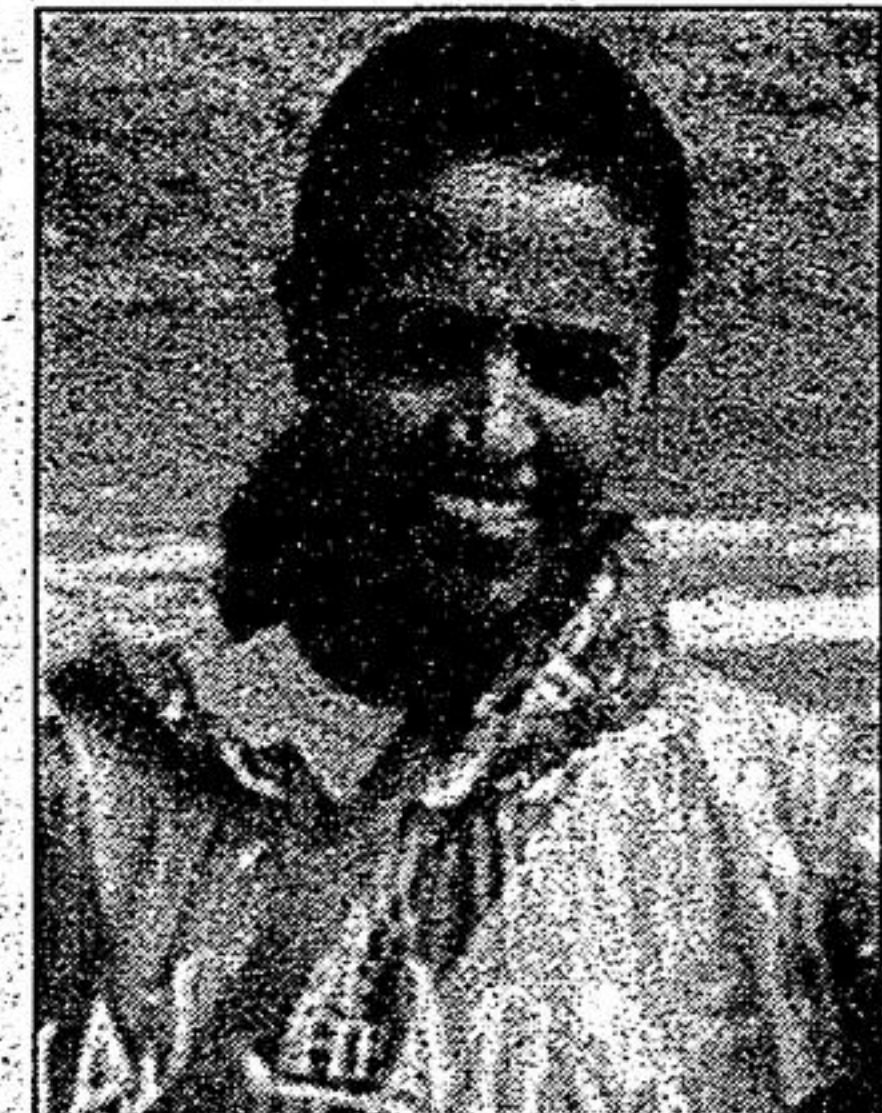
Hanane Abdlla Hassen was working as a nanny and travelled with her employers from the United Arab Emirates to Markham in June. She was last seen Aug. 2.

"Our concern is her well-being," said York Regional Police Det. Chris Bullen. "Maybe she sees a better life for herself in Canada and is being persuaded by others."

While Ms Hassen, who speaks little English, seems to have taken a few items of clothing, she left the rest of her personal possessions behind including her identification, passport and wallet.

Just before she disappeared, a neighbour spotted a stranger near the house she was staying at, described as male black, between 25 and 30, of African descent. He was about five-feet-eight-inches tall and weighed about 165 pounds. He has sharp features and was well-dressed in a blue suit and tie. He was driving a black Honda Accord with Ontario plates.

She had also been in con-



HANANE ABDLLA HASSEN: Ethiopian nanny, who worked in Markham, was last seen Aug. 2.

tact with a man from Calgary — a friend of a friend — but while he's been contacted by police, leads to her whereabouts have dried up.

"Our fear is that she has been caught up in an underground movement and is being taken advantage of. She doesn't need to go that route, there are more legitimate ways," said Det. Bullen.

He said she's done nothing illegal and her employers are willing to take her back.

"Her visitor's visa expires at the end of November. We want to try to get word to her to get in touch us so we can determine if she's OK."

Anyone with information is asked to call Det. Bullen at 905-881-1221 ext. 7541 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.

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Missing boy found on the TTC — again

A nine-year-old Markham boy fascinated with public transit — and who prompted a GTA-wide search earlier this month — was at it again Tuesday.

Barrington Harrison was to have boarded his school bus about 3 p.m. in the McCowan Road-Steeles Avenue area, but failed to do so. His family alerted police, suspecting where he may have gone and worried about his safety. His description was circulated to all GTA forces and the public.

He was found by a Toronto Transit Commission inspector at the Finch subway station about 11 p.m., boarding a southbound train to return downtown. He had ridden the subway for more than seven hours. He was returned by police to his family.

On Sept. 5, a similar search was conducted after the boy went missing about 8:30 p.m. GTA police forces and the media were notified and he was picked up after 2 a.m. as he got off a TTC bus near the International Centre

on Airport Road.

Customers bilked

A Toronto man has been charged with fraud and forgery after two HSBC customers were bilked of \$135,000 last March.

York Regional Police Det-Const. Chris Palmer said a former manager of personal financial services at the Steeles-Woodbine Avenues branch was charged earlier this month and will appear in court Oct. 25.

Cheques drawn on two separate client accounts were cashed without the clients' knowledge between March 11 and 26. Their signatures had been forged, Det-Const. Palmer said.

A new employee took over the accounts and noticed the discrepancy. Police were called in.

A 29-year-old man is charged with fraud over \$5,000, two counts of forgery and uttering forged documents.

—Kathleen Griffin

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