



SUN TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

Contact information for students at SDSS was sent to families at the school last week.

# School taking measures to avoid another privacy breach

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to do that," he said.

It's rare, but cases like the one at Stouffville Secondary do occur within the board, according to Christina Choo-Hum, assistant manager, public affairs and communications services for the York Region District School Board.

"They do happen. Any organization that handles information, especially when you have that human element. It happens in hospitals. It happens with the police. It happens in banks," she said.

Following the information's release, school administrators followed board policy, which includes notifying those who had their information released, trying to recall the file and implementing new measures to ensure it does not happen again, according to Ms Choo-Hum.

All communications, such as the school's Spartan Speaks newsletter, will now undergo a dual sign-off process.

"It's not a perfect solution, but things do happen," she said.

Upon receipt of the confidential information, parents were angry and upset, according to Mr. Wilshire. Some contacted The Sun Tribune.

On Monday, the principal sent out an e-mail to parents explaining what took place, while trying to ensure those steps are being taken to prevent this from re-occurring.

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The board's privacy office was also notified.

The office ensures school administrators are compliant with policies laid out by the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario.

Under the commissioner's policy, for example, class lists are no longer posted in schools. And when it comes to sending out Valentines, only the first name of students can be provided, according to Ms Choo-Hum.

"Technology is an amazing tool, but it does leave things open to error," she said.

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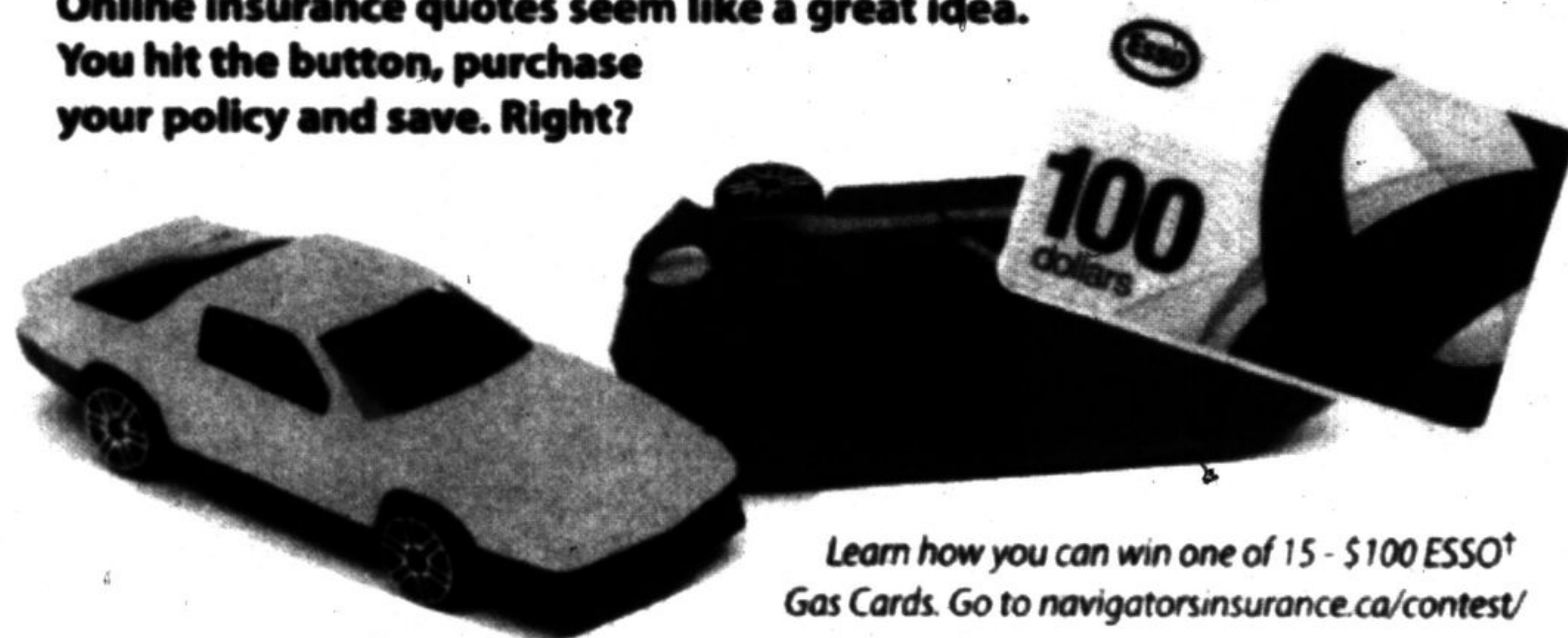
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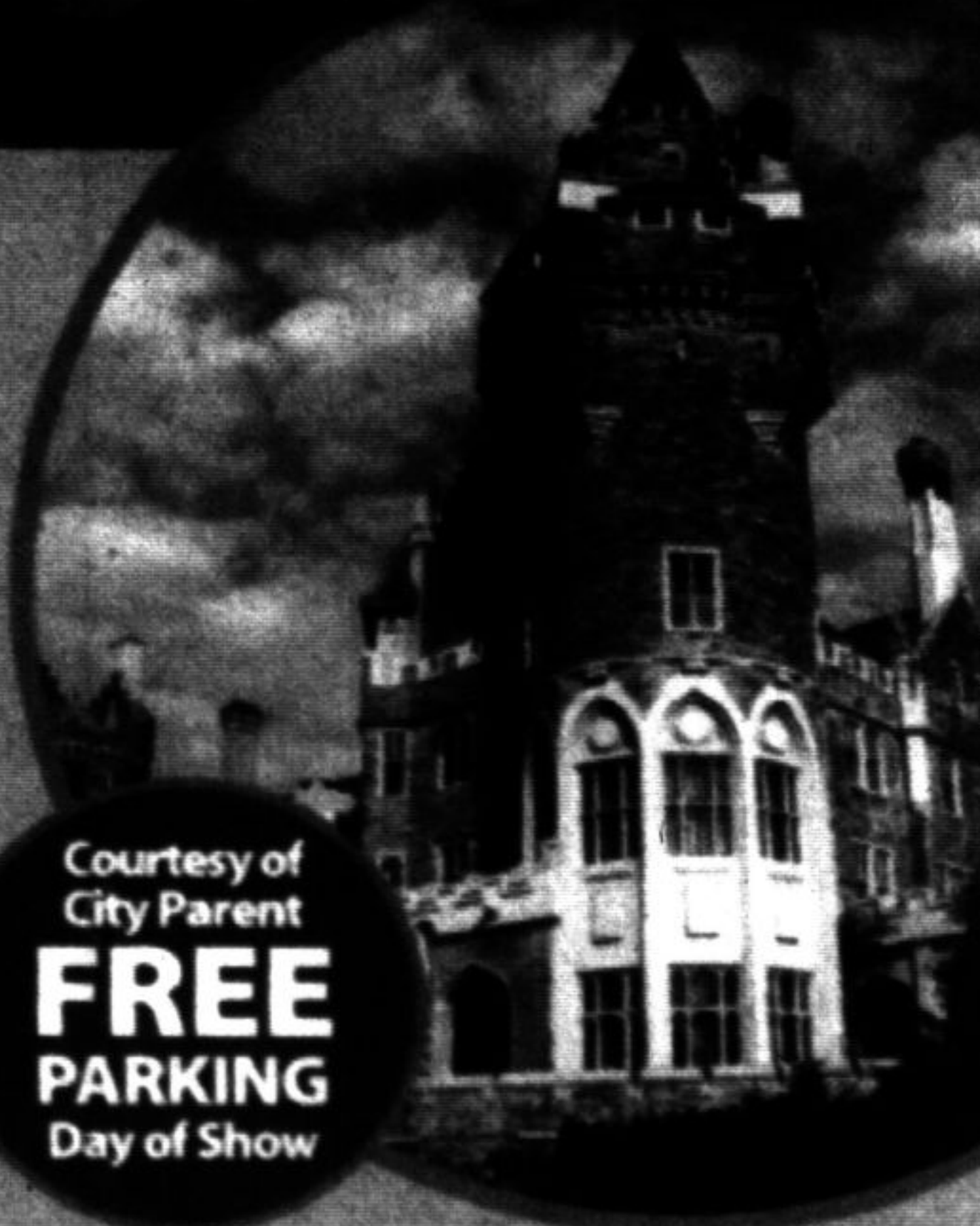
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