

The Daily Edition

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Tuesday, March 8, 2016

9th DTF, LCSO and LCPD team up in meth search



Bobbi Jo Gilbert

(see team pg. 2)

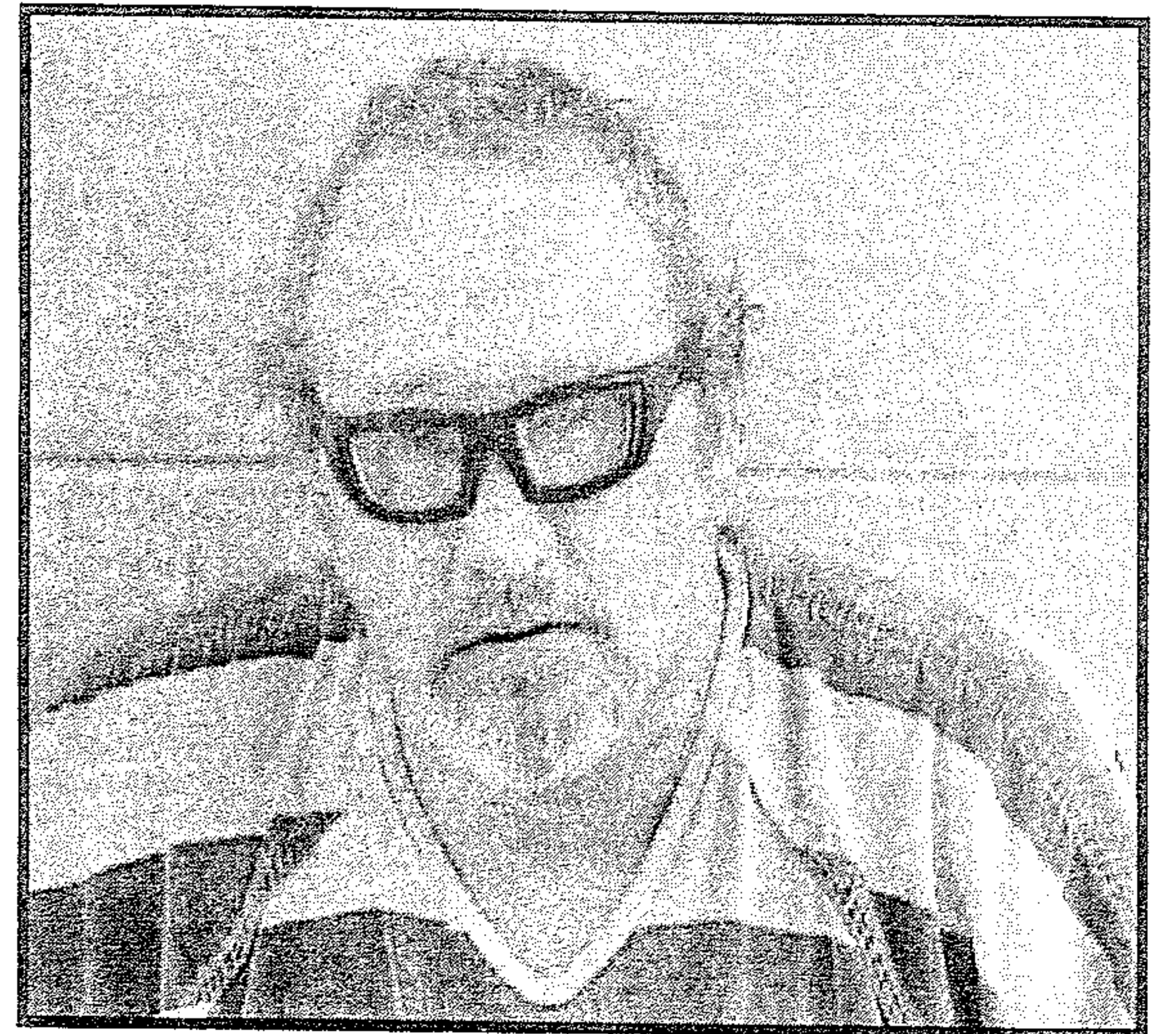
Meth offender charged in LC



Jarrod Hunt

(see meth pg. 5)

Gun used in aggravated assault



Glen Rucker

(see gun pg. 3)

FBI Assists Polish Government in Recovering Painting Lost During WWII

In July 2015, when Special Agent Paul Zukas began his first day on the job at the FBI legal attaché office in Warsaw, Poland, little did he know his initial case would involve helping the country's Ministry of Culture and National Heritage recover a treasured painting allegedly looted by Nazi soldiers during World War II.

Zukas' deep appreciation for art, history, and culture would be his guide during

(see FBI pg. 7)

Pickett County's Highway Superintendent Admits to Misuse of County Resources

A special investigation by the Tennessee Comptroller's Office has found that Pickett County Highway Superintendent Jimmy Cope directed county-purchased gravel and rock to be delivered to private property.

Mr. Cope admitted that he ordered the gravel and rock to be transported by county employees driving county trucks to be

(see misuse pg. 5)

Verse of the Day

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. — Prov-

verbs 3:5-6

Obituaries

see inside
Wazzup

What a beautiful week it is going to be this week! Get out and enjoy it!

Weather

Today: Partly cloudy. High 73F.

Tonight: Mainly clear skies. Low 46F.

Wednesday Sunshine and clouds mixed. High 76F.

Wednesday Night Mostly cloudy skies. Low 52F.

Horoscopes

Pisces 2/19-3/20

Inspirational people share their brilliant ideas with you today, enticing you to join them on their journeys. The Sun in your dreamy sign opposes lucky Jupiter in your 7th

(Continued on page 6)



team

Bobbi Gilbert, 27, Kelly Lane Lenoir City, was charged with Simple Possession, and Poss. of Drug Para.

Agent 9th JDTF, LCSO, and LCPD, executed a search warrant at McGhee Square Apt. Bobbie Gilbert and a male reside at this residence. During the investigation

Agents recovered a home-made pipe used to smoke methamphetamine, digital scales, two firearms, and a small amount of marijuana. Bobbie was present at the time of the search. Agents found the male had left the residence just prior to their arrival. The male cell phone was still on the night stand

(see burglary ctd. pg. 4)

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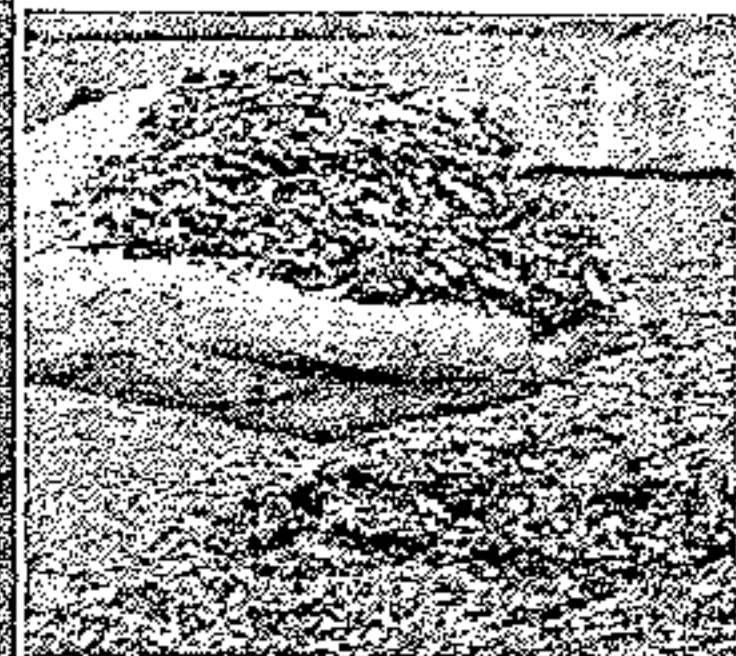
gun

Glen Rucker, 53, Cook Drive Loudon, was charged with Aggravated Assault. Inv. Jeff Russell LCSO, responded to Grandview Drive Loudon to investigate an ag-

gravated assault involving a handgun. Deputy arrived to find victim upset and stated a white male driving a small white truck had stopped in front of his residence, when victim ask the male what he was doing, the male started talking about kids stealing in the neighborhood. Victim ask what he was talking about, the male stated to victim he hoped victim cherished his kid and reached into a bag and pulled a black pistol out. When victim seen the gun

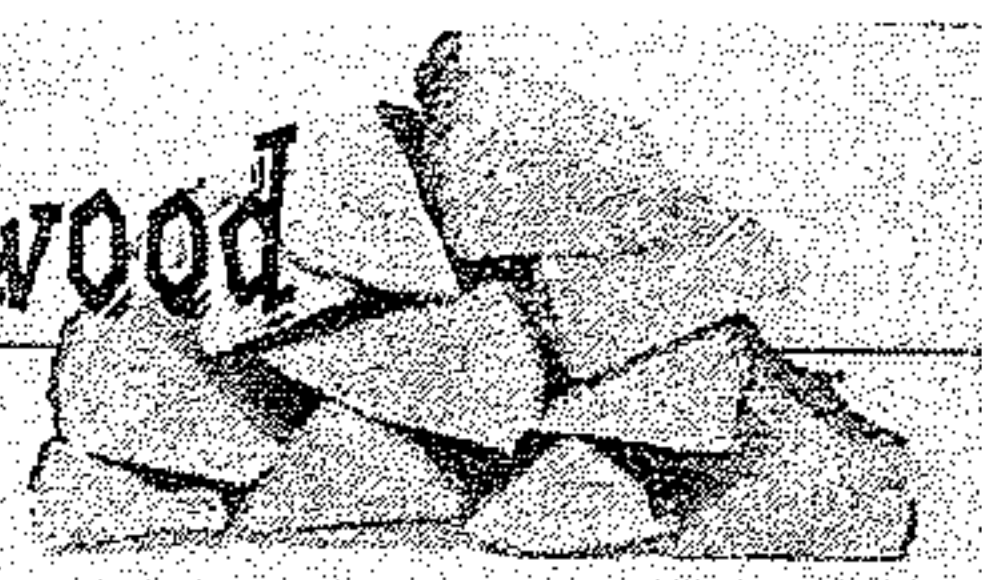
he ran and told his girlfriend on from the bag but never to call police. The male was identified as Glen Rucker, Glen was placed under ar- rest. Inv. Jeff Russell LCSO, did admit to taking the weap- made the arrest.

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team ctd. from pg. 2

next to the bed.

Agents have been involved in an investigation into the sale of methamphetamine occurring at the residence.

Bobbie was charged with Simple Possession and Poss. of Drug Para.

Agent Brendan De-Boer JDTF, made the arrest.

Domestic charges follow call to police

Travis McCollum, 43, Fairview Road Lenoir City, was charged with Domestic Assault. Deputy Kevin Dailey LCSO, was dispatched to Fairview Road in reference to a domestic disturbance. Deputy made contact with Travis McCullom who was carrying a

(see domestic ctd. pg. 5)

Help Wanted

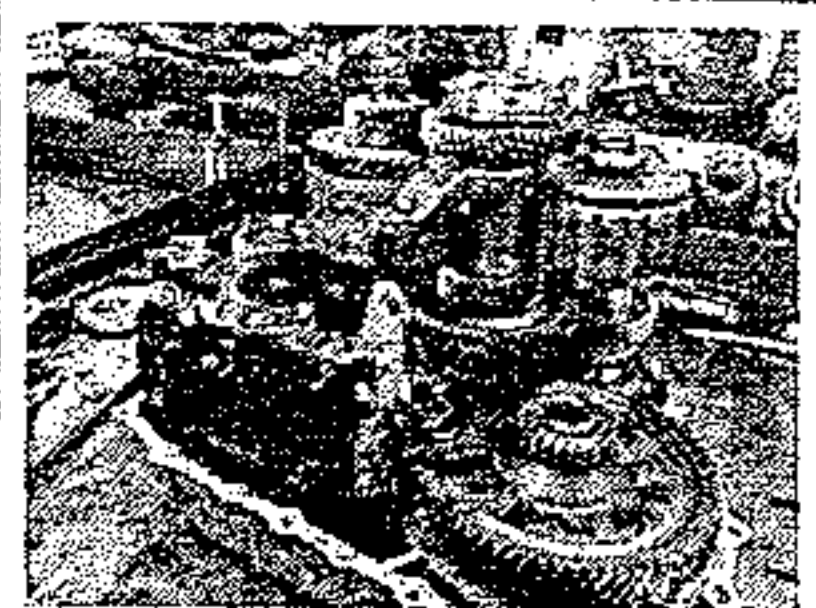
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meth

Jarrold Hunt, 35, Pine Street Madisonville, was charged with Immediate Methamphetamine Precursor. Jarrod Hunt entered the Walmart on Hwy 321 and attempted to purchase a box of pseudophedrine product. Jarrod was observed on video from the Walmart pharmacy approaching the counter

and trying to purchase the product. Jarrod is currently on the Drug Offender Registry in the State of Tennessee for prior drug offense. Jarrod was convicted of Possession of Methamphetamine in Monroe Co. By Jarrod attempting to purchase the pseudophedrine product Jarrod violated the Immediate Meth-Precursor Law. Deputy Chance Gray

LCSO, arrest Jarrod at the Loudon Jail.

misuse

placed on various private properties in Pickett County.

Based upon interviews with Mr. Cope and another highway department employee, they estimated that as many as four loads of gravel per week were placed on private property. Investigators estimate this practice

cost the county at least \$13,205 annually.

Mr. Cope claims that he never asked for votes and never received money in exchange for the gravel and rock. Mr. Cope told investigators he would provide county gravel to any Pickett County citizen who asked.

"This activity raises questions about use of taxpayer-funded resources, and it could

also place the county at risk," said Comptroller Justin P. Wilson. "Using county equipment on private property could expose the county to potentially unlimited liability in the event that an injury or damage occurred as a result of this practice."

To view the special investigation online, go to: <http://www.comptroller.tn.gov/repository/ia/pickettcounty-hwydept.pdf>

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Domestic ctd. from pg. 4

child visible upset 100 yards from the residence. Travis stated him and his father had gotten into an physical domestic over his child being to loud which Travis decided to leave, when his father tried to stop him. Contact was made with the farther who stated Travis had gotten mad over him telling the child to be quiet, during the argument Travis stated to the father he was going to meet his maker tonight. The father was afraid for his well being. Travis was placed under arrest due to him being the primary aggressor. Deput Kevin Dailey LCSO, made the arrest.

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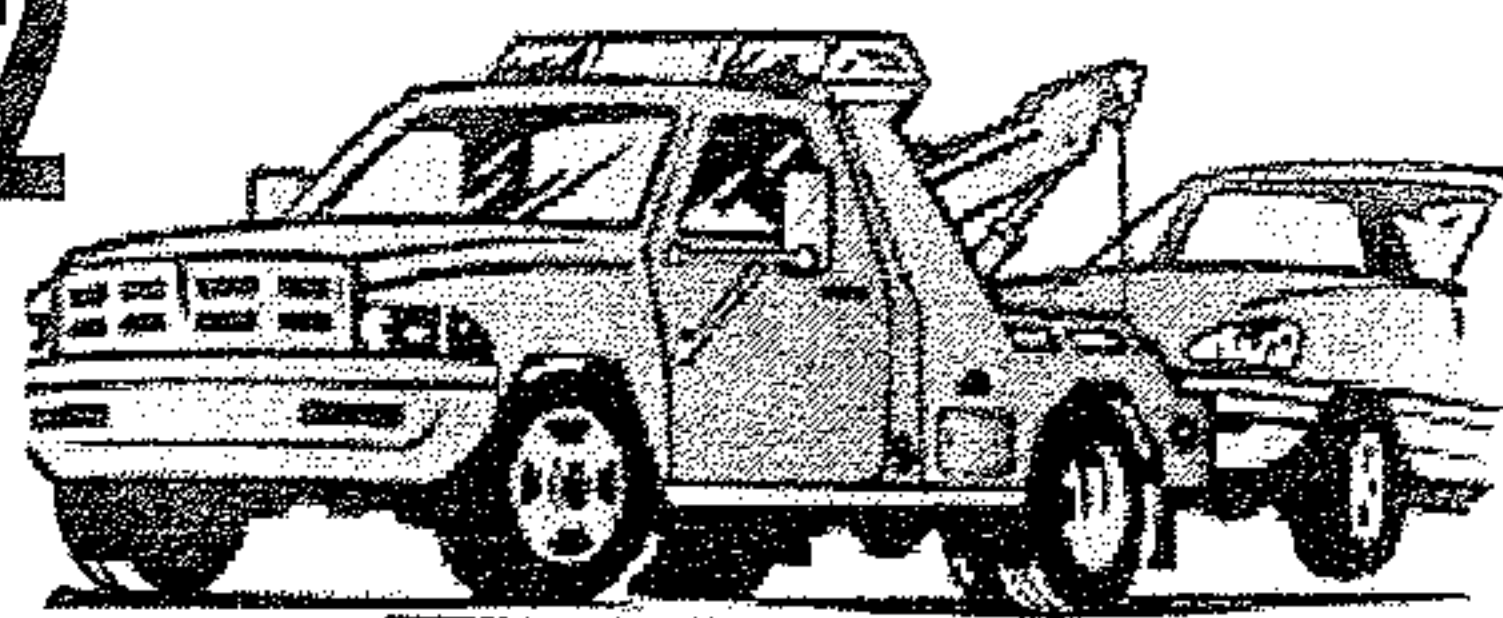
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FBI

the Bureau's two-month investigation, which ultimately led him to an Ohio couple who had purchased the painting in question—unaware that it may have been looted.

"I was two days into my assignment in Warsaw when the case was handed to me," said Zukas. "I was beyond excited. When that case came to me, I knew was going to crack it. I was determined to find the painting and get it back where it belonged."

Poland's National Museum in Warsaw had been home to Polish baroque painter Krzysztof Lubieniecki's Portrait of a Young Man, completed around 1728. The painting—along with other artwork—purportedly had been taken by the Nazis circa 1944 and placed inside a palace in Austria before seemingly disappearing.

A possible clue about the missing painting surfaced in August 2009, when Bob Wittmann was leafing through an old stack of family photographs at his home in Detroit.

Wittmann had been conducting research on his late father's World War II service record when he came across a picture taken in 1945 of then 19-year-old Private John Wittmann in full service dress. The soldier was posing in uniform in his Columbus, Ohio home alongside a number of wartime mementos he collected during his time abroad.

The photograph showed an old painting

that Bob Wittmann recognized from childhood depicting a young man wearing a light blue coat and powdered wig. Wittmann also found a second photograph of the painting, which featured an inventory number and a phrase in a foreign language he didn't understand. Intrigued, he searched for the phrase on the internet and landed on the website of the National Museum in Warsaw. Wittmann later discovered a painting that looked like the one his father brought home from the war had been reported missing by the Polish government.

"There on the Polish Embassy's Wartime Losses web page was a picture of the painting," said Wittman. "The chills really kicked in when I saw the photograph on their website."

He eventually notified Poland's Ministry of Culture and National

Heritage about the missing painting and agreed to assist them in tracking it down, thinking it could still be in his family's possession.

Wittmann's search ended after he learned a relative in Florida sold the portrait through a third party to an Ohio art collector with the last name Bobb around 1990. The Polish government then turned to the FBI for help, and that's where Zukas came in.

After poring over his newly assigned case file, Zukas learned about Wittmann through all the correspondence he already had with the Polish government. "I knew about all the key players based on Bob Wittmann's extensive research and simply had to put the pieces together," he said.

Zukas picked up the phone and called John Bobb, the possible owner of the painting. Following their discussion,

Bobb realized that the painting the FBI was searching for could be the same one hanging on his dining room wall in Westerville, Ohio. In August 2015, Bobb e-mailed a photograph of the painting to Zukas, who knew instantly it was a match.

But was the painting authentic?

That September, Bobb and his wife, Janis, brought the portrait to the FBI's Columbus Resident Agency—a satellite of the Cincinnati Field Office—where they met with a member of the Bureau's Art Crime Team and officials from the Polish government. After a series of careful examinations, it was confirmed the painting in John and Janis Bobb's possession was indeed Portrait of a Young Man.

"Our minds were made up and we had already said goodbye to

see FBI ctd. pg. 8

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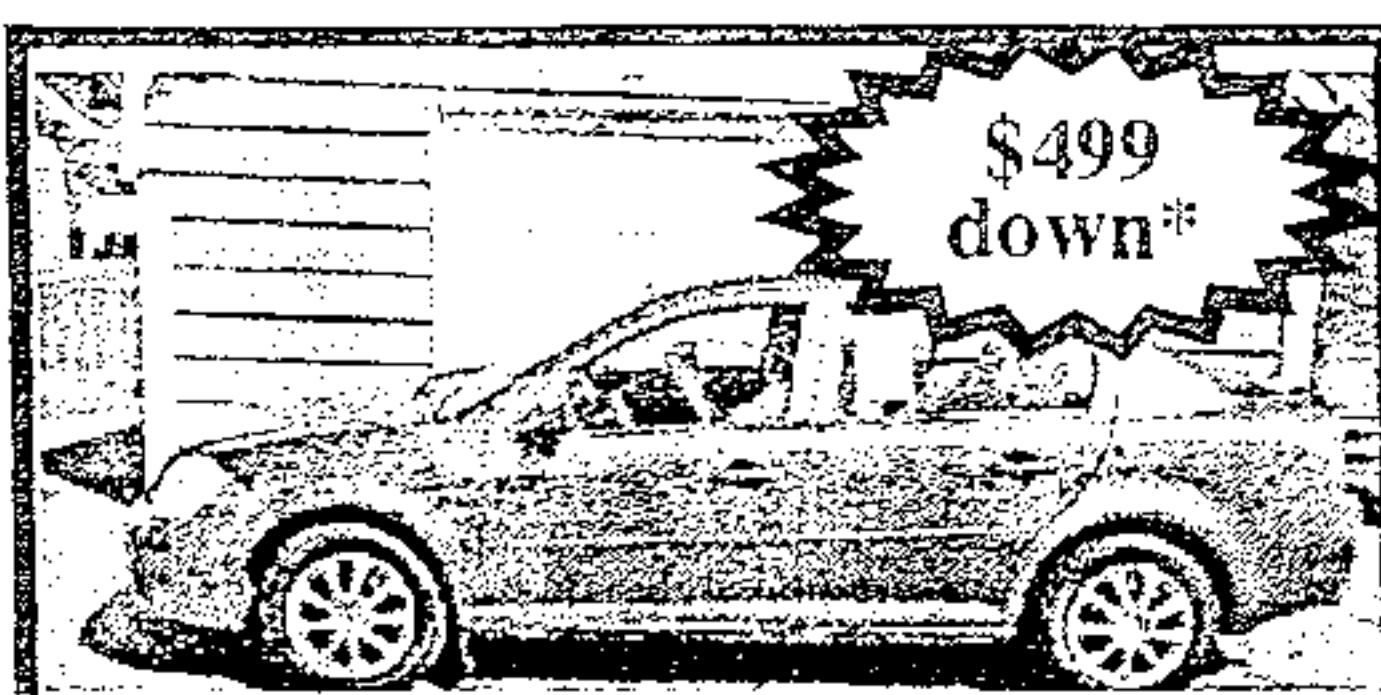
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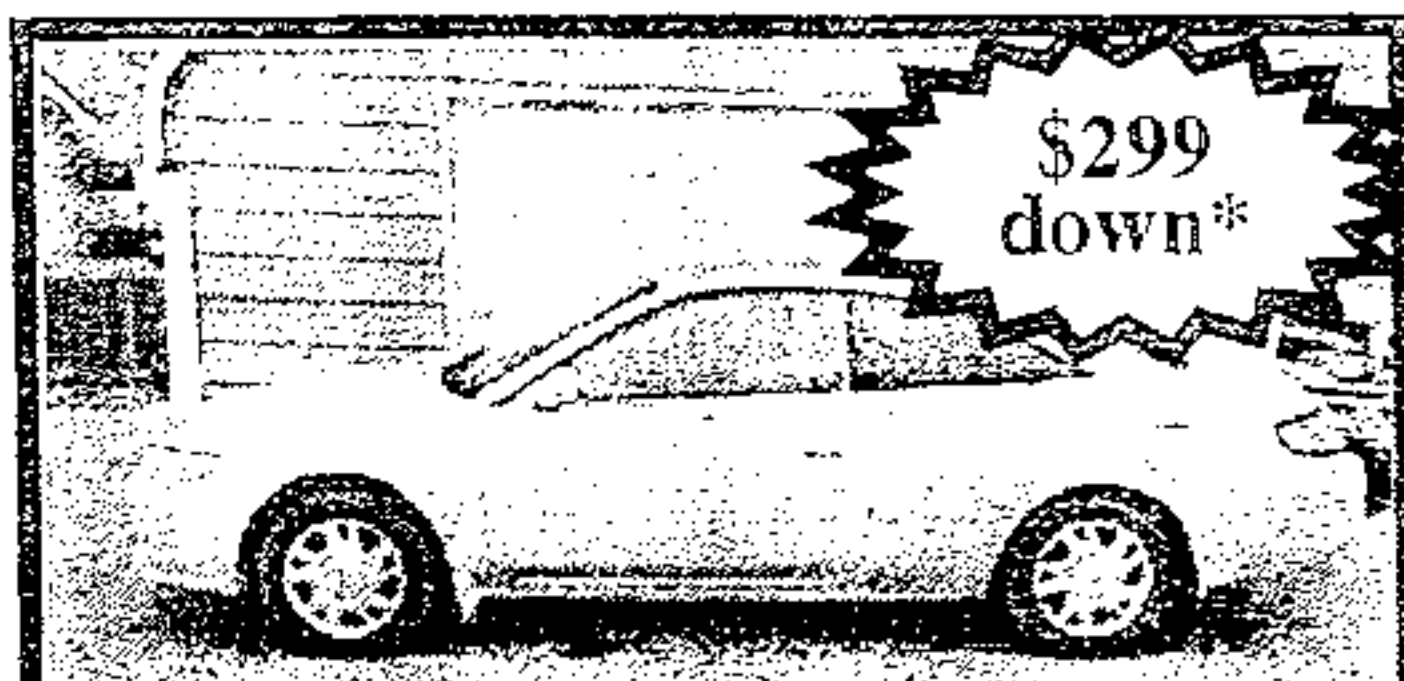
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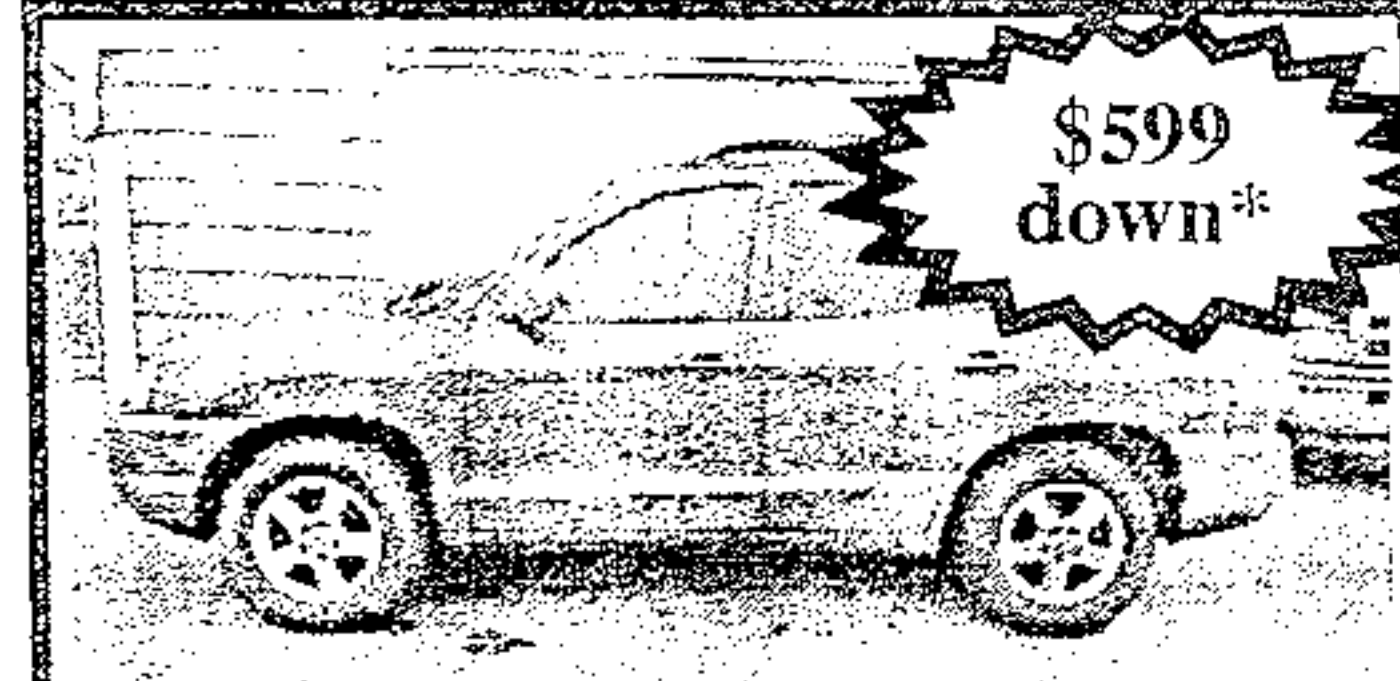
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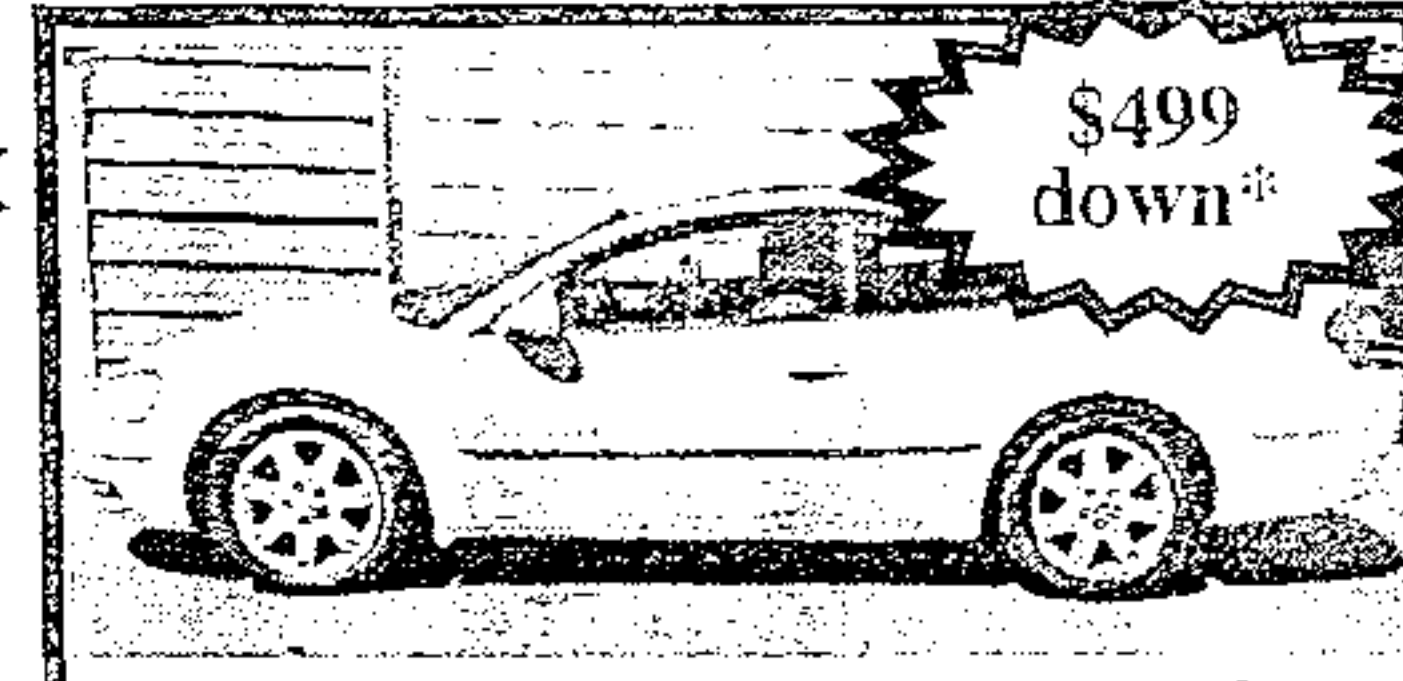
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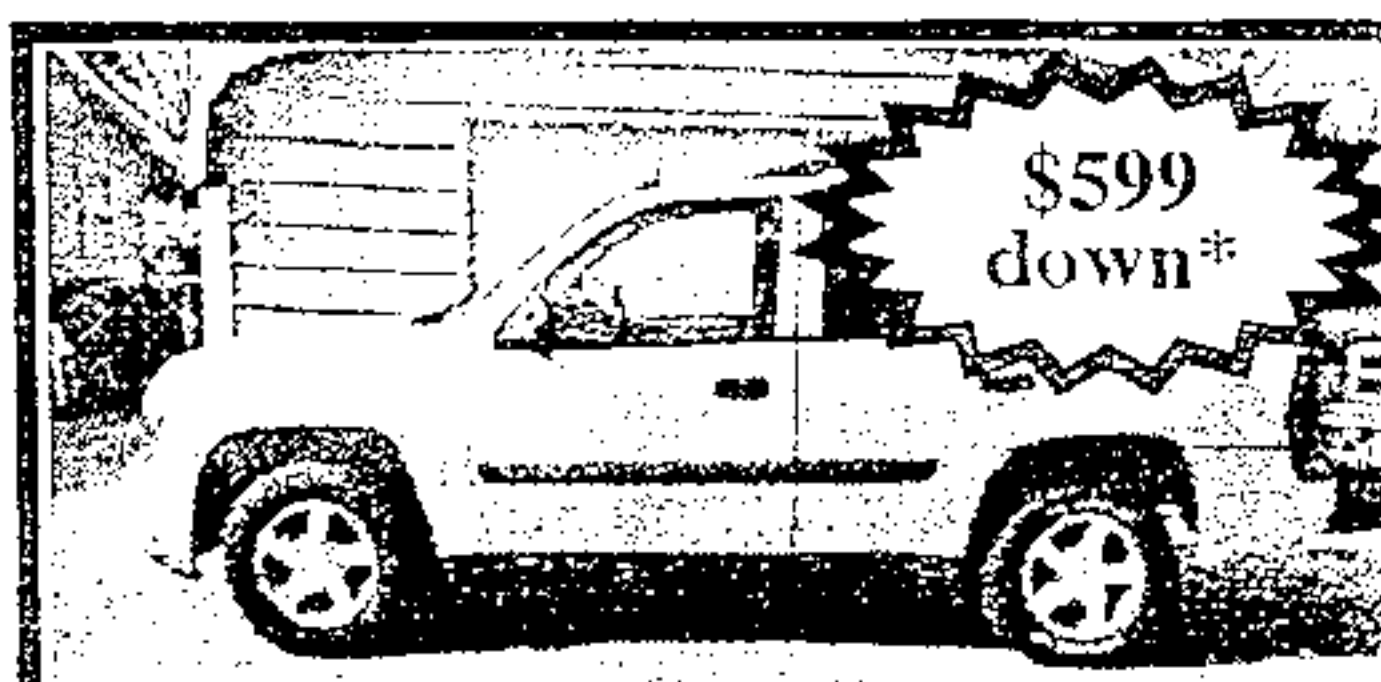
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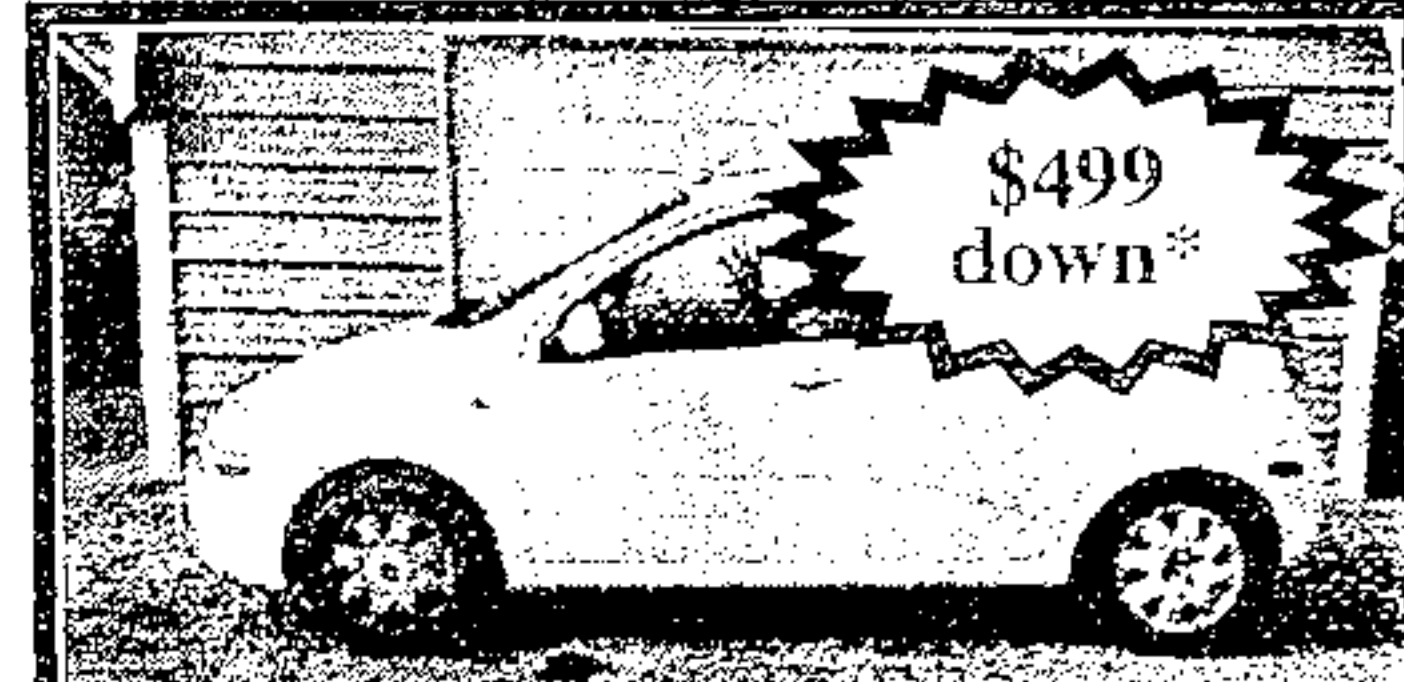
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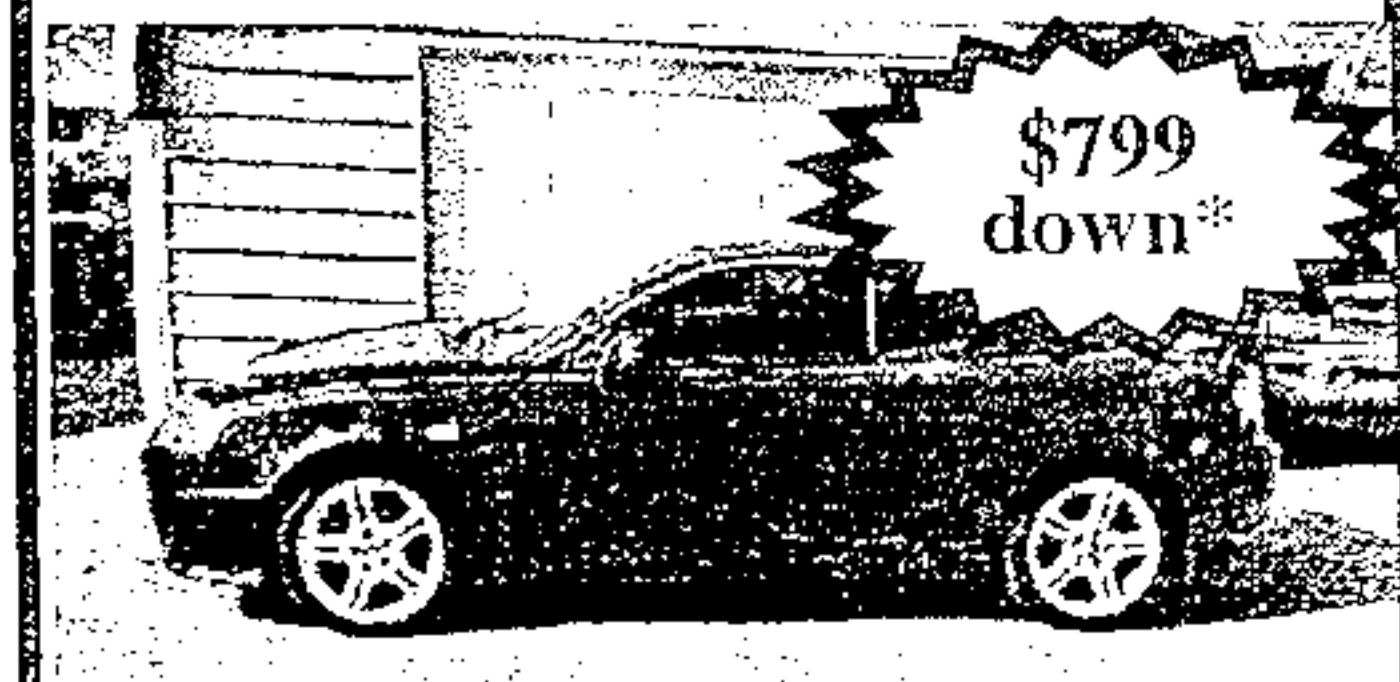
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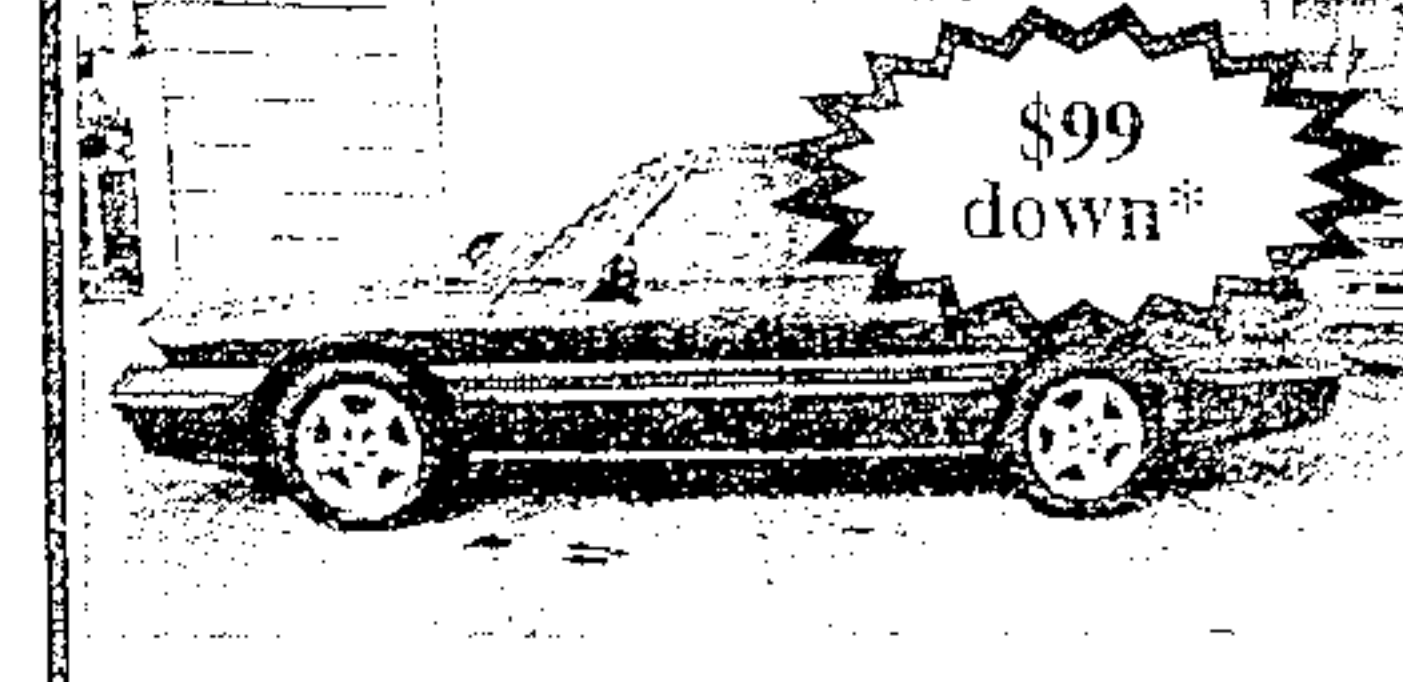
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FBI ctd. from pg. 7

the painting before going to the FBI office," said Janis Bobb. "For us, it was a no brainer. We knew it should go back to Warsaw."

Although the Bobbs had to bid farewell to the painting, the FBI invited them and Polish government officials to attend a rededication ceremony at

the National Museum in Warsaw last fall. There they were joined by Witmann and his wife, as well as Zukas, to witness Portrait of a Young Man officially returned to its rightful place.

"Seeing the painting unveiled and back at the museum was an incredible feeling. It was the single best moment in my FBI career," said Zukas.

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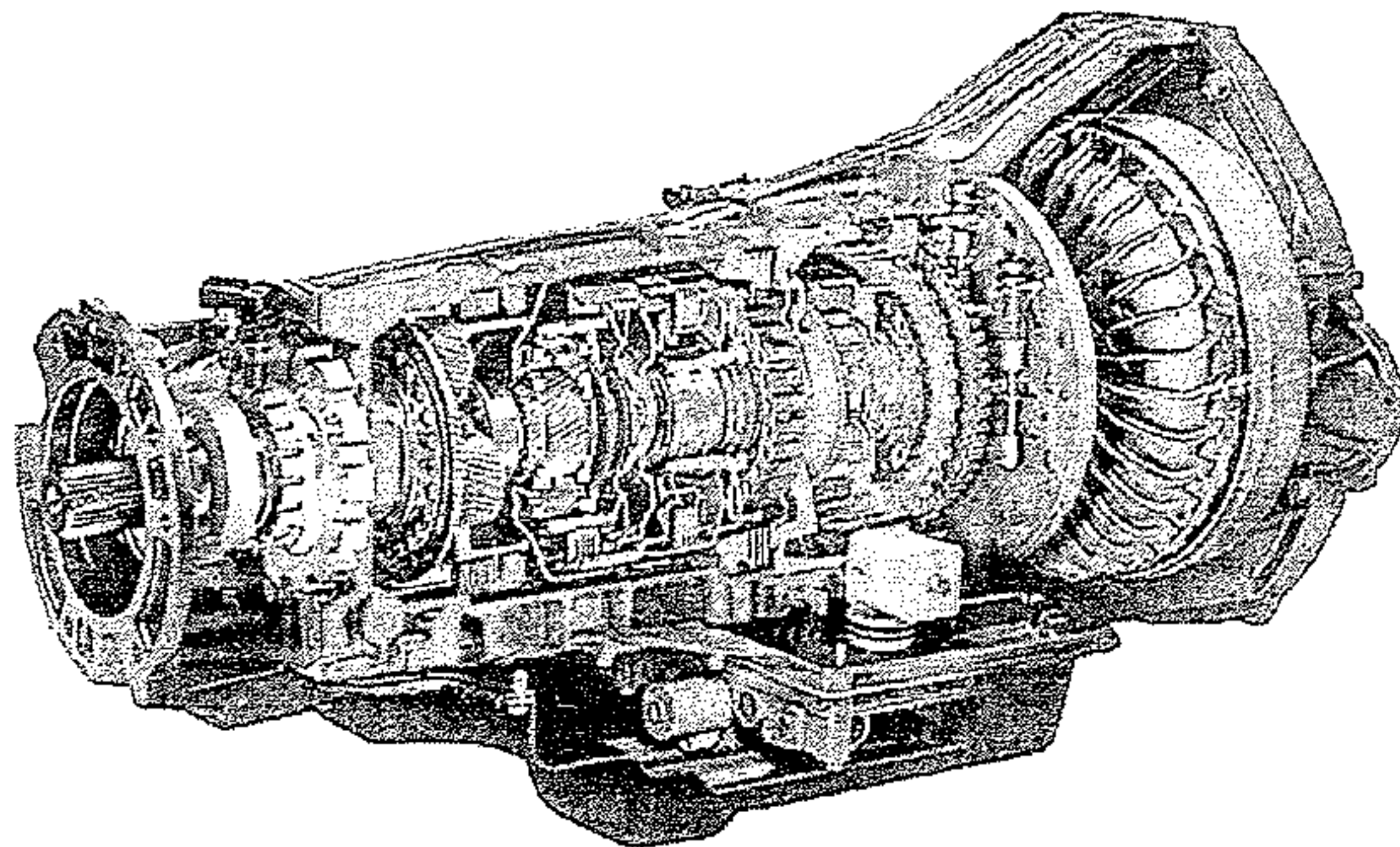
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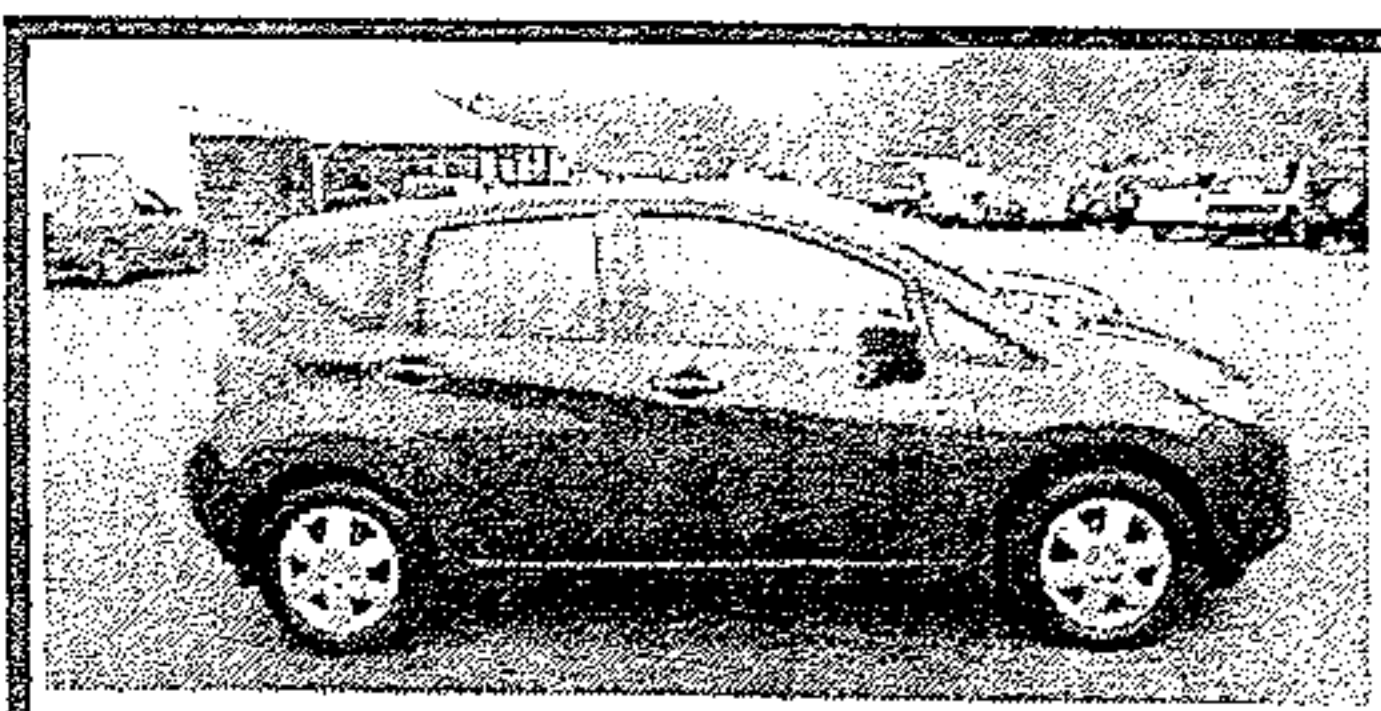
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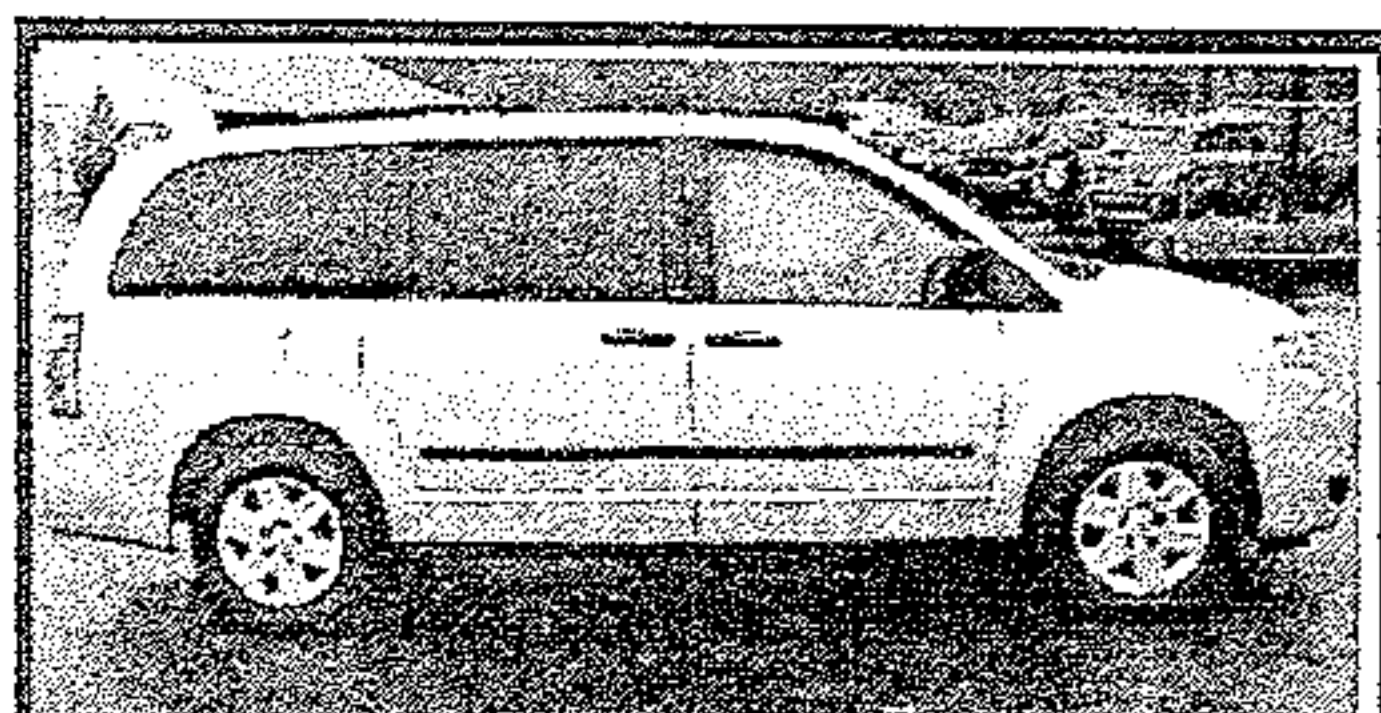
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