

# The Daily Edition

50¢

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Monday, September 25, 2017

## 9th DTF makes arrests after robbery call leads to suspects

William Morgan, 35 Foster Road Lenoir City, was charged with Simple Possession x2.

Heather Pitts, 31, Town Creek Circle Lenoir City, was charged with Simple possession x2.

Agent DeBoer 9th DTF, was in the area

(see 9th DTF pg. 2)



William Morgan



Heather Pitts

## Woman put out after causing damage; charged after being found



Hailey Milsaps

see PI pg. 3

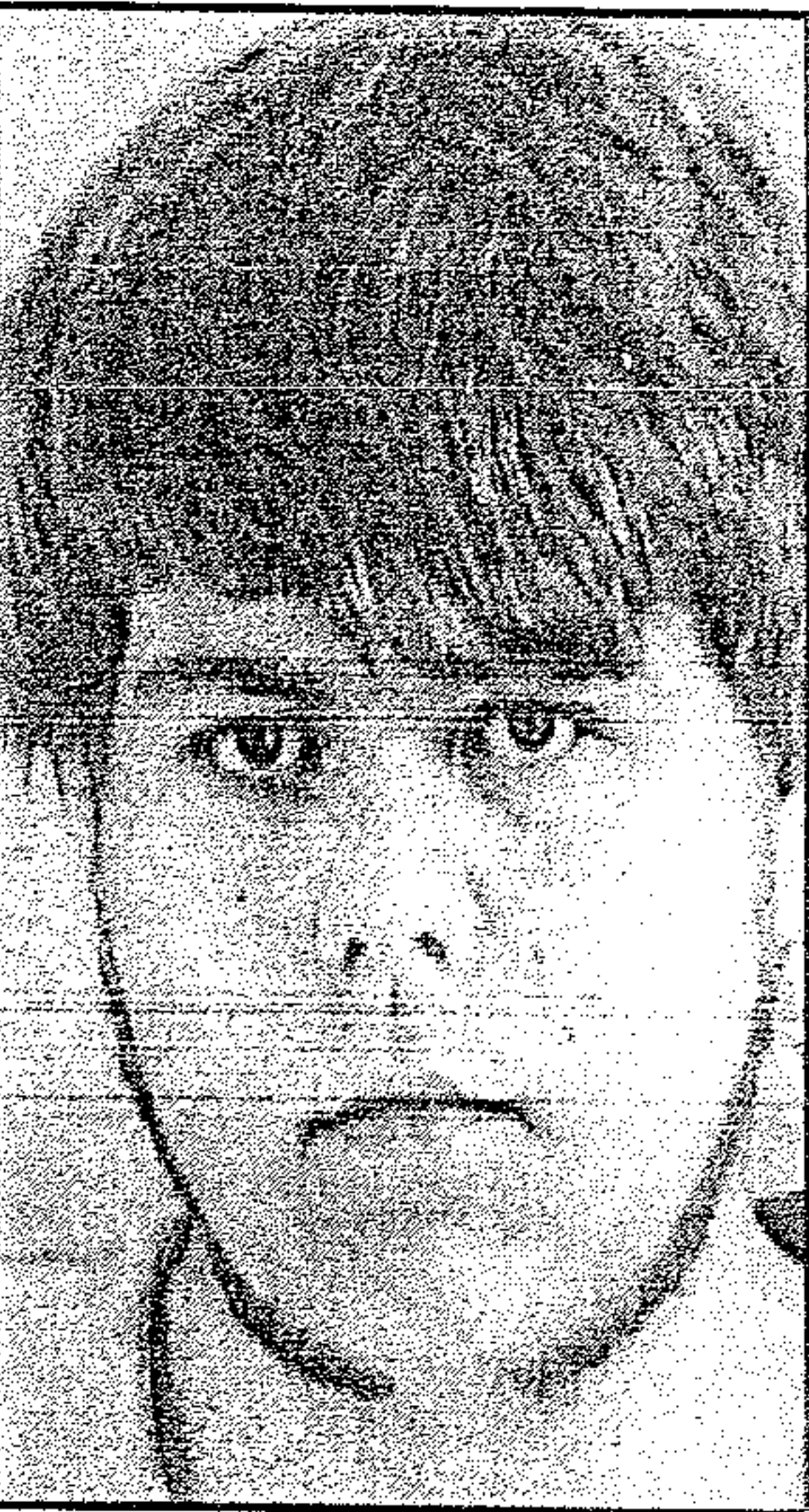
## Man pulls gun after sheet rock incident causes argument



James Phillips

see Gun pg. 5

## Teen claims abuse after mom slaps him



Clay Jenkins

see DV pg. 7

## A Psychological Twist

Mother and Son's Companies Bilked Medicare Out of Millions

A Louisiana man and his mother were sentenced in July to lengthy prison terms for fraud schemes spanning six years that bilked Medicare for more than \$13 million in bogus claims. The two were among 243 doctors, nurses, and medical professionals who were charged in 2015 in what, at the time, was the nation's

largest Medicare fraud takedown.

Rodney Hesson, 47, and his mother, Gertrude Parker, 63, together owned eight psychological services companies that operated in Louisiana, Mississippi, Florida, and Alabama. Hesson's companies operated as Nursing Home Psychological Services, and Parker's companies

(see Medicare pg. 4)



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### Verse of the Day

Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."  
— Luke 9:23

### Obituaries

see inside **Wazzup**

What in the world is going on with the gnats all over the place? It's crazy they seem to be everywhere you go!

### Weather

Today: Partly cloudy. High of 88F.  
Tonight: Mostly clear. low of 61F.  
Tuesday: Partly cloudy. High of 87F.  
Tuesday night: Partly cloudy. Low of 62F.

### Horoscopes

Libra 9/23-10/22  
You might feel as if you're on a wild goose chase today, or perhaps you're busy chasing ghosts. A spacey Mars-Neptune opposition activates your 12th House  
(Continued on page 6)



**9th DTF**

of the Ingles Parking lot due to a call of a robbery that had occurred at the Kenjo Market on Highway 321. The description of the suspect was a white male in khaki colored shorts and possibly a tee shirt. During the robbery the suspect was wearing a hooded sweatshirt but prior to this incident the sweatshirt was

found in behind a business directly across from the Ingles parking lot.

While your Affiant was driving through the parking lot he noticed two males sitting in the front of a blue sedan. When the driver excited Agent noticed that he had Khaki shorts on. Your Affiant approached the vehicle and made contact with Chris Bertram (the driver)

and William Morgan (the front seat passenger). Both males had khaki shorts on and matched the description of the individual that committed the robbery. Mr. Morgan was asked by Affiant to show what he was trying to

conceal in his right hand. Mr. Morgan dropped what was in his hand next to the passenger door and produced an empty hand. Agent asked Mr Morgan what he dropped on the floor and he stated "a see 9th DTF etd. pg. 3

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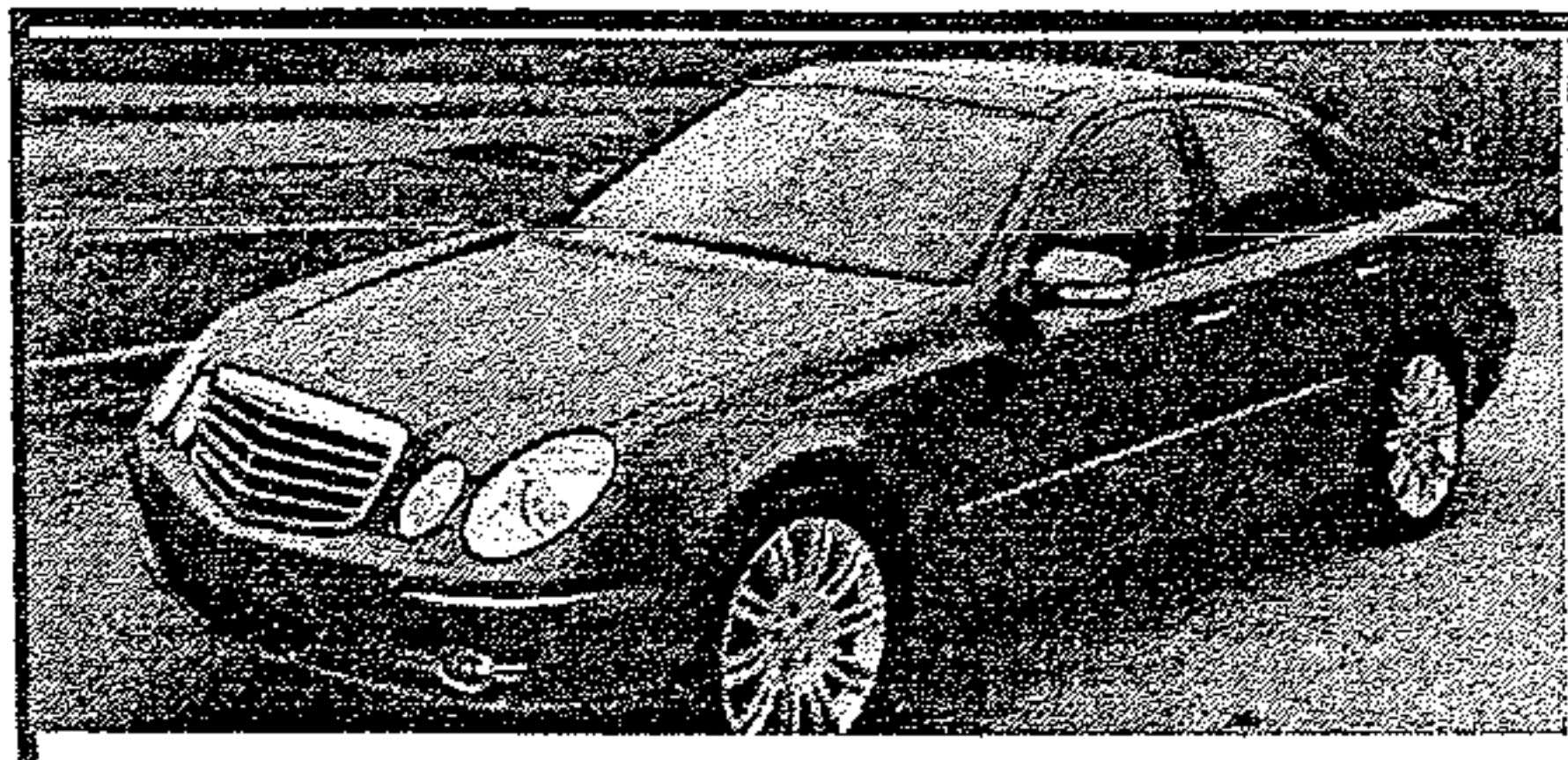
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**PI**  
 Hailey Milsaps, 24, Highway 309 Niota, was charged with Public Intoxication. Deputy Kevin Kirkland LCSO, was dispatched to a suspicious person at Wade Road West, Loudon TN. Dispatch advised that the complainant stated there was a female banging on her back door and asking for help and that she needed an ambulance. When Deputy arrived on scene he spoke with the complainant and she stated she did not see the female or where she went. Deputy noticed tracks in the grass going to the back of the house. Deputy followed the tracks to the neighbors house where he made contact with a female on the back porch of the residence. The female (Hailey Millsaps) stated that she needed a ride back to Monroe

County. Mrs. Millsaps appeared to be very confused, paranoid and did not know where she was. When asked if she had taken any drugs or narcotics she stated she thinks she had some Meth earlier today. Another subject came to the scene and stated that his son had brought her to his house around 0500-0515 hours and she came in and trashed his house and was acting crazy and he kicked her out and does not want her back at his residence. Deputy did feel that Mrs. Millsaps would be a danger to herself or others if left in the public, due to her banging on doors and trashing victim residence; she was arrested for Public Intoxication and taken to Loudon County Jail for her safety and the safety of the public. This did occur in Loudon County, TN.

9th DTF ctd. from pg, 2  
 small bag of weed". Agent detained both BERTRAM, MORGAN and the back seat passenger Heather PITTS. A probable cause search of the vehicle revealed numerous hypodermic needles, a small bag of a substance that tested positive for the presence of methamphetamine (approximately 1/2 gram), a small bag of marijuana (less than 1/2 gram) and a 15 mg oxycodone pill. MORGAN stated that the marijuana was his. PITTS stated that the oxycodone

done was hers and none of the occupants claimed ownership of the methamphetamine. All three subjects were read their Miranda Warnings and made these statements after stating that they understood these rights. This incident occurred in the County of Loudon.

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**Medicare** operated as Psychological Care Services. The pair was convicted in January for billing the federal health insurance program more than \$25 million for services at nursing homes that were either unnecessary or not provided.

Medicare Fraud Strike Force investigators discovered patterns of billing irregularities originating from Hesson and Parker's companies beginning in 2009 and referred the matter to the FBI's New Orleans Field Office, which investigated the case with the Office of Inspector General for the Department of Health and Human Services.

"The case was difficult because there were multiple schemes in play," said Special Agent Jennifer Terry, one of several agents who worked the case. She amassed spreadsheets of data illustrating how inconceivable it was for the subjects' companies to bill what they did. "One of the

things they were doing was billing impossible hours. If Mr. Hesson worked 365 days a year without taking a day off, he would have had to work in excess of 30 hours a day to be able to equate to some of his billings."

Meanwhile, at the facilities where Hesson's companies claimed to provide services, there was compelling evidence that some treatments, like psychological testing, could not have been delivered as claimed. "There were patients who were in a state where they just couldn't be tested," Terry said. "Some had severe dementia. Some of them couldn't speak at all. We found files showing some patients were completely unresponsive and yet their billings were for psychological tests."

Two psychologists who worked for Hesson admitted to repeatedly testing nursing home residents even though they were incapacitated. In their plea agreements last September, John

Teal, 46, of Jackson, Mississippi, and Beverly Stubblefield, 62, of Slidell, Louisiana, admitted that some of their clients could not have meaningfully participated in testing.

The fraud case against Hesson was not without precedent. In 2011, he was indicted on state charges in Mississippi for fraudulently billing Medicaid, the joint federal and state health insurance program for low-income and needy people. In that case, he was sentenced to five years suspended jail time and three years of house arrest. The sentence in 2012 also excluded his companies from billing all federal health care programs, cutting a primary source of income. Just before his sentencing, however, he resigned from his companies, changed their names, and sold

them to his mother, Gertrude Parker, who investigators say paid him for the purchase during his house arrest. The companies that emerged from that arrangement are the same companies involved in the schemes that led to charges against Hesson, Parker, Teal, and Stubblefield.

Hesson was sentenced on July 13 to the statutory maximum of 15 years in prison and ordered to pay \$13.8 million in restitution. Parker was sentenced on the same day to seven years in prison and ordered to pay \$7.3 million. They were sched-

see Medicare ctd. pg. 4



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**Gun**

James Phillips, 55, Town Creek Road West Lenoir City, was charged with Domestic Assault, Man/Sell/Del/Resale Sch. VI, and Poss. of Drug Para.

Deputy Lance Anderson LCSO, responded to Town Creek Rd W. in reference to a armed person. Upon arrival Deputy made contact with James Phillips, the offender.

The offender stated he got into an argument with his sister's boyfriend because a piece of sheet rock was blocking his door and demanded he leave the residence. Deputy identified the sister's boyfriend, the victim. Deputy then spoke with the complainant. The complainant stated the offender is her brother and witness him point a silver handgun at the victim during the argument. The complainant stated the offender was standing above the victim in a breezeway that connects the main house to the garage apartment where the offender lives. Deputy then spoke with the victim and he stated he told the offender to leave the residence and the offender stated he was going to get a gun and shoot him. The victim stated he never saw a gun but heard what sound as a gun being loaded and cocked.

The victim stated he ran into the main residence. Deputy then spoke with a witness, who stated he did observe the offender point a silver revolver at the victim.

Lt. Ezell 937 advised the deputy there was a silver revolver in the offender's apartment. While speaking with the offender inside his apartment Deputy did observe a gun matching the description used in the assault. Deputy also observed a grinder, cigarette rolling papers, and a green leafy substance sitting in plan view on the sofa. The marijuana weight approximately 23 grams. Statements were taken and put into Sgt. Cosner 940 box. Three firearms were taken for safe keeping.

The offender was taken into custody and transported to the Loudon County Jail without incident. All occurred in Loudon County, TN.

Medicare ctd. from pg. 4  
uled to begin their prison terms this month.

Coincidentally, the pair's sentencings were on the same day federal officials announced the results of this year's nationwide sweep targeting Medicare fraud. The announcement of charges against more than 400 doctors, nurses, and medical professionals in \$1.3 billion in false Medicare billings was said to be the largest action to date.

"The case was difficult because there were multiple schemes in play. One of the things they were doing was billing impossible hours." - Jennifer Terry, special agent, New Orleans Division

The Medicare Fraud Strike Force

Man wearing shirt identifying him as a

Health and Human Services-Office of Inspector General (HHS-OIG) federal agent. (Image from www.oig.hhs.gov) Medicare Fraud Strike Force Teams, first established in 2007, employ data analytics and the combined resources of federal, state, and local law enforcement entities to prevent and com-

bat health care fraud, waste, and abuse. The teams operate in nine areas of the country and are comprised of staff from the HHS Office of Inspector General, the Department of Justice, United States Attorneys, the FBI, local law enforcement, and others.

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DV

Clay Jenkins, 19, Kiser Road Philadelphia, was charged with Domestic Assault.

Deputy JC Schultz LCSO, responded to a 911 call at Kiser Rd in Philadelphia, TN. Upon arrival, the victim gave a written statement that said at 2030 hrs on this date, her 19 year old son Mr. Clay

Matthew Jenkins and herself were arguing on the phone and she asked him to come home.

When Mr. Jenkins returned home he jumped out of the car yelling, threw his arms out and advanced on victim in a aggressive manner, placing her in fear of her life. The victim then slapped him on his cheek and retreated to

safety. Mr. Clay Jenkins gave a written statement that said when he got out of his girlfriend's car upon returning home, he threw his arms up in his mothers face and yelled "what is it" then she smacked him twice in the face.

Mr. Clay Jenkins then called 911 and claimed his

mother was abusing him. He was deemed the primary aggressor due to his actions and was arrested on the scene.

Mr. Jenkins was transported to the Loudon County Jail by this deputy without incident. this did occur in Loudon County, TN.



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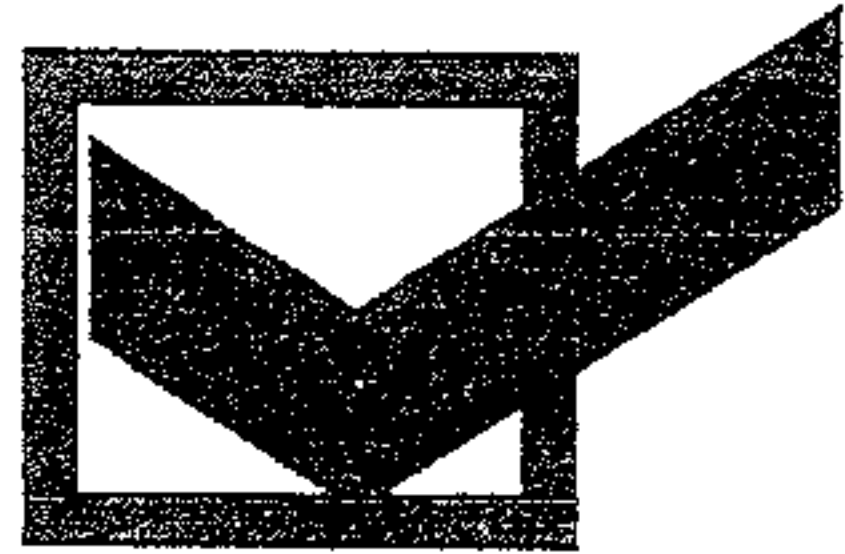
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