

War through children's eyes . . .

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he could send terrorists here to hurt people in our cities too."

To Mary Ann, the television coverage is nothing more than a "bunch of maps on TV, and some reporters talking muffled through their gas masks." She is well informed on how a SCUD missile can spew nerve gas over an area, and hopes it doesn't affect the ozone layer, if Hussein fires one.

"But I don't think he'll come over here," says Mary Ann confidently, "We have nothing he wants to take."

That is reassuring.

Maggie will soon be 10 years old. To her, the worst thing about this war is Saddam dropping missiles on the Israelis.

"It just isn't fair," says Maggie, "after all, they didn't do anything wrong, and now they have to run around wearing gas masks, and watching out for missiles. That's sick!"

"Why doesn't he (Saddam) leave them alone. They don't want to fight, and now he's hurting them just because of their religion."

When asked if Israel should retaliate, Maggie had to give that one some thought. "If they do, they'll upset the countries around them," she replied, "and the war could get bigger. But I think they can only have their houses blown up a few more times before they get really mad and send back some bombs. At least no one's been killed." After a bit she added, "I think it's kind of them to not fight back."

Our kids are better informed than we give them credit for.

Maggie doesn't think we have much to worry about in Halton Hills. She just doesn't think the fighting will get quite that far. And if it does, "the grownups will have to worry about that."

She says TV coverage is "just fuzzy pictures that come to us by satellite," and the graphics showing the attacks "look like cartoons or video games." And those reporters and soldiers "are all standing around with gas masks on their belts."

But she agrees the Allied Forces should be in Kuwait, and should help Israel. "We might need some help some day, too. But I do hope everybody over there is careful."

For Jennifer, who will be five next month, war is a pretty simple thing. Gas masks are "those things firemen wear," and the biggest inconvenience she has suffered is "the stupid news was on instead of Ninja Turtles." There are a lot of airplanes on TV, and "why does everybody have to be quiet when the news is on?"

So there it is. Yes, our children have been affected by the events in the gulf, but no, it hasn't struck terror into their hearts. It seems the present generation of youth is able to deal with the war and put it into perspective. They seem to have a good grasp of the facts in the media today, yet haven't become apathetic to world events.

That's a relief in itself.

Erin Soaring Society prepares for spring

Soar into spring with the Erin Soaring Society. It's holding its annual ground school with classes generally every Tuesday evening (three will be on Wednesday) starting February 12 and running until April 30.

This 12-week course will prepare aspiring glider pilots for the 1991 flying season which begins as soon as the snow is gone. No minimum or maximum age limit.

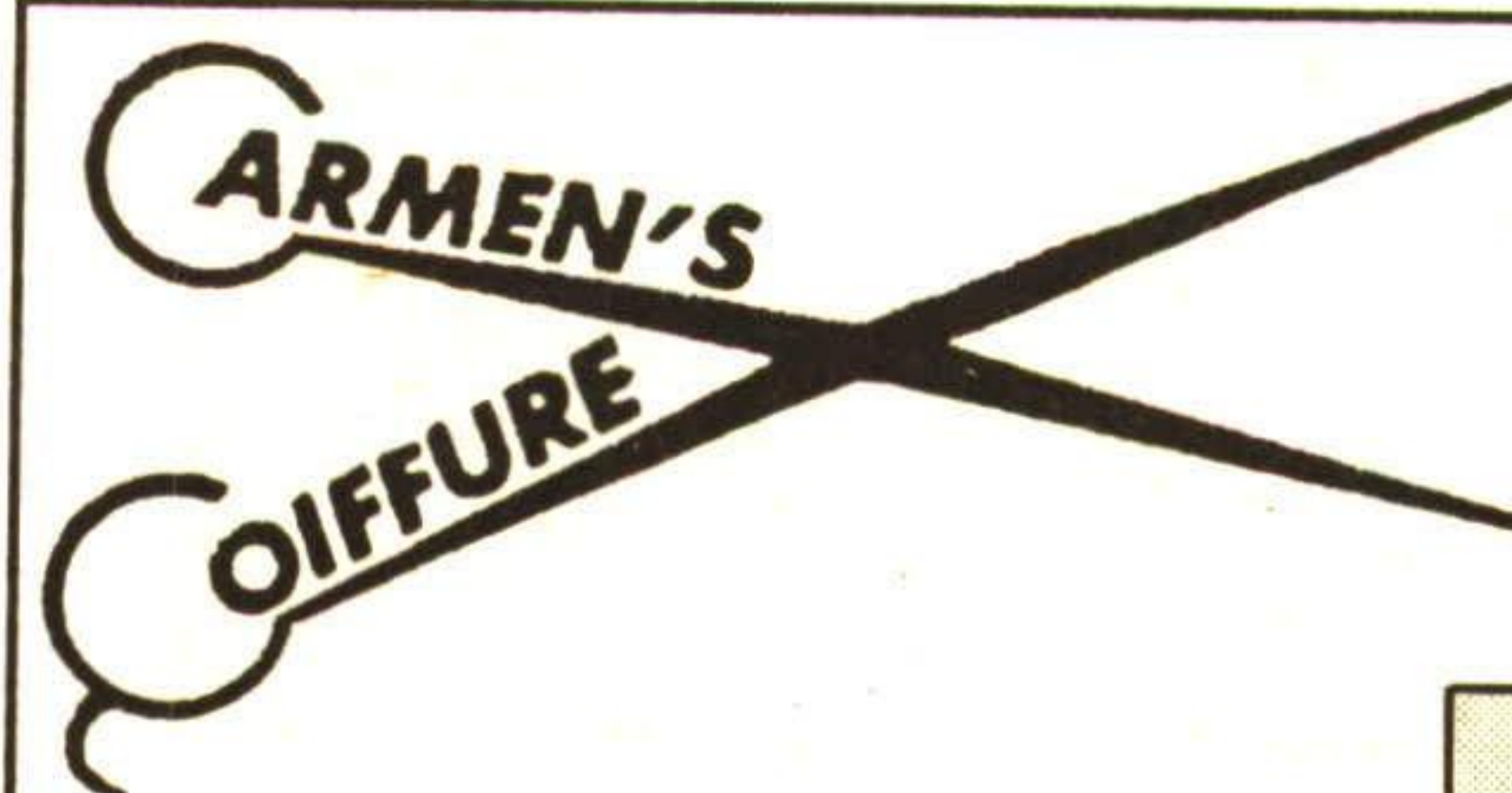
Register at the school, held at the Terry Miller Recreation Centre, Bramalea, 7:30 to 10 p.m. on February 12 or call 416-451-3165.

Subject for the lectures by club or visiting instructors will include Airmanship, Air Regulations, Theory of Flight, Meteorology, Navigation, Aviation Medicine.

Erin Soaring Society has just completed the purchase of a new

club glider. It will be used for advanced instruction and recreational flying by club members. In

addition it will be used to give introductory flights to the general public.



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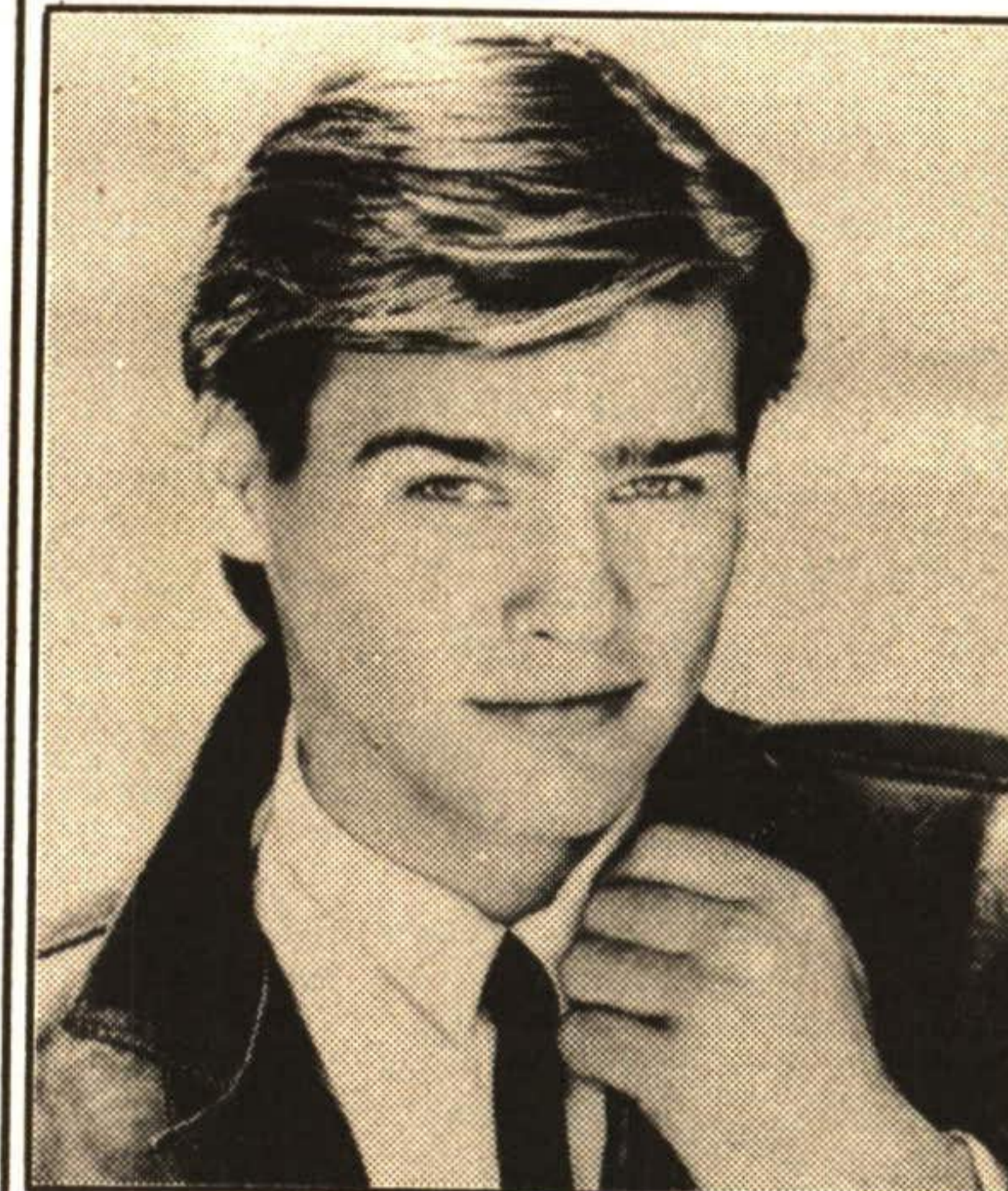
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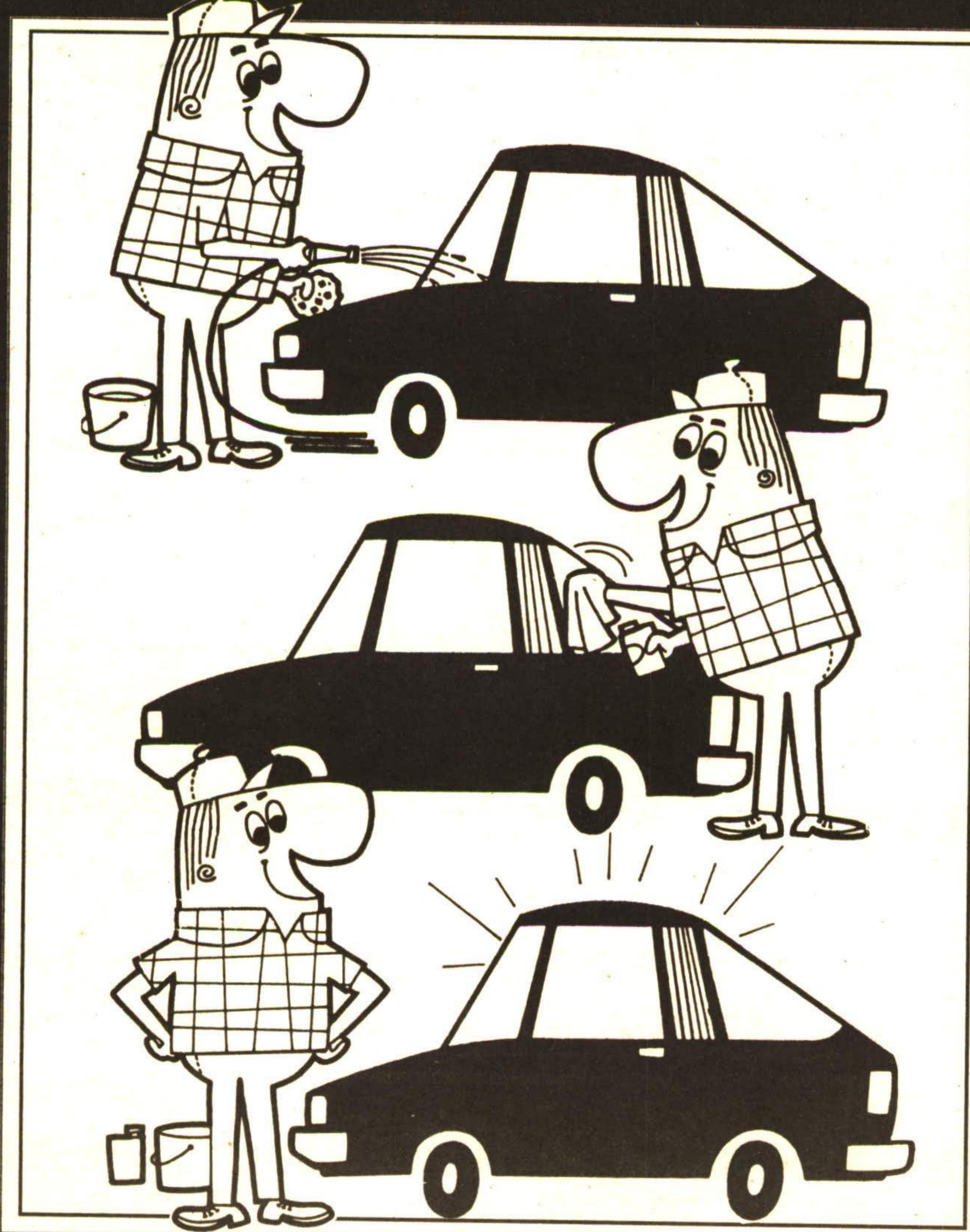
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