

GDHS has plenty to offer pupils

By BRYN DAVIES
Principal, Georgetown District
High School

In an effort to better inform our community, we have arranged with the Independent to write a weekly column.

Hopefully this will be an opportunity for us to recognize the many good things that are happening at our school and to encourage your continued involvement and support.

We are off to a very busy start this year, with 1,375 students and 110 teaching, secretarial, custodial and support staff.

As the only high school in town, with a proud tradition of 104 years, we are keenly aware of our mandate to serve the young people of our community.

SCHOOL IS A COMPLEX COMMUNITY

In many respects, we are a community within a community. Our school is organized into 13 teaching departments, each with their own Department Head, teaching staff, curriculum, and budget. The Heads meet once a week to discuss and co-ordinate school-wide matters.

We believe that learning takes place both inside and outside the classroom. We offer over 200 courses from Grades 9 to OAC at the general, advanced and in some cases, enriched levels of difficulty.

In the fall term, GDHS will be competing in Cross Country, Boys' Football and Volleyball and Girls' Basketball and Field Hockey, involving over 150 students and 21 coaches. Last Friday, students had a chance to learn more about our very extensive co-curricular program through our Club and Team Day displays in the cafeteria during our three lunch periods.

SCHOOL DANCES

One of the valuable services our Student Council provides is the sponsoring of nine school dances during the year.

Students sell 500 numbered tickets per dance. Guests from other schools must be signed-in

Principal's Corner

by a GDHS host.

Students are aware that dances are an extension of the school day and that responsible behavior is expected.

Students who smoke at dances are violating Board policy and are dealt with accordingly.

Students believed to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs are liable to a three day suspension, criminal charges by the police officers on duty, and loss of future dance privileges.

I am pleased to say that our Rebel Welcome Dance last Friday night was sold out and that there were no incidents of smoking or substance abuse. We are very proud of the way our students and their friends had an enjoyable and safe time.

SPECIAL SUPPORT FOR GRADE 9 STUDENTS

The staff and senior students are sensitive to the transitions our 250 Grade 9 students are going through.

In an effort to ease some of the anxiety, our senior students hosted a special Grade 9 Welcome and Tour on September 3, the day before school started.

Senior students are also involved in a Mentor Program with Grade nines. They meet every other Friday with their group of 10 students under the supervision of interested staff. A variety of discussion issues has been planned to fit into the life of the school. Last Friday, students discussed the importance of appropriate hall behavior, good cafeteria habits and how to have safe, trouble-free fun at dances.

We are also planning to have a special, early Grade 9 Report Card. It is a "check-off" format, by subject area, designed to give parents an understanding of how their daughters and sons have done in the first month of high school. The reports will be sent

home with the students on Friday, October 4. Parents are to sign the reports and return them through the students by Tuesday, October 8.

SPECIAL SUPPORT FOR SENIOR STUDENTS

On Wednesday, September 11, over 150 students in their graduating year attended a special workshop conducted by GDHS teachers.

They were provided with information on time management, stress management, note-taking and presentation skills.

A Senior Newsletter is also printed every week to inform students about University and College matters. Newsletters are posted in all senior classrooms and extra copies are available through the Guidance office.

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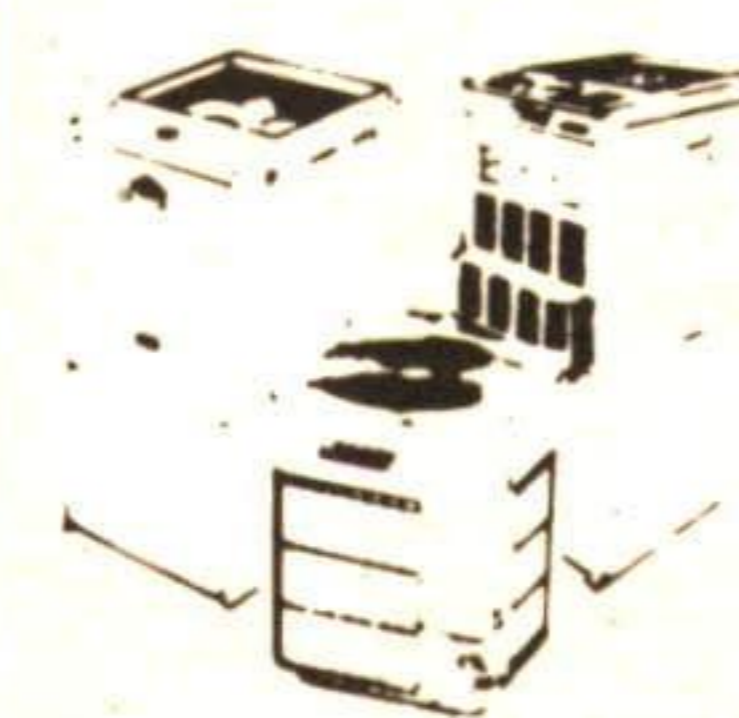
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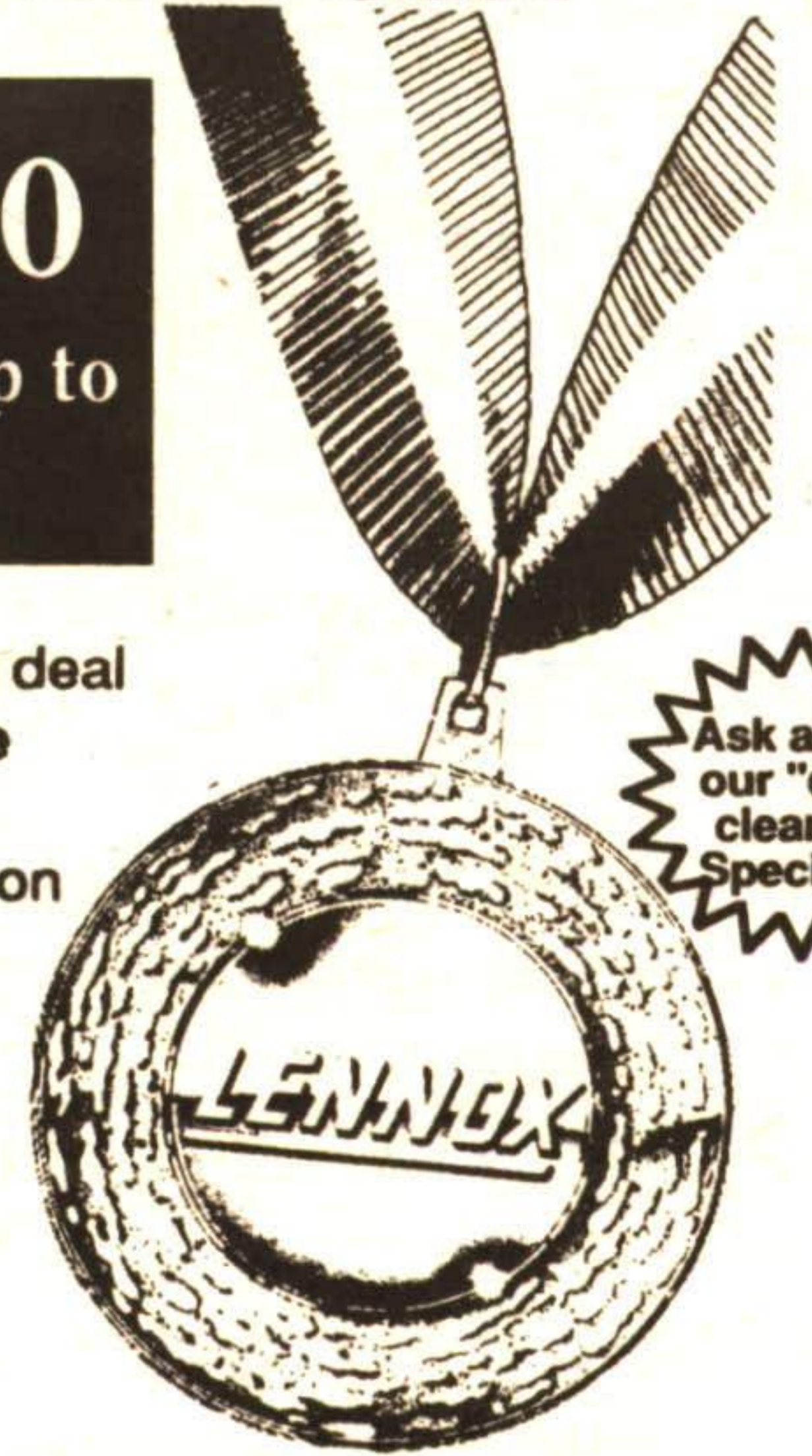
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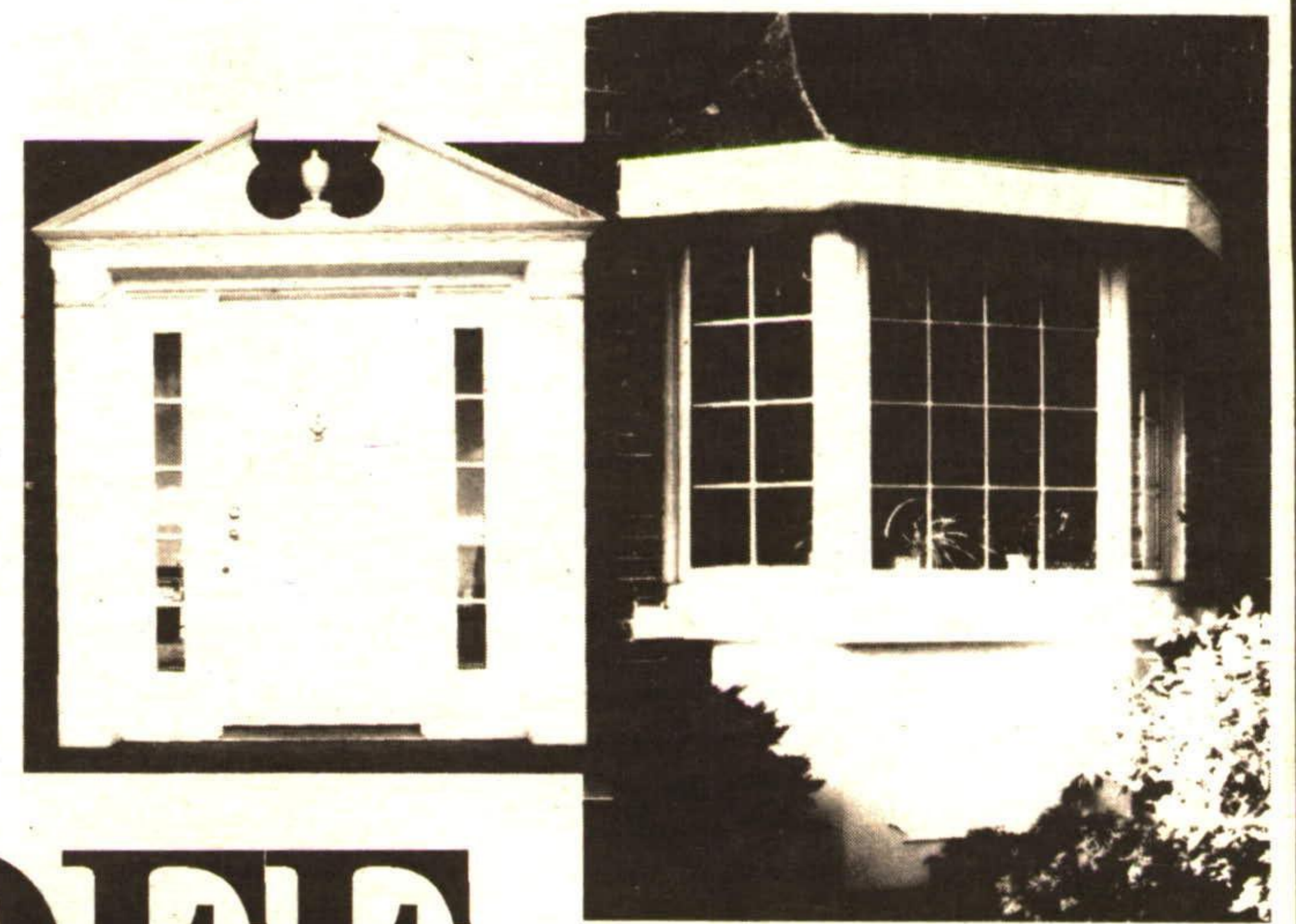
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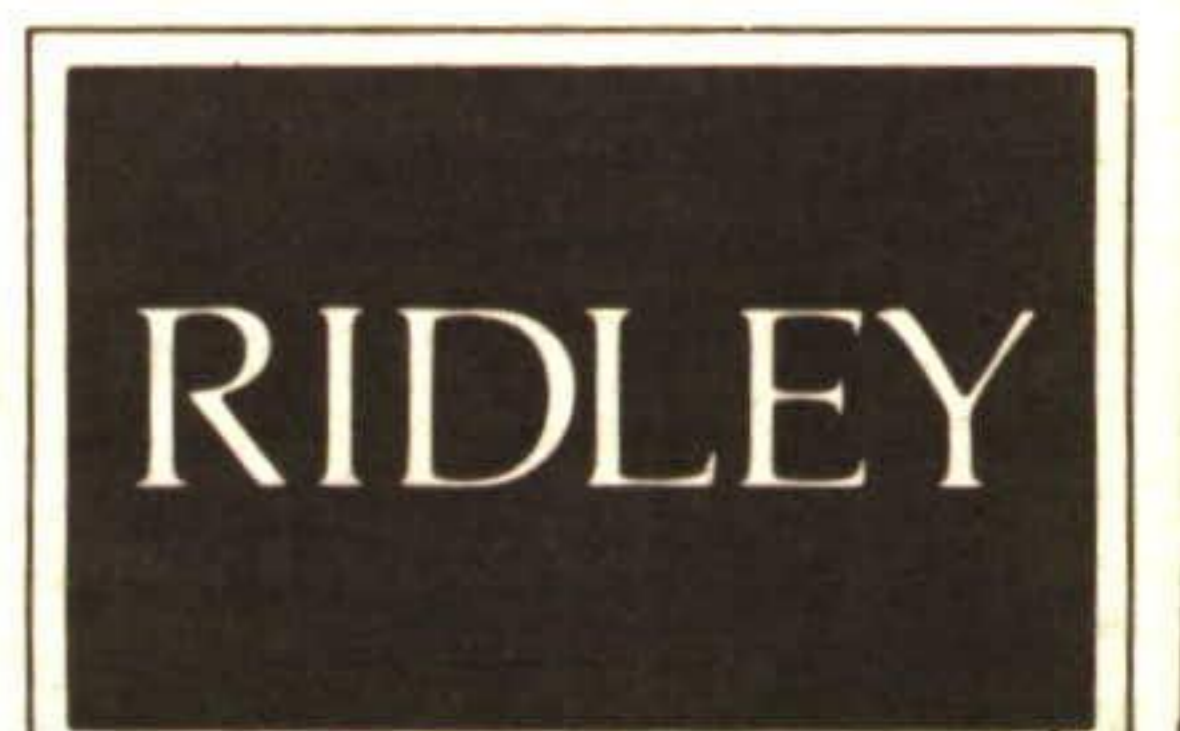
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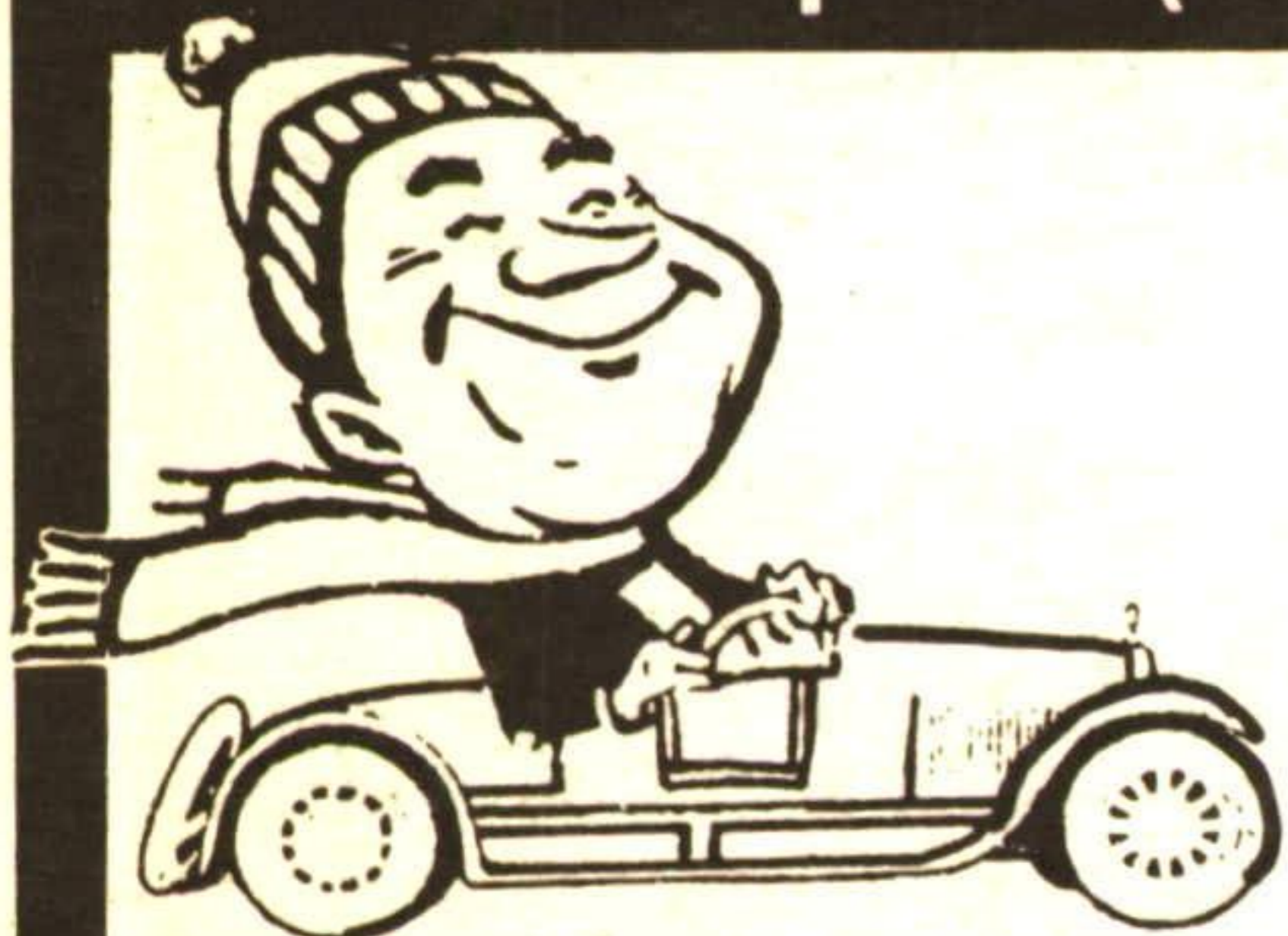
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