

500 name petition

The last time the two groups clashed politically was in 1987 when town council turned back a proposal by Zsadanyi to ban shooting in Nassagaweya. Zsadanyi said he has softened his stance since then because there has been a marked decrease in hunting incidents and complaints.

People from Higgins' group warned emotionally that a child may someday soon be killed by errant gunfire.

Too many deer

People from the opposing group countered that, in a food chain gone awry, prowling predators that track the abundant deer may well kill someone. One man said he had been stalked by a pair of coy-dogs, coyote dog cross-

breed carnivores that are widely perceived as a growing rural menace.

The meeting was not anywhere near as unruly as some on the subject have been, although there were cutting remarks. Bob Burgess, the president of a large Milton horse breeding firm, adamantly opposes area hunting, particularly the annual four-day deer chase. He characterized it as a "wild west vigilante show."

Bill Trenwith, a Campbellville area farmer with a large commercial apple orchard, supports the deer hunt. He is "getting fed up with a whiney-assed bunch of residents."

(Rob Kelly is news editor at The Milton Champion, our sister publication.)

Regional government criticized at meeting

By KEN LAMB

One thing emerged crystal clear at the Milton Historical Society meeting. None of the speakers thought much of regional government.

Three retired politicians spent a grand total of about 80 years in local affairs: Harry Barrett in Oakville and the Region; Don McMillan in Nassagaweya and Milton; and Craig Reid in Esquesing.

"Regional government was such a success," Barrett cracked, "that the Province never formed another one after Halton."

All three speakers said Halton suffered from duplication of services. Both the Region and the municipalities has inspec-

tion and planning staffs, for example.

There was general agreement that the Region had to take responsibility for reducing costs.

However, Barrett said police costs - amounting to about 40 per cent of the budget - represented a difficult problem since Halton had to pay 80 per cent of the costs but had no effective way to control the police budget.

Reid said rising property taxes were driving many old people from their homes. "Too much of the tax load is being placed on property owners," he said.

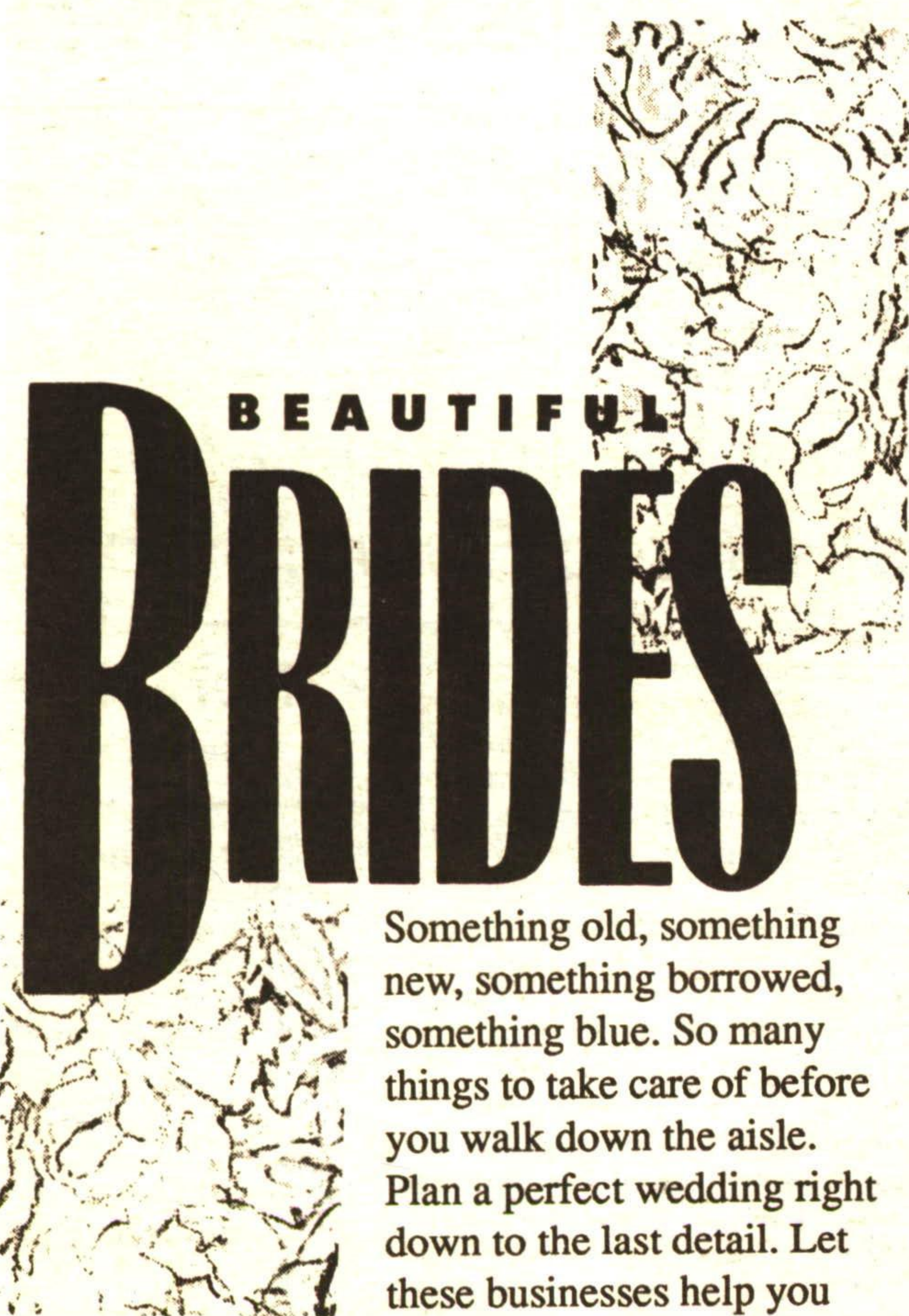
McMillan shared the view

that the previous county government was more efficient and less costly than the regional system. But he said politicians of 20 and more years ago were partly responsible for the switch.

"They knew improvements were needed but they couldn't come together to make changes because they feared such changes would prevent them from being re-elected."

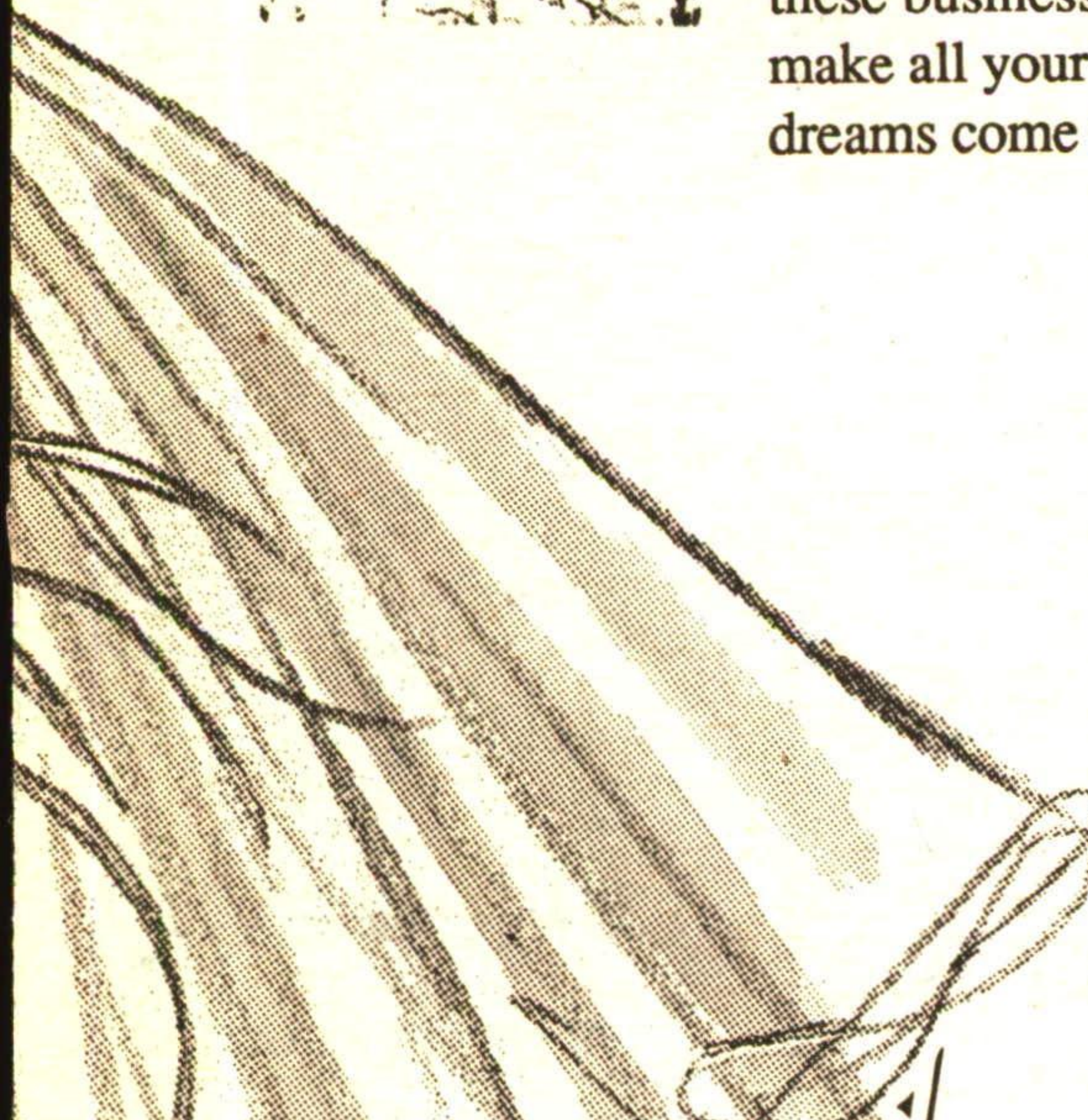
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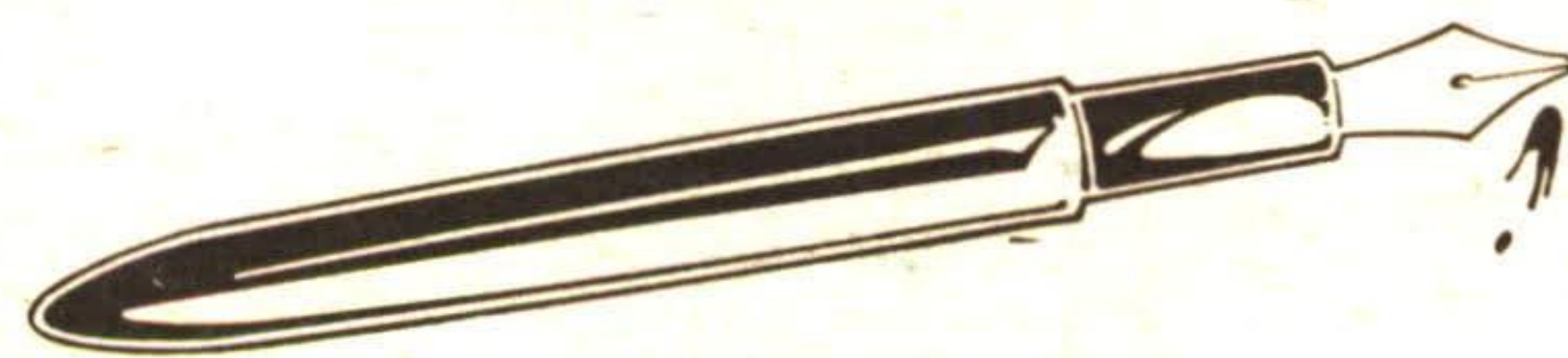
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