

Feedback Canada hoping to expand after very successful first summer

Just when the Feedback team thought the season was winding down new food and friendships have been appearing faster than expected. Our volunteers and vehicles have donated over 60,000 pounds of fresh goods in October, bringing the total for our pilot year up to almost 200,000 pounds. Networking with other groups has opened up new possibilities for the program while our community continues to display its generosity.

Recently a joint venture with Deseret Farms, a welfare project of the Mormon Church in Jordan, Ontario, gathered over eight tonnes of pears and plums for Hamilton, Burlington, Brampton, Georgetown, Acton, Oakville food banks. This encouraging alliance may open the door to future cooperative projects.

In the last week of October, a very successful apple harvest was held at William's Orchard in Milton. Along with the farm's assistance and kind hospitality, Feedback volunteers spent two days harvesting some four tonnes of prime quality Ida Red apples. Jenny Kitson, Joanne Wilson, Nina Patriquin, and Bill Murphy deserve appreciation for their wonderful efforts in this harvest and throughout the season.

The farmer's markets are slowly closing down with only three markets still running. The remaining markets are continuing to supply about six to eight hundred pounds of fresh goods per visit. Most markets will finish up at the end

of November, but Feedback is looking at taking on a 85 vendor indoor market in Hamilton.

Our charity pumpkin sale held at Wastewise turned out to be a huge success. Over 80 of Feedback's pumpkins were sold, along with 25 donated pumpkins from Merrybrook Farm in Milton. Many thanks to Bob Merry for his generous donation, and to Wastewise for their tremendous cooperation with this sale.



A recent contact by Jennifer Anka of Feed The Children introduced Feedback Canada to the World Food Day Association. Feedback information was added in their Teacher's Kit for the Eco Ed Conference at the Toronto Convention Centre. The conference was the first major follow-up event to the Rio Environment Summit. Feedback has been asked to participate in the World Food Day booth at the Royal Winter Fair. We hope to

see you there.

Feedback is also entering into an alliance with World Food Day, Grow Together, Earth Save, Toronto Vegetarian Association, the Permaculture Institute, and the Federation of Food Co-operatives to form an Environmental Food Coalition. This is still in the formative stages, but will be a great connection for further projects like our community gardens.

Starting next season Feedback and several food banks are hoping to expand their community gardens. The garden projects are available to any interested individuals who would like to grow upon a donated plot of land. Feedback may provide the land, seed, tools, irrigation and gardening advice. People can choose their own plot size to plant and maintain. Funding has been applied for and we hope to confirm details soon.

Feedback would also like to thank the Bramalea Rotary for their generous donation of \$3,000. Without contributions like this Feedback could never meet our operating expenses. Also many thanks to J.C. Duff Quarry in Limehouse for their donation of 10 tonnes of gravel, and to Don Green for delivering it. This gravel was sent to Bill Allison to support his production of white beans. Last, but not least, we must thank Aztec Computers of Georgetown for the friendly computer repairs that allowed us to produce this article. For any information on the Feedback Canada Project please call 873-4607 anytime.

GREEN THUMB GARDENING



By CHRISTINE COLE WINTERIZING ROSES

Your prize winning hybrid teas, floribundas and grandiflora roses require special protection for the winter. The purpose of this is to insulate and protect the graft union and canes from the low cold winter temperatures and drying winds which constantly rob the plant of moisture. The most important part of the plant to protect is the base around the grafted portion.

The best time to winterize your roses is after several heavy frosts have defoliated the bushes. It can be a mistake to cover roses too early in the season. Field mice may move into the winter covering and damage the plants by eating the bark. The best solution to this is to delay winterizing the bushes until later in the season.

Before starting, remove any leaves that are still hanging onto the plant. Then apply a thick layer of mulch around the base of the plant. A mulch made of dry tree leaves works well. Then cover the plant in 1-1.2 - 2 feet of dry soil. Plastic, reusable rose collars makes the job quick and easy. It is a strip of perforated heavy plastic that snaps together into an open-ended cylinder. This is slipped over the plant and filled up with mulch and/or soil. It holds the material neatly around the plant yet permits drainage as well. If you store the soil or protective material in an area where it won't freeze, you can winterize your roses easily once the ground is slightly frozen.

Climbing roses can withstand most winters but they do much better the following season if they are taken down from their trellis and laid on the ground. Cover the entire plant with straw or leaves. Tree roses are another special situation, the area to be protected is at the top of the stem. They can be dug up and laid into a 2 foot trench for the winter. In spring it can be replanted in an upright position.

Each week Christine Cole of Tuitman's Garden Centre and Landscaping, Highway 25, 1 mile south of Acton, 853-2480, will be presenting helpful tips and information to assist you in creating your garden show-place!

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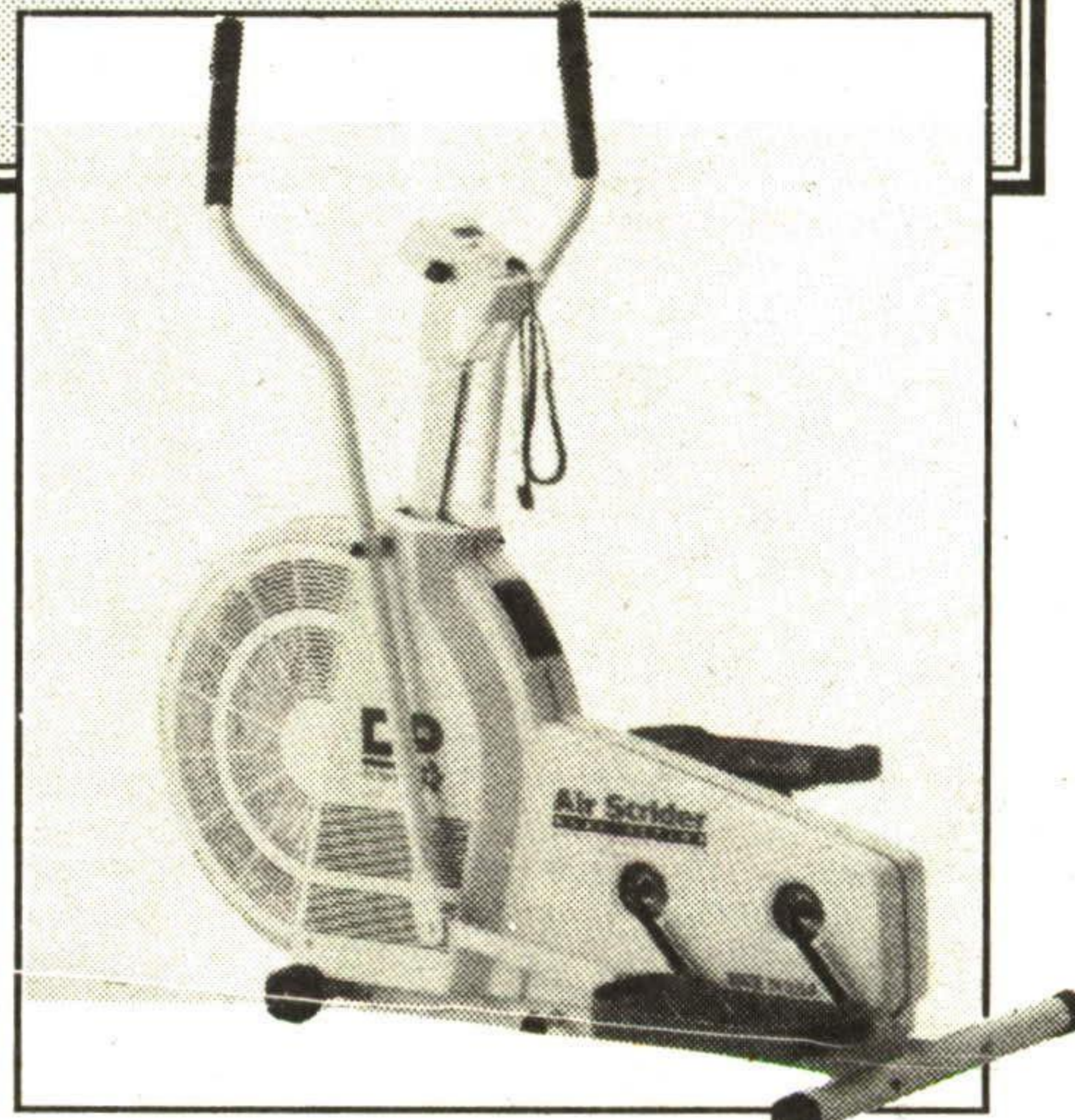
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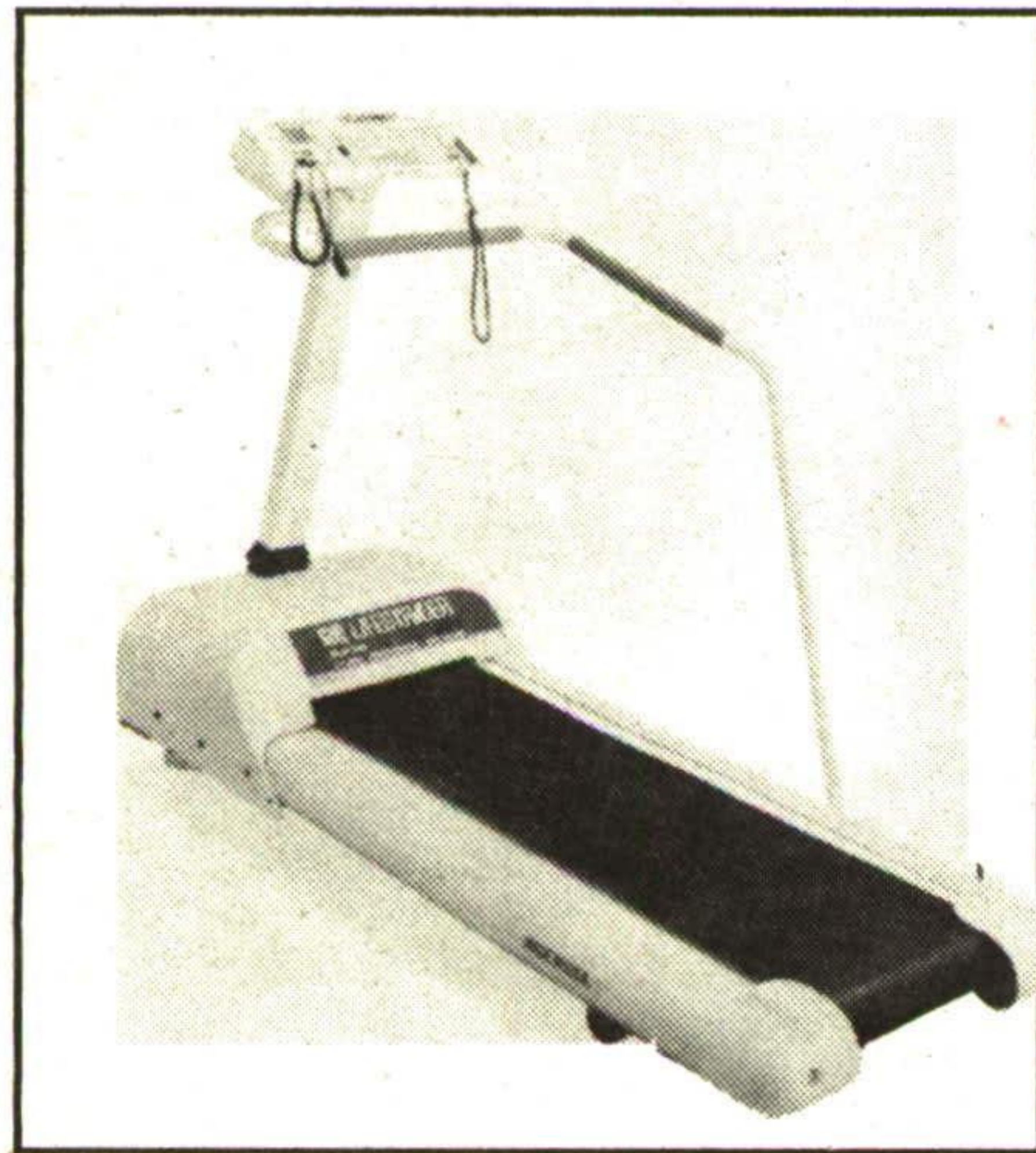
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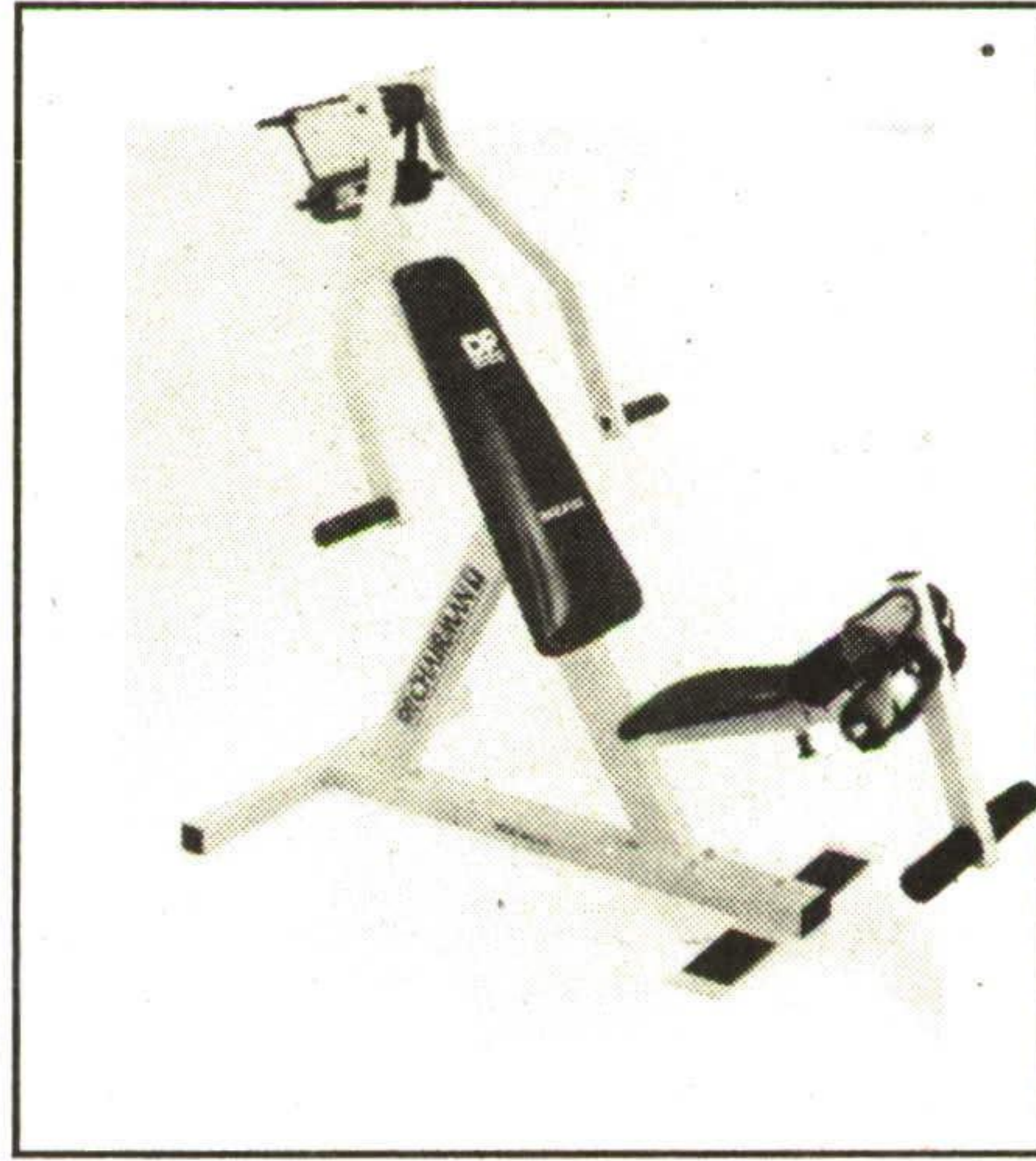
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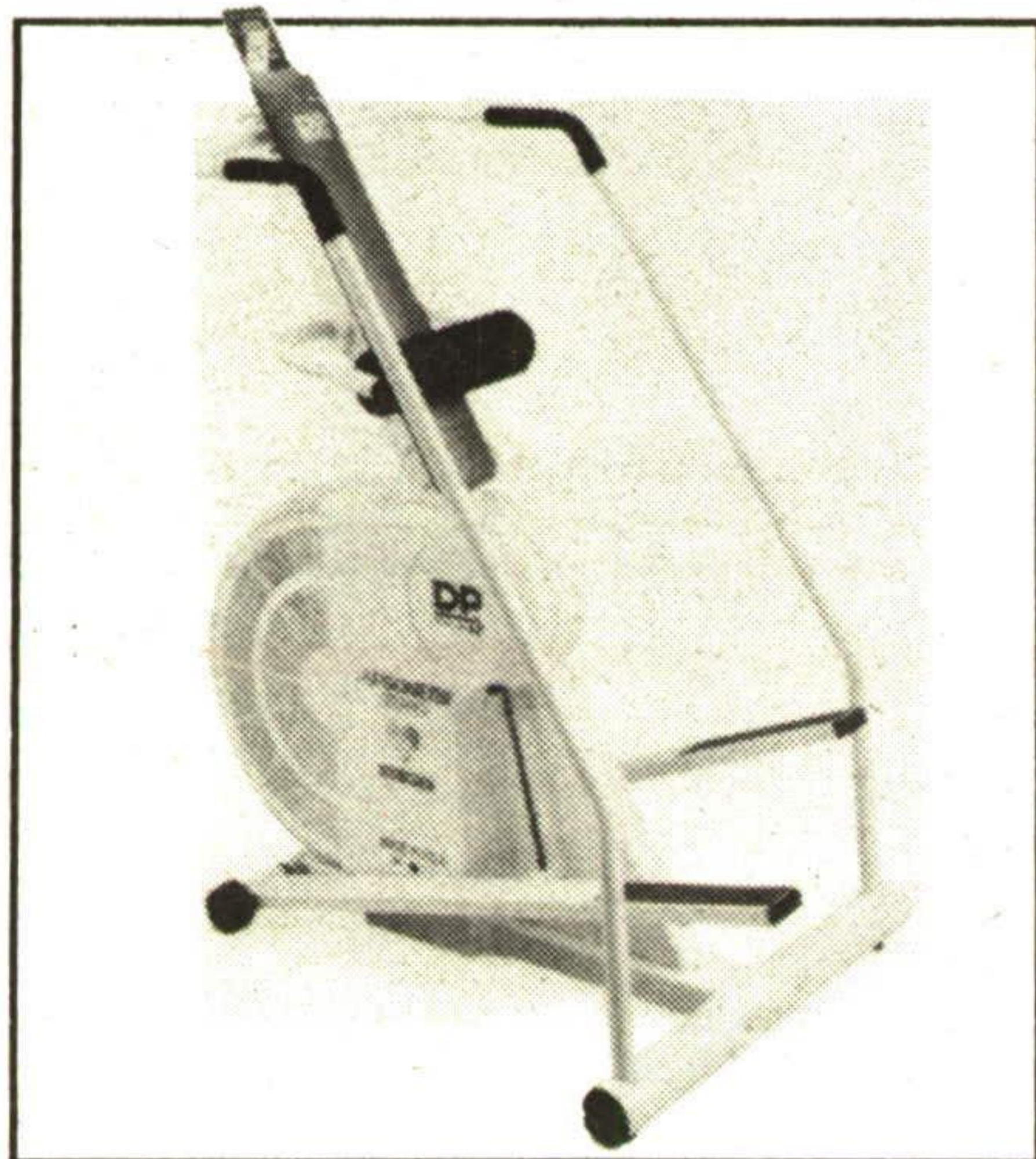
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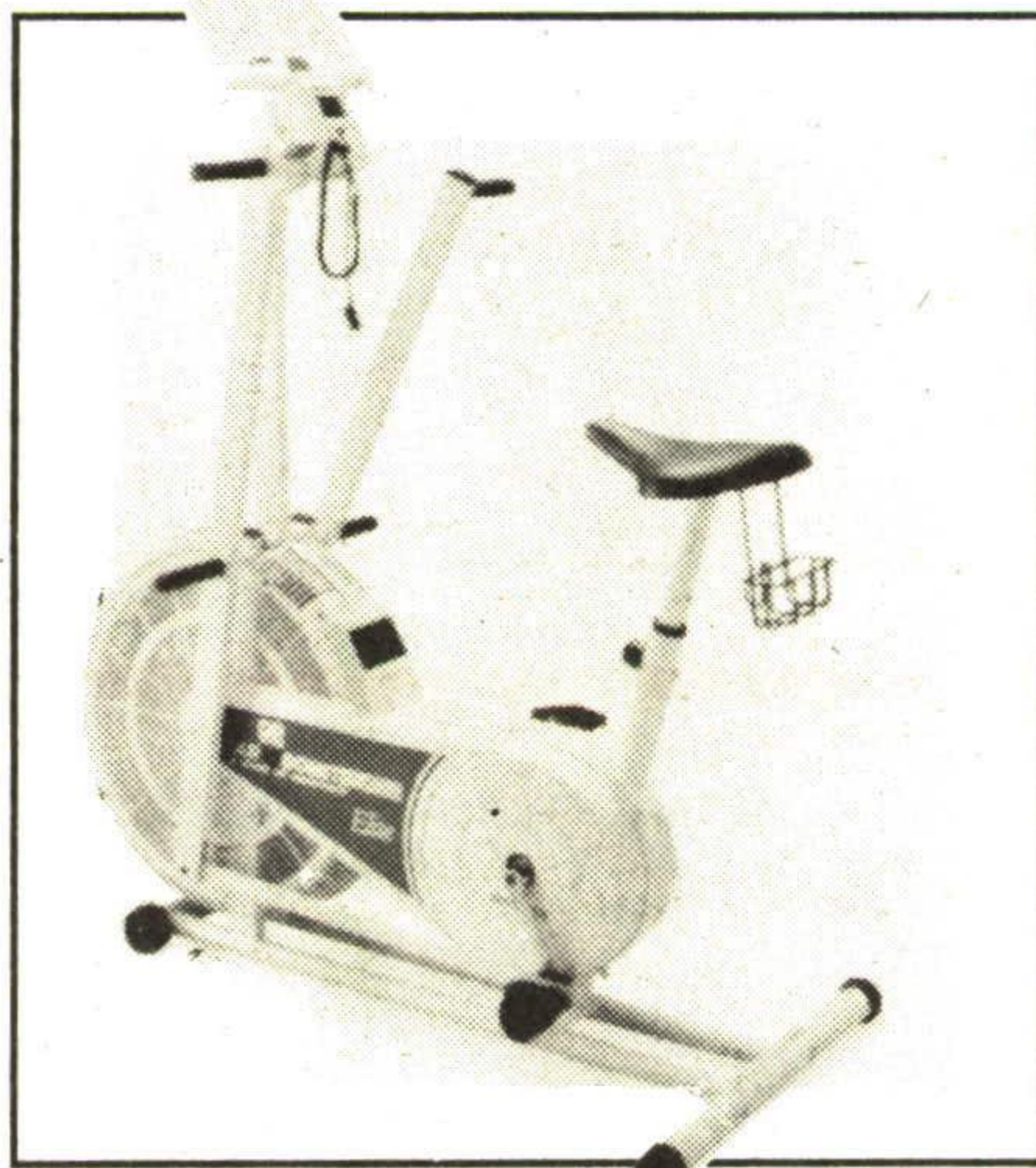
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