

Landfill fight continues

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Locals were urged to pass along any information they have to Arvin Prasad, who maintains a database in the town's planning department. "You know where the springs are. You know the rare birds and plants around here, and the truck traffic on Winston Churchill," said D'Agostino.

Every bit of information will help his case against the dump, he said. Residents could also pass information along through the Norval Community Association.

D'Agostino cautioned residents against saying much to IWA consultants, who sometimes paraphrase citizens' comments incorrectly. "It's better to talk to them through our professionals."

Bruce Reed of the Credit Valley Coalition (CVC), an umbrella for several groups, says they will focus their opposition more on the IWA's hearing process than on the technical problems of the sites.

"The process is horrendously flawed," he said. The CVC will urge selection of "a safe site."

Reed also warned Caledon's lobby group is supporting the site closest to Norval.

Former MPP Julian Reed recommended a strategy of "delay, delay, delay, until these birds get kicked out of Queen's Park."

Bruce Reed pointed out that his group has already set the IWA process back three months, and supports a delaying tactic.

But D'Agostino warned against "hanging our hats" on the support of a new government. And Mayor Miller recalled that Ruth Grier and Bob Rae both stood at the Acton quarry a few years ago, promising

to stop RSI (the dump proponents there) if they were elected.

An engineer who lives on Winston Churchill was skeptical that opposing on technical grounds alone was the right strategy. Engineers tend to say 'Don't worry, we can fix it,' even if that means active care and monitoring for years to come.

There were questions about off-site impact, including gulls, vermin, and truck traffic. Miller says he has already met with Ruth Grier on these issues.

"It's really terrible that she would allow something in another municipality that impacts so heavily on us."

When a site is selected, its tipping fees will be in competition with Halton's.

D'Agostino said the environmental assessment projects show no truck traffic at all on Winston Churchill, since the road isn't of the necessary standard. But this could change. Someone else pointed out that commuters will switch to Winston Churchill if other routes get heavy truck traffic, so traffic will still increase.

Brampton councillor John Hutton questioned why burying in the ground was considered the only way to dispose of garbage. Brampton incinerates its own and some of Mississauga's garbage now. Miller says he and several on council support incineration, but some citizens' groups don't.

Halton, he says, wants "the most environmentally safe site in Peel. We have to impress the government that we won't accept anything but the best site for our children and our grandchildren."

Future plans discussed

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Fred Haynes, an instructor with the local Georgetown Aikido Club, raised the possibility of different sports and recreation programs receiving tax breaks on rent costs in the downtown industrial units. Like many local recreation groups, the Aikido Club has moved from a public facility (the high school) to a larger private facility. Since this opened up space for other programs and services, he suggested the town could help out these different clubs with rent costs.

Other concerns included the need for a bicycle path and the

availability of swimming lessons for area youngsters. As well, one Halton Hills resident voiced the need for upkeep on current facilities, arguing this should take precedence over the building of new facilities.

In addition to the two public meetings, a random 300-household survey will be conducted over the next two months to find what Halton Hills residents want and need in the way of recreation services. For those unable to attend the meetings, the recreation department welcomes written concerns and recommendations.

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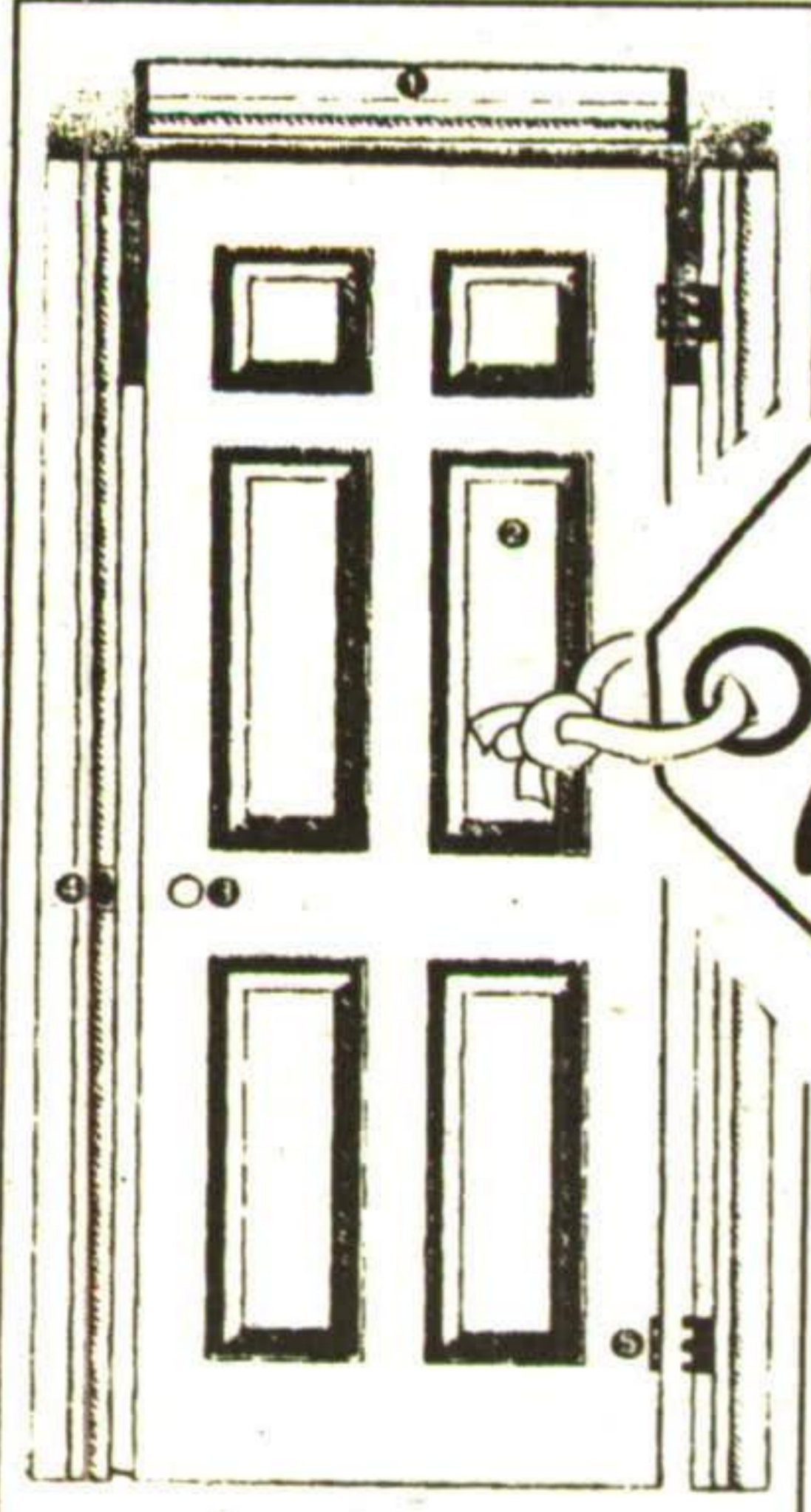
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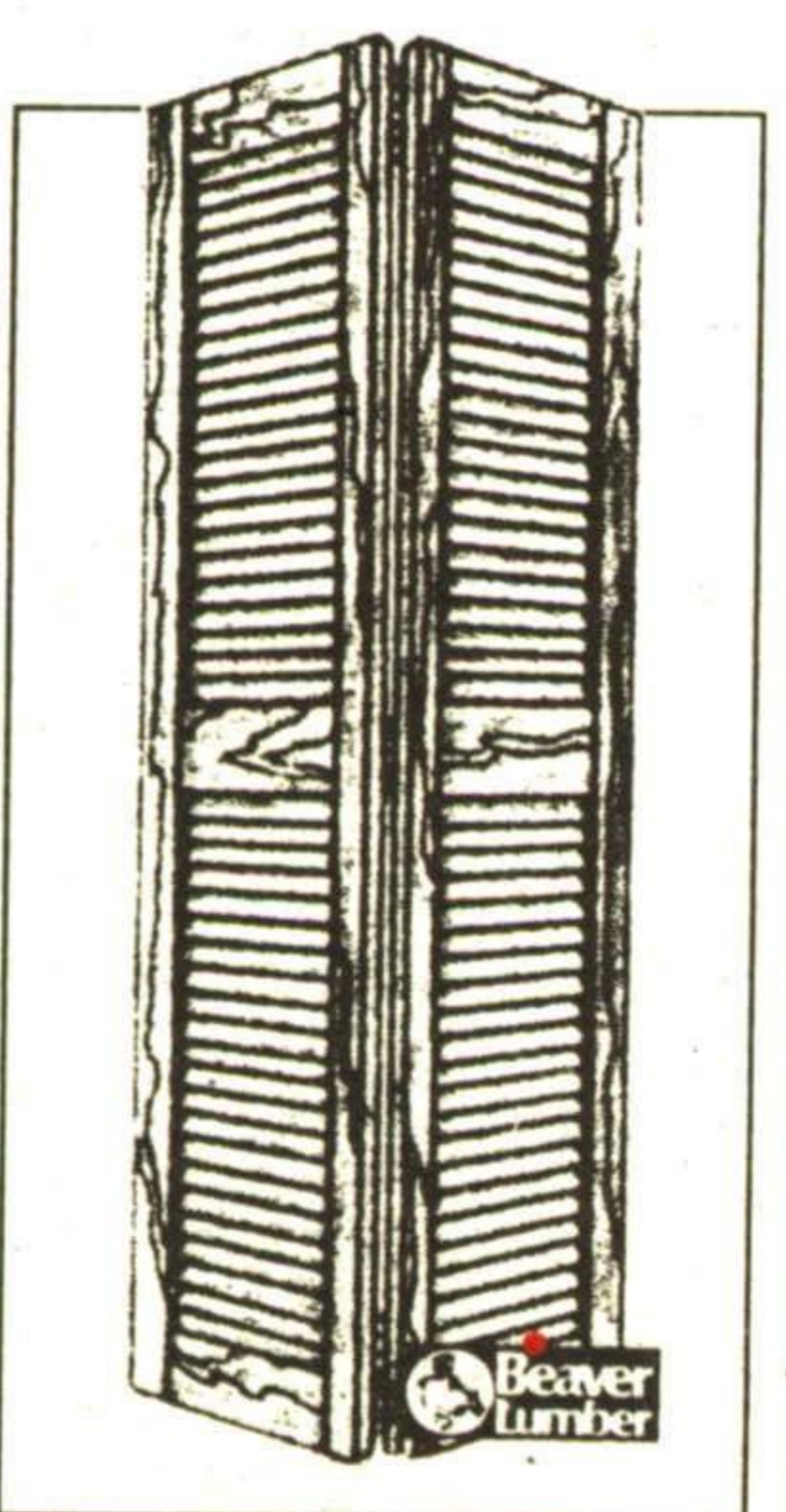


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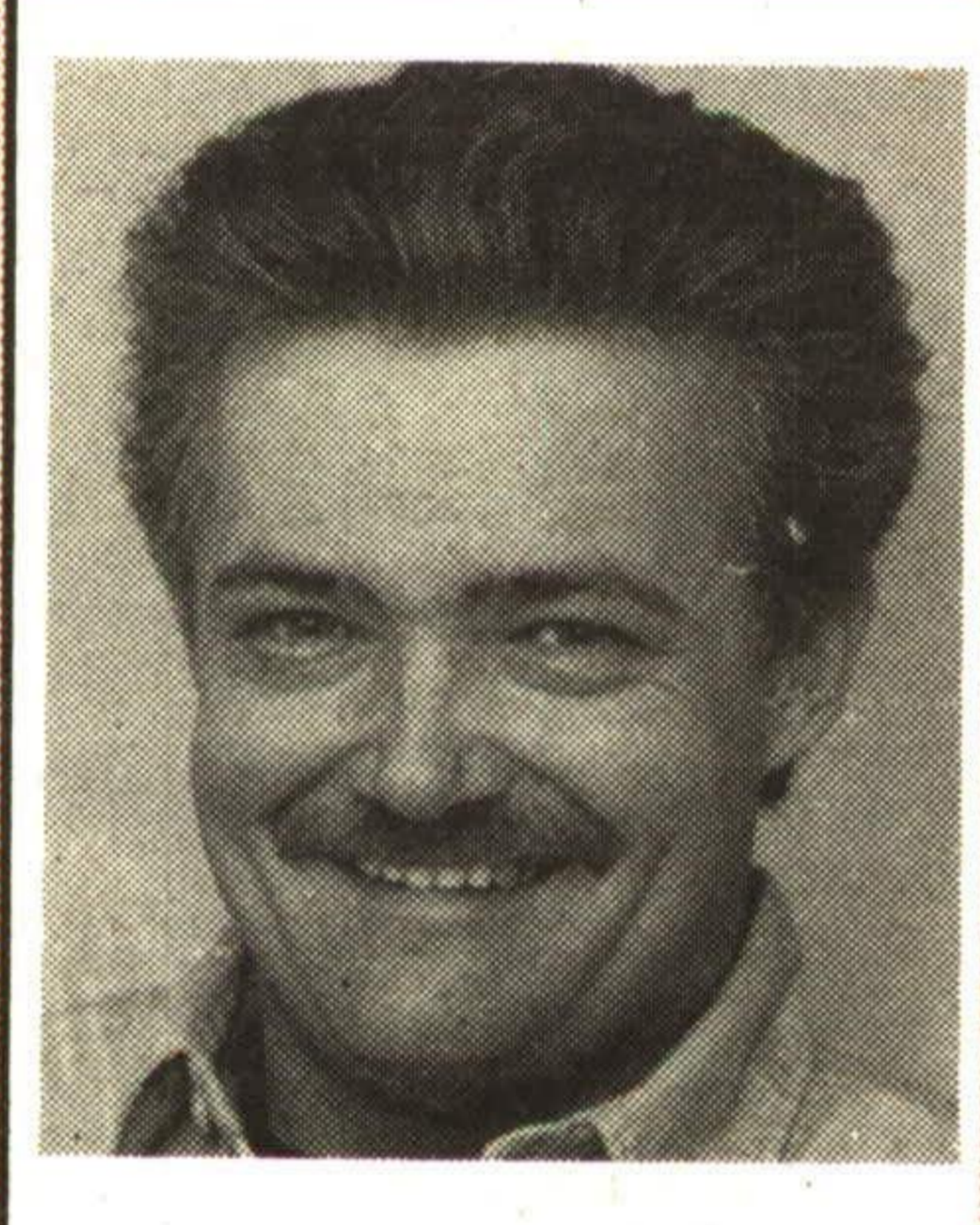
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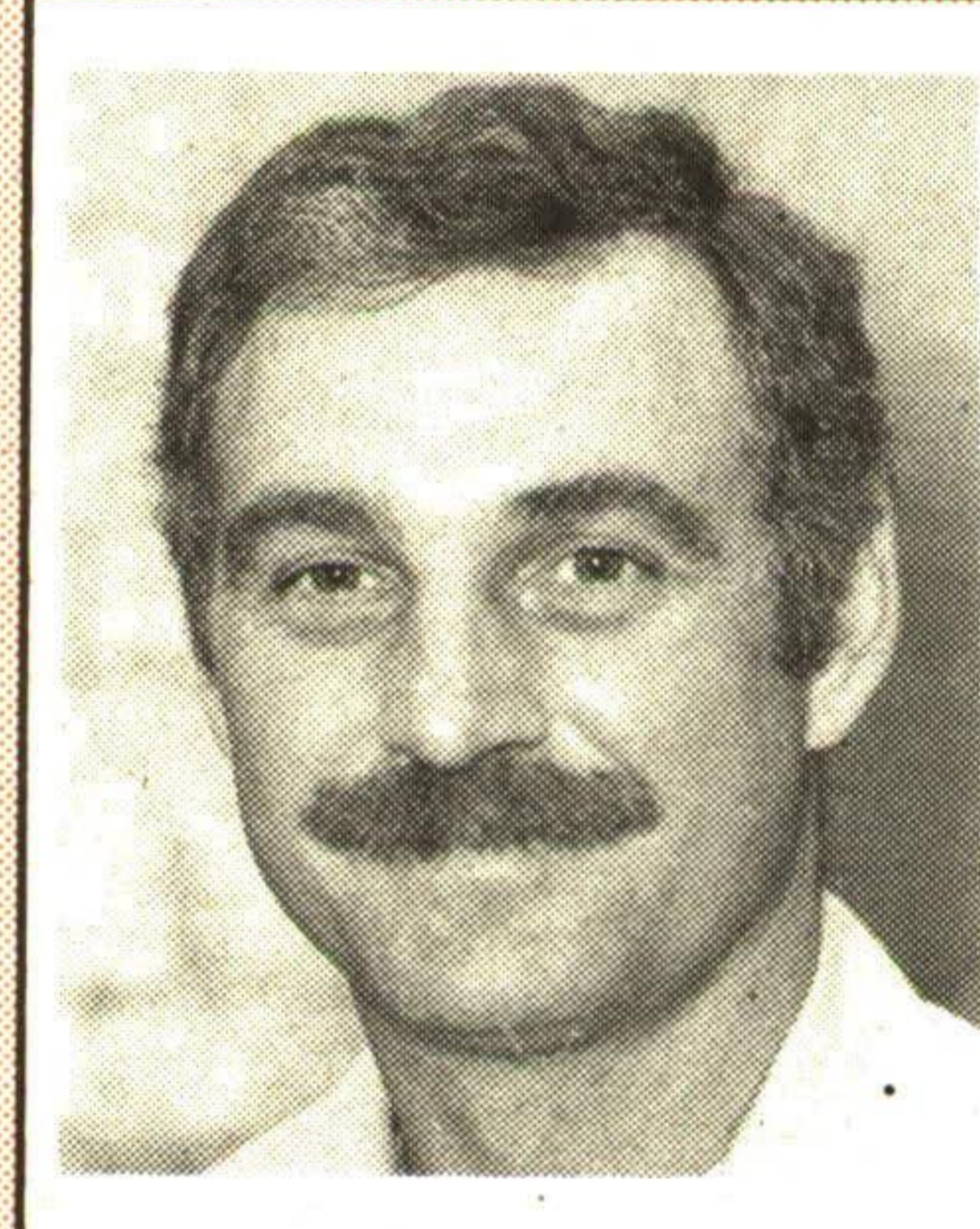


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