

Spring Car Care

Treating your car like a friend

Nobody enjoys being ranked second — especially when there are only two options to begin with. But it's really an insult when you are being pushed aside for something that is neither living nor breathing.

Of course, this is debatable, particularly if the object (yes, *object*) in question is many people's most treasured possession — their *car*, (a.k.a. automobile, darling, baby, number 1, etc.).

Cars are, to some people, better companions than their human counterparts. Think about the time and energy people put into the grooming and conditioning of their automobiles — it seems as though many car owners are more interested in the well-being of their vehicle than they are in themselves!

The attachment people have to their cars is unbelievable, but *real*.

• *Let's go shopping...* for the car, that is. Bras, skirts, wings — many cars have smarter wardrobes than their owners do.

• *Have an annual check-up* — Car owners probably are more familiar with their mechanic than they are their physician.

• *Can't afford a four-star restaurant?* Car fanatics manage to scrape up enough change to fill their tanks with four-star gas!

• *How about a manicure?* In other words, how about dressing up the tires, adding rims, snow tires for winter...

• *Massage* — How often do you treat

yourself to one of these, if at all? Every time you wax your car, its getting treated to *just that*.

• *Protection to the max* — Woe to the invader who touches this gem-on-wheels! People take caution to the limit — combination locks, high-tech alarm systems, wheel, gear, brake locks, and even cars that *tell* you, through an intercom system, if it is being stolen or vandalized.

• *Everyone needs a friend...* and indeed, cars are some owners' very best friends, as we have all heard people speak more affectionately — and frequently — about their beloved automobile than they do their mate or spouse.

And we have all spotted people driving, and having what appears to be a deep conversation with, either themselves, or, yours truly.

• *What's in a name?* As far as some car owners are concerned, a *great deal*. Owners brand their vehicles with car versions of tattoos — colorfully painted signatures on the body of the car, or personalized license plates.

• *Extras, extras!* Cars these days look like Christmas ornaments! Fluorescent lights of neon green, pink or blue, animal skin upholstery, flashing colored lights, textured steering-wheel and gear coverings, and stuffed animals with suction cups customized just for cars.

Move over dogs — your "bark" has been replaced as man's best friend by an engine that "purrs."



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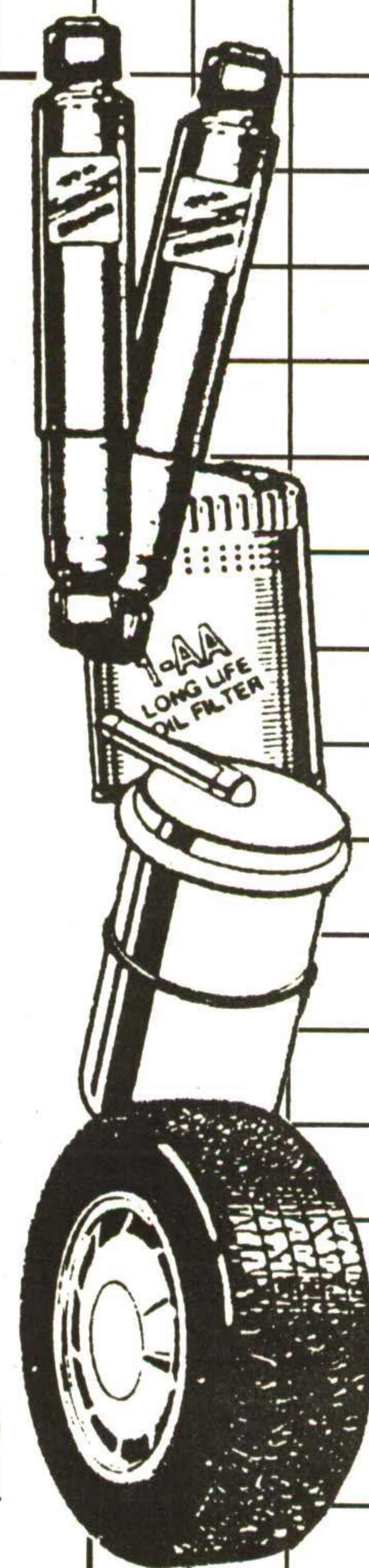
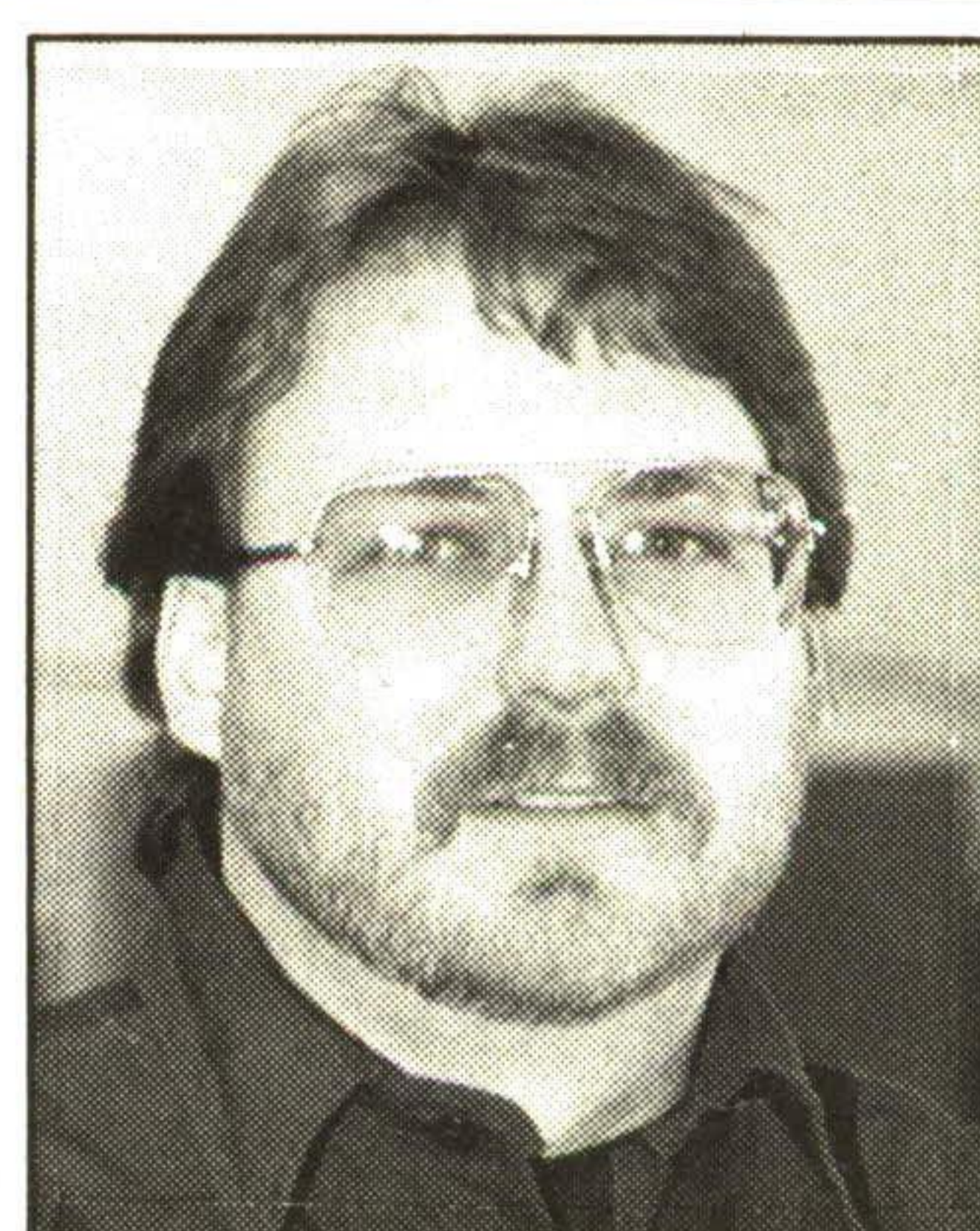
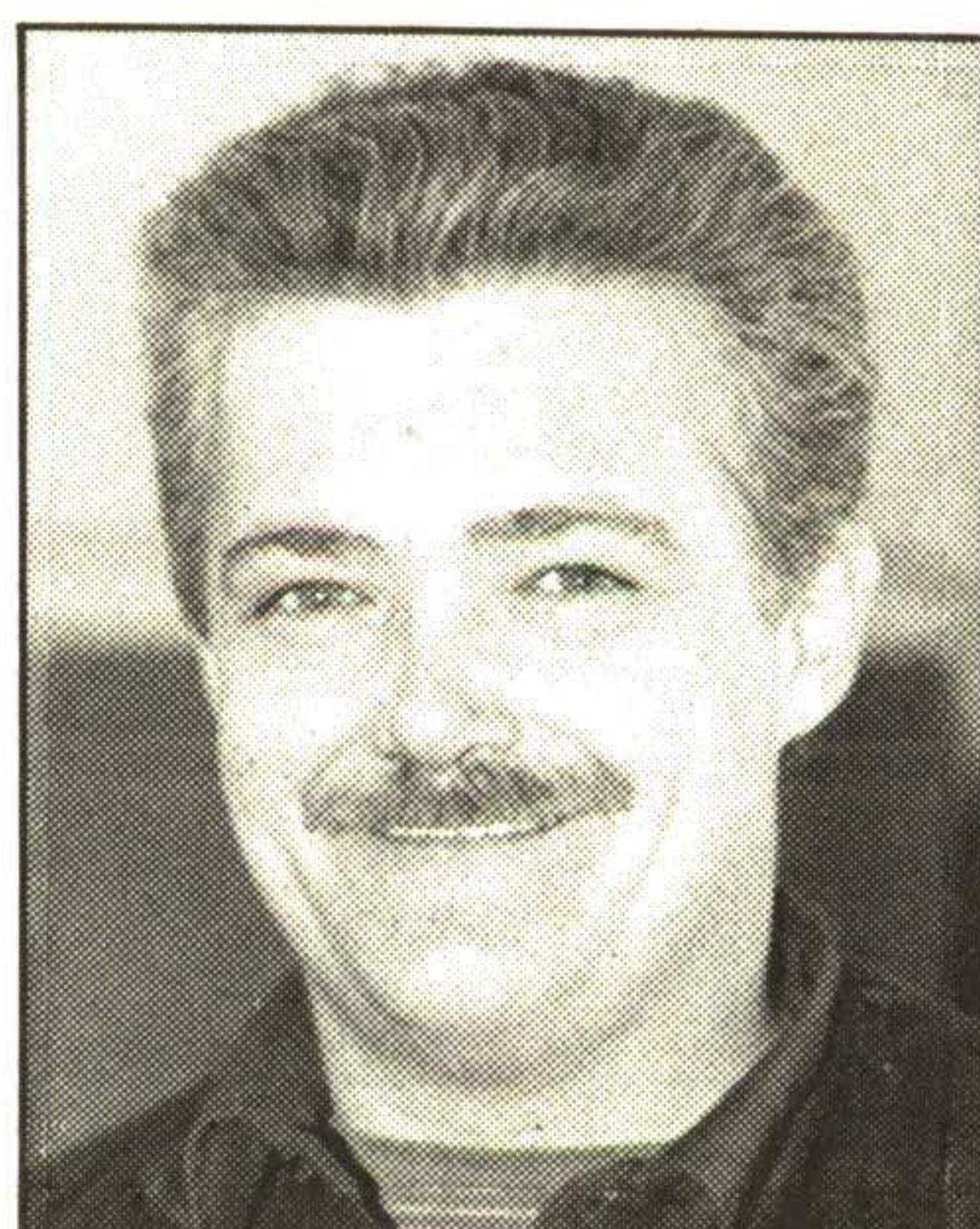
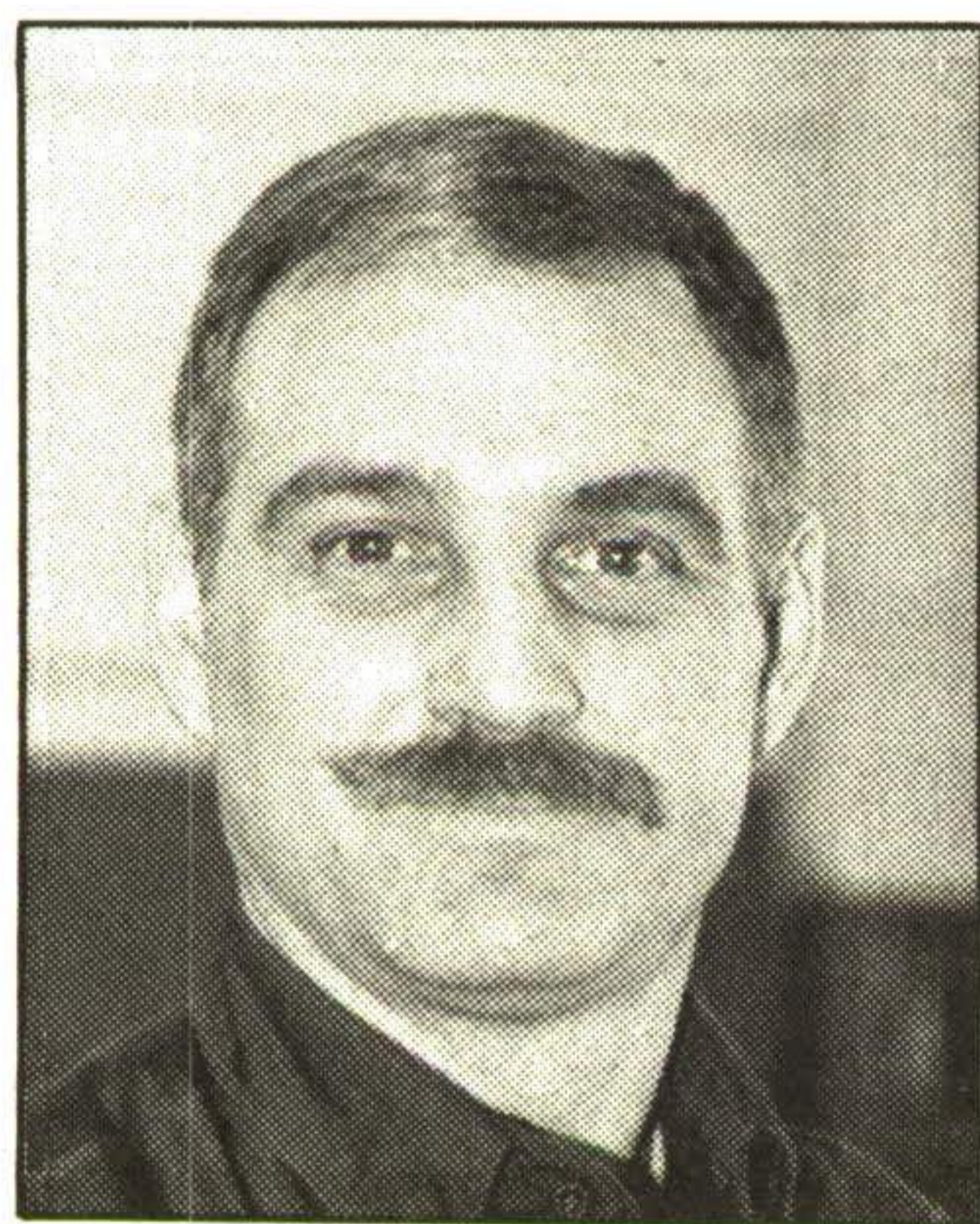
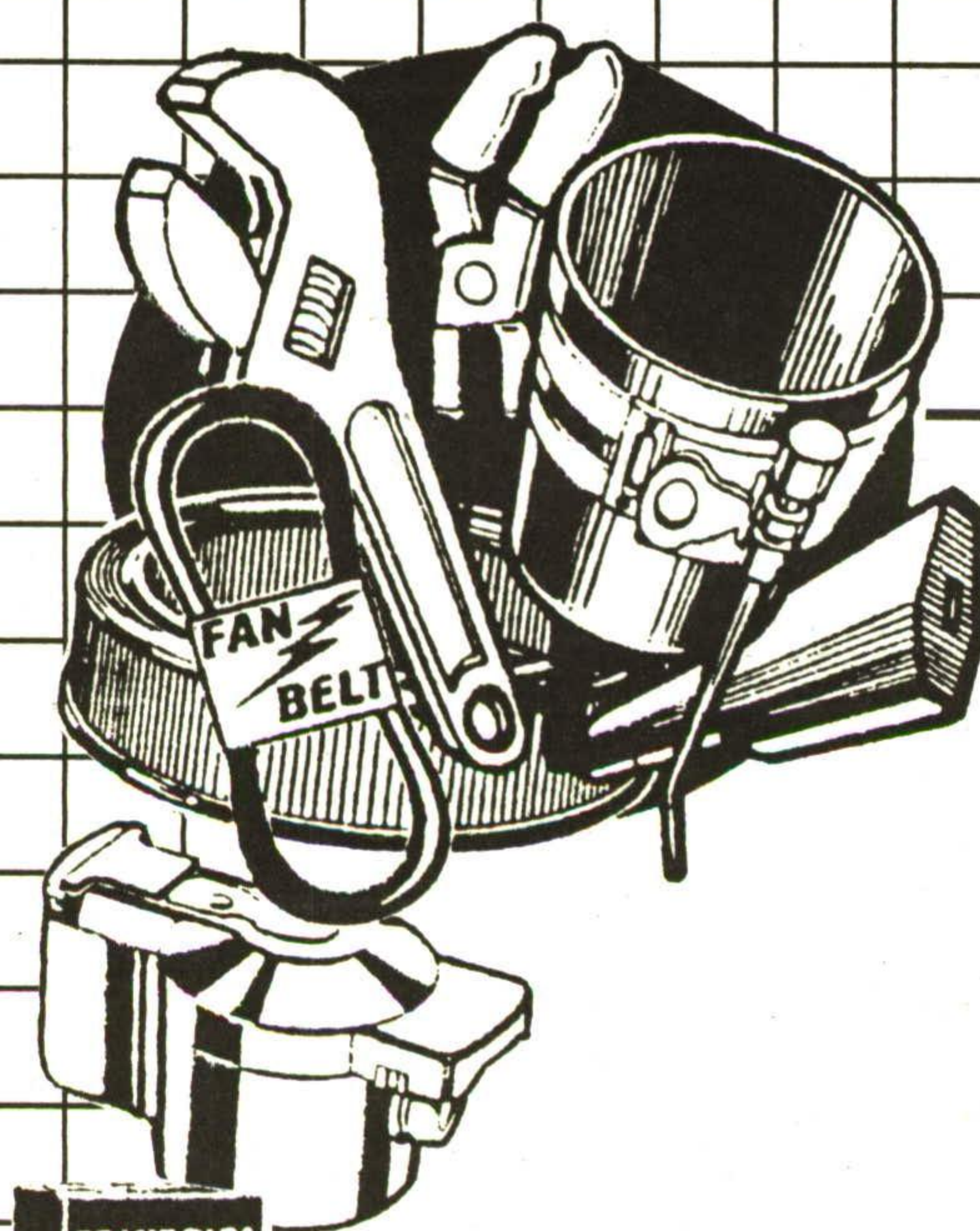
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