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# Hobby turns into part-time job for Cashmore

By JANET BAINE  
Staff writer

When visitors to Dilys Cashmore's home ask to visit the powder room, 15 minutes later she usually has to bang on the door to find out if they're all right, she says laughing.

You see, Cashmore has used a great deal of paint and imagination to transform her tiny main floor bathroom into an English country garden with numerous flowers (Cashmore is also a gardener) and finer details, like a hummingbird and a bumblebee. Clouds are painted on the ceiling, there's an archway covered in flowers, a giant flower pot over the back of the toilet and even the heat register is painted, with a little ceramic frog sitting on top. It's no wonder visitors sometimes get lost in the tiny four by six foot bathroom.

"I can pretty much turn my hand to doing anything. If it will stand still long enough, I can paint it," Cashmore says. Instead of painting pictures to put on walls, she paints the walls themselves. She also paints furniture, new ceramic tiles (they have to be new so that they can be fired and the paint will remain intact) and other ceramic pieces, like lamps, plates and

teapots. If you want a lamp to match your drapes or wallpaper, Cashmore can make it for you.

She turned her hobby into a part-time job two and a half years ago when she was laid off from her job in a Brampton chiropractor's office where she worked for 10 years. Her friends had always told her that she should do work for other people, and she opened her own company. She calls it Myriad Designs, because she says there's an infinite number of decorating ideas she can create.

To Cashmore, her house is a catalog of painting ideas. If someone calls with a vague idea of something they would like her to do, chances are Cashmore has an example of something similar somewhere in her home which she can show them. She also has a book of photographs with some of the things she has done for other people.

The walls on the way down to the unfinished basement in Cashmore's home are totally different from her small bathroom. They're painted with murals you might find in a



DILYS CASHMORE

European castle of the middle ages. There's a painting of the tree of life, made to look as if it has been in Cashmore's relatively new home for centuries. An ancient wooden doorway looks as if it leads to an enchanted land of fairy tales is painted at a landing. There's even a spider web in the corner and a mouse beside the door.

The upstairs bathroom is a sampler of what Cashmore can do with oil paint finishes. Five glazes have been ragged on the walls to create a very opulent, Sybaritic effect. Paint stenciled onto the walls simulates swags of cloth, and match the curtains.

Cashmore says she also does the faux finishes which are currently very popular — sponge painting, rag rolling, stippling. These she often uses as a more interesting backdrop for her work in her own house.

When Cashmore works on a piece of furniture or ceramics for her customers, she runs the risk of becoming too attached to it, and not wanting to let it go back to the owner.

"You try not to get emotionally

involved with your clients' work," she says, but usually another piece of work has to be done right away, and this replaces the one she's been working on.

"I paint it as if I were doing it for myself. If I did something I don't like, I'd change it," she says. She'll consult the owner when something doesn't look quite right, and suggest changes.

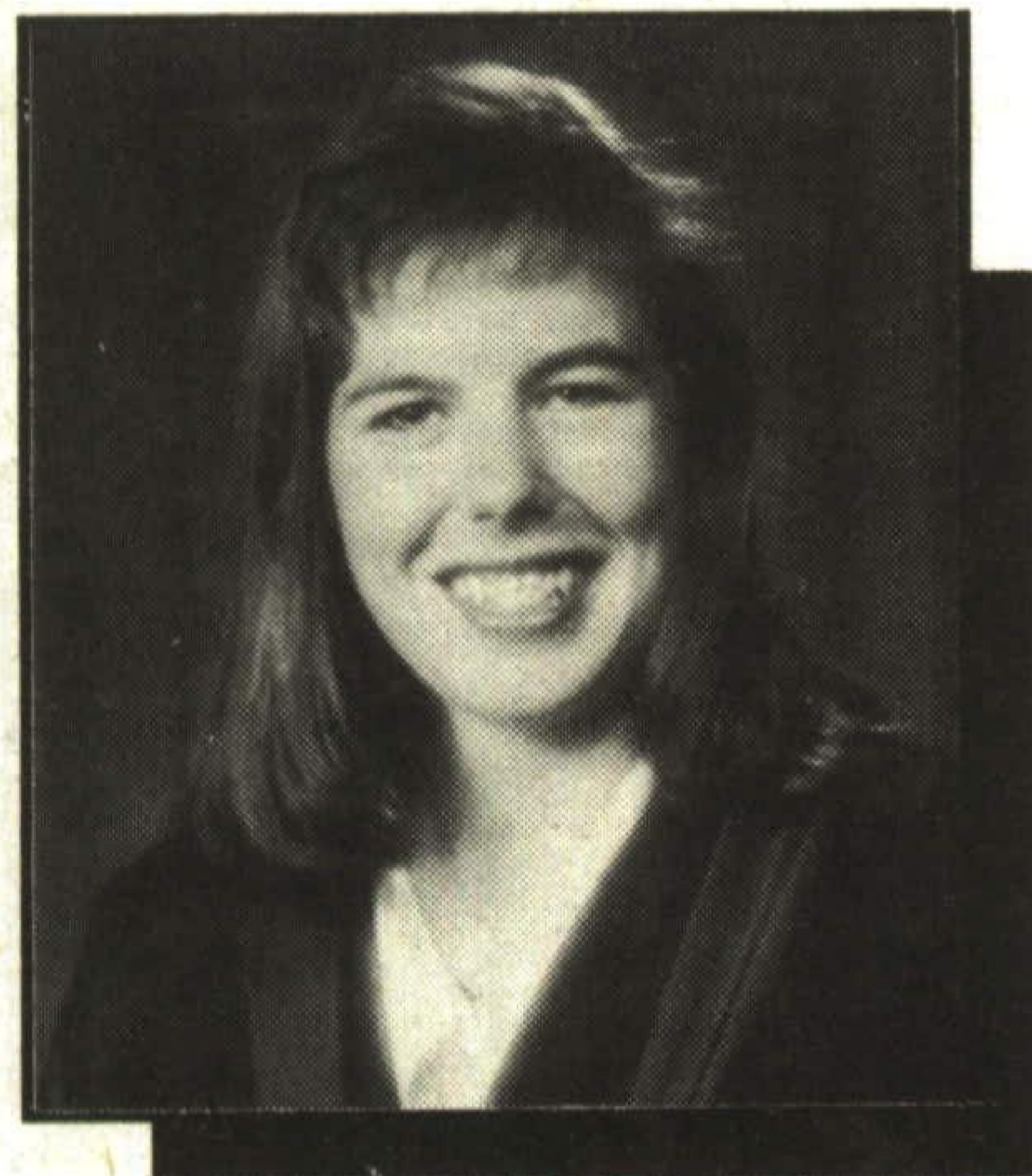
Cashmore and her work have been featured on City TV's City Line more than once.

She charges about \$15/hour for the work she does, and doesn't include the time it takes for her to look up patterns. While everything in her bathroom would cost about \$1,000 to do, most people would only want a small part of it — the flower pot or archway, so the cost would be minimal, she says.

The cost can be cut down if people do the preparation themselves, by painting the background or trellises, as was done in Acton's Big Scoop.

"It's something I can do and I don't out-price it. I try to keep it within a reasonable limit so people can afford it," she says.

"I can pretty much turn my hand to doing anything. I tell people the only limit is their imagination," she says.

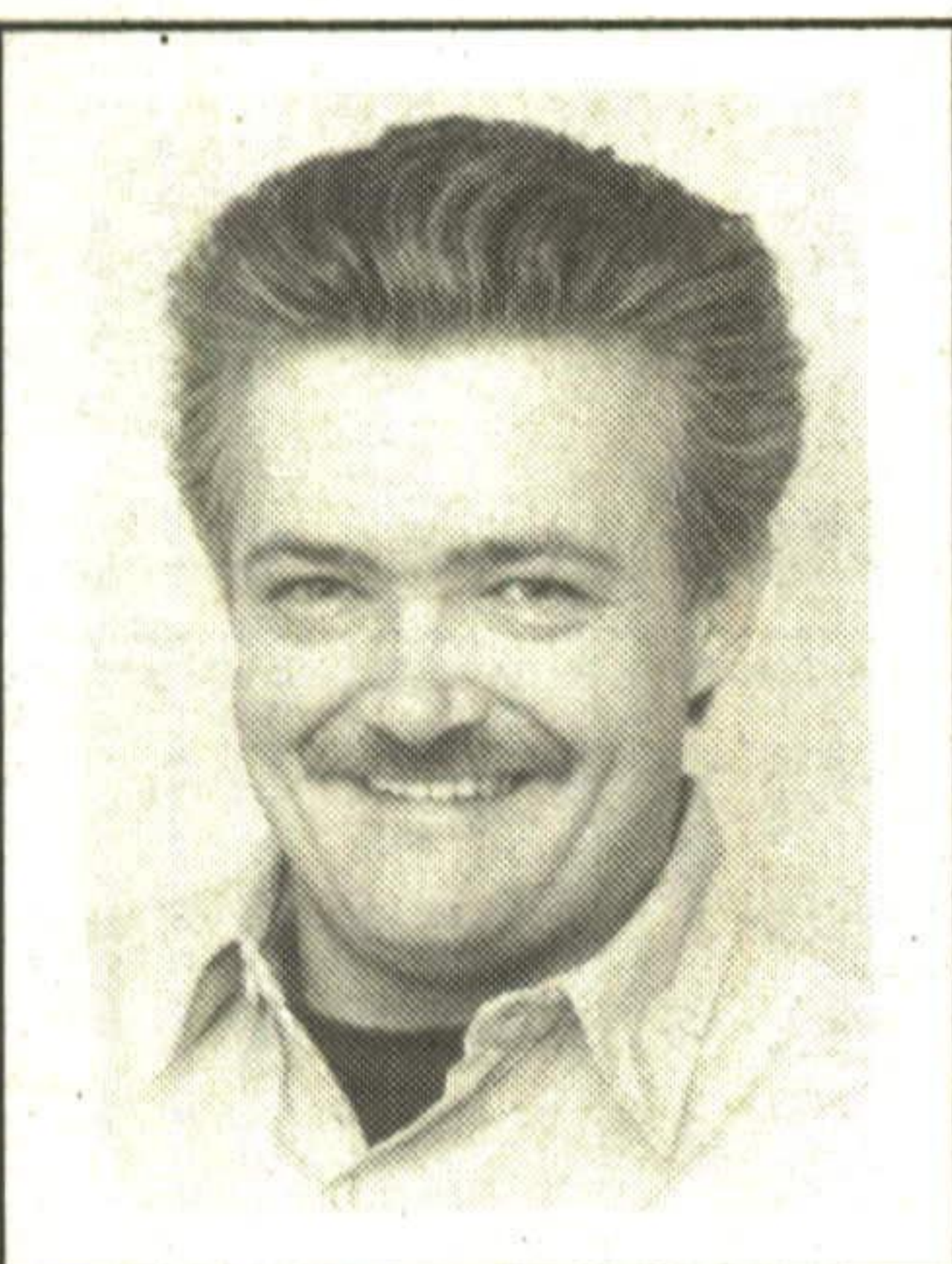


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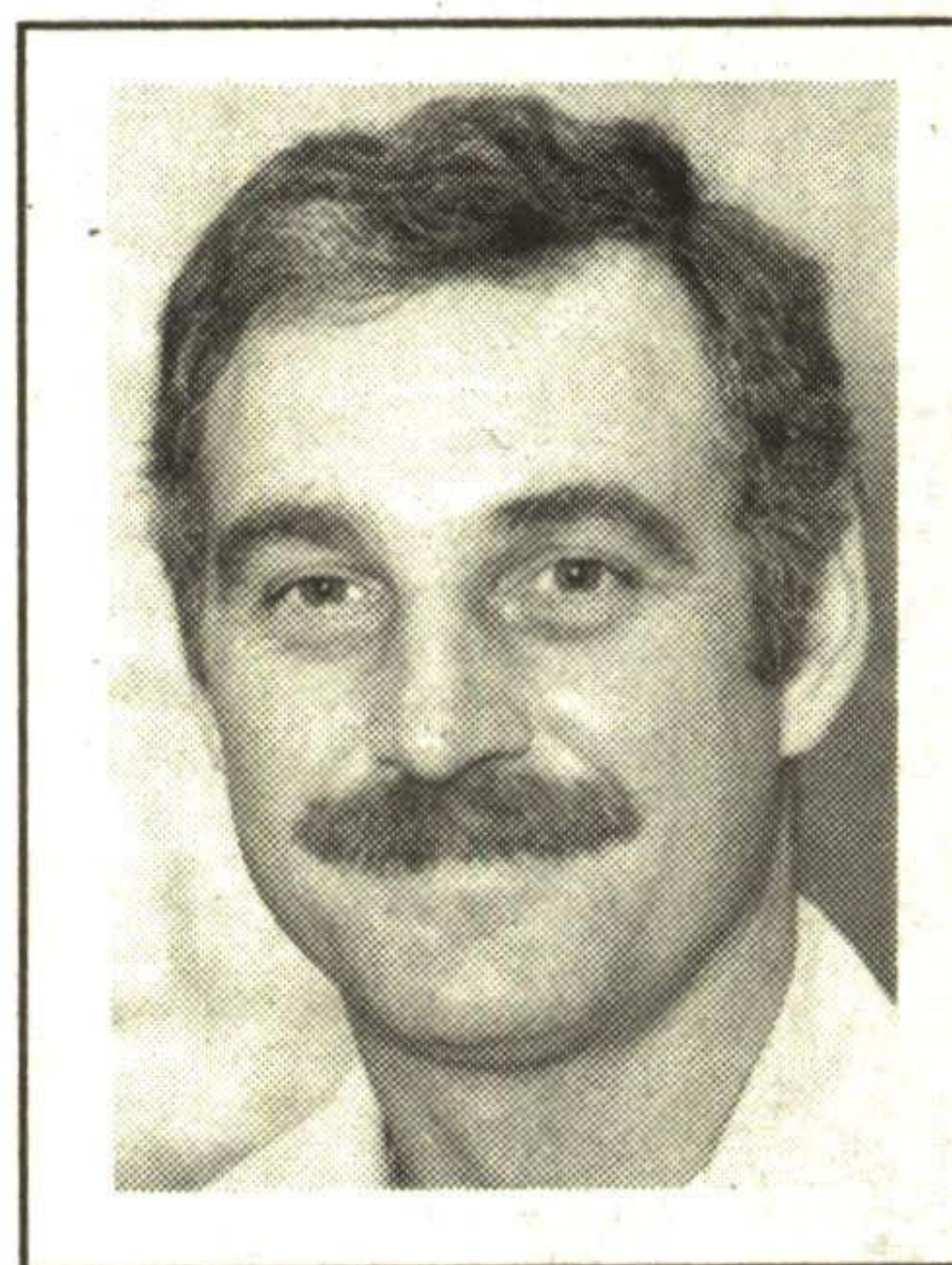
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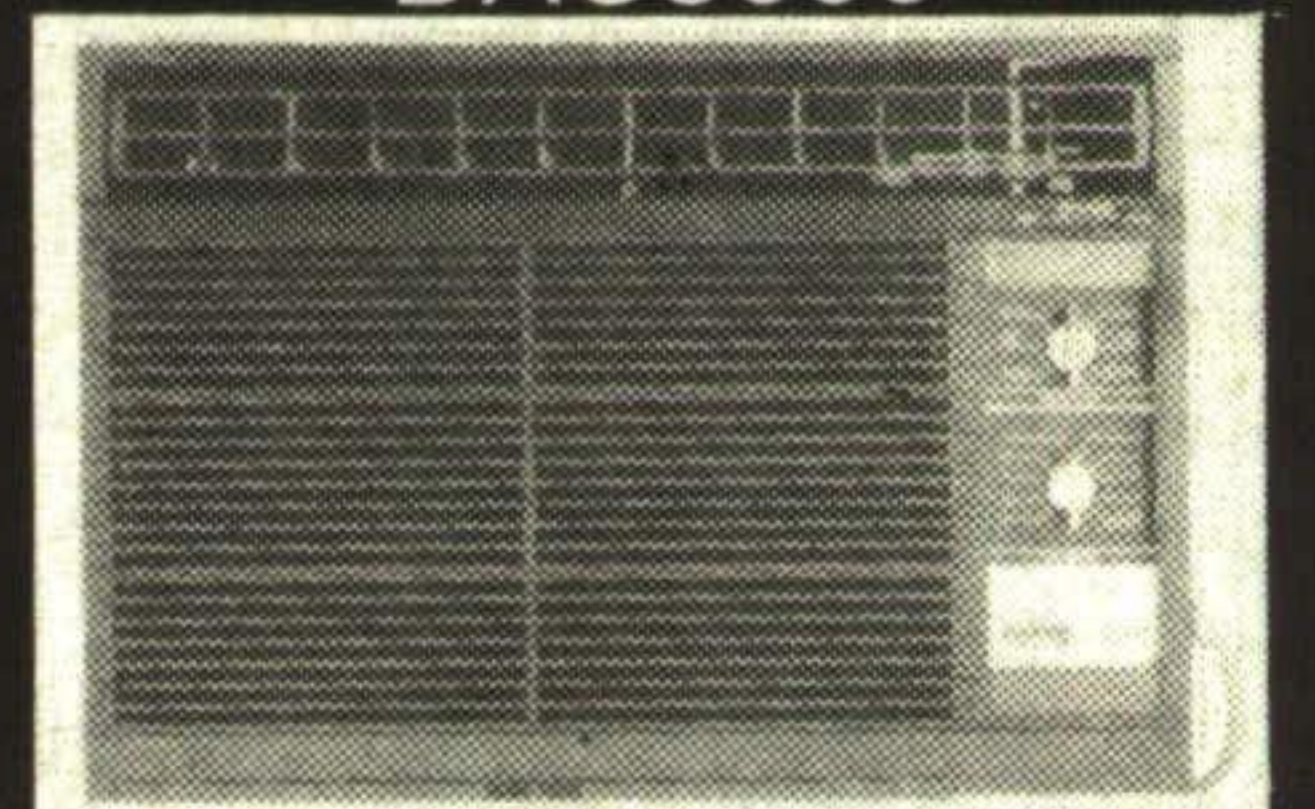
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