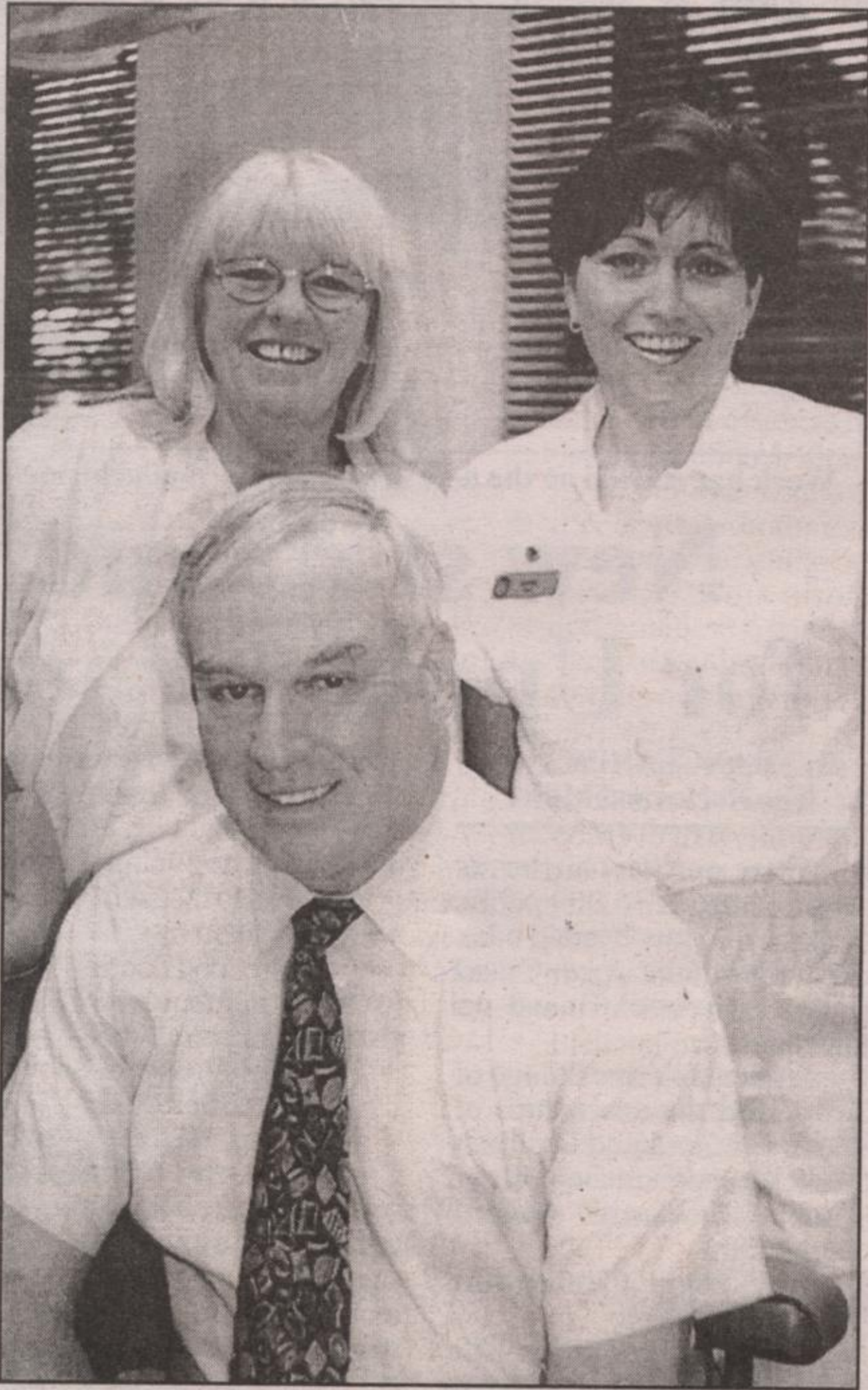


He's heading for the hills - ski hills that is!

**BYMAGGIE
PETRUSHEVSKY**
The New Tanner



BYE, BYE: Dr. Robert Steen posed with his receptionist, Wendy Piorier, left, and his assistant Elena Hibbs, prior to his open house Thursday. - Maggie Petrushevsky

Dr. Steen is officially saying good bye to his patients after 30 years practising dentistry in Acton. A Toronto native, he practised with a partner in Brantford the first year after graduating, then moved to Acton in 1970.

"I always felt more comfortable west of Toronto than east of it," he says in explaining his decision to settle in a small town. The town and indeed the whole area has changed markedly over the years. But it's still a small, friendly community where he didn't face problems - like AIDS and HIV infection - which some of his colleagues faced in larger centres.

His first office was where Dr. Thompson now has his office, on Main Street South. He was there when he experienced one of the funnier moments in his business. His very first customer came in while he was still unpacking. The man needed a tooth extracted and Dr. Steen had to set him on a box for the procedure because he didn't have a chair yet. He also had to go rooting through his belongings to find his forceps and needles to do the job.

Another of his lighter moments relates to a patient who warned him he always fainted when he had a tooth pulled. Dr. Steen said he had no problem with that. He just charged double when patients fainted. Apparently it worked because he did the work and the man didn't faint.

In 1975 he joined forces with a group of other doctors to build the Acton Medical Centre at the corner of Mill and Frederick streets. The Steens lived in Acton briefly, then lived in Limehouse for many years. Recently Dr. Steen and his wife Christina, a lab technician at his office for 25 years, built a new home in Collingwood and plan to spend their retirement there.

"I gave retirement a lot of thought and decided it was time. We wanted to leave while we were still healthy enough to enjoy ourselves. We are both active in sports," he says. "We play tennis and ski and I enjoy golf. I teach skiing. I also build models and do woodworking."

Dr. Steen was a member of the Rotary Club of Acton for some years and plans to get more involved with the Professional Business People's Club in Collingwood once he is not commuting to Acton.



MSB BOSS: Elsa Stolfi is the new principal at McKenzie-Smith Bennett School.

Horticultural Society resumes meetings Sept 19

The regular monthly meetings of Acton Horticultural Society will resume on Tuesday, September 19th.

Twelve local winners of a "Drive-by" front yard display will be awarded and slides shown of their prize-winning gardens.

Our special millennium tulips made a spectacular showing when they were in bloom last spring. We have been fortunate to obtain more of these bulbs which will be for sale at the meeting.

Ron Crawford of Crescent Nurseries will speak about popular Hostas and Day Lilies.

Guests and new members are welcome to join us at Knox Presbyterian Church at 7:30pm on Tuesday, September 19.



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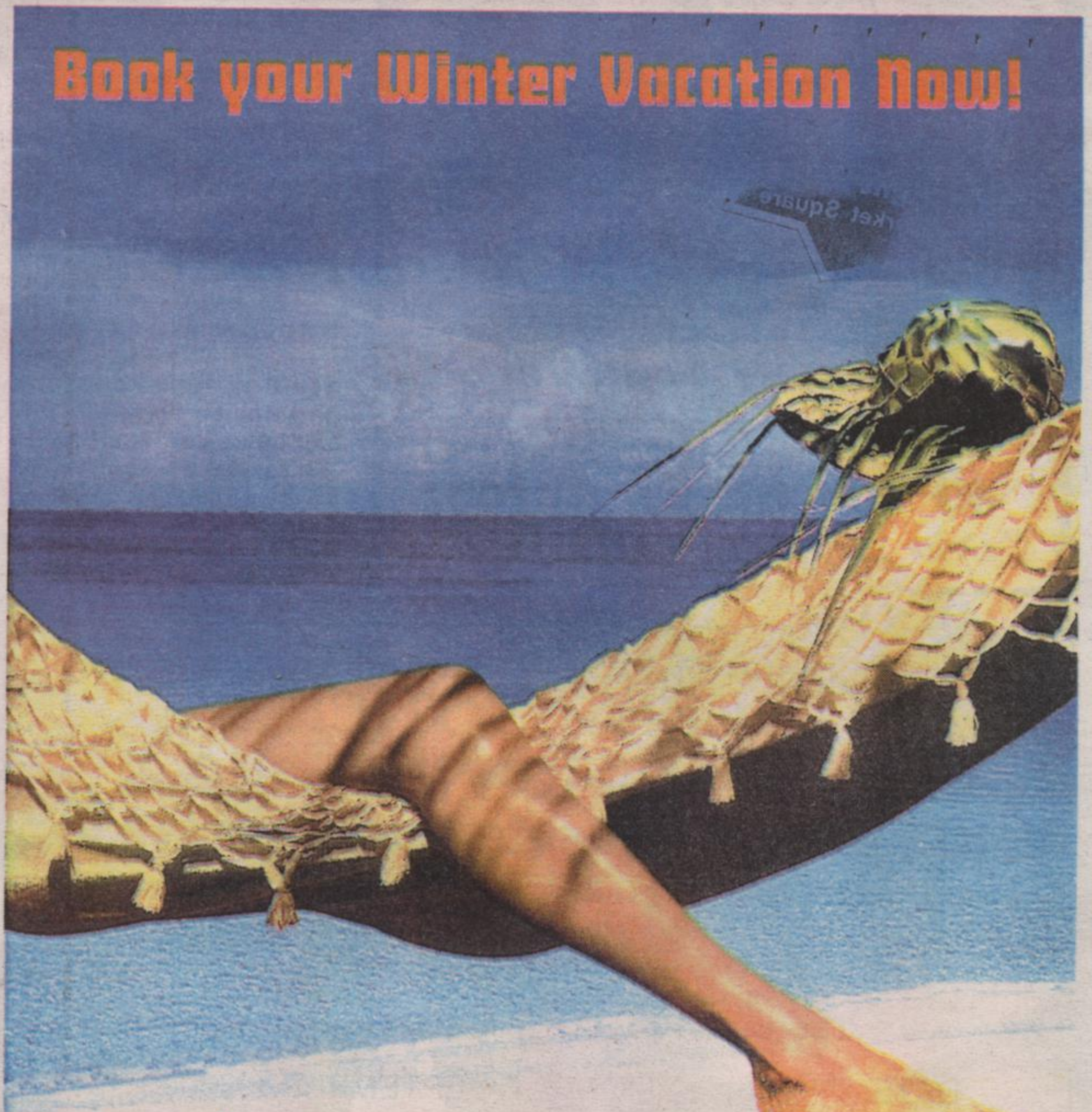
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