

*Val de Braux*

# Students mourn loss of teaching assistant

By JANET BAINE  
Staff writer

Students and staff at McKenzie-Smith Bennett School in Acton are mourning the loss of Valerie de Braux, 49, a dedicated teaching assistant who died Wednesday.

Paul De Braux said that his wife had been experiencing headaches over the past month and decided to go to Guelph General Hospital Saturday. A CAT scan Tuesday revealed she had cancerous tumors. On Wednesday she passed away.

"On Saturday she dictated her

timetable to me for Monday before going to the hospital," Paul said. "She was very dedicated. I didn't realize how many people she knew. I've been humbled the last few days finding out how many people knew her."

Val de Braux had always wanted to be a teacher but stayed home with her daughter Michelle for 17 years. She volunteered in the schools before becoming a teaching assistant six years ago.



VAL DE BRAUX

She was working with the Grade 1/2 class at McKenzie-Smith Bennett Public School and had also worked at Robert Little School and E. W. Foster School in Milton. She worked up until the Friday before she went to the hospital.

"To many she was another 'mom' when a hug was needed or a tear had to be wiped,"

principal Chris Logan wrote in a letter home to parents Thursday. Support staff was called in to the school to assist the children

when they received the news.

The de Brauxs have lived in Acton for 19 years and have one daughter, Michelle, 22. She is studying to be a teacher at Queen's University and spoke to her mom everyday.

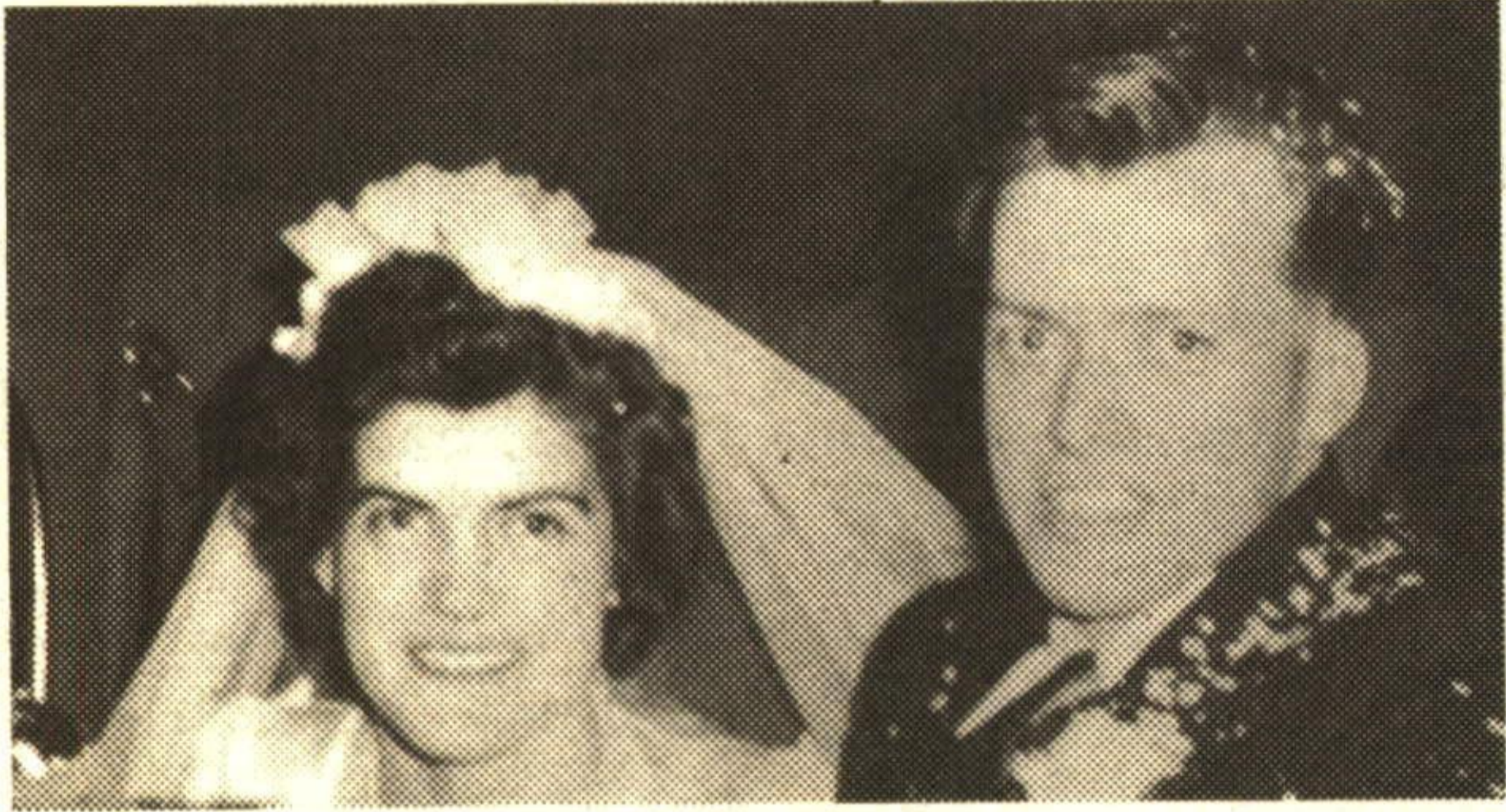
"She really had a large influence on me. We'd share our stories and work out our problems," Michelle said. "I'm glad she had six years working with children. She always wanted a big family and in a way she had one," Michelle said.

Funeral services will be held at Shoemaker Funeral Home on Thursday (April 25) at 11 a.m.

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**CORRECTION NOTICE**  
We wish to draw your attention to the following in our current "1996 Automotive Specialty Book".  
Page 19: Item 1: Bucket-style seat covers, south-west plush style are sold separately, not as a pair.  
Canadian Tire regrets any inconvenience these errors may have caused our valued customers


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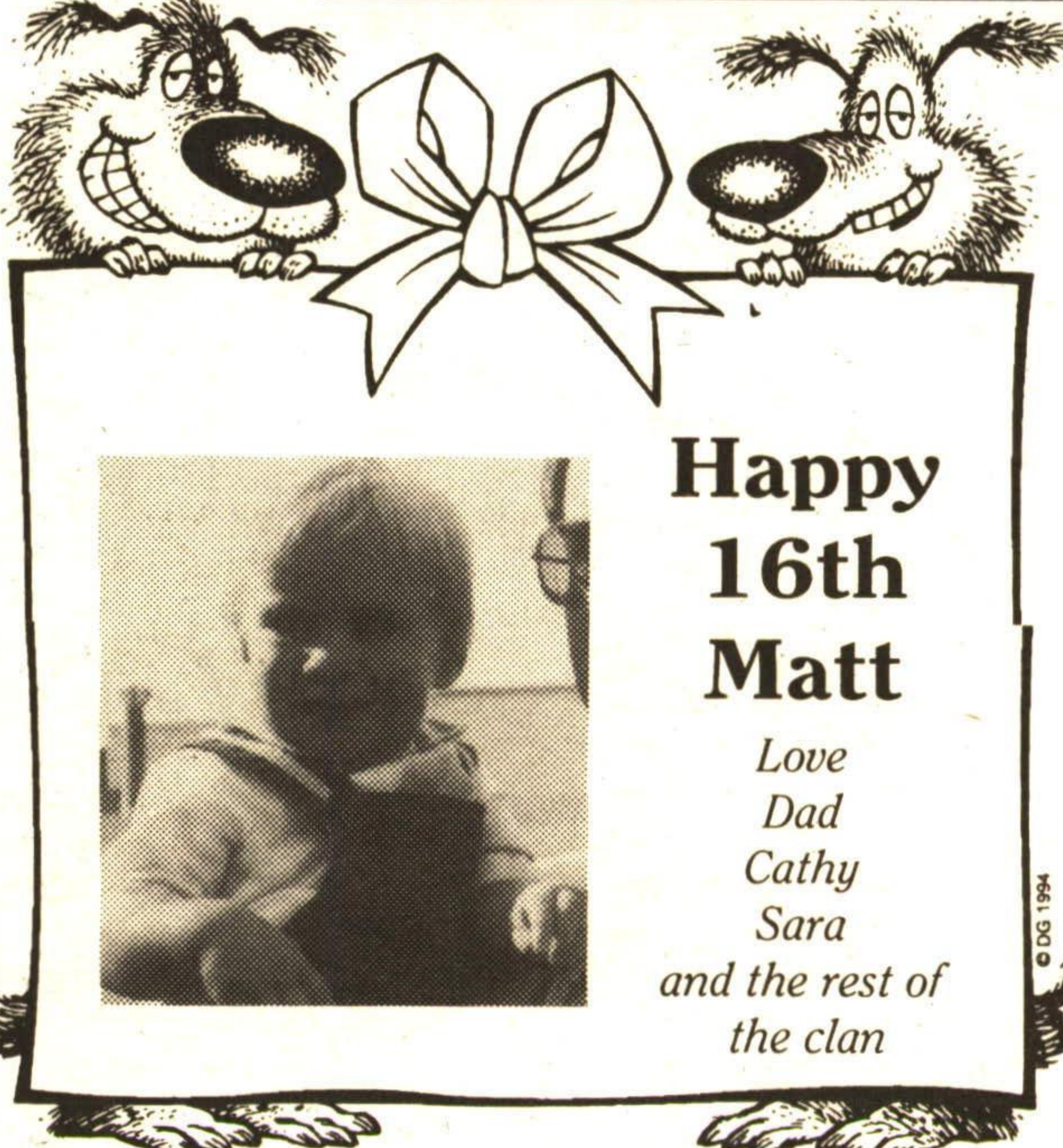
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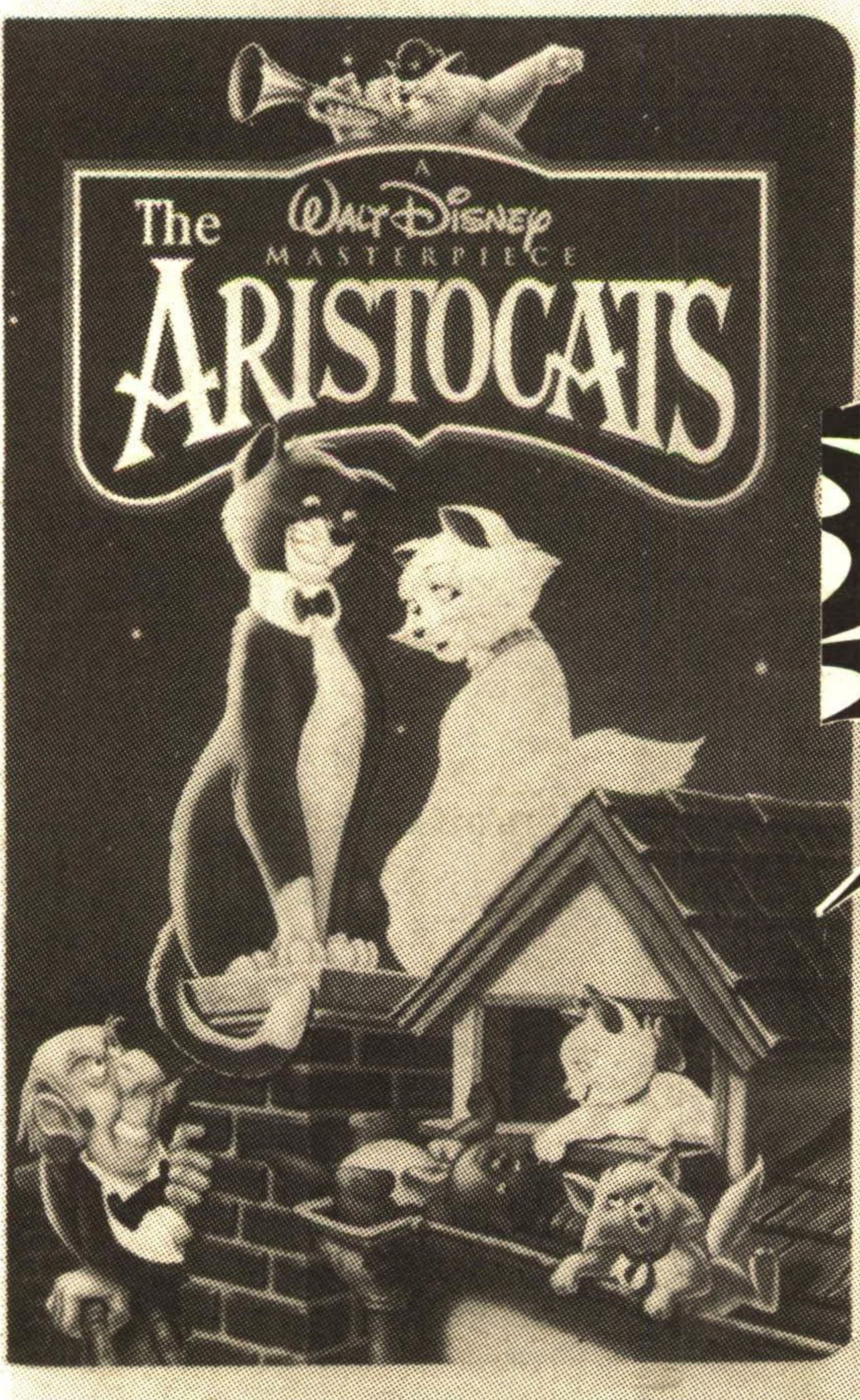
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