

In the future, I'll watch my step

There's an old saying describing a thing as distasteful, "like something stuck to the bottom of your shoe."

Well, earlier this week, I would have to say, that was my problem.

Literally.

It happened as I visited a construction site in town, photographing the progress. I stood on the sidewalk and lawn area and fired away.

Then I hopped in my car.

As I pulled away, I noticed this aroma, and wondered what the guys at the site were doing to create that smell.

Of course, after I put my foot on the clutch, and it sort of.. well, slipped off, I realized my problem.

I had fallen victim to one of those errant dog owners who hadn't 'stooped and scooped'.

And I can tell ya— it weren't pretty.

Now anyone who knows me can tell you there are two sacrileges in my life:

1. Changing the station on my radio at work.
2. Making a mess in my car—and you are almost certain to incite the wrath of the gods.

At that precise moment, had there been any loose canines running around, I'm sure I wouldn't have been responsible for my actions.

I'd have killed them with my bare hands.

Fortunately, I wasn't far from the office, so I pulled into the parking lot, and immediately yanked out my floor mat.

Luckily, most of the aforementioned excrement had remained on the rubber floor mat, so I was able to clean it out very quickly.

But the clutch pedal was another thing.

And you know those nice walking shoes with the deep treads in the soles?

Yup, they were packed full.

The only feeling that comes close occurred when the kids were little, and I changed a dirty diaper—and got some on my hand. (More than

A
TED
BIT



Ted Brown

once I seriously considered amputation.)

Back at the office parking lot, I did my best with the car, but upon entering the office, I took my shoe into the washroom and scrubbed it like it had never been scrubbed before.

I could still smell it.

I scrubbed it again. It was still there.

I drove home, in a state of horror, considering trading in my car and burning my shoes.

At home I tackled the floor of the car with industrial cleaner and carpet shampoo, and felt confident I had finally licked... er.. perhaps more accurately, overcome the problem.

Then I took my shoe down to the basement and threw it in the laundry tub, scrubbing away a layer of leather, not to mention a year's wear from the sole. I could still smell it.

I was becoming frustrated, and changed my clothes. The scent still lingered.

"Can you smell dog ****?" I asked my eldest daughter. Sympathetically, she sniffed.

"Nope, it's likely just in your nose, Dad."

All night long I was sure I could still smell it and remained defeated as I drove to work. I asked my other daughter if she could smell anything as she hitched a ride to school.

She inhaled ever so slowly and deeply.

"Only your aftershave, Dad," she smiled.

I breathed a huge sigh of relief thinking, "Thanks kid, right answer..."

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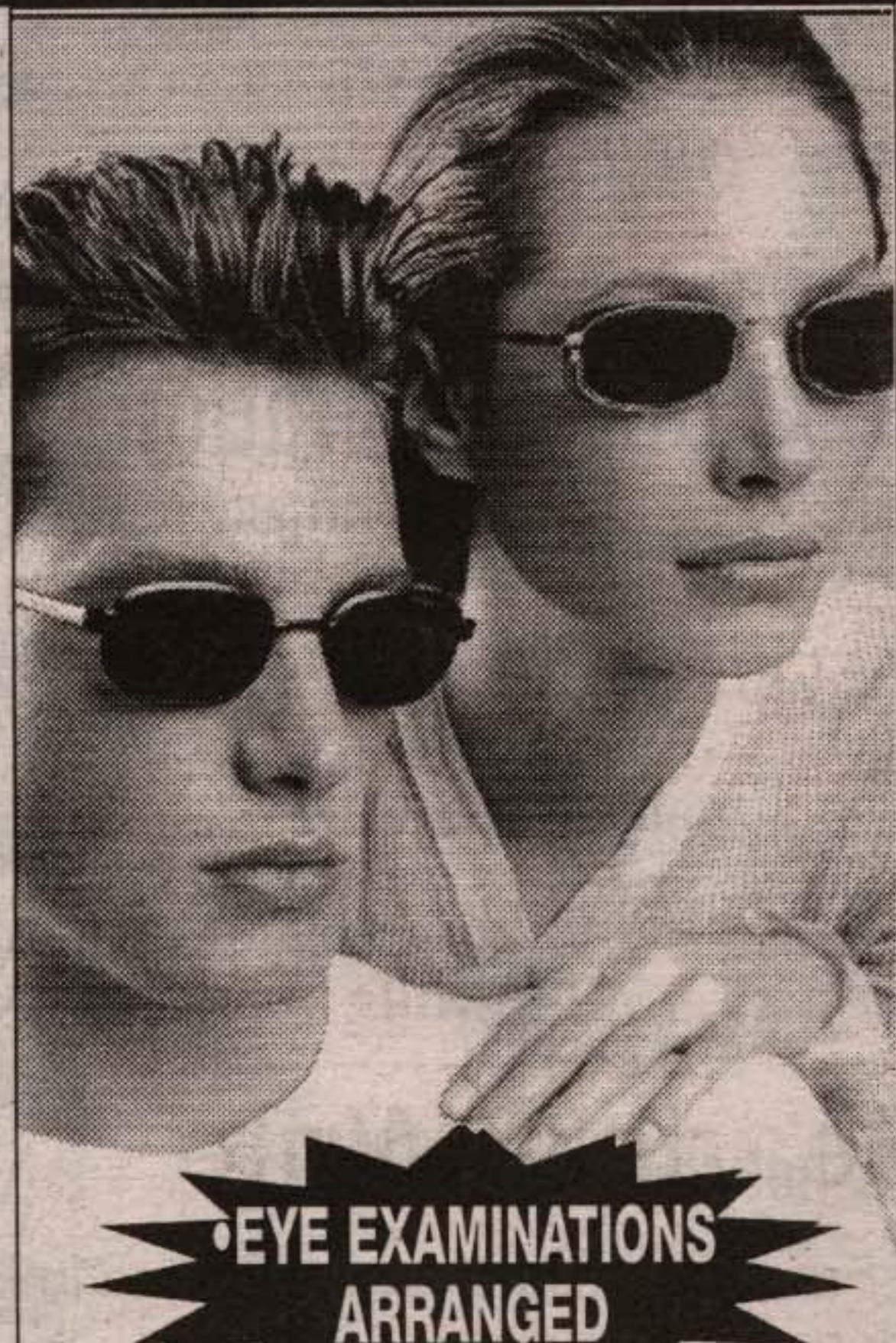
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