

# Don't block your out-takes!

If you're like most homeowners who have newer model high-efficiency furnaces, you probably don't know, or never think about, what those little vents that stick out of the outside wall of your house actually do. Well, they're actually pretty important — because they expel gases from those furnaces — and perhaps other fuel-burning appliances like your gas stove or clothes dryer, or your gas-fired water heater. (In older homes, these gases also get expelled through furnace flues or chimneys that go up to the roof of your house.)

And if, for some reason, those gases don't get blown out through your vents or chimneys, you've got a big problem.

Every winter, there are cases that occur in different parts of Canada where an individual, a couple, or a whole family either die or get severely injured by carbon monoxide poisoning. Why? Because, either from a heavy snowfall, shoveling or

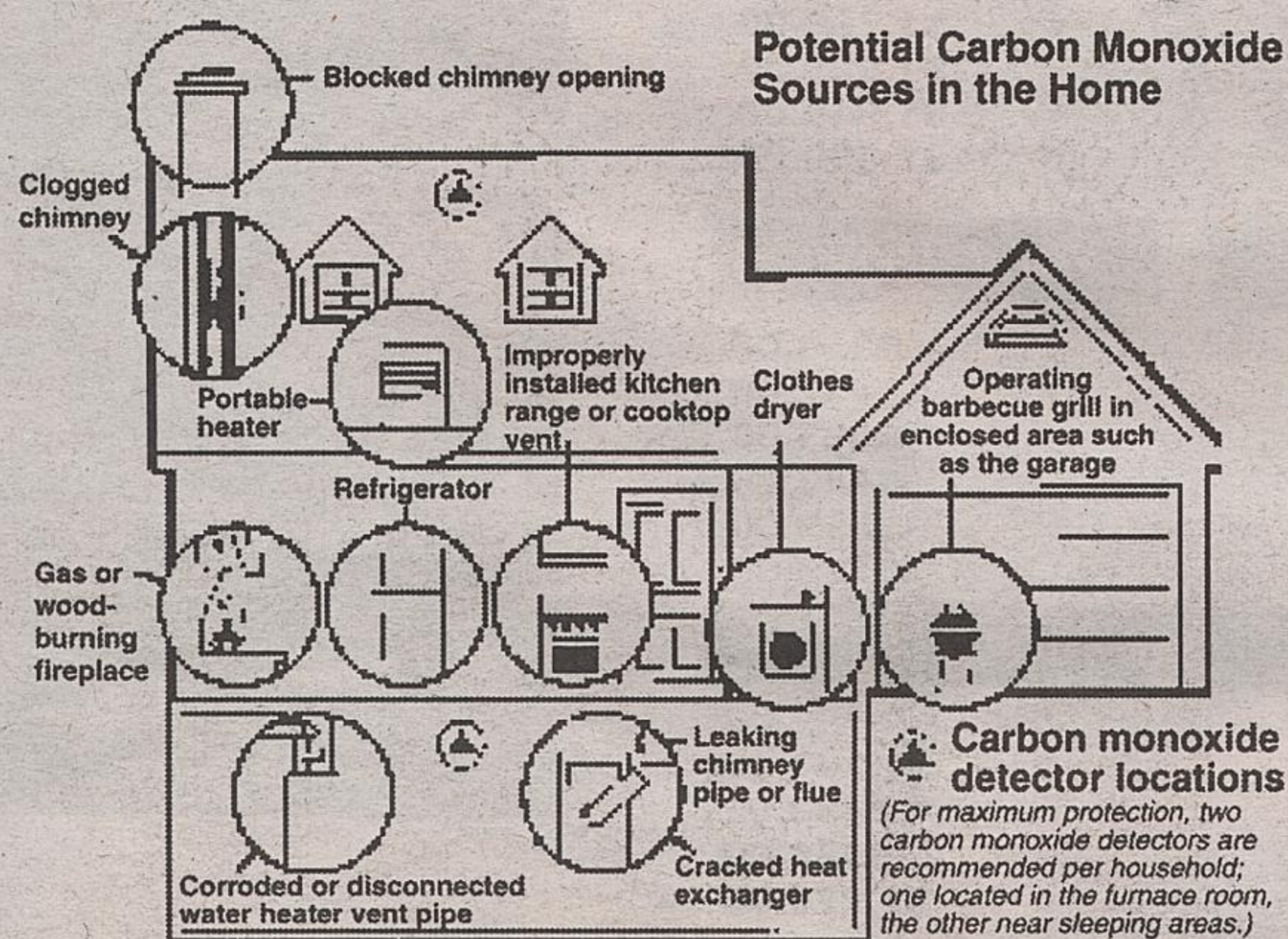
plowing snow over a few days, those "out-take" vents on the house get blocked and carbon monoxide gets trapped inside the house.

Depending on the amount of CO that stays indoors, people may quickly or gradually begin to feel nauseous, dizzy, drowsy, and headachy. Thinking they're coming down with flu, they'll probably lie down to rest. Too often, they never wake up, because CO kills. CO robs the blood system of oxygen, and essentially suffocates victims from inside their bodies.

It's not a pleasant thought. But it can be prevented in three ways. One, always have your fuel-burning appliances checked by a registered technician every year. Two, buy and install at least one, ULC-approved carbon monoxide detector for your home

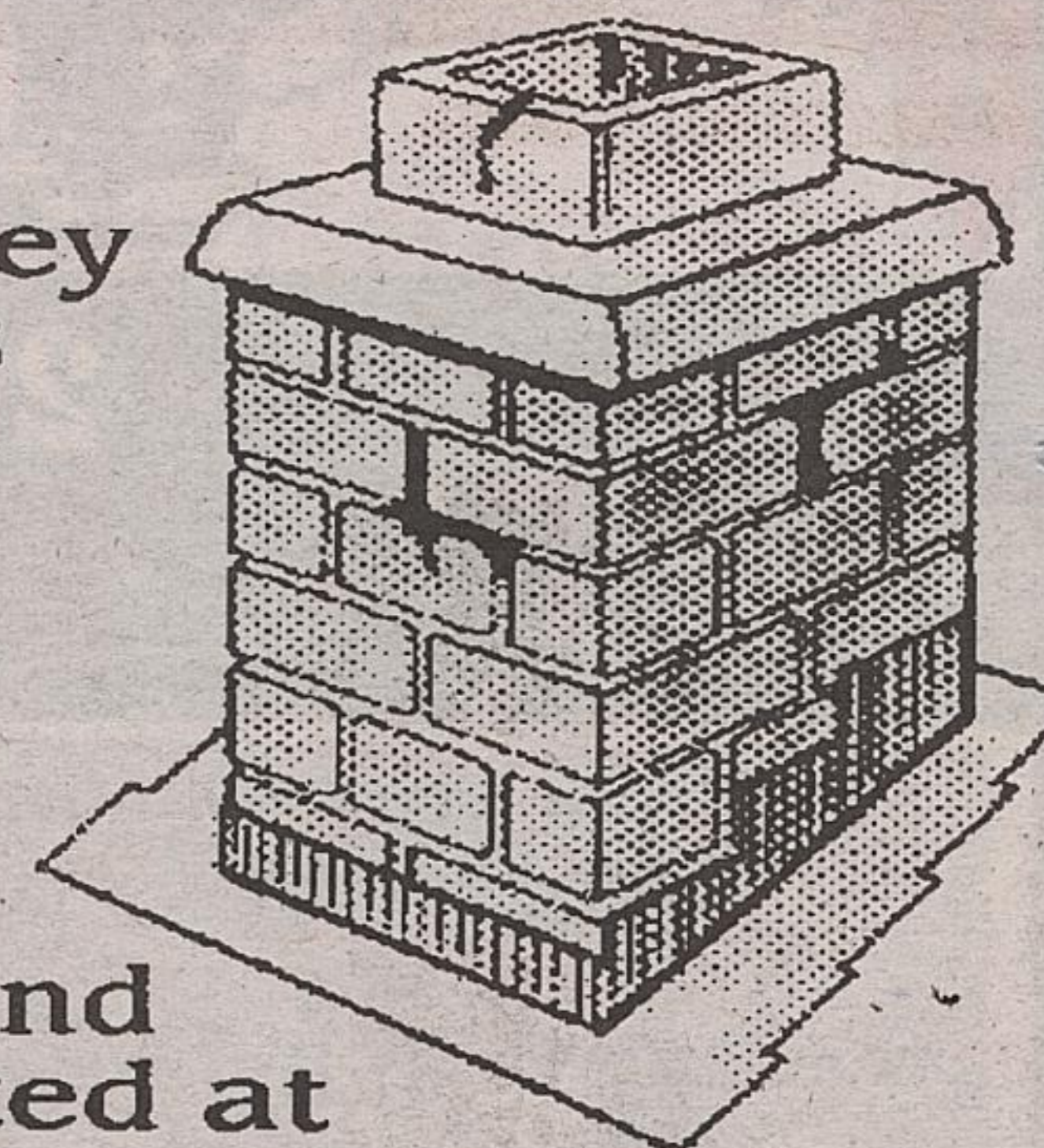
And three, make sure those out-take vents are open and unobstructed.

—News Canada



# CHECK YOUR CHIMNEY

Remember to check your chimney regularly for signs of corrosion or deterioration.



Have all chimneys cleaned and inspected at least once a year.



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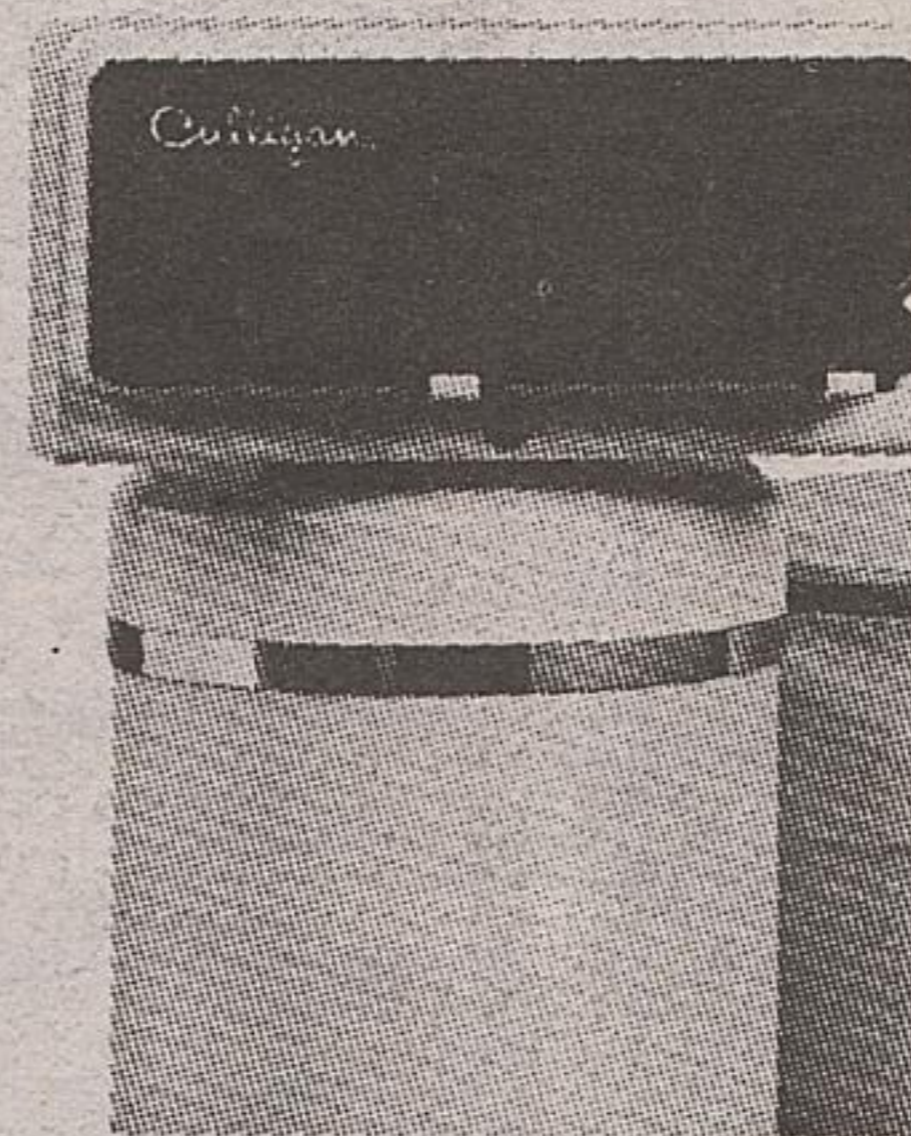
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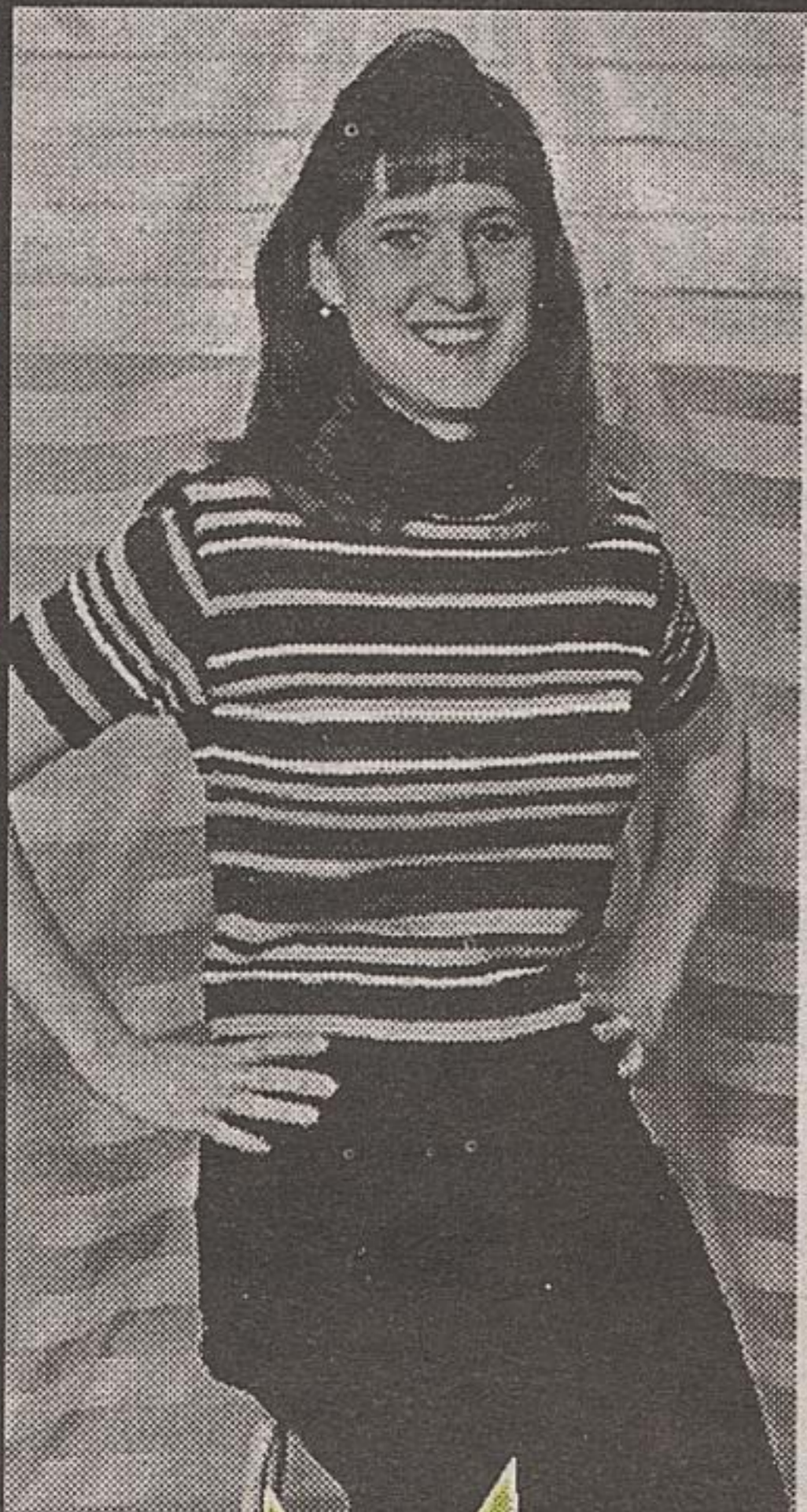
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