

# Threatened area wildlife gets new protection

By LISA CARTWRIGHT  
The Champion

The pignut hickory, the Virginia opossum and the orchard oriole are just a few of the species found in Milton that will be protected under the Species at Risk Act (SARA) introduced by the federal government in mid-December.

"There are hundreds of names of plants, animals and birds that are at risk (in this area)," said Gary Hutton, director of marketing and communication for

Conservation Halton.

And in most cases, species are at risk because their habitat is being destroyed.

"Habitat loss is the number one problem for over 80 per cent of Canadian species at risk of extinction," said Dr. Pete Ewins of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

"To protect a bird's nest or a grizzly bear's den but not its feeding, staging or wintering habit is simply not sufficient to provide effective protection."

And this is where the SARA succeeds where other  
• see NEW on page 14

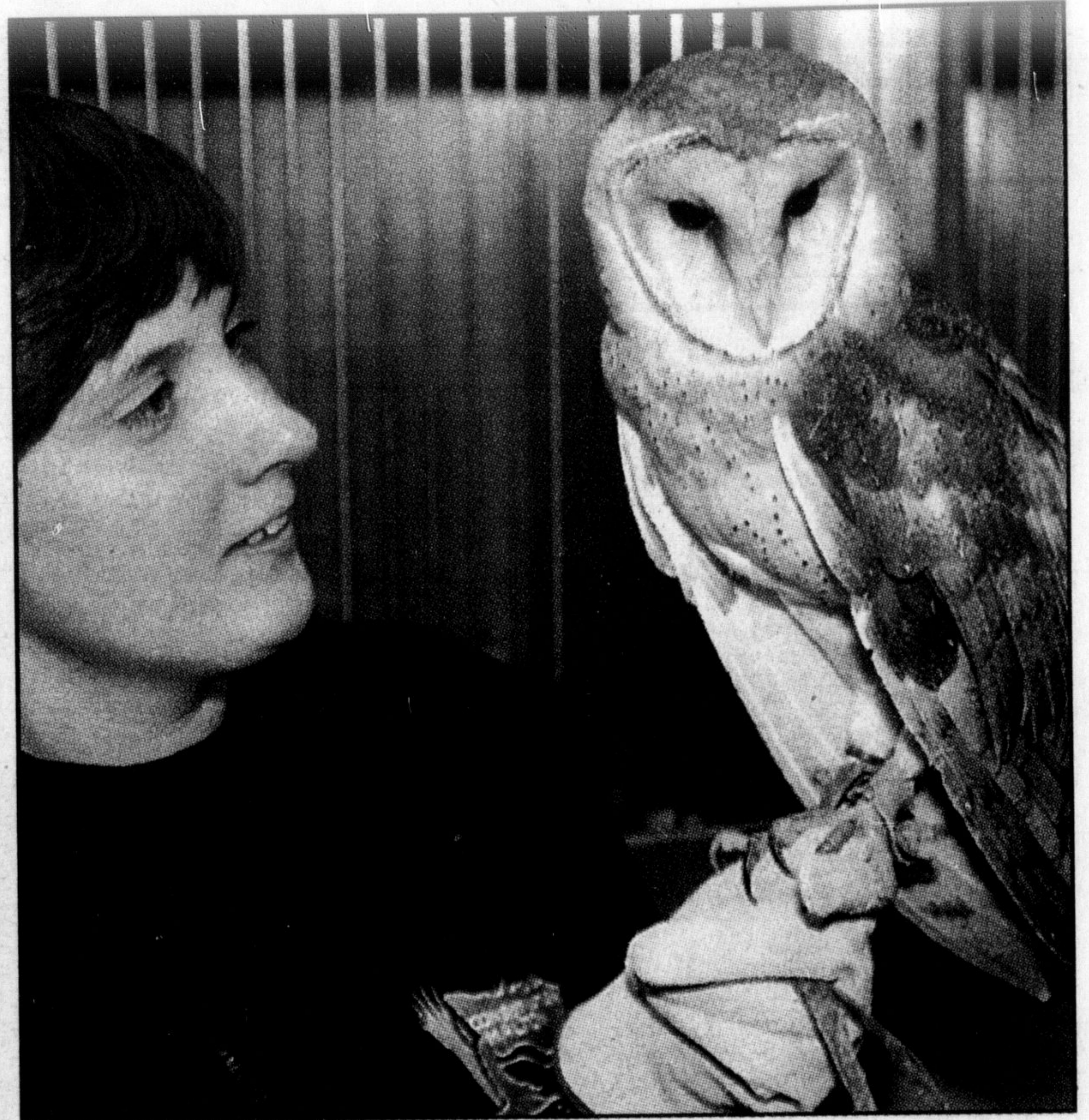


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Sandra Metzger of Mountsberg Wildlife Centre holds Gwen, a four-year-old barn owl. The species has been added to the Ontario endangered list.

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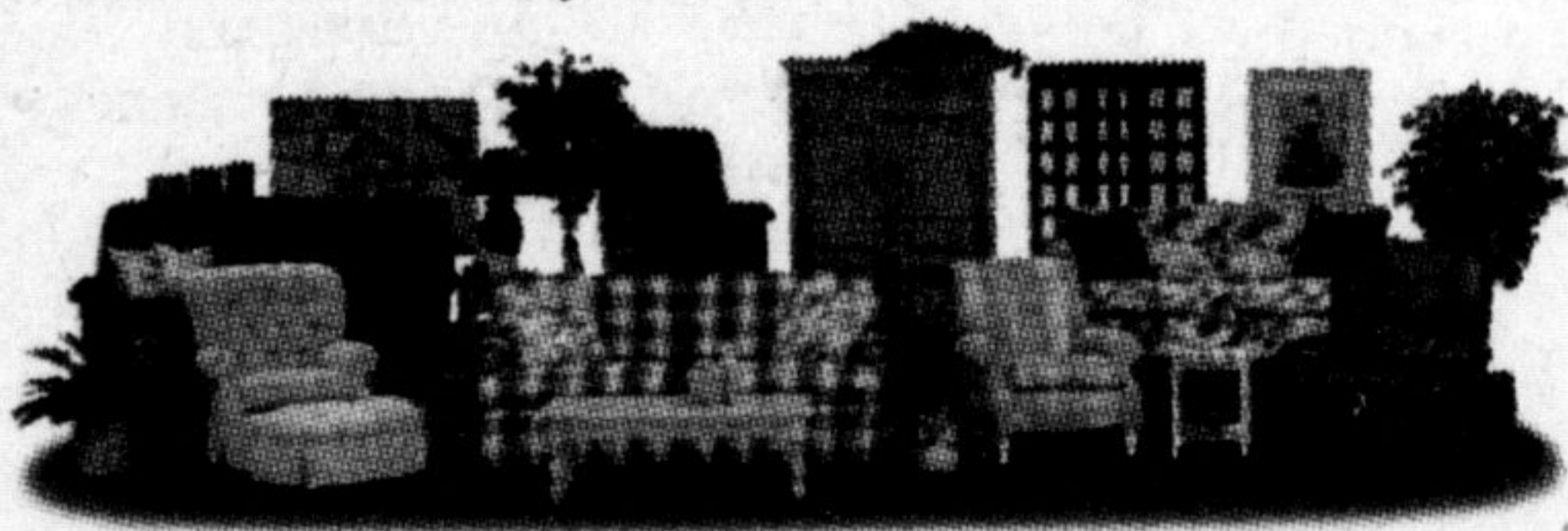
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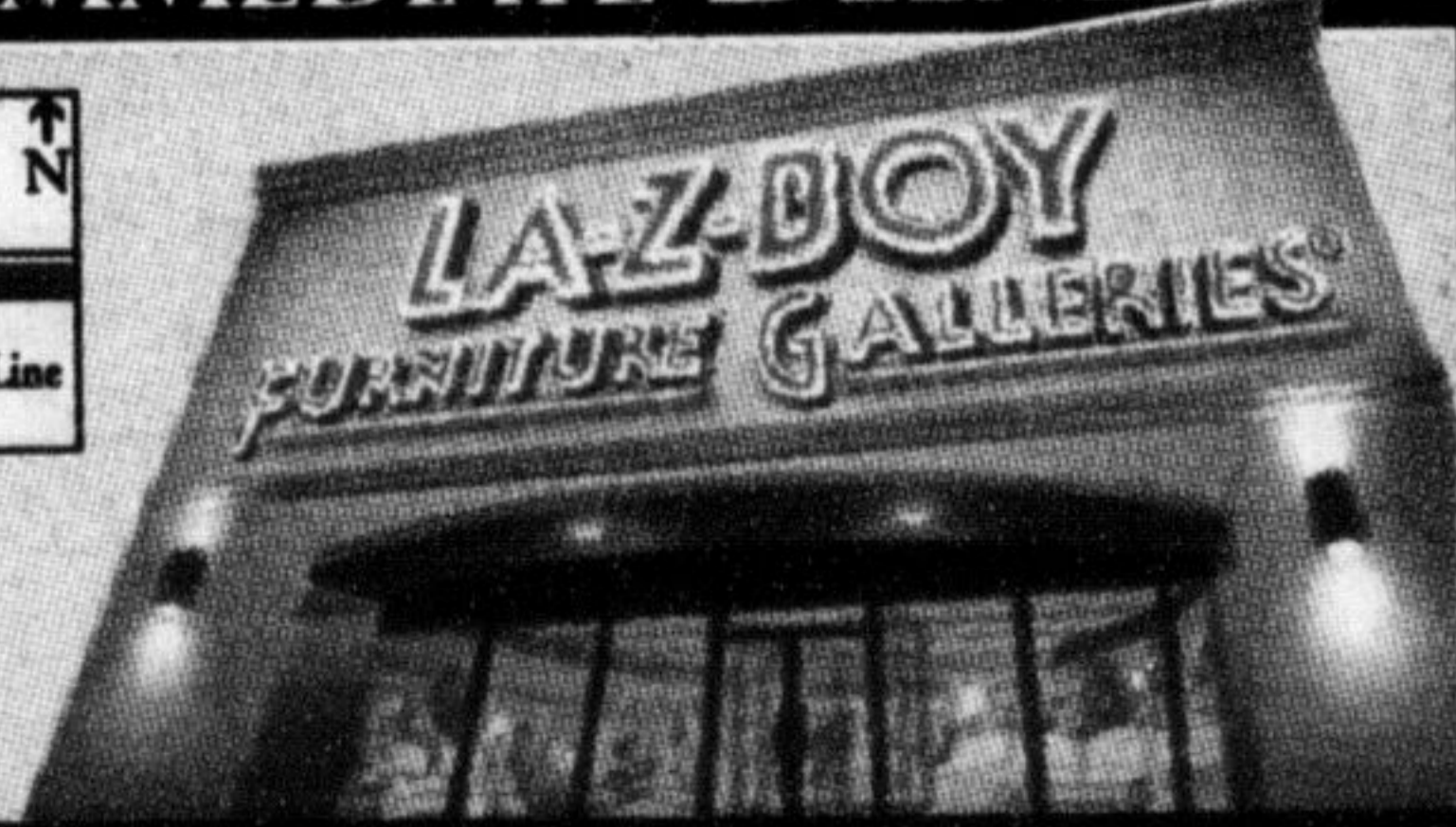
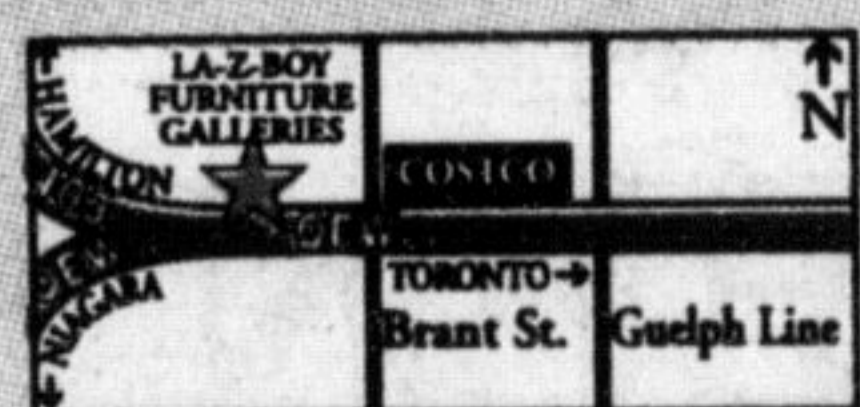
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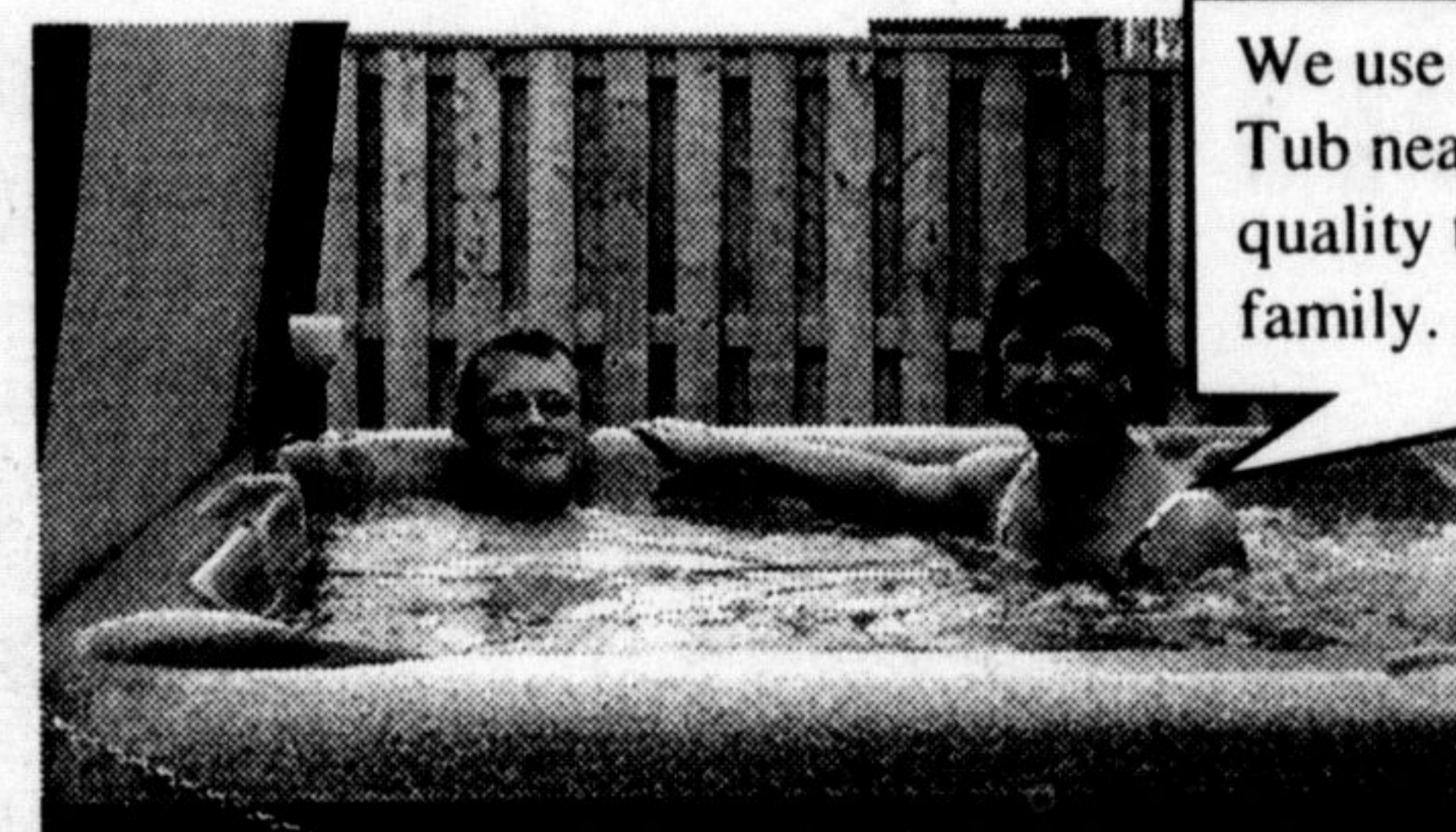
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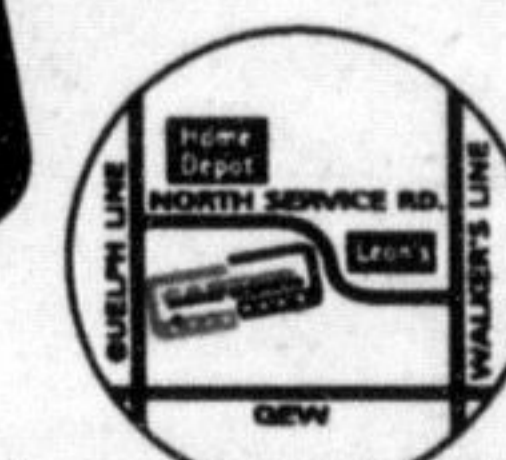
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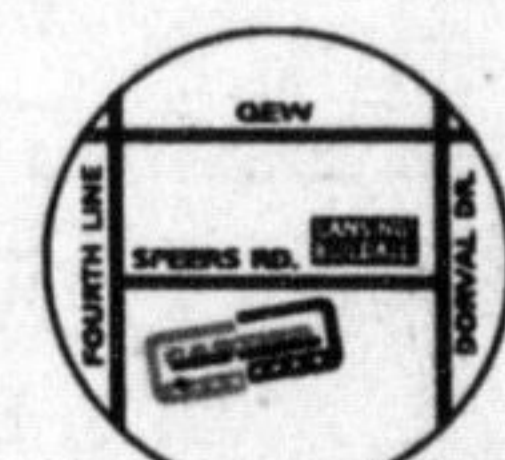
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