

Ceremony will remember man who took his own life

Fund aimed at bringing psychiatric services to Milton hospital needs support

By **FANNIE SUNSHINE**
The Champion

Gina Sonsogno doesn't want others to suffer the way her son did.

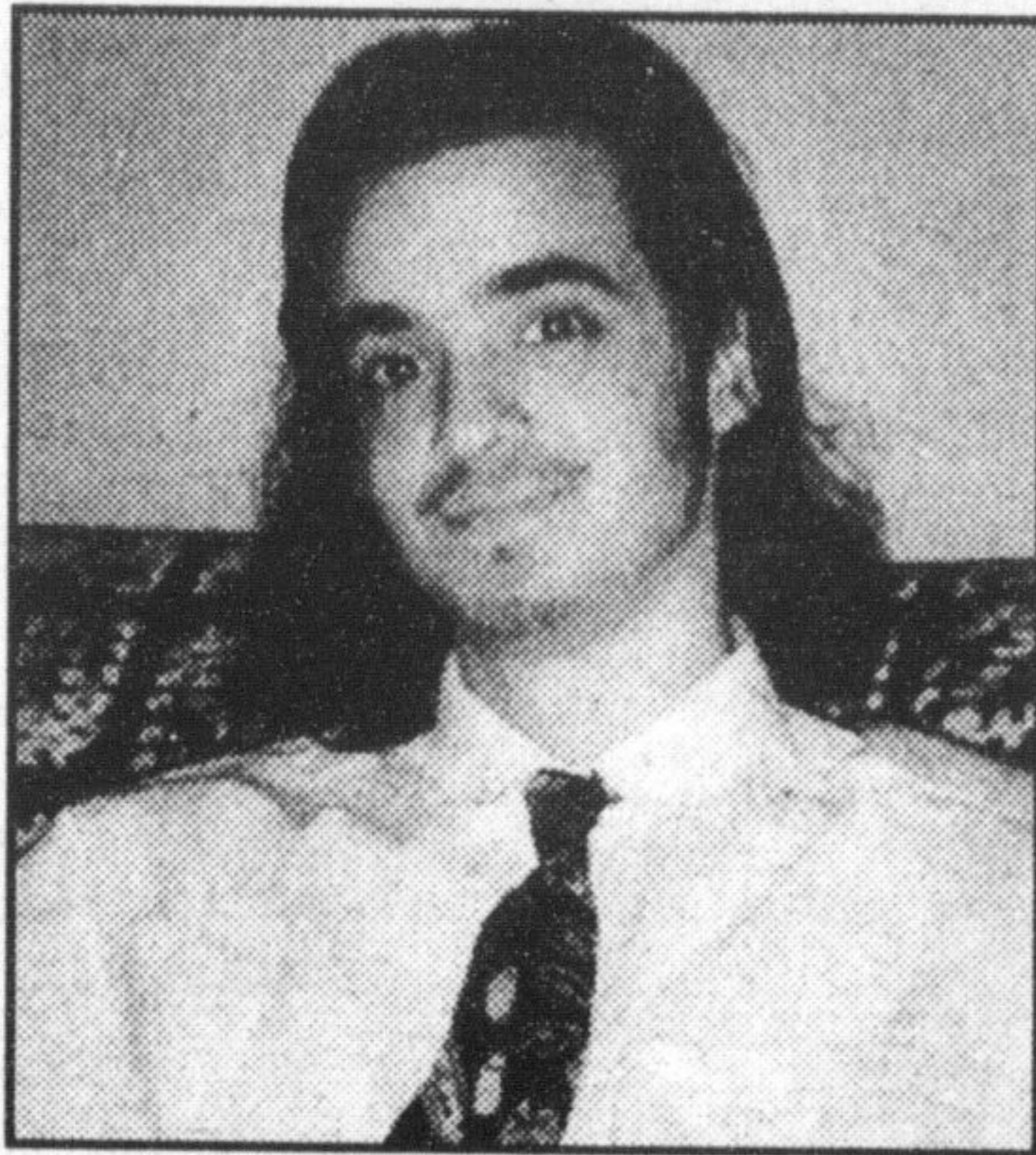
"I'm trying to go outwards instead of inwards," she said.

Her son, Orlando Sonsogno, sadly hung himself at the railway trestle at Rotary Park May 24 of last year at the age of 23.

In their son's memory, the Sonsognos have set up the Orlando Sonsogno Trust Fund with Halton Healthcare Services (HHS), with proceeds aimed at eventually bringing an in-patient psychiatric ward to Milton District Hospital.

Currently, in-patient, on-site psychiatric services are located at Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital and anyone who arrives at Milton hospital in crisis is transferred there.

"The fund has over \$500 now,"



The parents of Orlando Sonsogno hope to see the addition of a psychiatric ward at Milton hospital for those in crisis. A fund was created in the name of their son to raise money for the cause.

Ms Sonsogno said. "We need (a psychiatric facility) here as the town is growing."

On Thursday, the one-year anniversary of Orlando's death, the Sonsognos along with close friends and family will gather at the railway tracks at Rotary Park to place a plaque with Orlando's name inscribed on the wooden beam where he took his life.

The family will then attend a special ceremony on the grounds of Milton District Hospital where they will plant a red Maple Tree.

Hospital staff will later place a plaque in the hospital in memory of Orlando.

"Every year I want to add to the tree," Ms Sonsogno said. "Maybe add a bench next year for people who are having coffee or waiting for an operation."

To contribute to the trust fund, call Cindy McDonell at Milton hospital at (905) 876-7027.

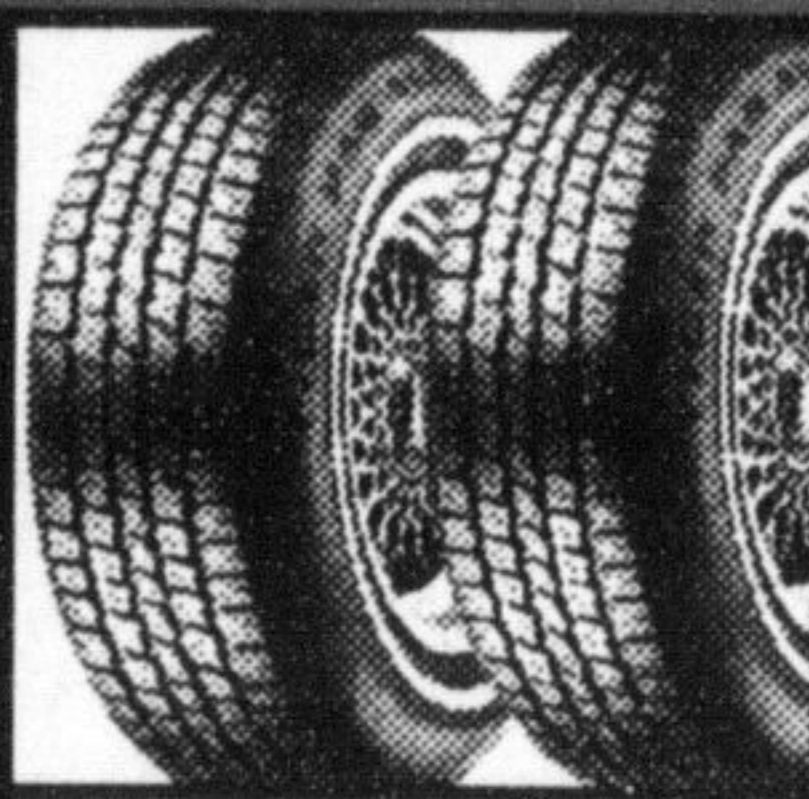
Cheques should be made out to the Milton District Hospital Foundation (Orlando Sonsogno Trust Fund).

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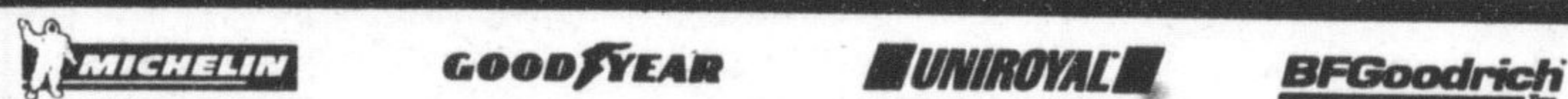
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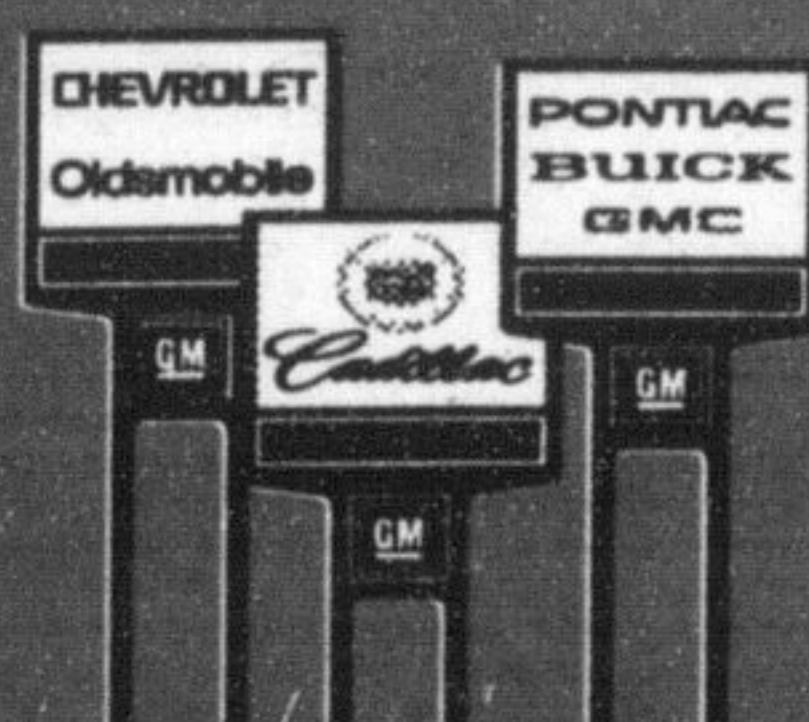
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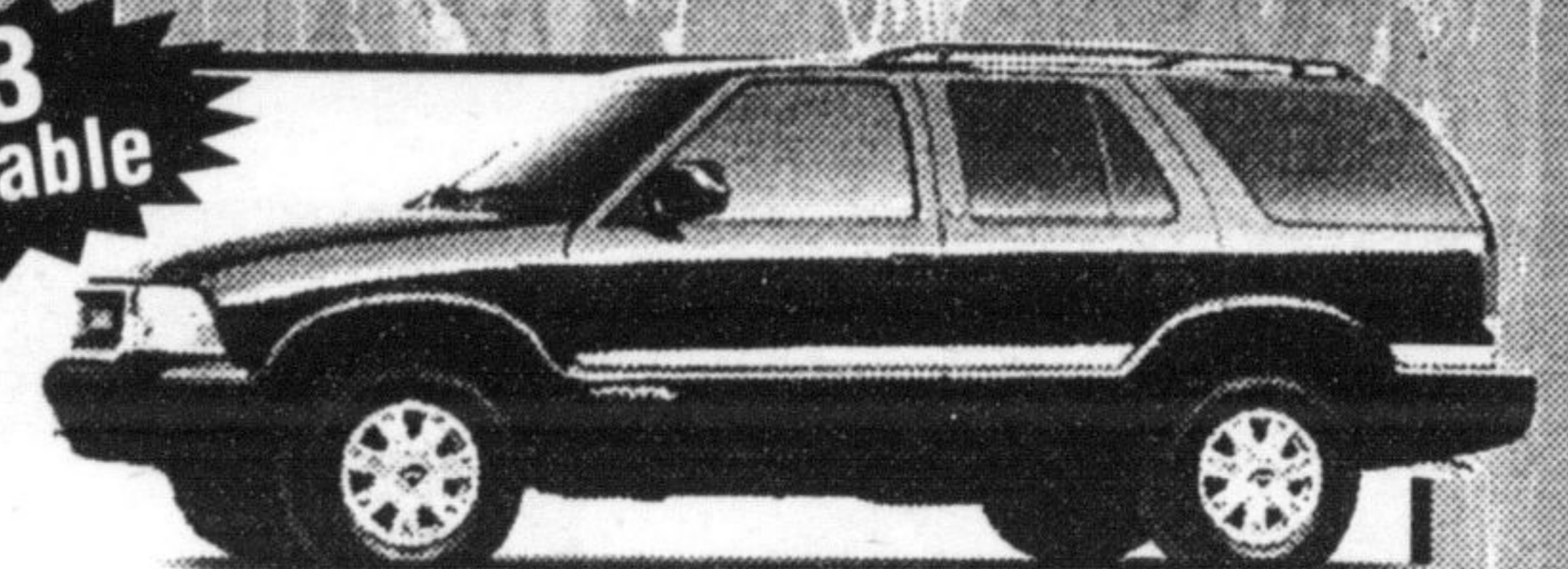
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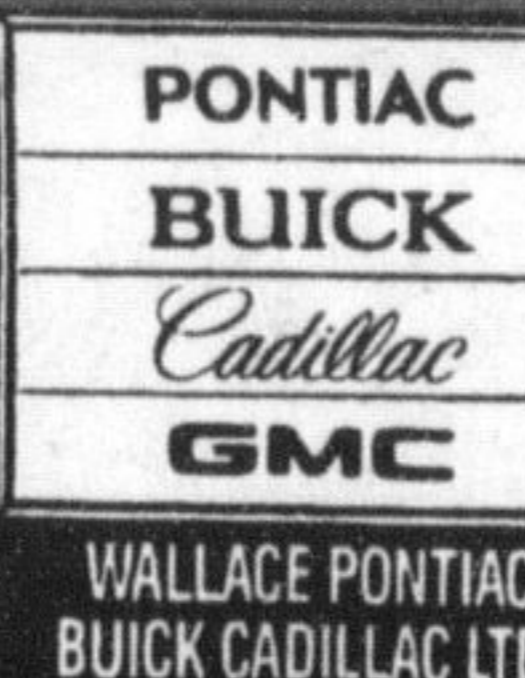
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