

# I can't help but feel a little guilty sometimes

I'm so ashamed. Here I was having an emergency double tooth extraction earlier this week and right in the middle of it I asked if I could hold onto a teddy bear that was sitting in the dentist's office.

I don't know what came over me. All I know is that I was desperate to get my hands on that furry fellow and have him comfort me while I was being worked over in the dental chair.

The dental assistant laughed and said that they would promise not to tell anybody, but I think they thought I was joking because they never did hand me that cuddly bear.

I wasn't joking, but I would have been even more ashamed had I actually got it. And I doubt they'd keep their promise not to tell anybody about the overgrown man who needed a teddy bear to help him through his dental visit. I'd tell, even if I said I wouldn't.

My dentist is the greatest. For some reason, one word out of his mouth and I start to feel calmer, even without the teddy bear. But, here's the thing, and I don't know why this is so, but I feel as if I've let him down because I haven't taken care of my teeth properly. I don't imagine he could care less because he has hundreds of patients, but I still get that feeling of guilt.

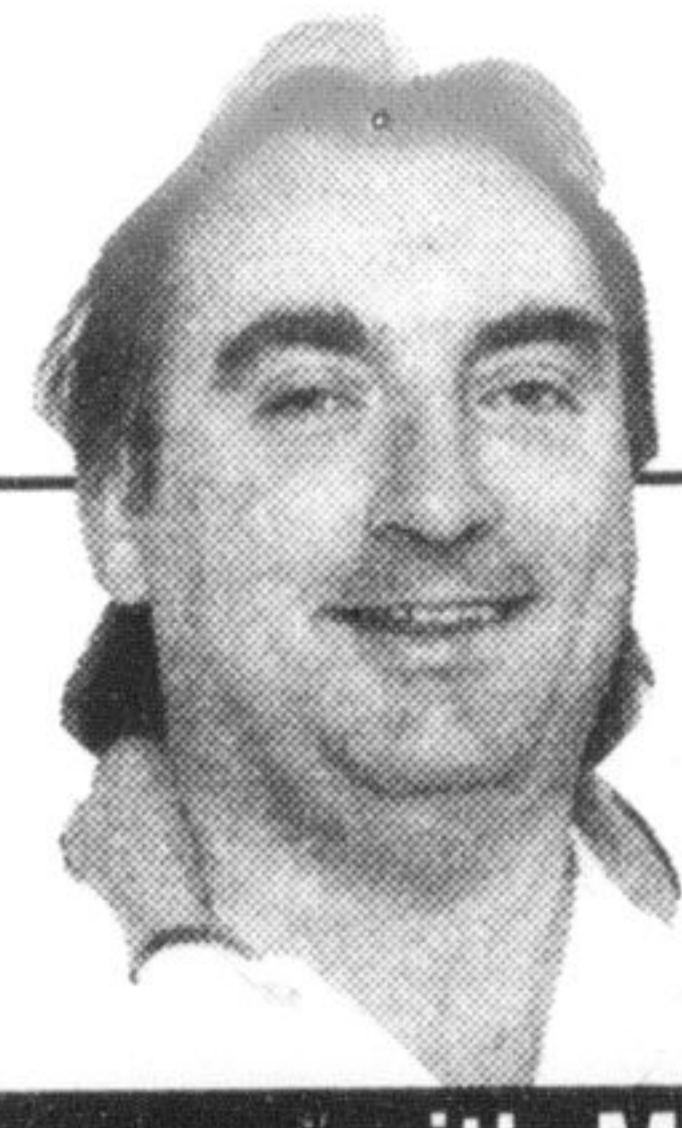
I notice that with other things, too. For example, when I go to the library and have to walk through the beeper thing with my books. The beeper sometimes goes off for whatever reason and right away I want to crawl up in a corner. "Hey kids, look at that criminal over there. That's what a criminal looks like. He's one of those book stealers!"

It's traumatic, and just how many people steal books they can get for free, anyway? It's the same when I go to a bank machine and it's being tended to by people from an armoured car. I just want to throw

my hands up in the air and assume the position just so they don't think I might be thinking about how nice it would be to have all that money in the back of their truck.

The only thing I actually ever did steal was a Roman Nougat bar when I was a little kid. My friends told me it was easy, but they didn't explain the guilt I'd have to live with for 35 years afterward. I even went back later and stuck a nickel on the shelves where the Roman Nougat bars were.

You sometimes hear about good old Catholic guilt. Since I grew up Catholic



## On the loose

with MURRAY TOWNSEND

there might be something to that. Every bad thing you did was like opening the door to hell.

I mean who wants to increase their chances of going to hell? Back then, stealing that Roman Nougat bar just about sealed my fate as far as I was concerned. How could I carry on? It's a good thing we had confession because I spent a lot of time there as a kid just trying to get back to a level playing field in the battle between heaven and hell.

I've often wondered what I would do if I found bags of money in the wilderness or a huge sum was mistakenly deposited into my account. I'm sure I would tell the bank

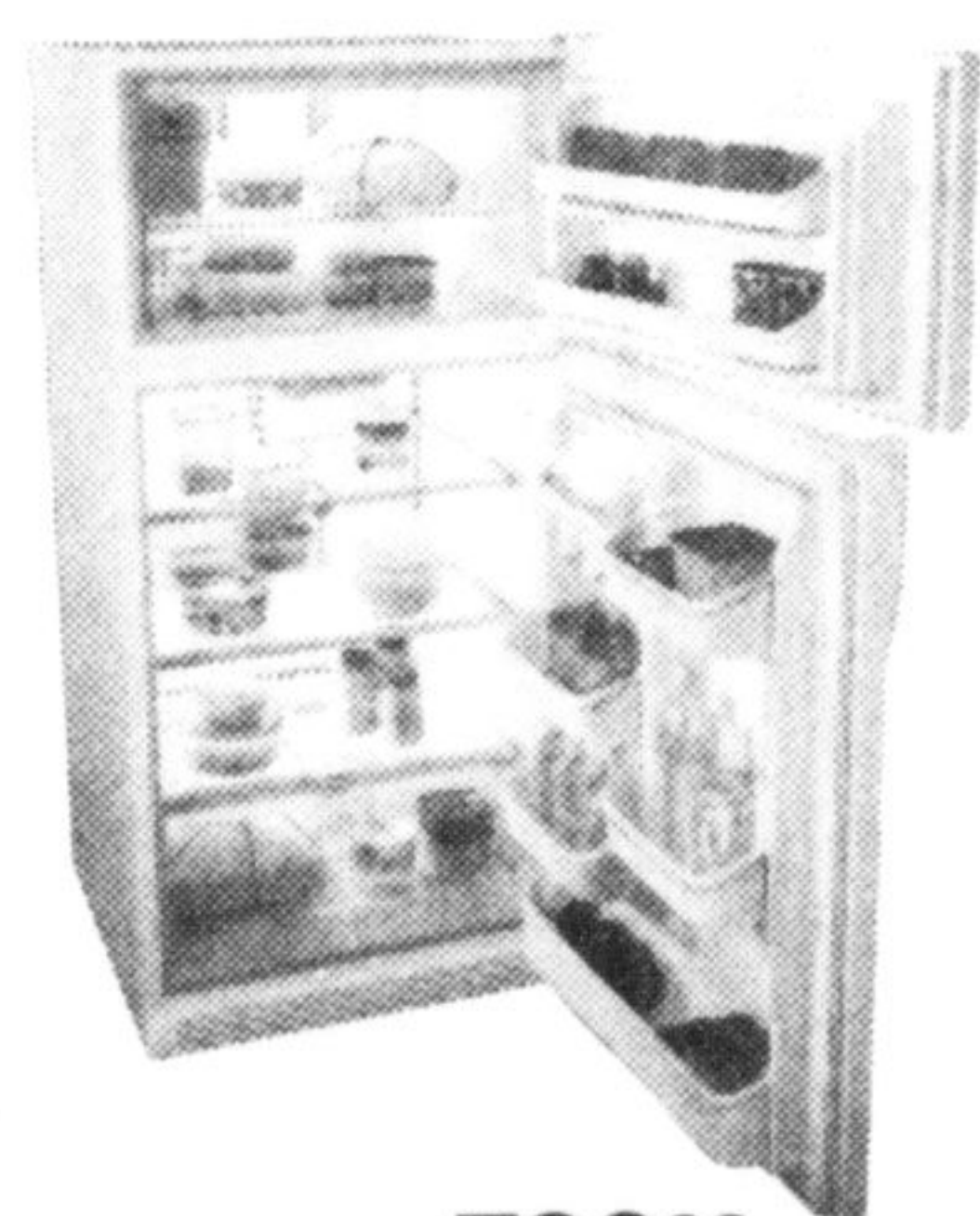
• see WE on page 10

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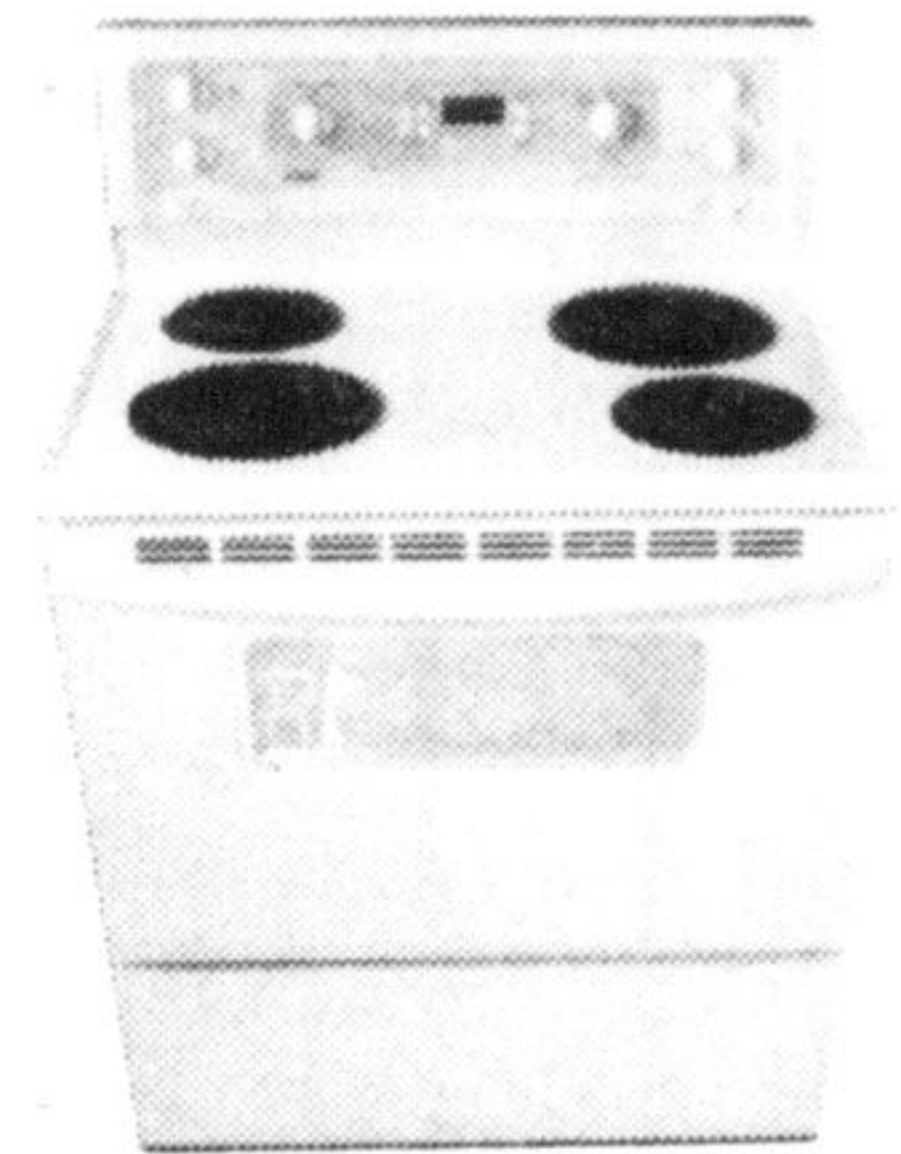
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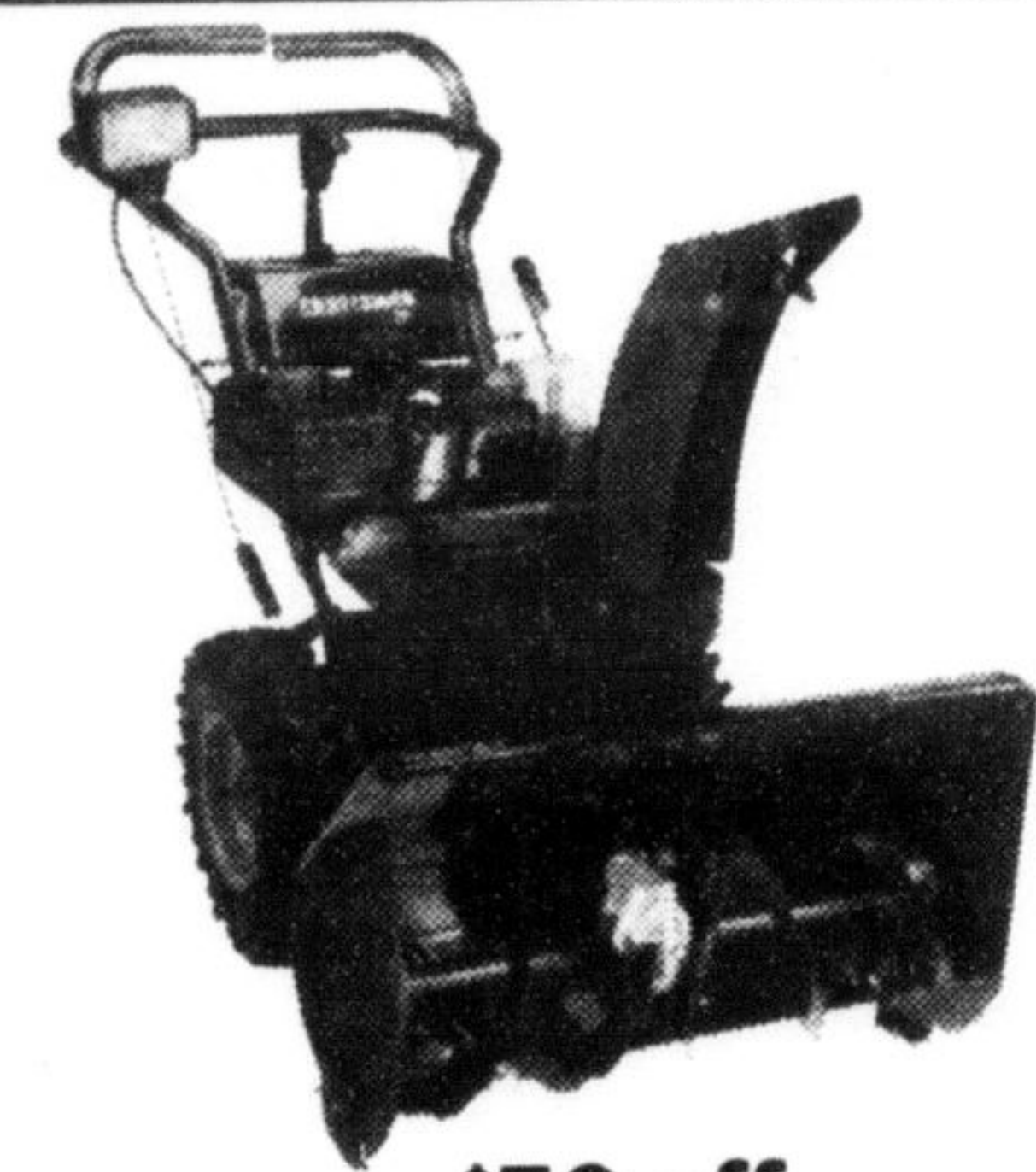
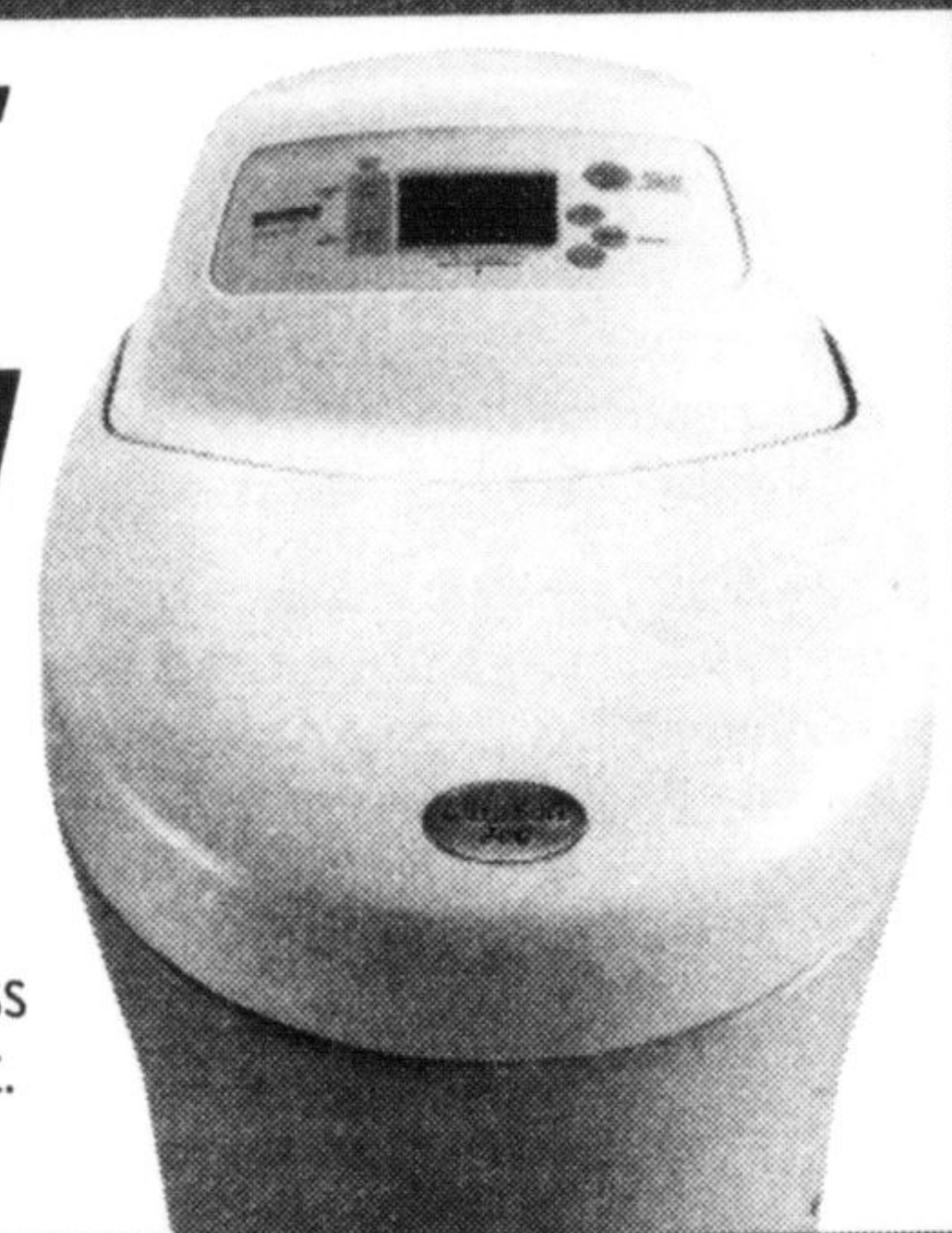
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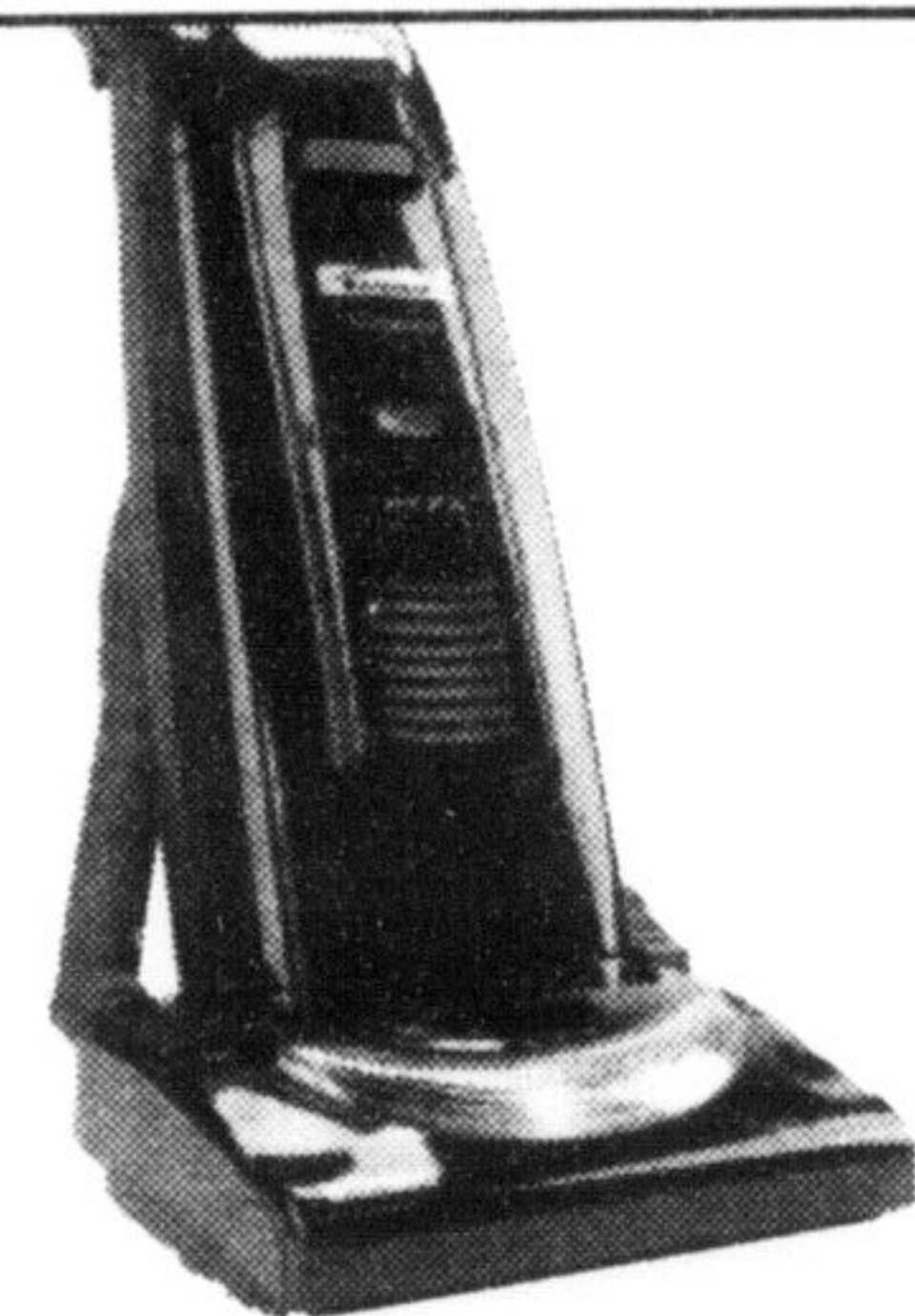
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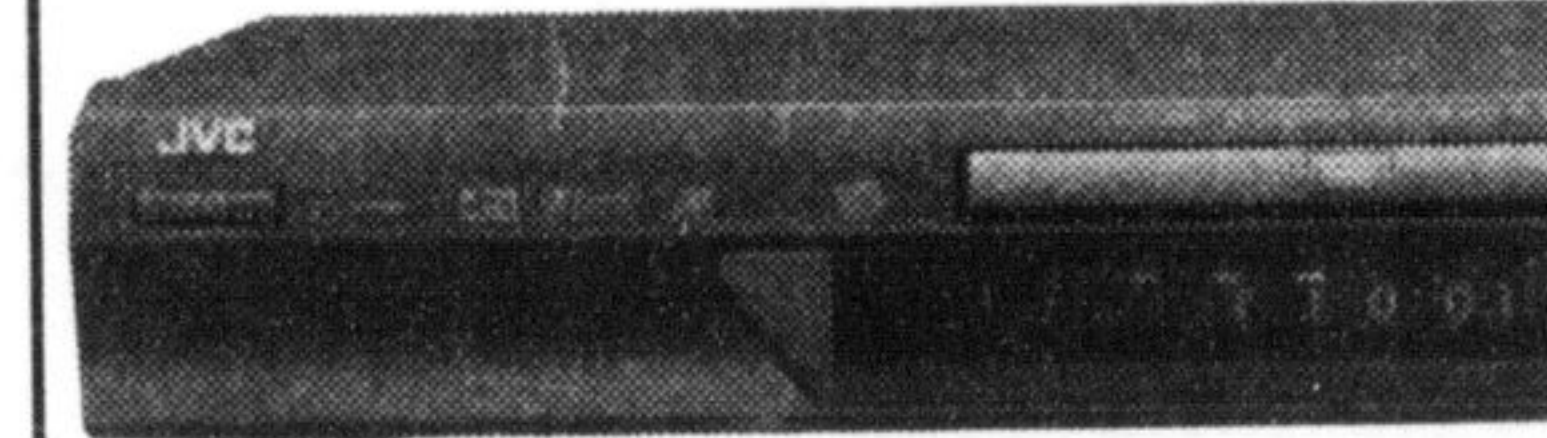
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## OPEN HOUSES THIS WEEKEND

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**CHURCHILL ESTATES**  
**BROOKVILLE - GUELPH LINE**  
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**\$499,000** ALL 1 1/2 ACRE LOTS  
**GARY THOMAS** in attendance  
 Re/Max Blue Springs 905-878-7777  
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**Sat. September 21, 1-3 pm**  
**Mainstreet Village,**  
**1076 Hatton Crossing**  
**Patrick Batty** in attendance

**Sun., September 22, 2-4 pm**  
**26 Prince Street**  
**Dorota Wozniak** in attendance

**Sun. September 22, 1-4 pm**  
**15 Peru Road**  
**\$199,900**  
**Carole D. Budworth** in attendance

Please join Jack McCrudden at 721 Laurier in Milton on Sunday, Sept. 22/02 between 2-4pm to view this attractive 3+ bedroom family home. Asking price \$242,900



**Sun., September 22, 11:30-4:30 pm**  
**110 Glenarriff Dr., Antrim Glen, Freelon**  
**Alan McDonald** in attendance  
 Location: 6km west of Hwy 6 on Flamborough 8th Conc. west

**Sun., September 22, 2-4 pm**  
**2208 Grand Blvd,**  
**\$649,000**

**Ed Wrobel & Sylvia Burse** in attendance  
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