

Home & GARDEN LAWN & GARDEN

Trends in Outdoor Living Comfort meets function in patio and deck décor

(NC)—Nothing cheers the soul more than spring. Buds unfold, the mercury begins its tentative rise, the air smells sweet and green and it's the perfect time to rethink your outdoor living space.

"For many families, the backyard patio or deck is the preferred gathering place in warm weather months. Much like inside the home, comfort and functionality are essential," says Simon Rodrigue, an outdoor living specialist at The Home Depot Canada. "Creating a cozy sanctuary is key when it comes to interior design and we should treat our outdoor retreats in the same way."

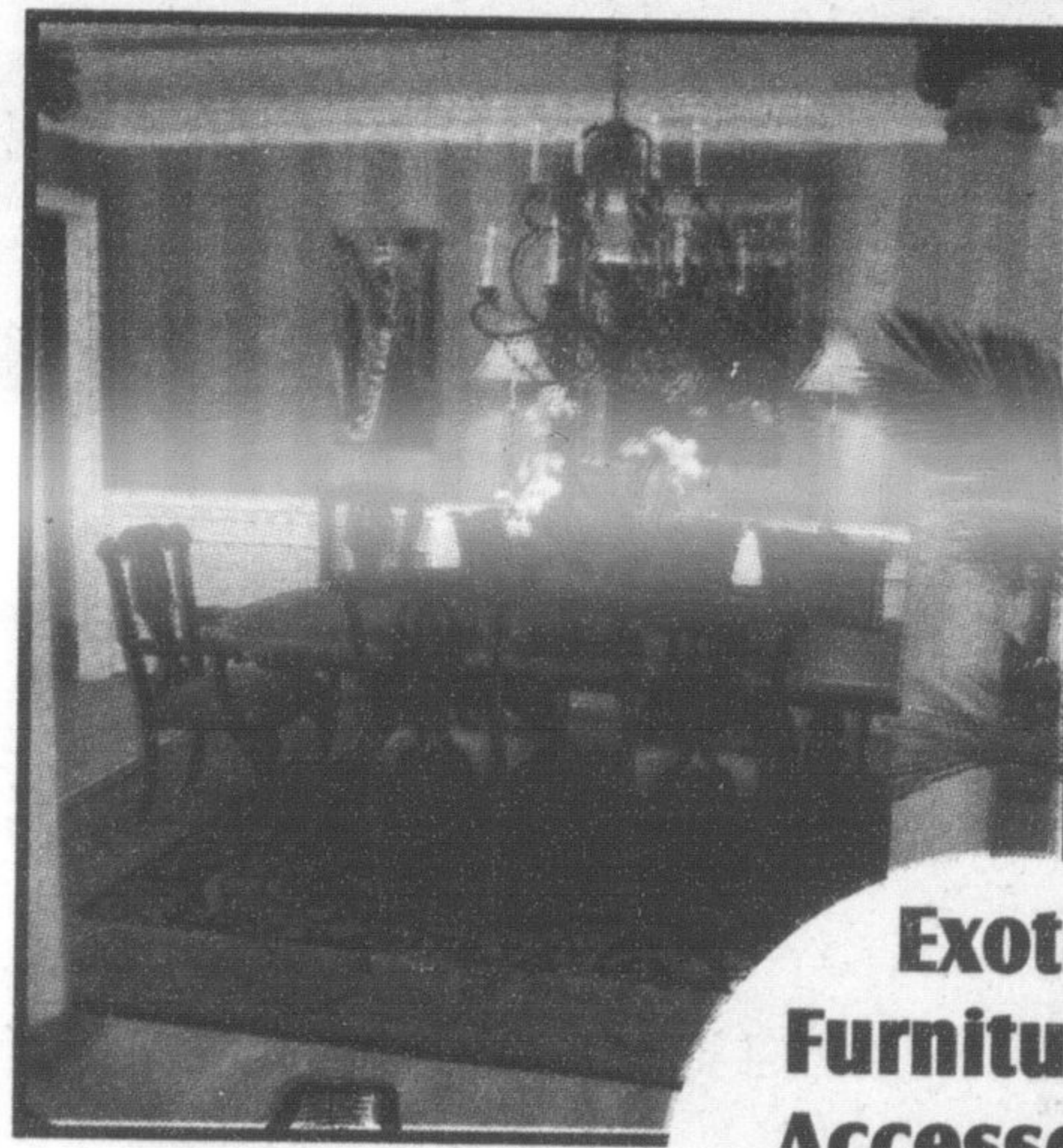
The trend toward creating functional outdoor living spaces is indeed on the rise as Canadians spend more and more of the leisure time on backyard decks and patios.

The desire for efficient, well-designed outdoor living spaces has led to an abundance of new products designed just for deck or patio use. From bar carts and chaise lounges to sling-back chairs and bench seats, the options available in patio furniture have increased dramatically. Today's outdoor lighting is also more fashionable, with a variety of styles and finishes to choose from, and the latest grills are designed with multiple options making it possible to cook an entire meal alfresco.

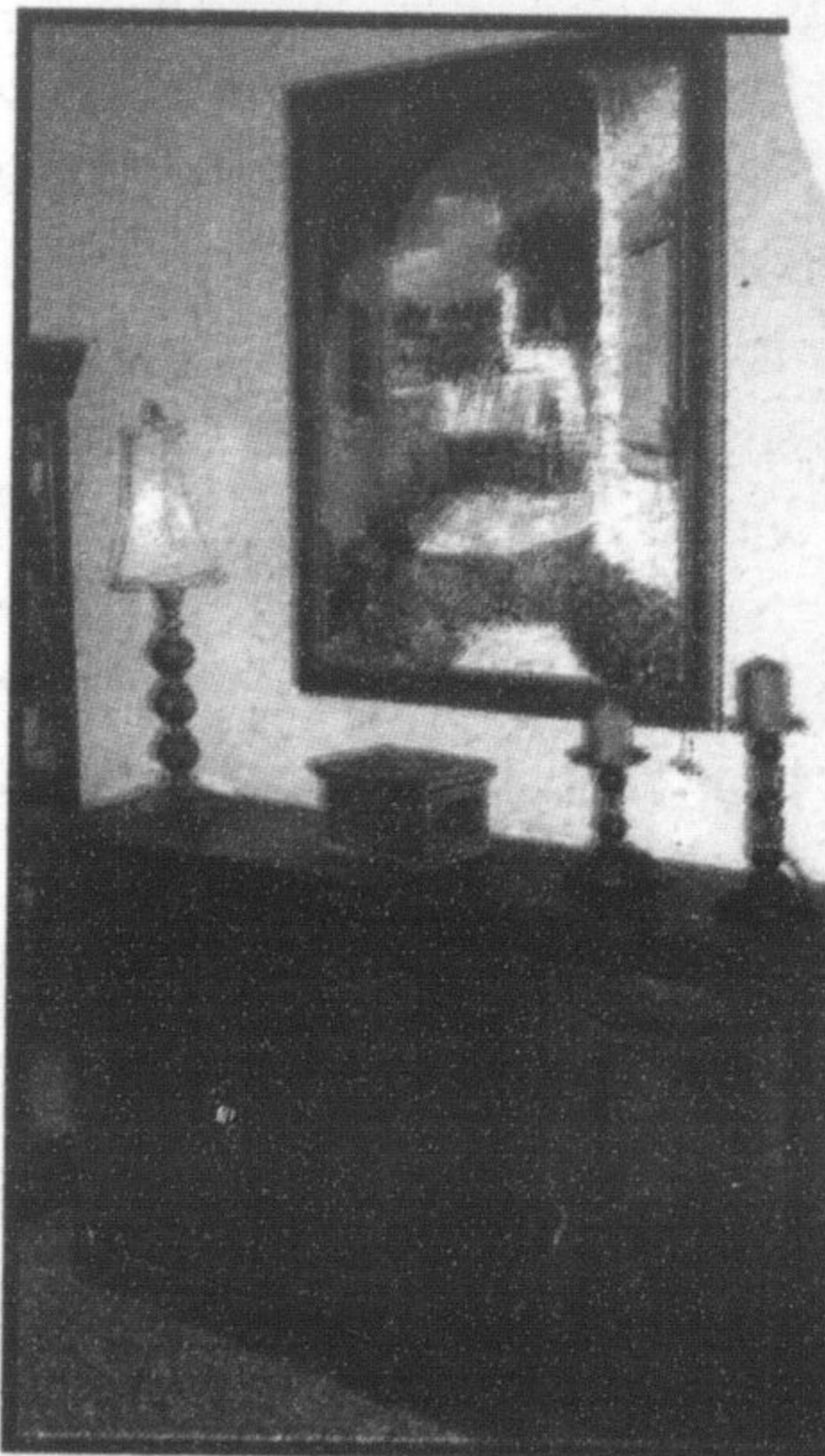
As decks and patios take on new prominence in everyday family life, Rodrigue suggests decorating your outdoor space to make it as appealing to the

eye as it is functional. There should be a seamless transition from the inside of your home to the outside deck or patio area, he says. If your decorating style is traditional, then you will most likely want to carry that same theme to your exterior living space.

No matter if your outdoor space is modest or grand, a few stylish, functional updates will help you enjoy your backyard deck or patio throughout the spring, summer and fall.



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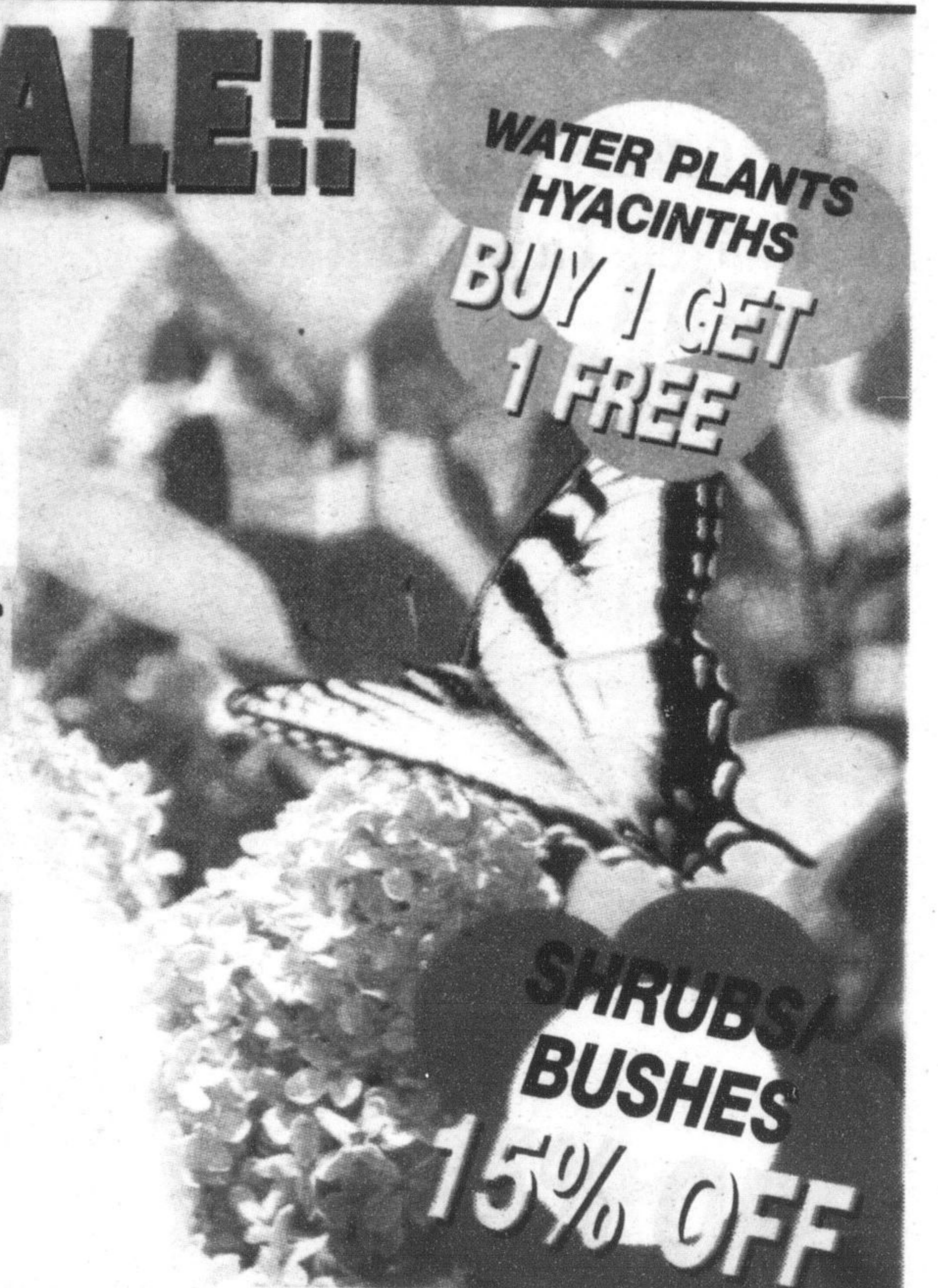
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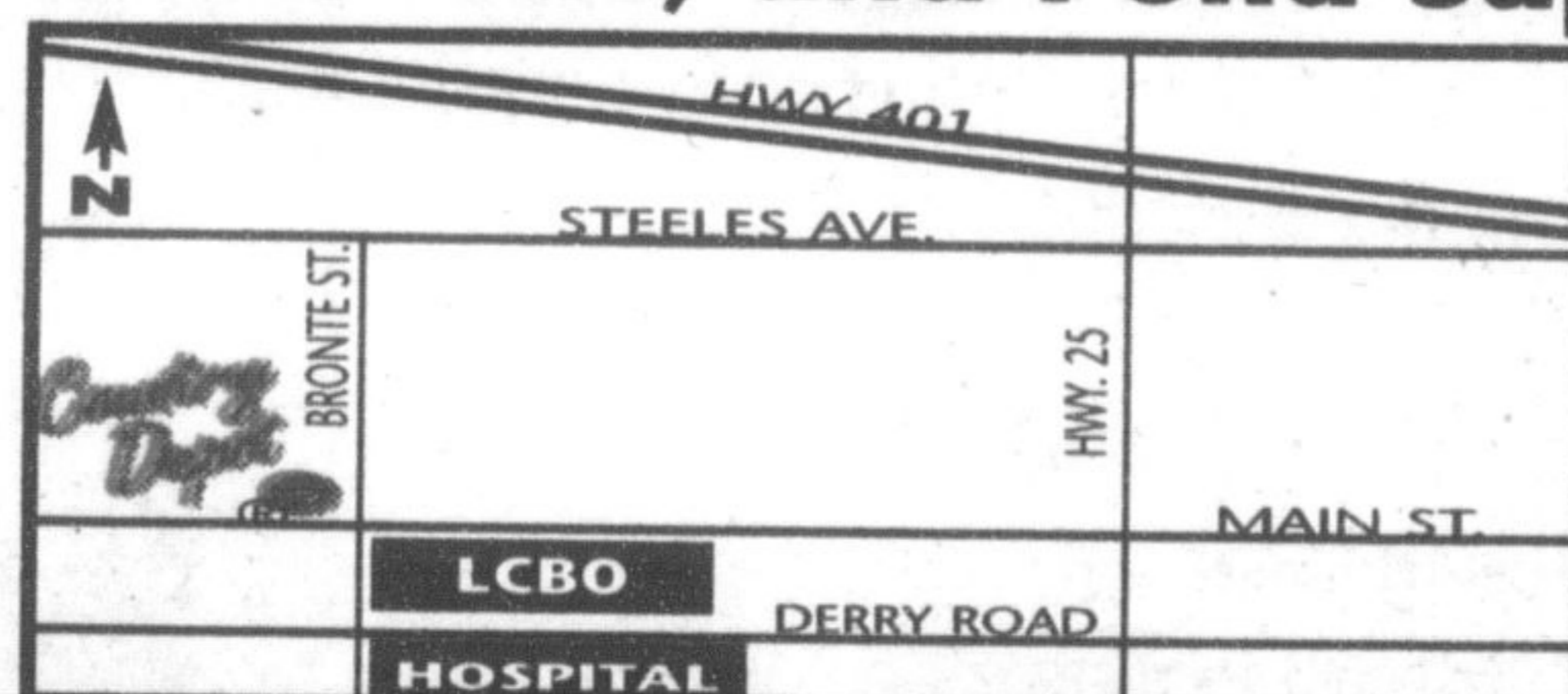


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