

Watch for signs of child abuse

Mayor Gord Krantz has declared October Child Abuse Awareness Month in Milton, and residents are being urged to keep a careful watch for signs of child abuse.

"People often turn a blind eye to child abuse, not because they don't care, but because they're uncomfortable with it, or unsure what to do," said Amy Obendorfer, provincial co-ordinator for RespectED.

RespectED is a Red Cross service that provides education and training aimed at preventing neglect and physical, emotional and sexual abuse.

Ms Obendorfer said child abuse can be a well-kept secret, but often witnesses ignore what they've seen or heard. Unfortunately, this can have devastating consequences.

"The truth is, as adults, we have more than a moral obligation to protect children. If we suspect a child or youth is in danger, we have a legal responsibility to do some-

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AMY OBENDORFER

thing," she said.

Anyone who suspects a young person is being mistreated should report it to the police or Halton Children's Aid Society at (905) 333-4441. Call 911 if the young person's in immediate danger.

There are times when intervention may be appropriate, especially if the people involved are known.

"One possibility is to simply try defusing

the situation by saying you understand the person is stressed, and offering to help so they can take a break and calm down," Ms Obendorfer said, adding if it's believed there's ongoing physical, sexual or emotional abuse happening, it must be reported.

People are often reluctant to report something because they can't prove abuse is happening, Ms Obendorfer said, adding they shouldn't be.

"It's not the witness's job to prove anything. There are people trained to conduct an investigation and determine if there is abuse happening, and how to handle it," she said. "I don't want to get involved' and 'It's a private matter' are no longer acceptable excuses for ignoring a child or youth in need."

For more information, visit www.red-cross.ca.

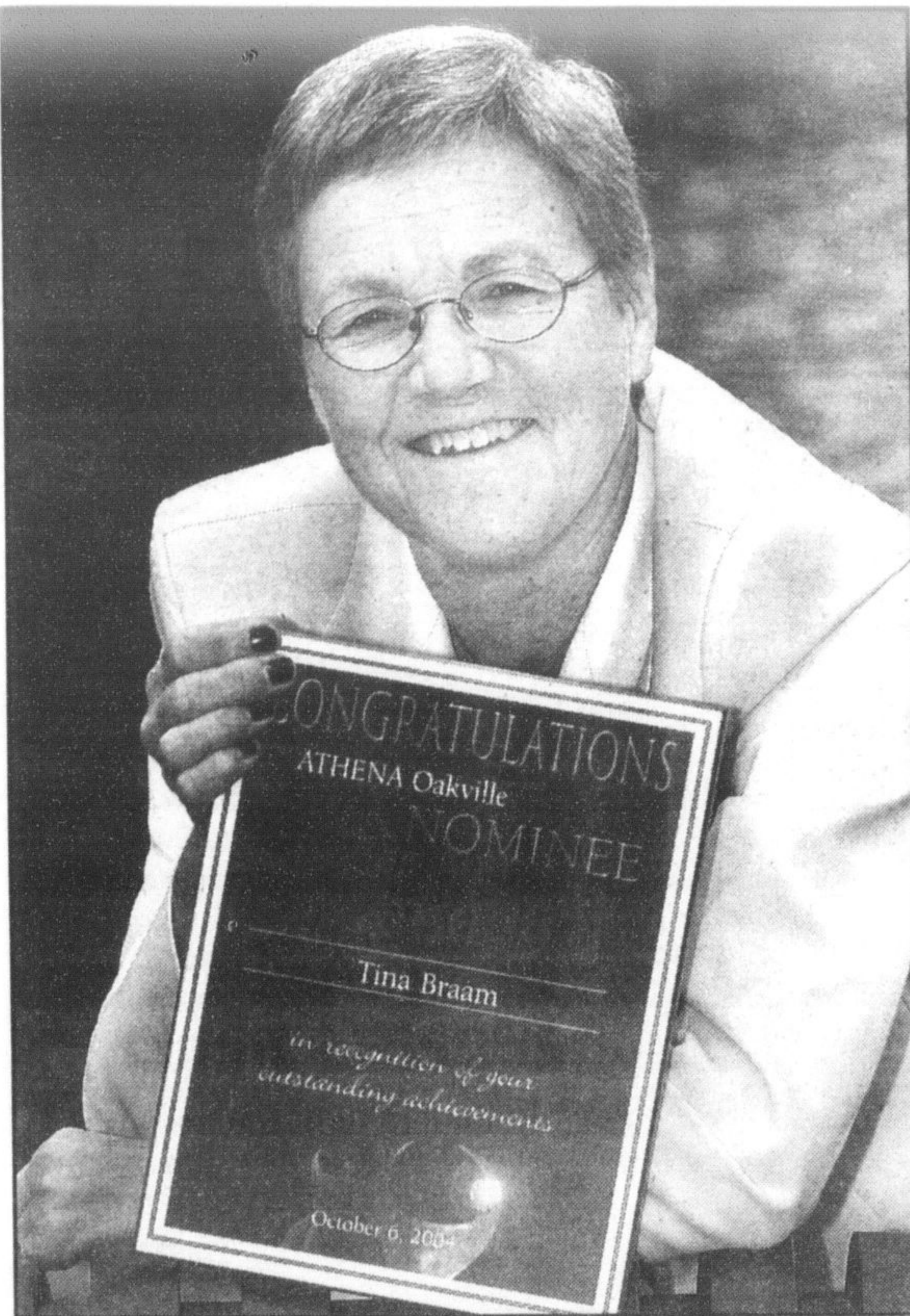


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Honoured for her efforts

Miltonian Tina Braam, an x-ray technician with Halton Healthcare Services, recently earned a nomination in the Athena Awards program, which honours those who mentor women. Ms Braam was recognized for her work in building a women's-only triathlon series and inspiring hundreds of women to join the sport.



The Principal and staff of

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cordially invite you to attend the
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Friday, November 5th, 2004 at 7:00 pm

To be held in the Sports Building, South Gymnasium!

For further information:
905-878-0575, ext. 229

Correction Notice

In the Stoney Creek Furniture Grand Opening Phase III flyer inserted today Friday, October 29th, there is a price error within the Natuzzi Gallery section. On the second line, the middle sofa originally priced at \$1,450, should be priced at \$2,190.

Within the dining room suite section, the buffet/hutch priced at \$1,190 should be priced at \$1,990. Stoney Creek Furniture apologizes for these errors.

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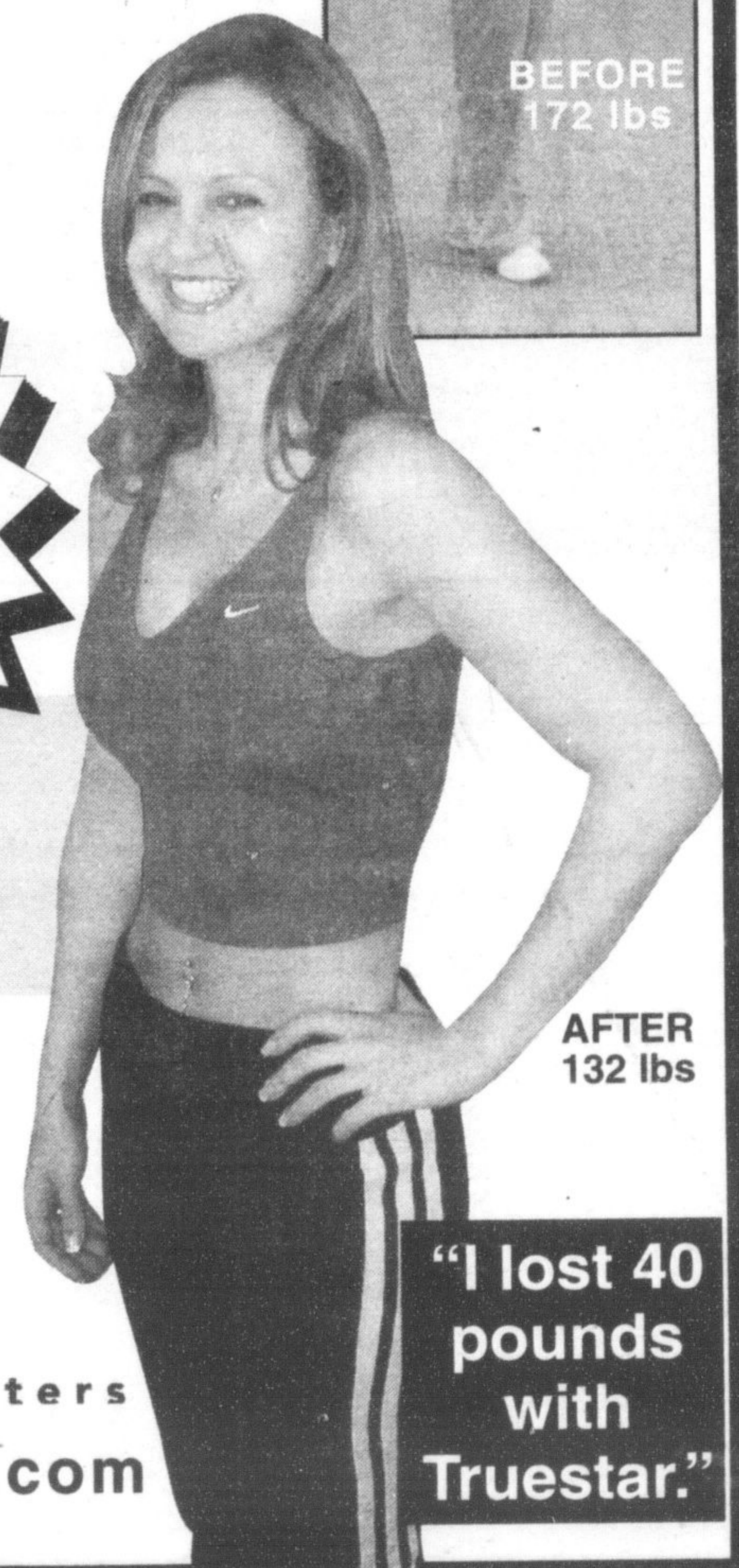
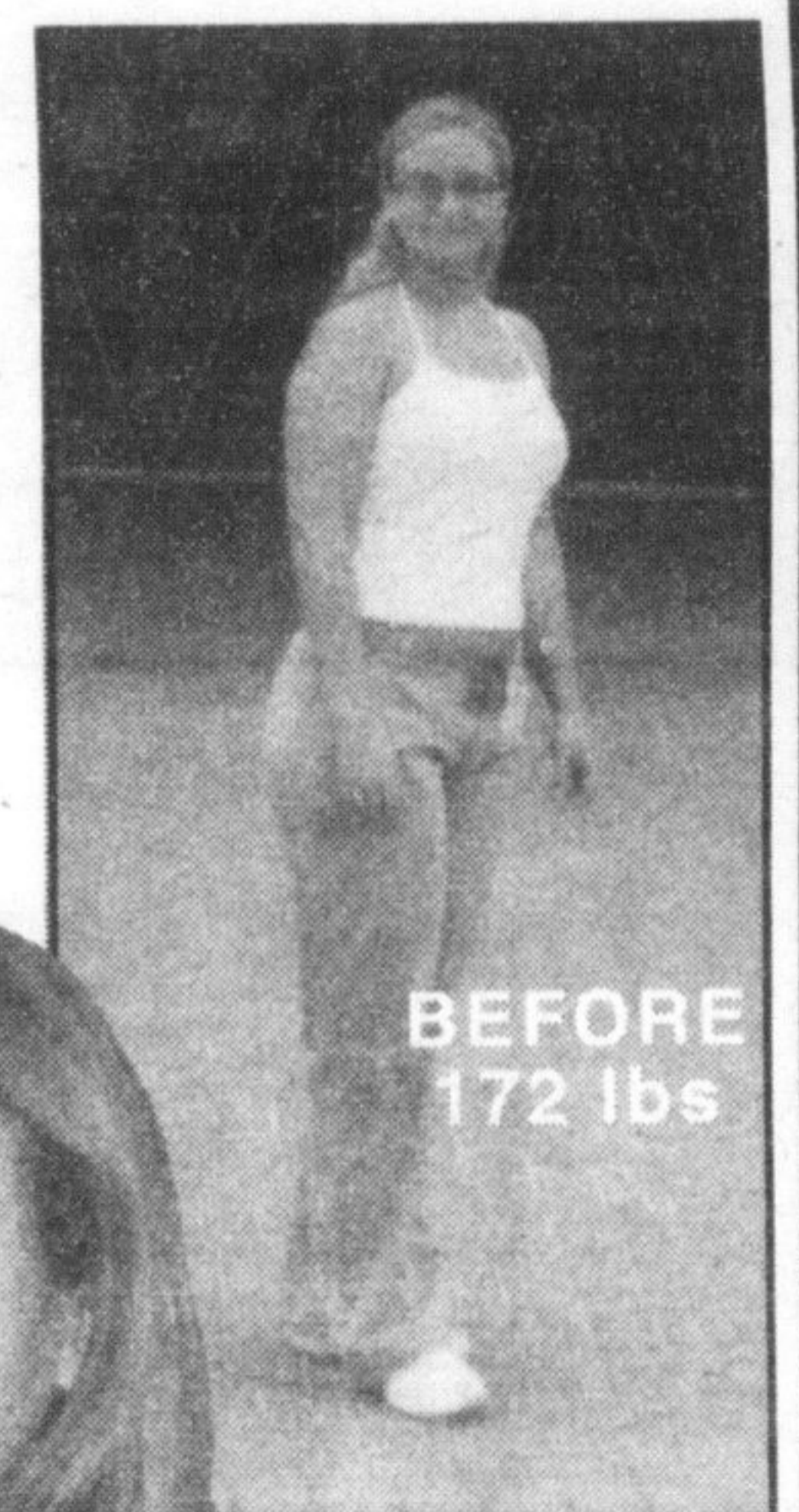
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