

# Lots of excitement about fundraiser

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and the station will broadcast live from Scooter's.

MYTP students are also excited, said the group's producer, Christine Houle. "They love the idea of roller-skating and dressing up in '70s clothing. Any chance they have to dress up, they're game," Ms Houle said.

It was a former student of MYTP director Kim Belvedere who inspired the fundraiser. The Milton woman, in her late twenties, was diagnosed with a progressive liver disease that will eventually require her to have a liver transplant.

"We can't do anything to help her personally, but we felt we wanted to do something," Ms Belvedere said, adding, "The

Liver Foundation was thrilled. I think they take the back burner a lot."

Raising awareness about the disease — particularly that it does strike young people — and encouraging people to sign their organ donor cards is also a big part of the event, she said.

There are no known cures and very few treatments for most childhood liver diseases. Some are caused by viruses, such as hepatitis A, B and C, while others are inherited. Others have unknown causes.

Often the only option is a liver transplant — and some children don't survive the wait.

"Although liver disease is often viewed as an 'adult problem', the fact is that thousands of children and youth are diagnosed

each year with liver diseases," said Mara Busca-Bedford, spokesperson for the Canadian Liver Foundation. "Raising awareness and funding research into children's liver disease is an important part of our mandate and we're thrilled to have these two organizations take the initiative to create a fun and unique event on our behalf."

MYTP student Samantha Lash, 15, said the event will combine a good time with helping others.

"I'm just really happy to be involved with such a great cause, and I think it's going to be a lot of fun," Samantha said.

Stephanie Thiessen can be reached at [sthiessen@miltoncanadianchampion.com](mailto:sthiessen@miltoncanadianchampion.com).

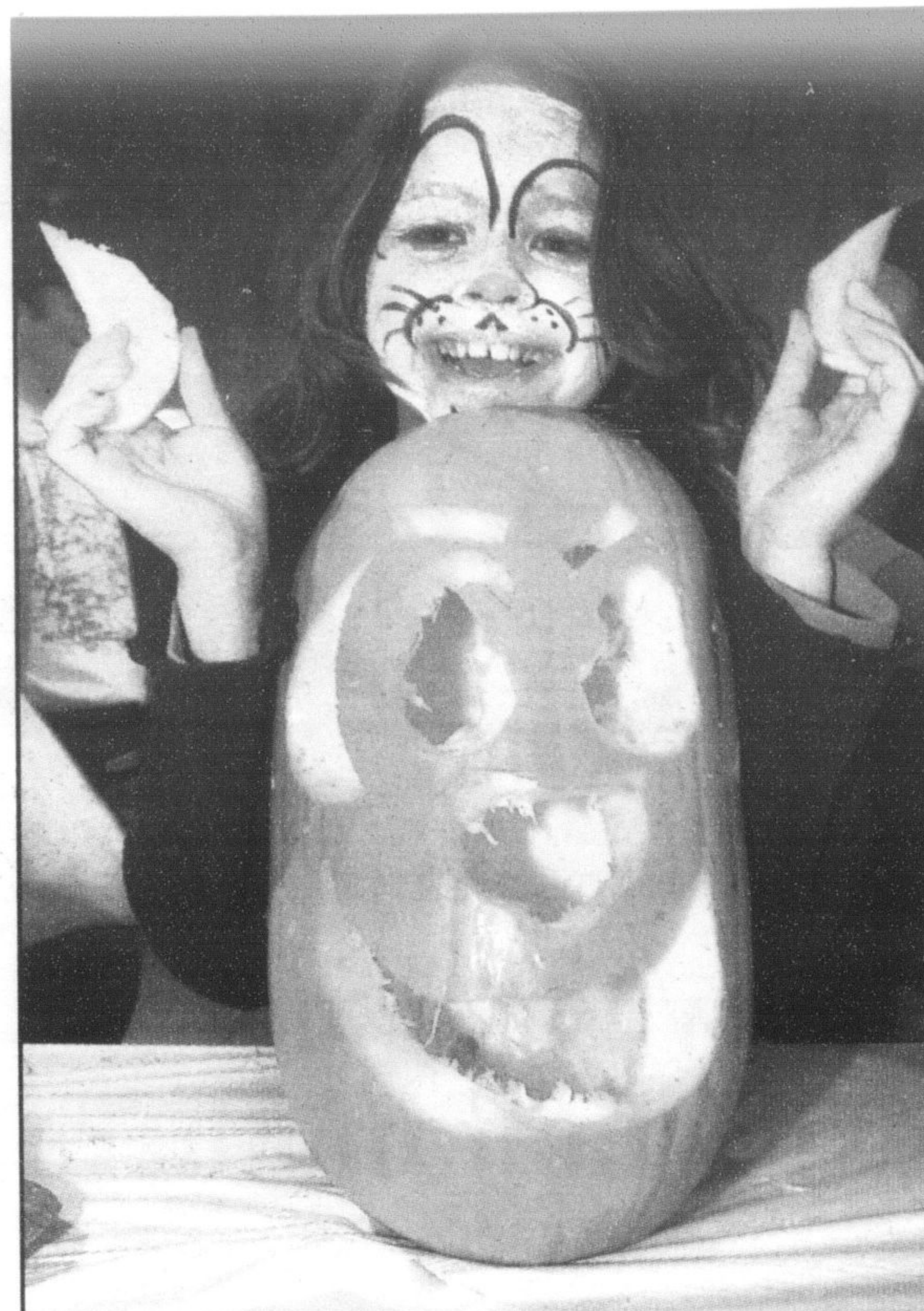


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

## Seasonal fun

Ten-year-old Jacquelyn Streck — with her face painted like a cat — shows off the carved ears of her pumpkin, carved to look like a monkey, during Saturday's community pumpkin carving event at Milton Mall.

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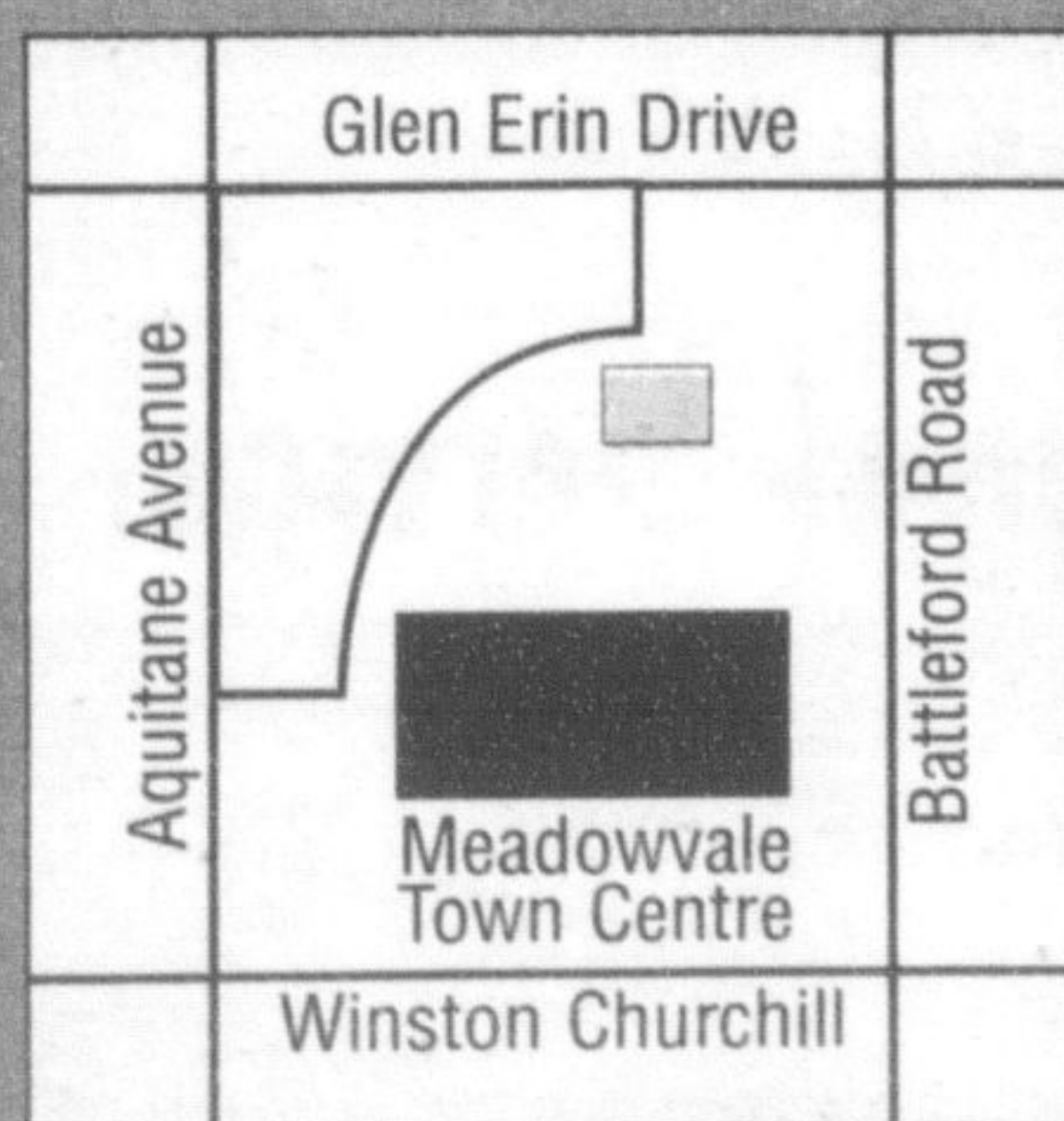
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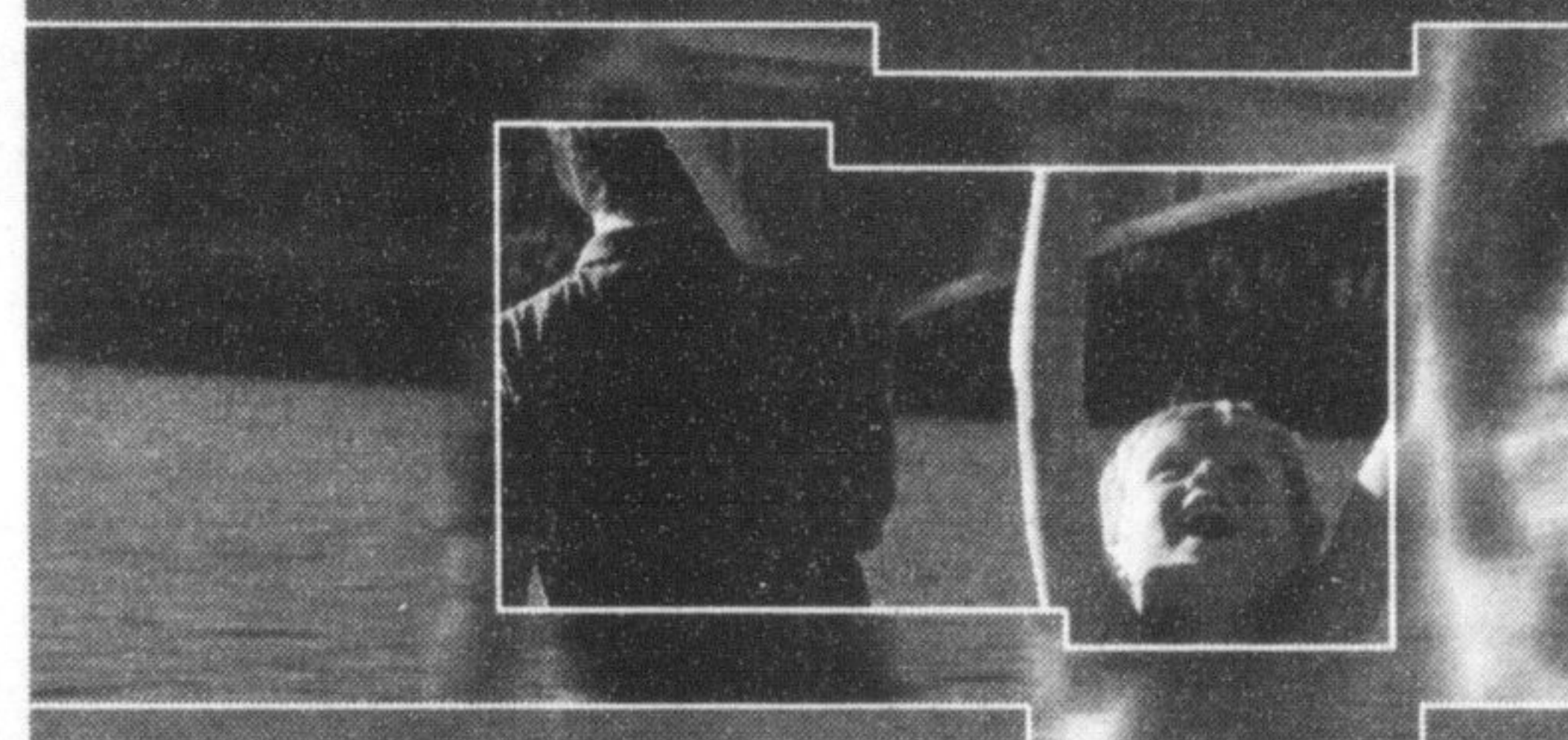
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