



GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

HEADING TO CHAMPIONSHIPS: Thirteen-year-old Shantel Vaillou will compete in Europe with the Canadian National Dance Team in December.

Dancer to represent Canada

The world's eyes will be on 13-year-old Shantel Vaillou in December.

Maybe not her specifically, but there certainly will be more than enough pressure for her dance team to represent Canada well during the World Dance Championships in Poland.

Shantel found out just recently that, after a series of auditions, she'd been accepted onto the Canadian National Dance Team for ballet and will travel to Europe to compete from December 5 to 12.

"I was really surprised when I found out I made it," said Shantel, a student at St. Peter

Elementary School.

Every Sunday, the dancer will work with the other members on the team to learn the routine they'll perform come December.

What's she most looking forward to?

"The experience of Poland and being able to say I'm on the Canadian National Dance Team," said Shantel, who has been dancing since she was four years old, the past five years at The Dance Element.

Her mom, Mahalia, said she's thrilled Shantel will have this experience.

"It's a big achievement and something she'll always remember," she said.



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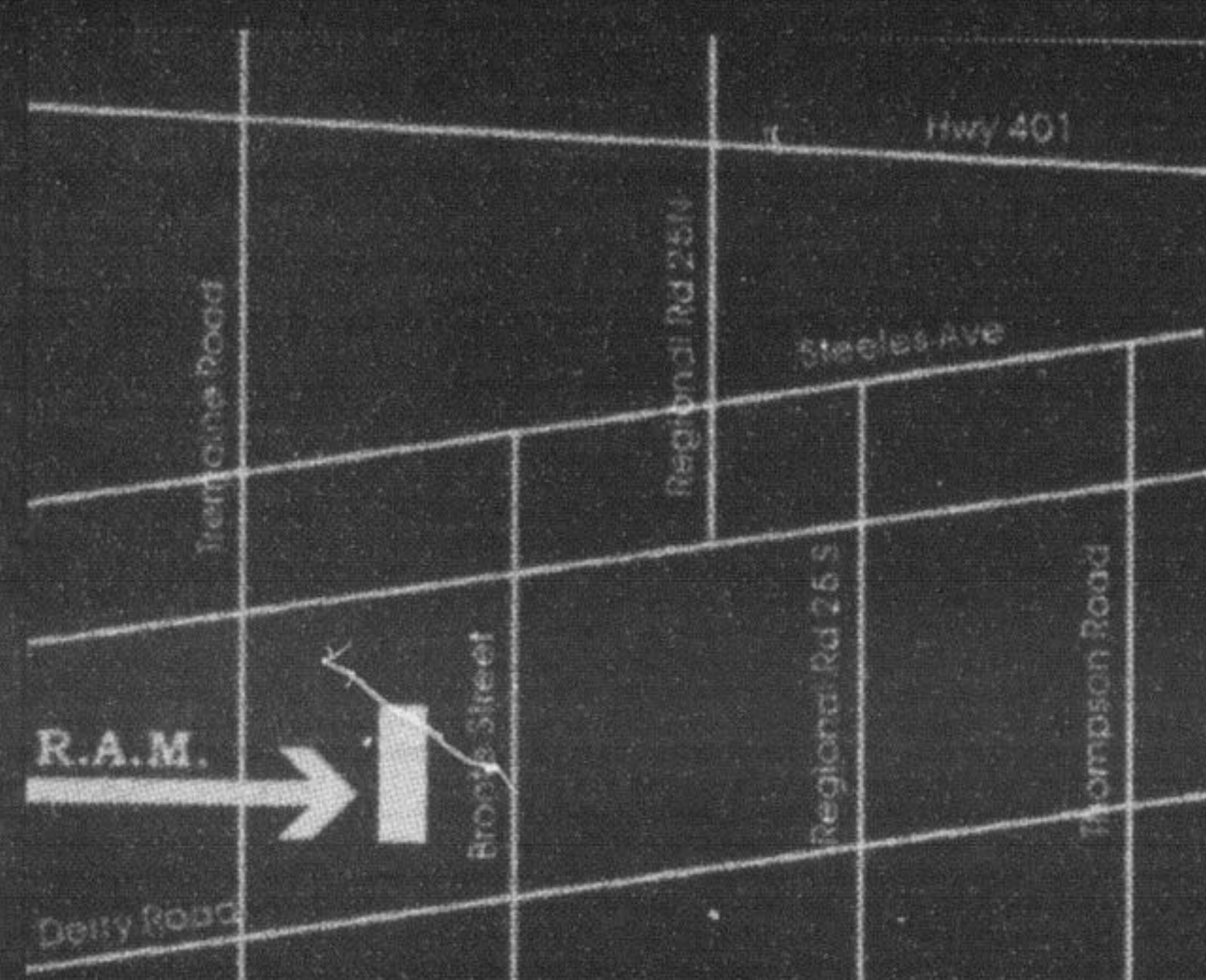
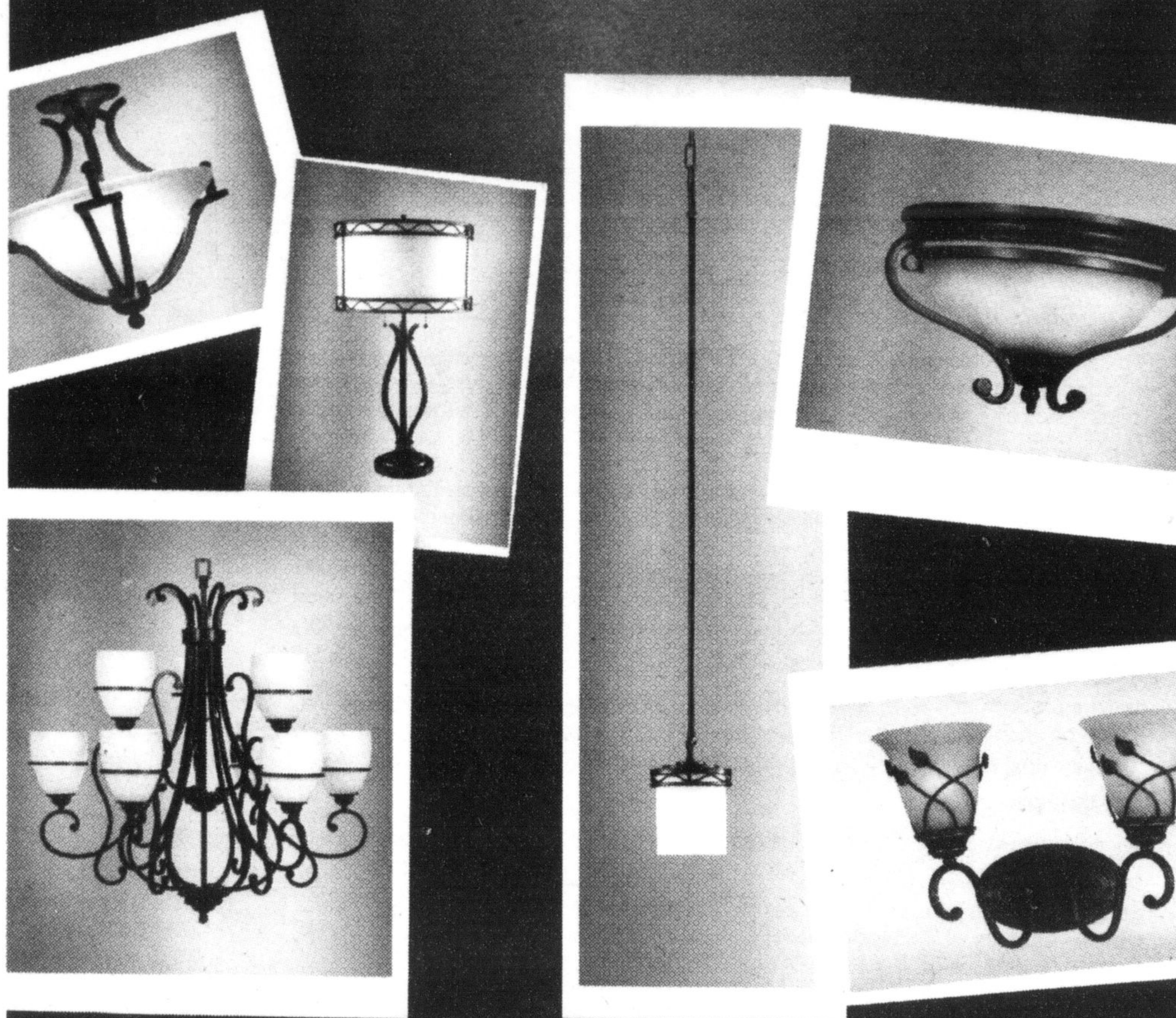
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