

Women catching up in race to light up

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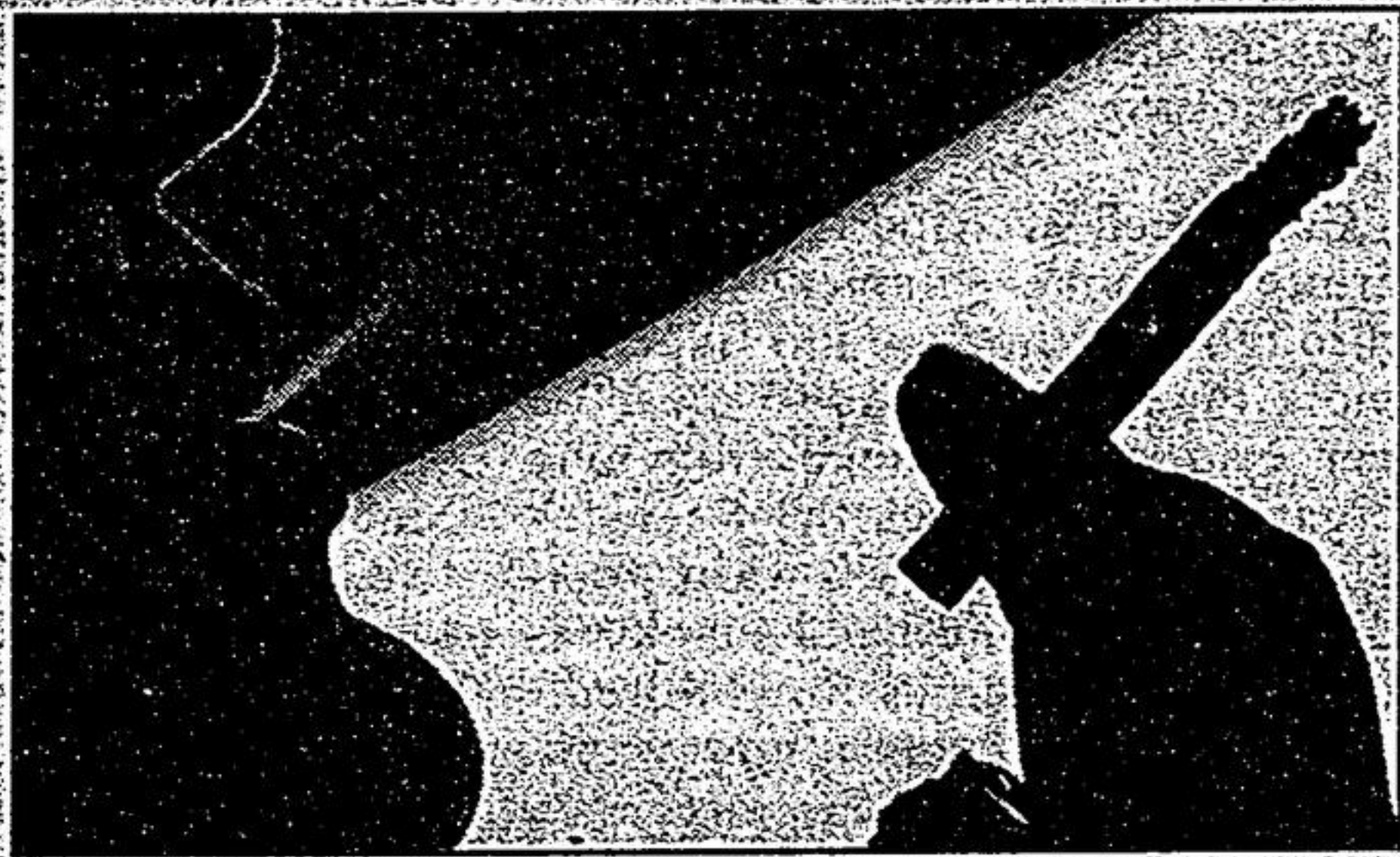
More women are lighting up today than a decade ago. In spite of warnings of the dangers of smoking, Yvonne Fardy, of the Canadian Cancer Society's Markham-Whitchurch-Stouffville unit, said there has been a disturbing increase in the number of women smokers over the past 10 years. Although the lung cancer mortality rates for men have leveled off, the Cancer Society has observed a continual climb in women's mortality rates.

early," Fardy said. She added that it was not long ago that there were more male smokers than female.

"That's the way it used to be. But with these young girls starting up the statistics are

until the 25th and the Cancer Society is concerned that the message is not getting through to everyone. Not only does cigarette smoking contribute to cancer, it also is a major cause of emphysema and its a contributing factor in about 30 per cent of all fatal heart attacks.

The number of women struck by cancer has increase by 33 per cent since 1988 and smoking is estimated to be directly responsible for 30 per cent of all cancer deaths, she added. Smoking is related to 85 per cent of all lung cancer cases and can cause throat, mouth, bladder, kidney and pancreas cancer.



Smoke moves quickly through a house; it takes more than three hours to clear 95 per cent of the smoke from one cigarette.

With peer pressure and societal expectations, more young girls are starting to smoke

finally catching up with the trends"

National non-smoking week begins Jan. 19 and runs through

Few smokers quit smoking even after being diagnosed with cancer, she said.

NON-SMOKING WEEK

"You would think it would be automatic for everyone," Fardy said. "But some people think well, I've got it

now, I may as well keep smoking. And for some people it's a wake-up call that leads them to change their lifestyles."

One of her main concerns is the number of young girls taking up

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