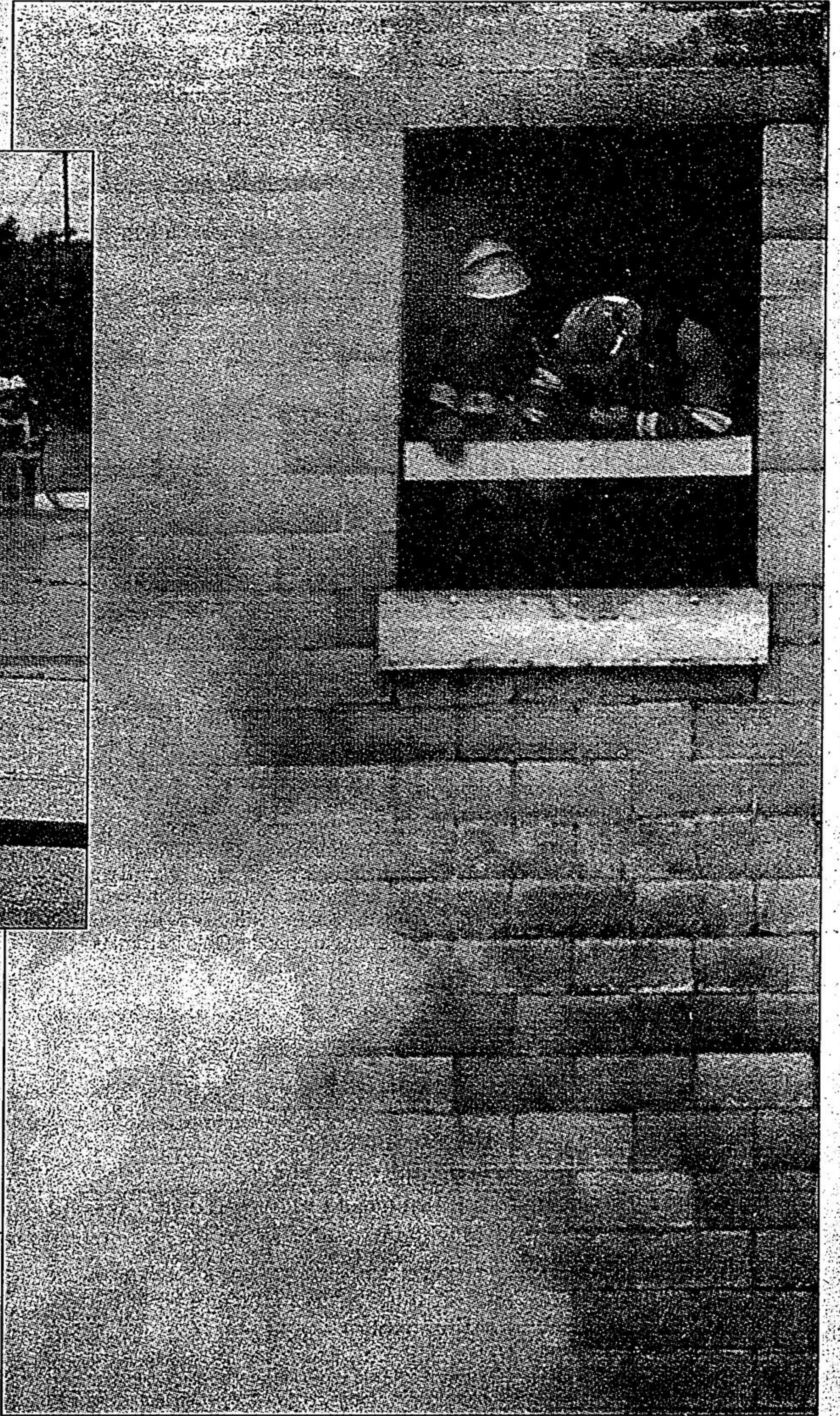


the first time

'There's a certain personal challenge, physically and mentally, and really I feel that I'm up to it.'



Above: While the mock building burns, a nearby tanker truck is doused with water as a precaution. Trainees in the foreground are busy working on a water pump. Below: Markham rookie firefighters work as a team during their 'real-life' training session at the Toronto Fire Services command centre last week.



Searching for the source of smoke, new recruits look out a third-storey window in a specially designed firefighting training building.

