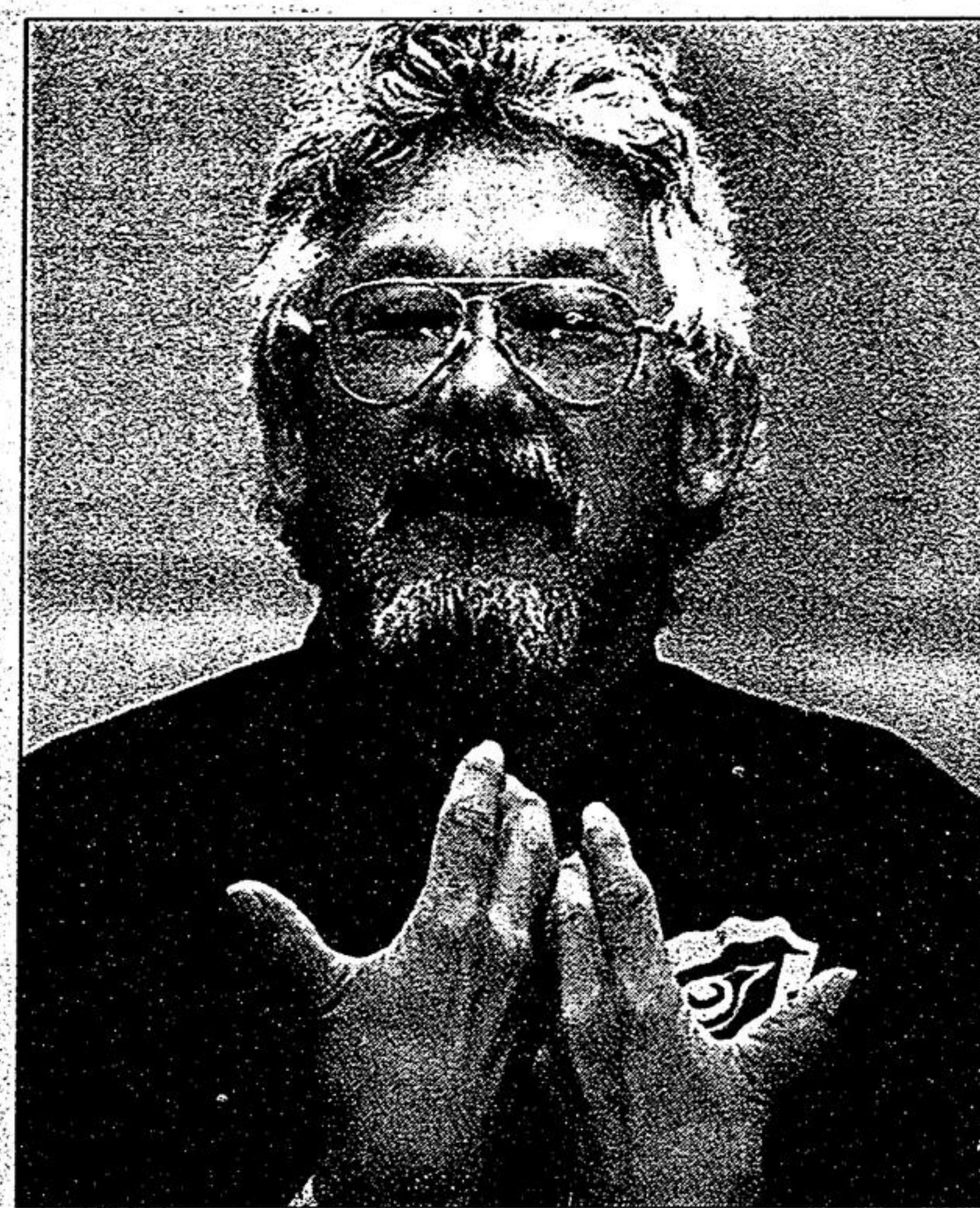
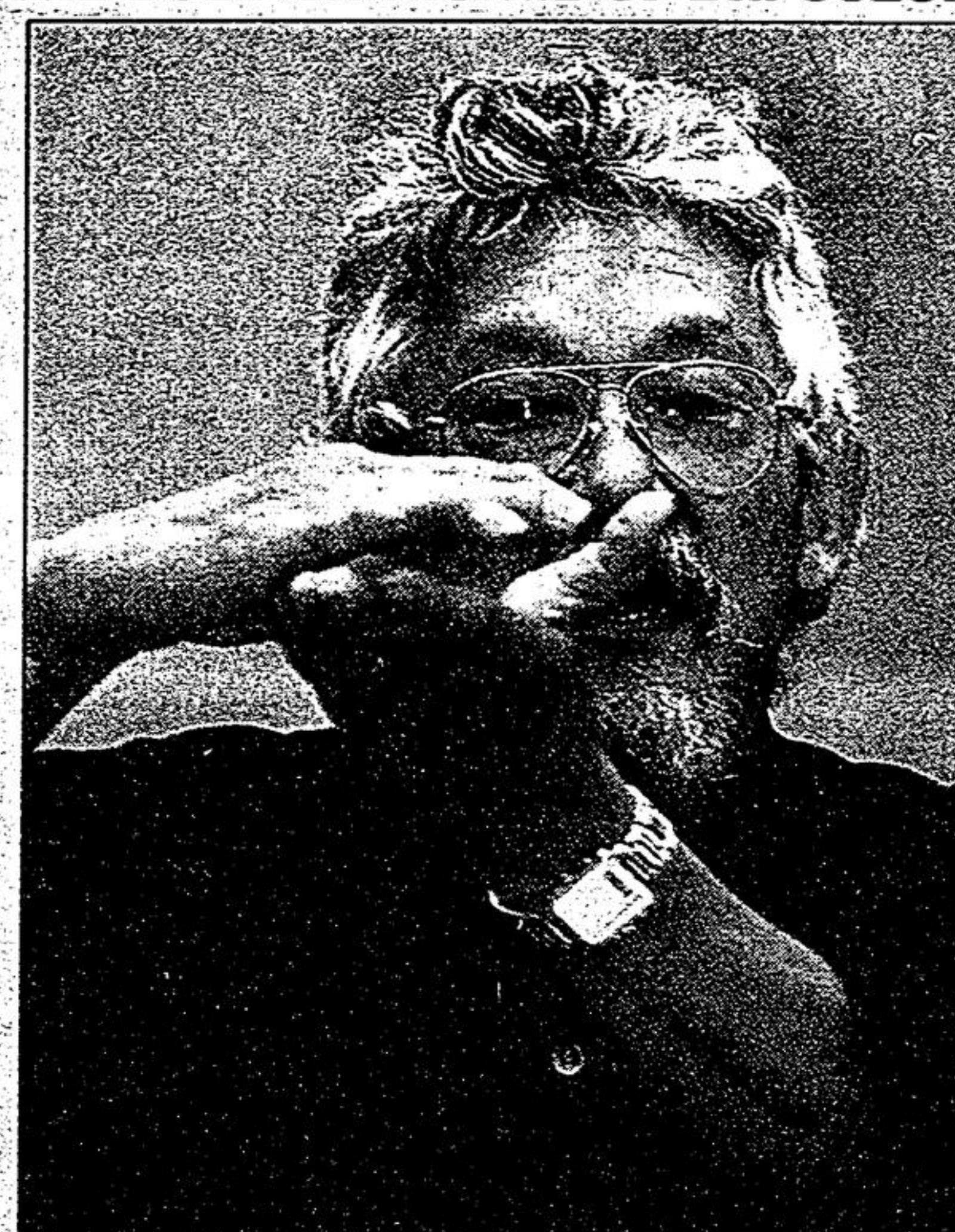


THE BODY LANGUAGE OF DR. SUZUKI



PHOTOS/BILL ROBERTS

Dr. David Suzuki, whose new mini-series debuts on CBC-TV this month, had good and bad things to say about planning practices in Markham during a weekend speech.

TV host likes pedestrian-friendly centre

From page 1.

We ignore those needs at our peril, Dr. Suzuki said, reminding his audience that 12 per cent of Canadian children have asthma, yet Markham has (according to Dr. Suzuki) an unbelievable number of pollution-spewing sport-utility vehicles.

Dr. Suzuki, 66, whose new mini-series, *The Sacred Balance* debuts on CBC this month, said the town, "like all communities in Canada" has failed to leave enough space for other species.

"It's absurd," he continued later, to think Markham's 10-metre environmental buffers along urban sections of the Rouge River will preserve its ecosystem. "You need setbacks that go back hundreds of metres."

But Dr. Suzuki called the town's Markham Centre project exciting, an improvement over the typical suburban subdivision, which, he said, "is built on the absolute understanding

that you're going to jump in your car and drive somewhere to get what you need."

Cars are the source of so many problems, our new developments should discourage their use, he argued. "We've got to be much more car-unfriendly."

Markham Centre, on 900 acres between Kennedy and Rodick roads and between Hwys. 7 and 407, is meant to place 25,000 residents and 17,000 employees in a mixed-use urban environment.

Markham 'like all communities in Canada' has failed to leave enough space for other species.

Remington Group, the company building the development's core area — 243 acres around a six-acre lake — wants its draft plan approved by

Christmas so it can start selling homes, targeting especially the high-tech industry employees working nearby and Baby Boomers who want to scale down.

"It's definitely lifestyle driven," said Rudy Buczelots, a Remington Group vice-president attending the Civic Centre event.

Frances Tremblay, a Unionville homeowner, said she's been waiting years to live in Markham Centre. "I'm from a European background and I love the idea that you walk everywhere," said Ms Tremblay, originally from the island of Malta.

"I don't want people on top of me; I want privacy, but you can plan in a way that you still have privacy," she said.



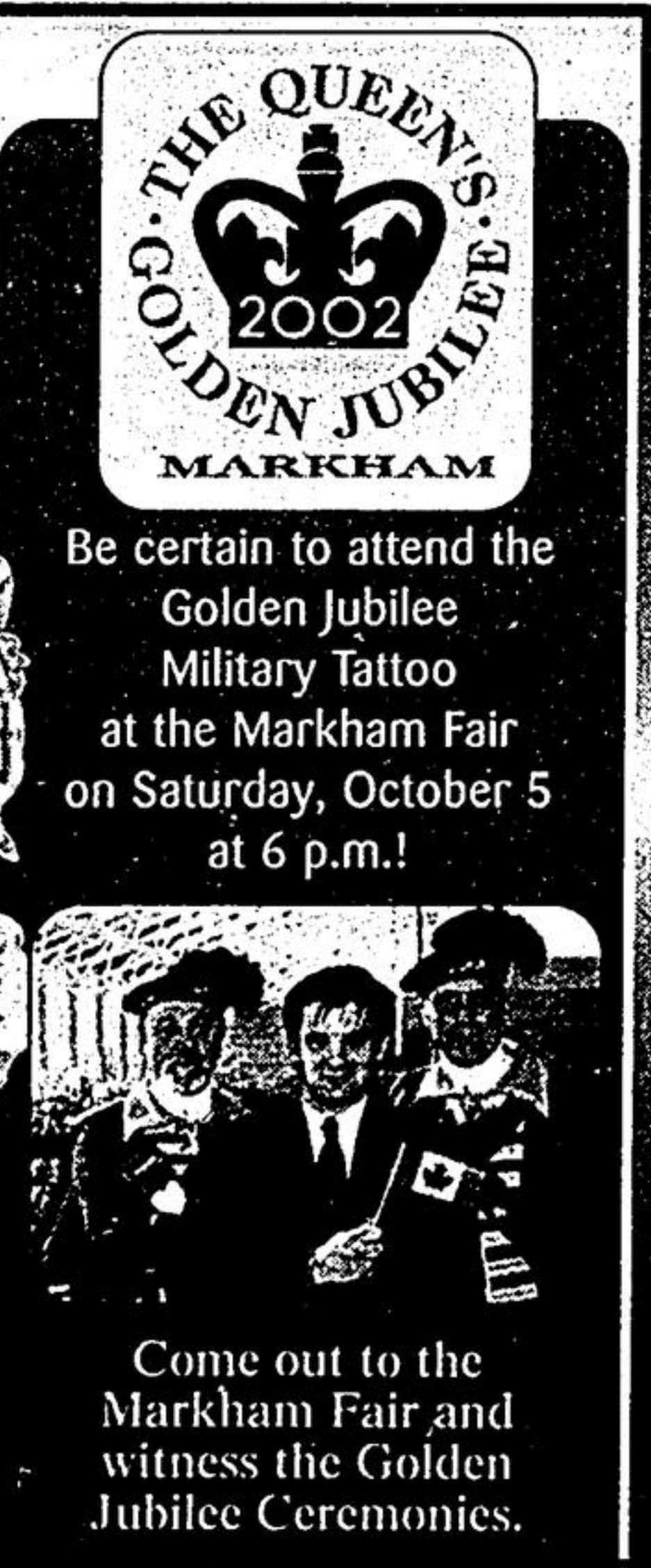
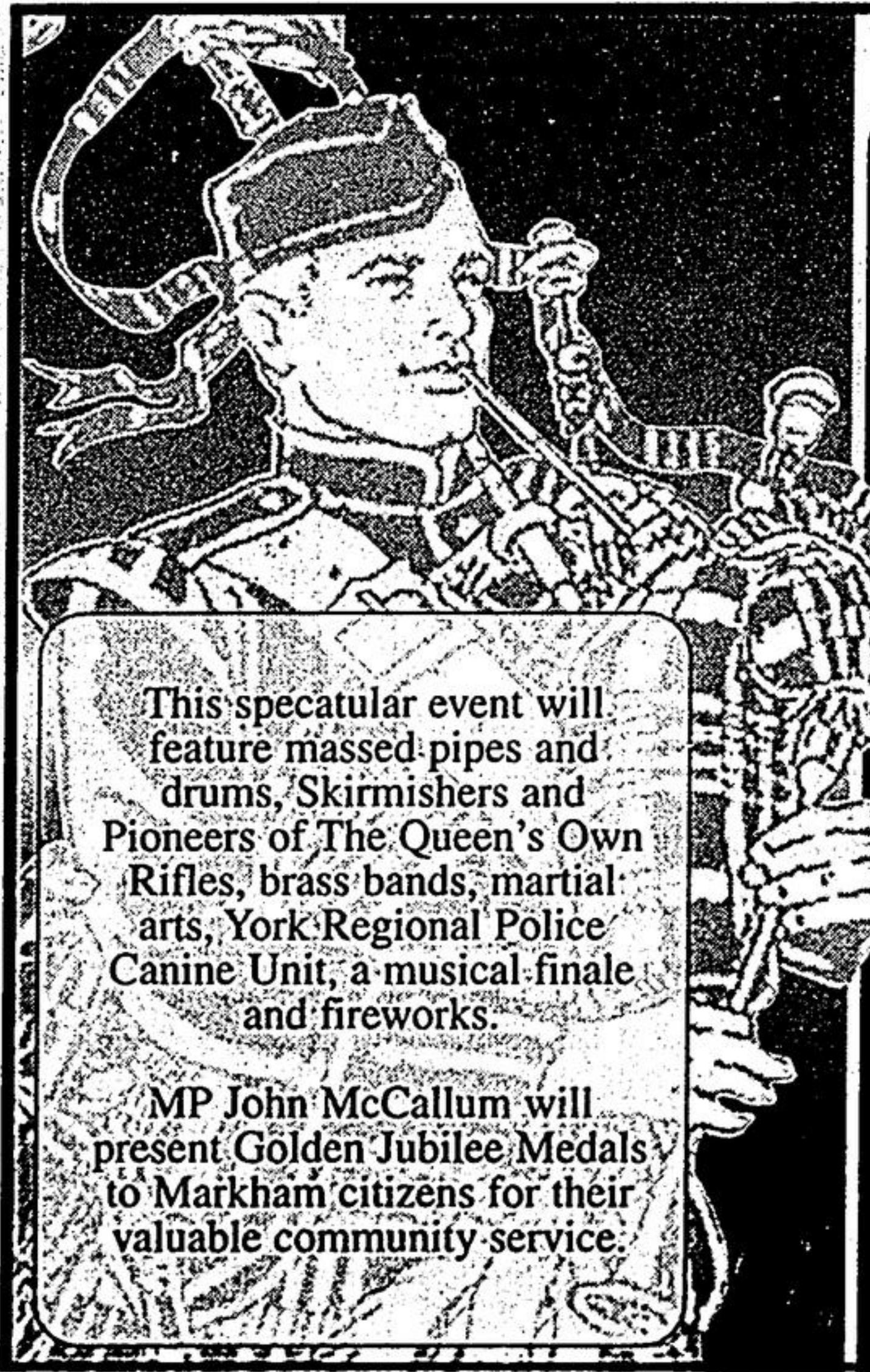
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