

# Steeltown to Spiritville good move for Powers

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When Christian Powers asked the Hamilton Red Wings to trade him recently, he wanted to join a contending team in the Ontario Junior Hockey League's West Division and not be too far from his Flamborough home.

The Red Wings recently accommodated the 20-year-old forward's request.

But in changing teams, Powers is playing his hockey a little further east of where he originally wanted - in Stouffville as a member of the Spirit.

Acknowledging he was caught off guard when informed Stouffville would be his new place of employment, Powers is glad to join a team that reached the OJHL semifinals last season and is a contending entry in the highly competitive North Division.

That's far from what the Red Wings were prior to his departure as they were playing below .500 hockey.

"It feels great to be in Stouffville," Powers said. "I've heard nothing but great things about the organization through the four years that I've been in the league. I'm excited to be a part of their team and I'm happy with where the change has brought me."

So, too, are the Spirit.

Amassing 36 goals and 30 assists in 48 games last season and 14 goals and 14 assists in 21 games before the trade, Powers made an auspicious debut with the Spirit last weekend and played a role in helping them snap a five-game winless streak by depositing a third-period power-play goal in a 7-5 road win over the Burlington Cougars last Saturday.

Inserted on a line with Mike Robinson and Alex Botten, Powers was kept off the scoresheet

the following day when the Spirit hosted the North Division-leading Newmarket Hurricanes.

But he played a contributing role in helping them record their first win over the Hurricanes this season in a 5-3 verdict.

Citing his batteries are now fully recharged since being traded, the five-foot, 10-inch, 185-pound Powers has been forced to make some adjustments to his game.

*'Once I settle in and learn the system I know I'll be even a bigger contributor.'*

Especially since the systems employed by Spirit head coach Craig Donovan, he said, are totally different from what he was accustomed to in the two full seasons and part of this year with the Red Wings.

"Coach Donovan runs things different than when I was in Hamilton, but I'm picking things up easily," he said. "My style can fit in with any structure and I don't have a hard time in adjusting to any team's structure."

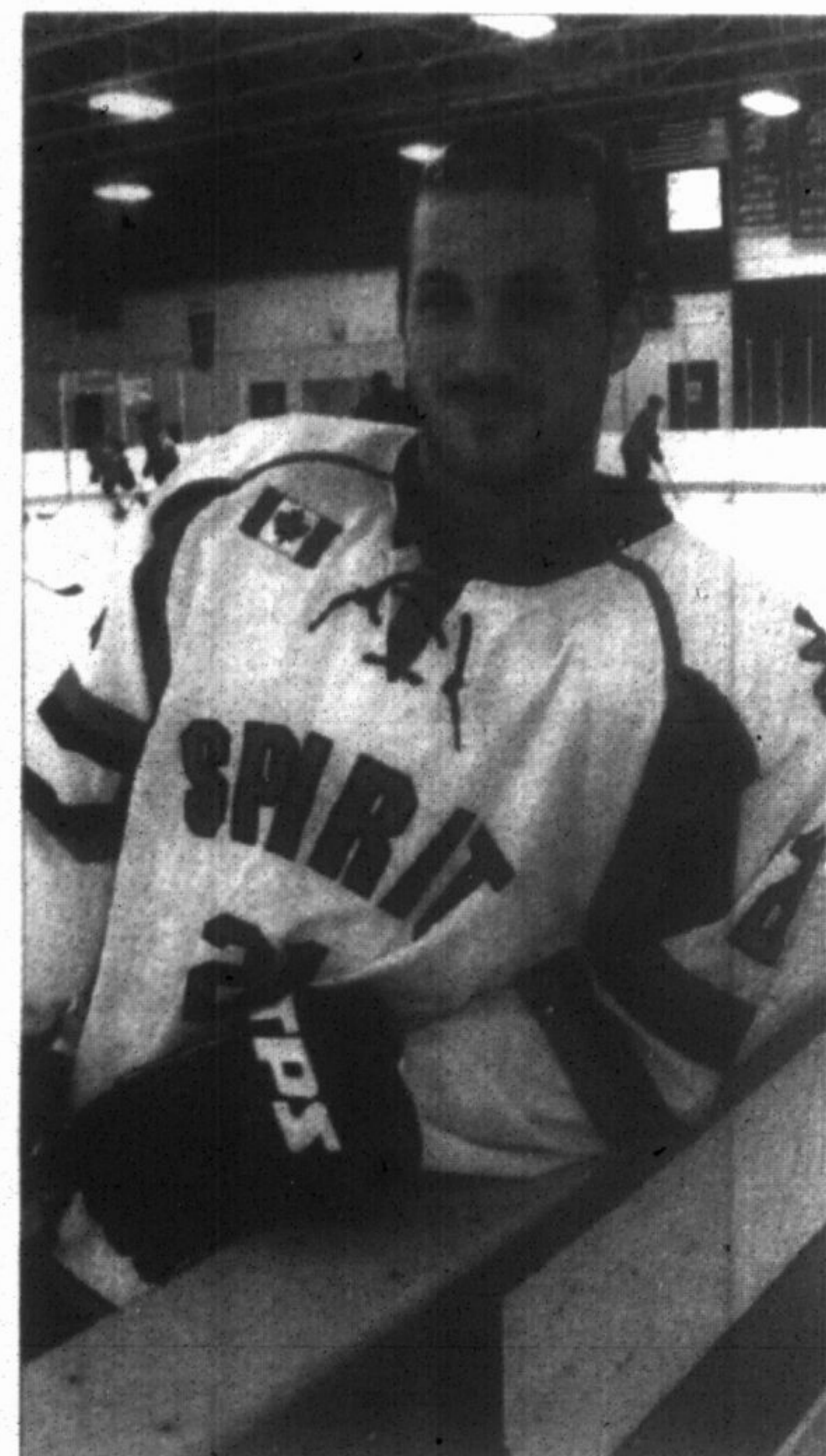
"Once I settle in and learn the system I know I'll be even a bigger contributor."

"I can't wait to get more games under my belt."

With this being Powers' final year of Jr. A eligibility, he hopes to parlay his four seasons in the league by earning a college hockey scholarship south of the border.

He's talked with some schools, both Division 1 and 3.

"It's been my goal for the last four years to get an NCAA scholarship," he said. "Ideally, I want to go to a Division 1 school."



STAFF PHOTO/JIM MASON

Christian Powers didn't expect to end up in Stouffville when he requested a trade from the Hamilton Red Wings this month.

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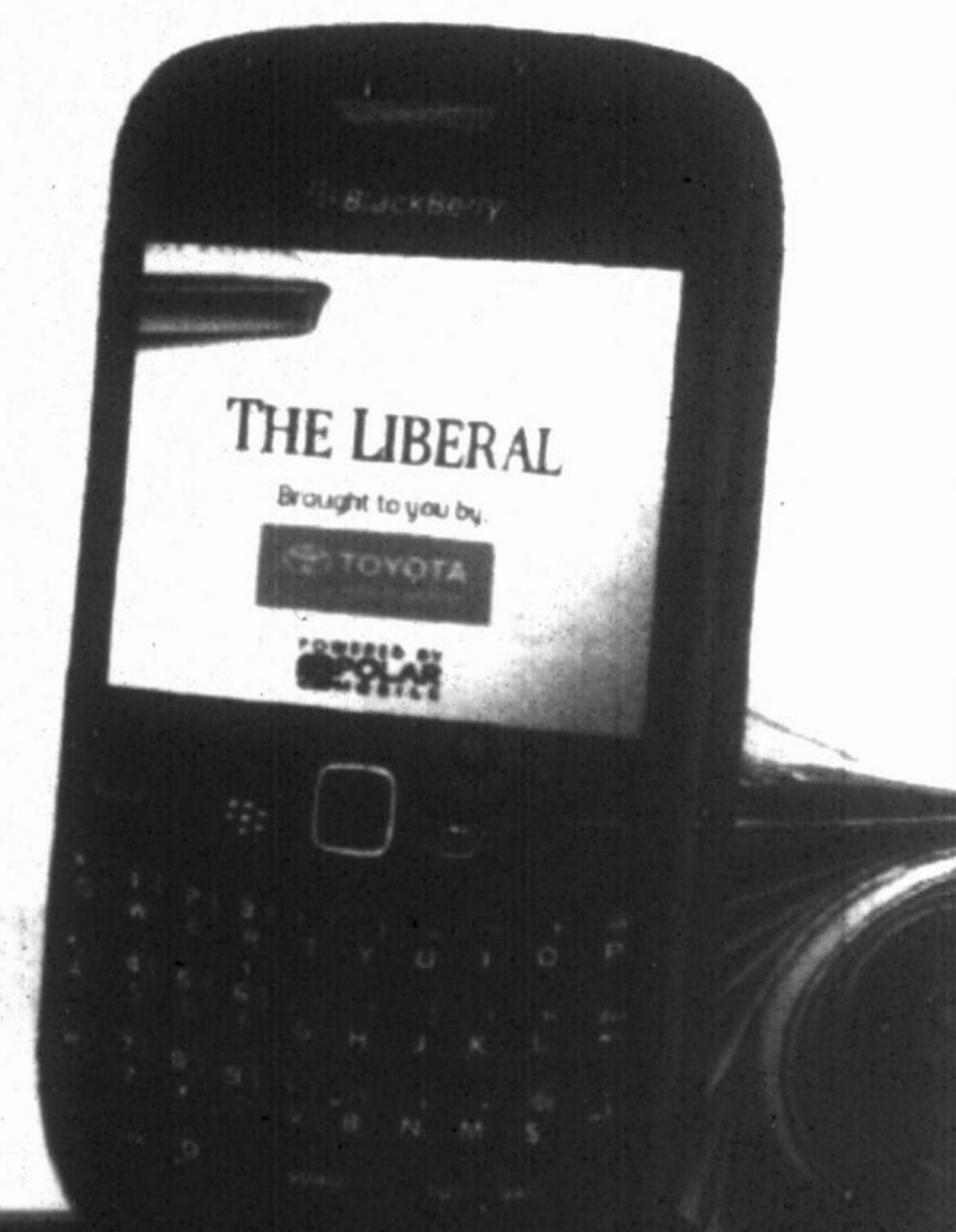
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