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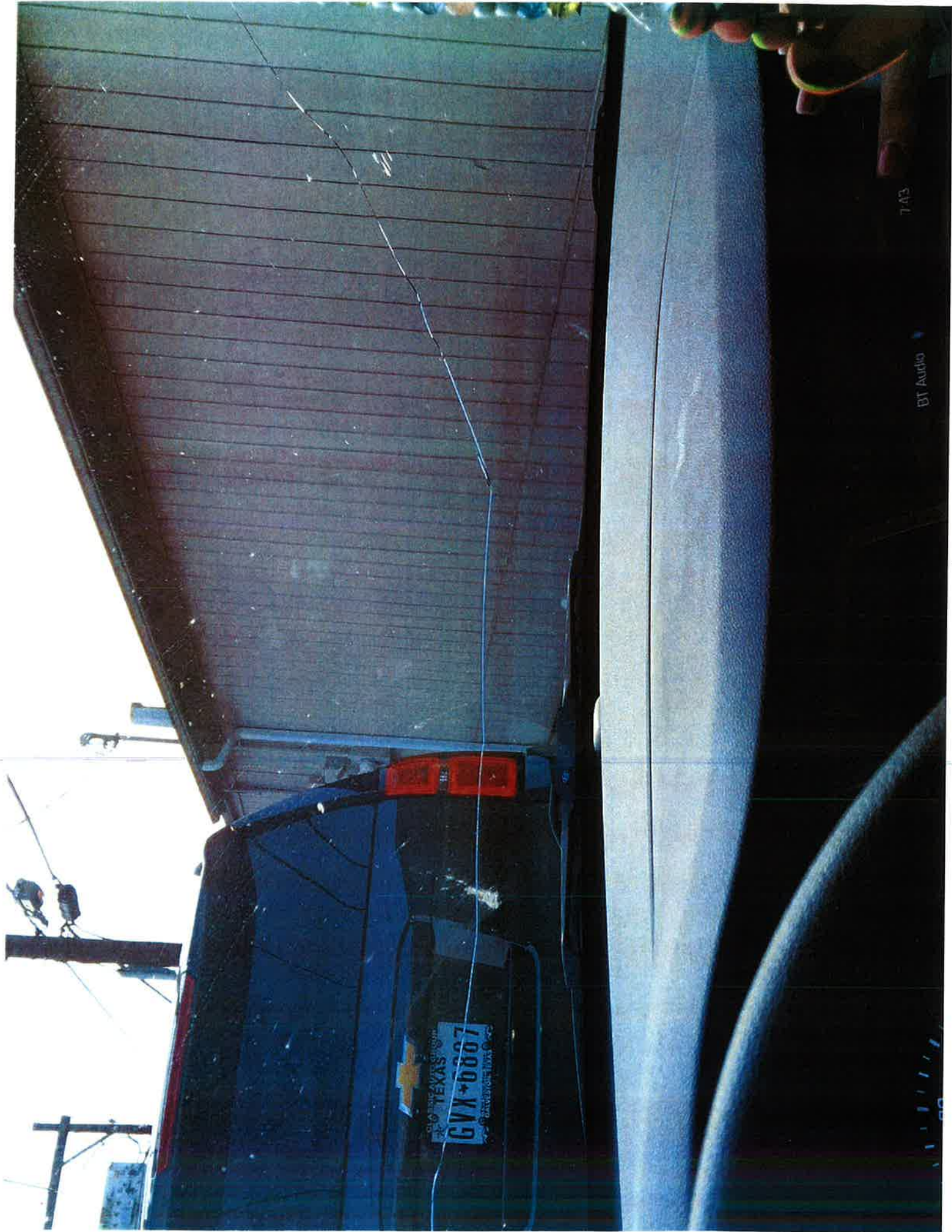




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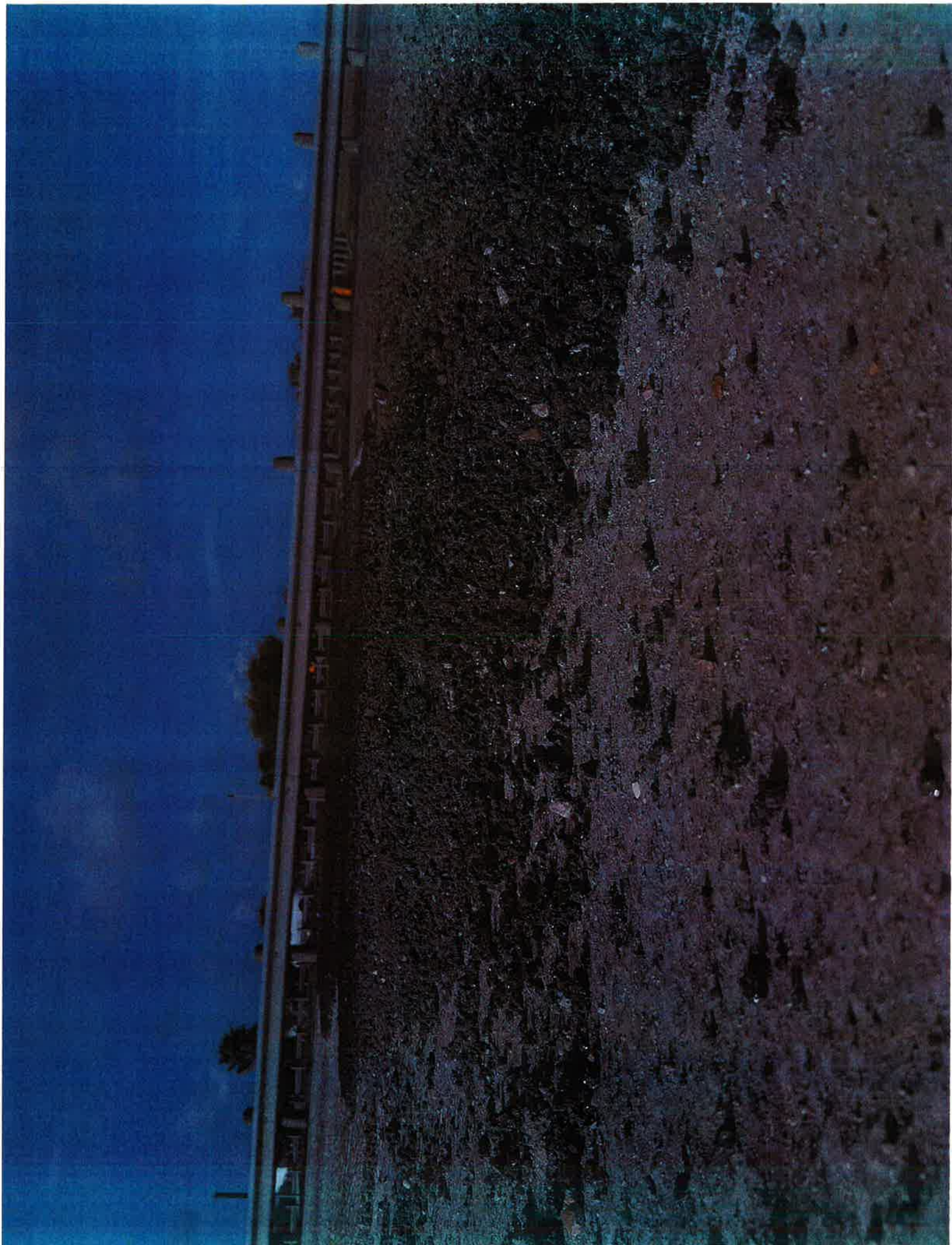
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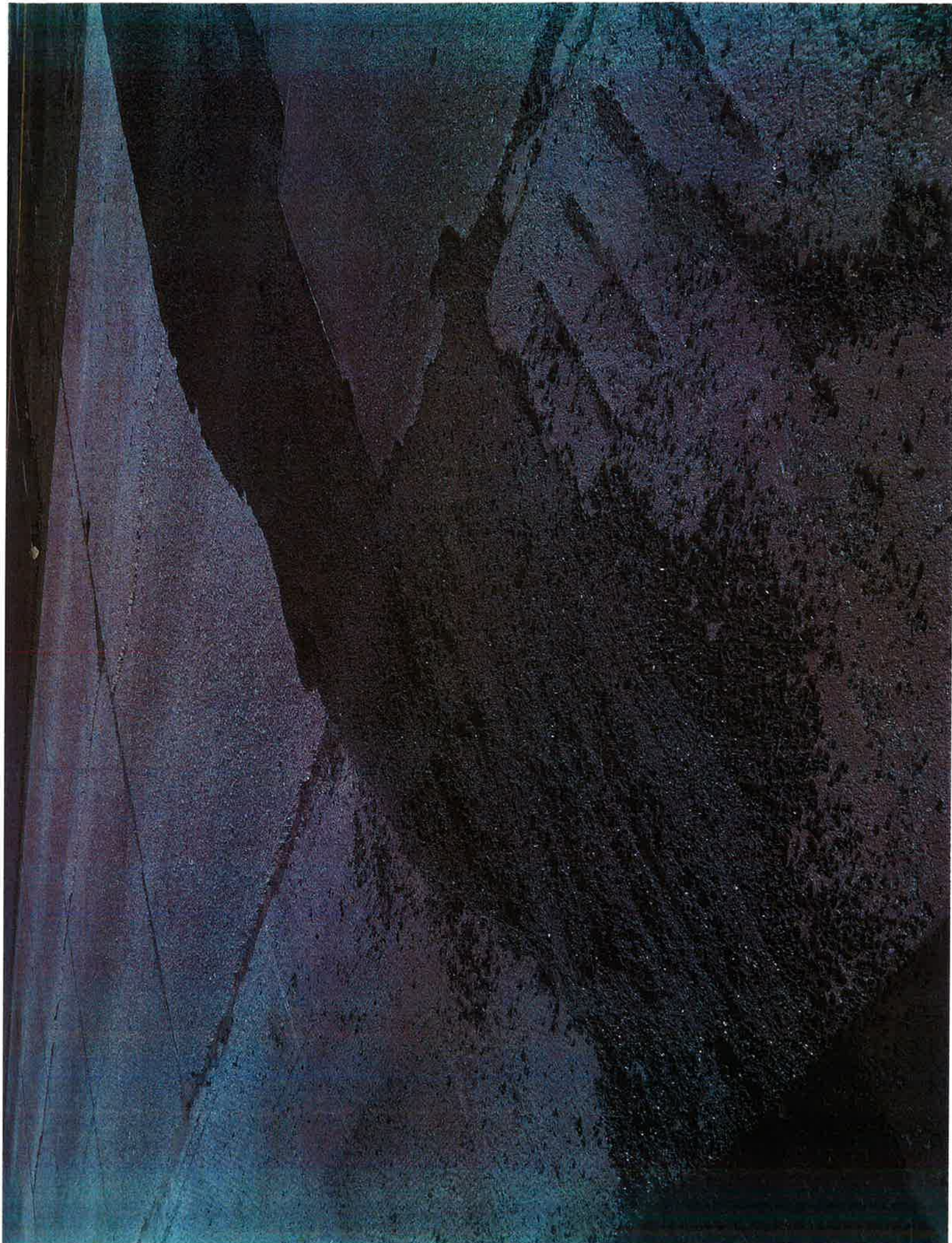
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Attorney offers to represent people hurt by I-45 debris

By MATT DEGROOD The Daily News Sep 14, 2017

A Houston attorney is offering to represent anyone with damaged vehicles in a lawsuit against a contracting group after a road milling project on the north and south sides of Interstate 45 damaged many cars with flying debris left on the road.

The move comes after many upset drivers called the Texas Department of Transportation to complain about the contracting company, Durwood Greene Construction, and the work it performed on the north side of a 2.1-mile stretch of highway between Tiki Island and Texas City, said Danny Perez, spokesman for the department.

The ongoing milling project is the second controversial job Durwood Greene has performed in the area. Earlier in August, milling the south side of the interstate left debris on the road.

"It's called a mess," said William Underwood III, the attorney offering to represent drivers with damaged vehicles.

Underwood said he was motivated to offer assistance after seeing the damage to a business partner's car.

"This is ridiculous," Underwood said.

Transportation department officials have been referring callers to the contracting company, but many residents have said no one representing the company would answer the phone.

Underwood said his plan was to represent everyone who asks him to at no cost except for filing fees.

The current plan is to file a lawsuit in district court and add plaintiffs as needed, Underwood said.

Underwood said he did not plan to file a class-action lawsuit.

"With class actions, one thing is they will end up in federal court and we probably don't want to be there," he said. "Second, there's a lot involved in getting a class-action certified."

While prepared to take the matter to court if needed, Underwood said he was still hopeful Durwood Greene might be willing to negotiate.

"I still have hope, but not great hope, that we can negotiate with these people," Underwood said. "I know the state and TXDOT is on their butts about this. I hope that maybe they want to work something out without all this mess."

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