

## Special guests

Two Japanese exchange students dropped by the office of the *Independent/Free Press* recently to tour the facilities and learn about community newspapers in Canada. Yuki Yamamoto (left) and Kiyoe Hamachi saw how the newspa-

per is composed on a computer screen as managing editor Cynthia Gamble demonstrated the process. Yuki has plans of becoming a journalist in Japan.

TED BROWN *Independent/Free Press*

## Decline in claims from May to June

By ANGELA BLACKBURN  
Special to the *Independent/Free Press*

Recent statistics indicate unemployment insurance claims are dropping faster than welfare cases in Halton.

Both welfare and unemployment insurance numbers appeared to be on a downward trend in Halton from May to June of this year.

However while unemployment insurance statistics are down over the same two months a year ago, welfare statistics are still about 13 per cent higher than the same time last year.

The approximate 1 per cent

decline in the number of Halton welfare cases from May to June 1993 is still being pegged as "good news" by Halton Region's social services commissioner Bonnie Ewart.

"When we saw reports that in Metro Toronto there was a significant increase, we were frightened by that," said Ewart.

"They (welfare case numbers) are starting to drop, not significantly, but by about 1 per cent from the previous month, so it is good news," said Ewart.

In fact, the official statistics won't be public information until after they are approved by regional councillors at an August 10 meeting.

The delay is the result of an abbreviated summer meeting schedule.

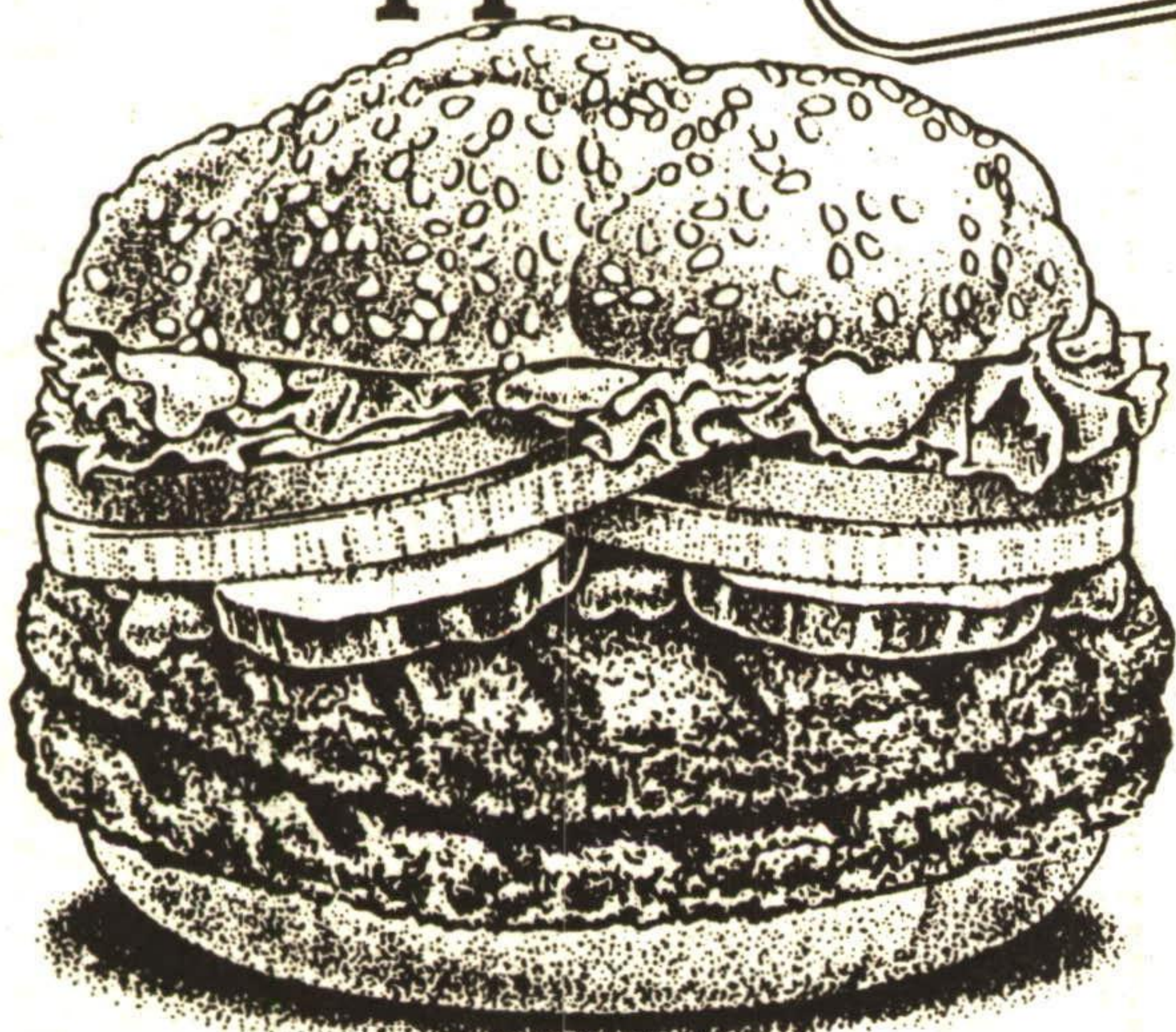
In May 1993, Halton dealt with 3,393 welfare cases. It dropped by 23 cases — Ewart described as a "variance" — in June 1993.

In May 1993, Halton's welfare roll was 3,879 — about 13 to 14 per cent higher than the previous year.

Similarly, the June 1993 statistics appear to be about 13 per cent higher than the 1992 rate but about 1 per cent lower than May 1993.

Ewart said the difference in the trend noted by the region is that in 1992 each month was higher than the previous one, a trend that continued for some time.

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