

Average \$17.50 more on your tax bill

# Catholic board approves \$116 million budget

Following months of deliberations and reductions made during budget review, the Halton Roman Catholic School Board has approved a balanced 1994 operating budget of \$116,470,705.

An identical mill rate increase of 1.34 per cent has been established by both Halton school boards. This means that the average Catholic ratepayer in Halton will pay \$17.49 more than last year on the education portion of the property tax bill.

This budget includes some program enhancements in the areas of computers, science and mathematics.

The \$116.47 million operating budget was approved May 10 at a special board meeting. The board serves over 19,000 students in 37 regional Catholic schools in Halton.

Board chair and Halton Hills trustee, Irene McCauley says "this year's budget is once again basic-

ly a flatline budget of 1993 carried over to 1994, which is reflective of the degree of ongoing restraint and sacrifices by many that have been required over the years and that will continue to be implemented in order to maintain the educational quality of the growing system."

The board's operating expenses are estimated to increase by 4.7 per cent or \$5.2 million over 1993 expenditures.

This increase is attributed to additional student growth, projected to increase 4.6 per cent over 1993, and related expenses (sup-

plies, transportation, furniture, equipment, etc.), as well as increased debenture repayments and increased utilities cost.

The actual increase in operating costs per pupil is 1.3 per cent.

Funds from the Ontario government are expected to decrease by 5.7 per cent or \$2.8 million from the 1993 levels. Included in this reduction is the board's 1994 Social Contract target of \$1.7 million. The provincial share of education cost continues to decline in relation to the costs experienced by the board from 53.3 per cent in 1993 to 48.1 per cent in 1994.

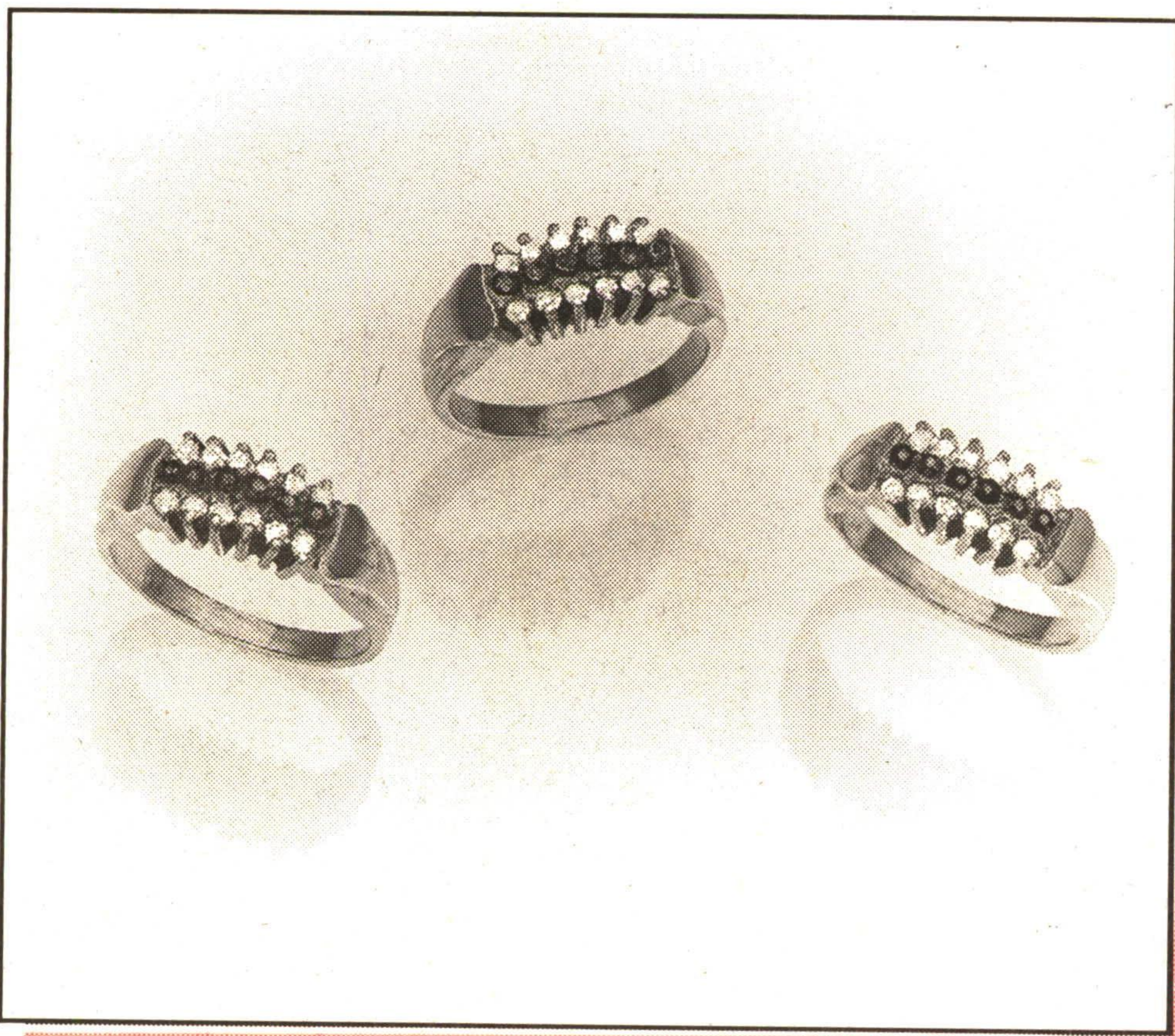
Local tax revenues will once again have to absorb an increasing share of the costs.

Retiring Director of Education, Cliff Byrnes, was pleased that no job cuts were required to balance this budget and is confident that the system can function without major difficulties for 1994.



IRENE McCAULEY

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### Roads closed

At the meeting Monday night council passed a recommendation to enact bylaws allowing for road closures for upcoming special events in town.

On Sunday August 7 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fellows St. between Church and Mill streets in Acton will be closed for the Leathertown Festival.

On Sunday May 29 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Maple Avenue in Georgetown from Holy Cross School to Holy Cross Church will be closed from the Portuguese Fiesta.

### Intergenerational Week

May 15 through May 21 will be Intergenerational Week in Halton

## Council

### Briefs

Hills thanks to a declaration by council at Monday's meeting. The week is designed to recognize the importance of intergenerational programs offered in communities across Ontario.

The request for the declaration came Geraldine Barnes, teacher coordinator for the Halton Roman Catholic School Board Grandteacher project.



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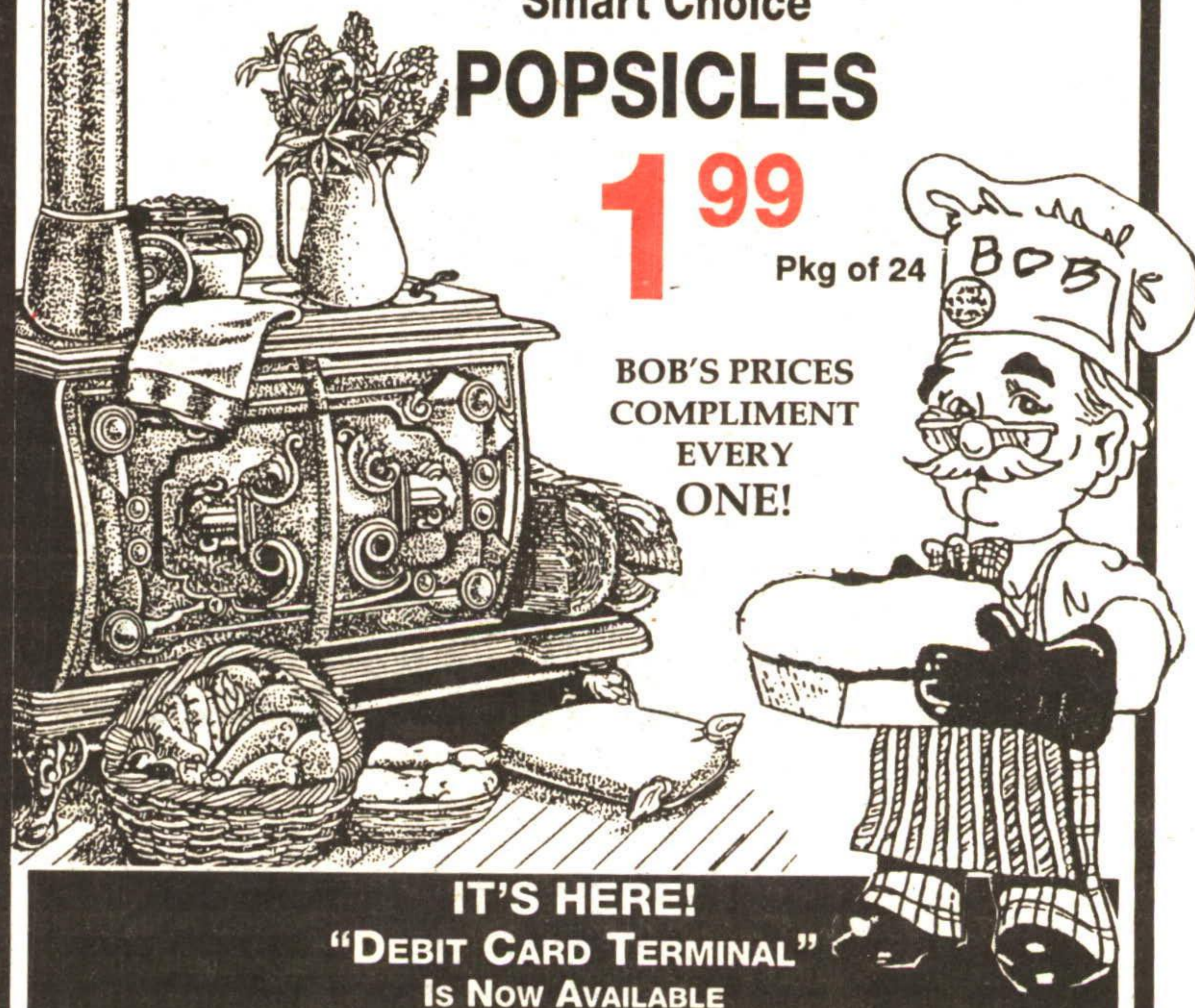
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Values effective Sunday, May 15 through Saturday, May 21/94