

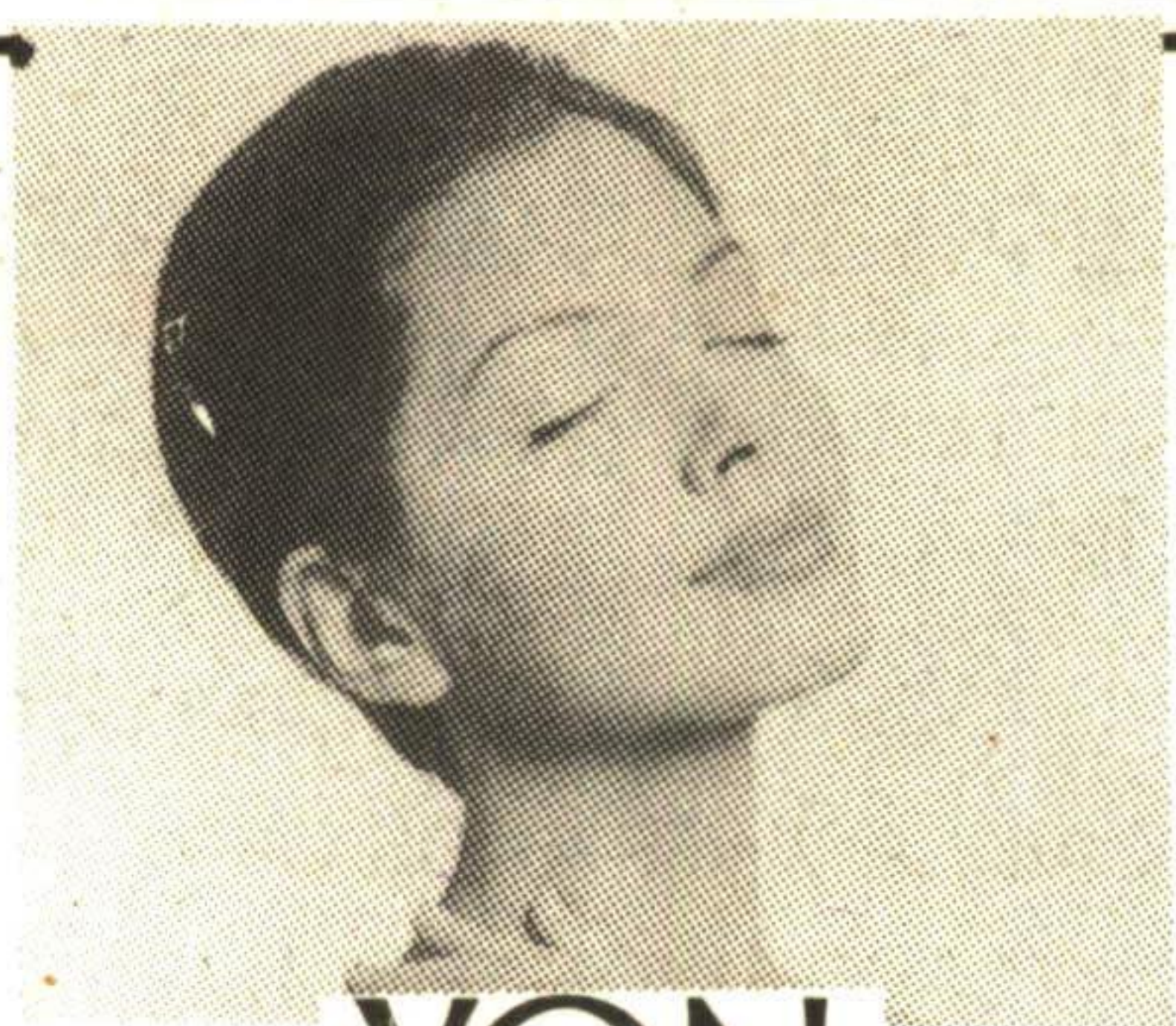


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## Identical mill rate increase

*Continued from page 1*  
An identical mill rate with an increase of 1.91 per cent has been established by both Halton boards. This means that the average Catholic ratepayer in Halton will pay approximately \$25 more than last year on the education portion of their property tax bill, for a home assessed on average at \$6,500.

The budget will include Junior Kindergarten (a half-day daily program) and the implementation of the board's Strategic Plan for Information Technology and computer acquisitions in the 1996 budget. The board also committed to program improvements in science, mathematics and technology.

The board expects approximately 306 more elementary students, 180 secondary students this year and will have to add additional teachers, supplies and furniture. Plus, with the end of the Social Contract, the board will have make up wage increments.

Budget reductions totalled \$8.34

million and include the \$1.3 million reduction resulting from staff layoffs, attrition and reorganization of all the board departments; \$1.5 million in the plant (building) department; \$2.25 million reduction in Ontario Financing Authority loans; \$1.75 million in line by line reductions by staff; \$800,000 in maintenance projects; \$300,000 in rental accommodations (portables); \$500,000 in tuition fees to other boards.

"The struggle to balance the budget is an even more difficult task for boards such as the Halton Roman Catholic School Board which has always provided quality Catholic education well below the average cost for the province," explains Gilbert McCraw, vice-chair. "There's not much to cut when Catholic boards already spend less than the public boards. The grant reductions, which are proportionately the same for wealthy and poor boards alike, tend to penalize those boards which are already very cost effective."

## TIME TO GET GROWING

After a never ending winter the "Growing" Season must finally be here. During the month of May watch for this gardening feature in our paper. The sponsors shown here will be glad to assist with your gardening needs.



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### The Problem of White Grubs

by Duncan Atkinson, The Weed Man

Have you noticed any brown or dead patches in your lawn? Or maybe a few areas that look like someone (or something) has been digging up all of your grass? Well if you have any of these symptoms, you may have WHITE GRUBS. These grubs are the larvae of June Beetles and European Chafers. Beetles lay eggs which hatch in summer. Damage is very noticeable in fall, especially when skunks, raccoons and moles dig up the lawn to feed on the grubs.

In the dead patches, the weakly rooted sod can be

pulled back to reveal the fat, white, C-shaped grubs. They have a brown head and three large pairs of legs.

White Grub damage can be stopped with a precise application of recommended insect control material. Ideally, the application should be applied in late summer or early fall, when the grubs are smallest and most susceptible. If the grubs are not controlled in the autumn, they will continue feeding on the grass roots in the spring. Therefore a spring application is necessary.



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