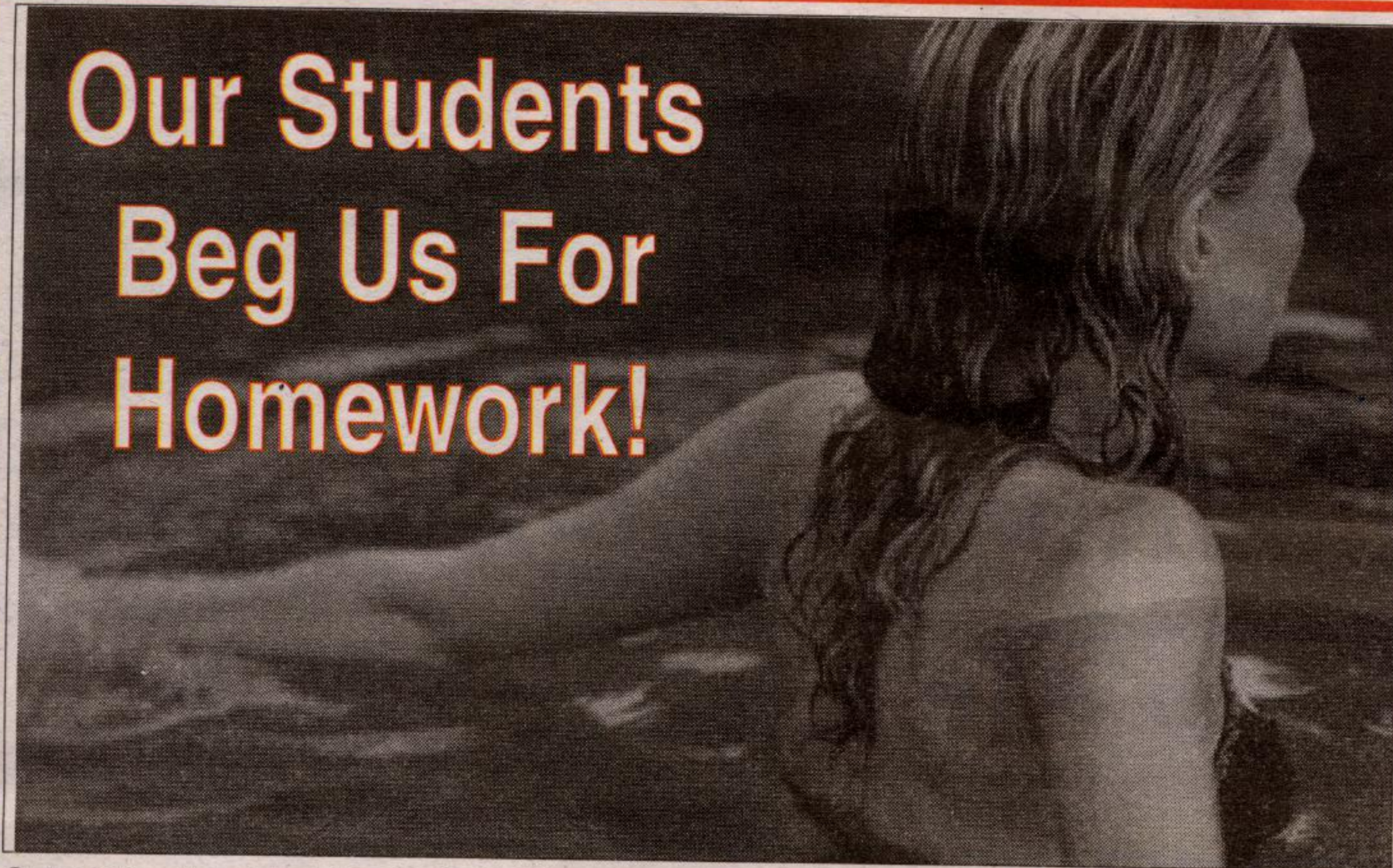


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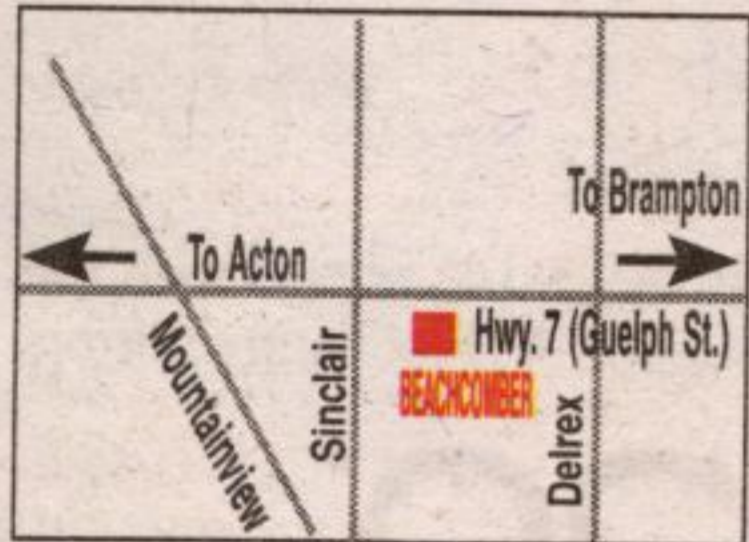
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Halton keeps top credit rating

Halton Region has once again received the top credit rating available to any issuer of long-term debt in North America.

The region was given an AAA credit rating by Standard and Poor's Rating Services after the agency's annual review.

This is the second high rating Halton has received this year—Moody's Investor Service announced in March that it would continue to rate the region as AAA.

"Standard and Poor's rating is further confirmation of Halton Region's sound financial position," said Regional Chair Joyce Savoline. "It's satisfying to know that two outside agencies have now affirmed that we are on the right track financially. This very high credit rating will help us to address future challenges and continue to ensure the health and safety of Halton residents."

Standard and Poor attributes Halton's top rating to "very strong

and consistent budgetary performance, very strong economic fundamentals and a tradition of financial prudence."

The agency reported that although the region plans to increase its debt in the coming years to help fund large capital expenditure projects, it expects Halton to retain its strong financial position.

"Maintaining our AAA credit rating allows the region to continue to invest responsibly and efficiently in our infrastructure to ensure residents have safe roads, our police are properly equipped to protect our community, our water meets or exceeds provincial standards and we are able to use the latest technologies to treat our sewage," said Halton Chief Administrative Officer Brent Marshall.

"It also allows our local government partners opportunities to make investments in their respective municipalities. This credit rating is great news for all of us."



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