



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Investigators confer outside the Campbellville Opera Emporium, which sustained severe fire, smoke and water damage late Tuesday night.

## Staring at a charred dream

By KAREN SMITH  
*The Champion*

The operator of Campbellville's Opera Emporium stared at the remains of his business in devastation Wednesday morning, after fire ripped through the basement and main floor of the village landmark.

The blaze broke out about 20 minutes after John Atkins, who took over the restaurant in May, locked up for the night at 10 p.m. Tuesday.

"It looks terrible," said the dazed man, surrounded by police tape and fire investigators surveying the partially-gutted brick building.

The structure and its contents are covered by insurance, but "that's not the point," said a teary-eyed Mr. Atkins, thinking about his staff and the work he has put into the business.

Trying to make sense of the situation, he said everything was normal, with no signs of problems, when he left the restaurant.

"Nobody's told me anything. Everyone's got their

own stories," he said Wednesday morning.

General manager Pat Anderson, who left the restaurant at 9 p.m. Tuesday, said he didn't have "a clue" how the fire started.

Building owner Lou DeFabrizio, who called the fire "nasty," said the gas furnace wasn't running and he wasn't aware of any electrical problems.

It was later determined the fire was started by a faulty ceiling light in the basement.

One of the business's 12 employees learned about the blaze by surprise at mid-morning Wednesday when she came to pick up her paycheque.

"I guess I won't be," the shocked young woman said before leaving.

Mr. Atkins, who is from a small town near Thunder Bay, said the business was doing better than he expected and he just held a fun grand opening celebration last Saturday.

All he can do now is "start clean," he said.

The building was boarded up Wednesday afternoon.

## Fire caused by faulty lamp in Emporium's basement

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scene Tuesday night and Wednesday.

The second floor of the building, constructed in 1920, was reportedly converted into an entertainment room during the American prohibition era.

An existing stage complete with velvet curtains was later said to be used for performances by opera singers.

Mr. DeFabrizio, who hadn't yet seen the extent of

damage inside Wednesday morning, said he was worried that the building's special characteristics, such as the original embossed tin ceiling, maple floor and beams and posts, were destroyed.

"It looked pretty grim last night," he said.

The fire was Campbellville's second major emergency this summer after a train struck a railway tie remover in June.

## Town holding forum to probe accident rate

The Town will host a public forum addressing Milton's high rate of motor vehicle collisions Tuesday, Sept. 29.

Presentations on collisions in Milton will be made by Terry Delmore, epidemiologist for the Halton Regional Health Department, and Staff Sergeant Roy Smith of Halton Regional Police.

Linda Daylor of the Trauma Prevention Council will discuss injury prevention initiatives in central west Ontario.

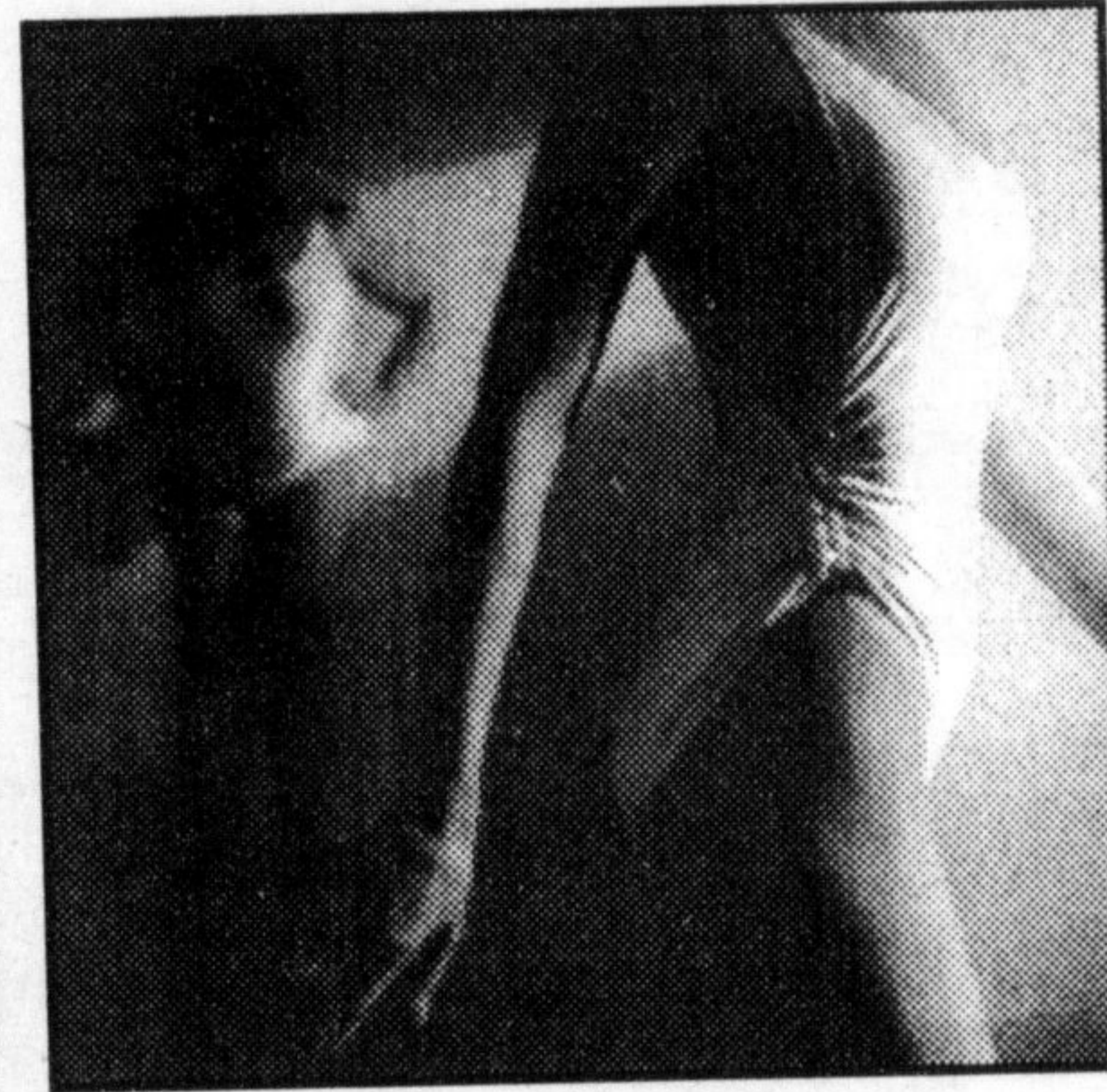
"We are seeking community support for the formation of an injury prevention committee to address road safety issues in the

town," said Mayor Gord Krantz.

Road users along with representatives from the Town, police, trucking, commuters, local residents including seniors, cyclists, pedestrians, education, health and safety organizations, transit and traffic and local business are invited to attend.

The forum will take place at Hugh Foster Hall (beside Town Hall) from 7 to 9 p.m.

Statistics indicate that Milton has a higher rate of collisions per 10,000 population than other Halton communities. Data also indicates that the injury and death rate is higher in town.



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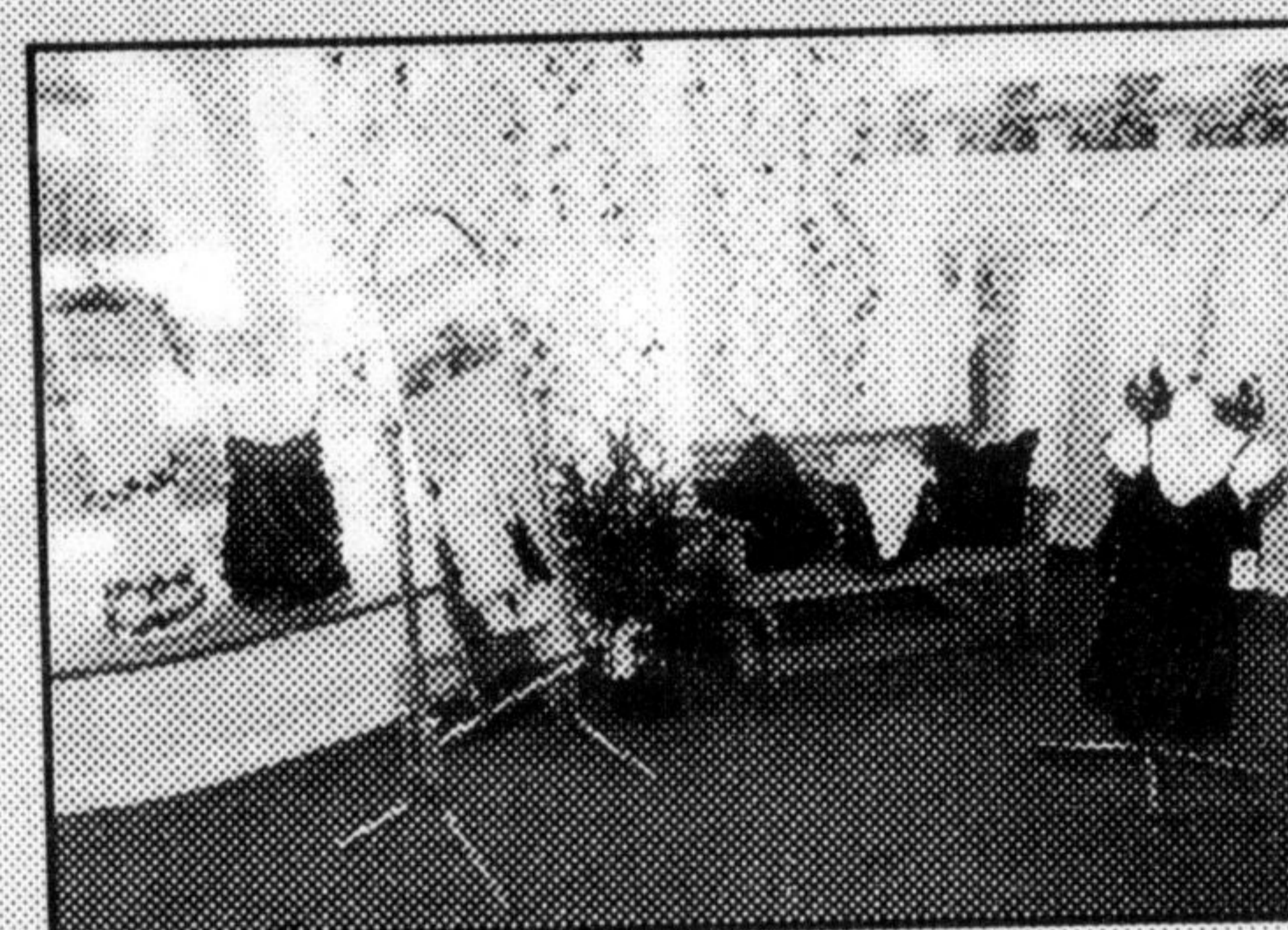
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Nanci and Betty Scriver recently opened their new lingerie store in the heart of Downtown Milton. "We saw a need for an upscale lingerie boutique in Milton and after months of contemplation, CYPRESS became a reality," says Nanci.

Both entrepreneurs have lived in Milton since 1987 and enjoy running a boutique together as a mother and daughter team.

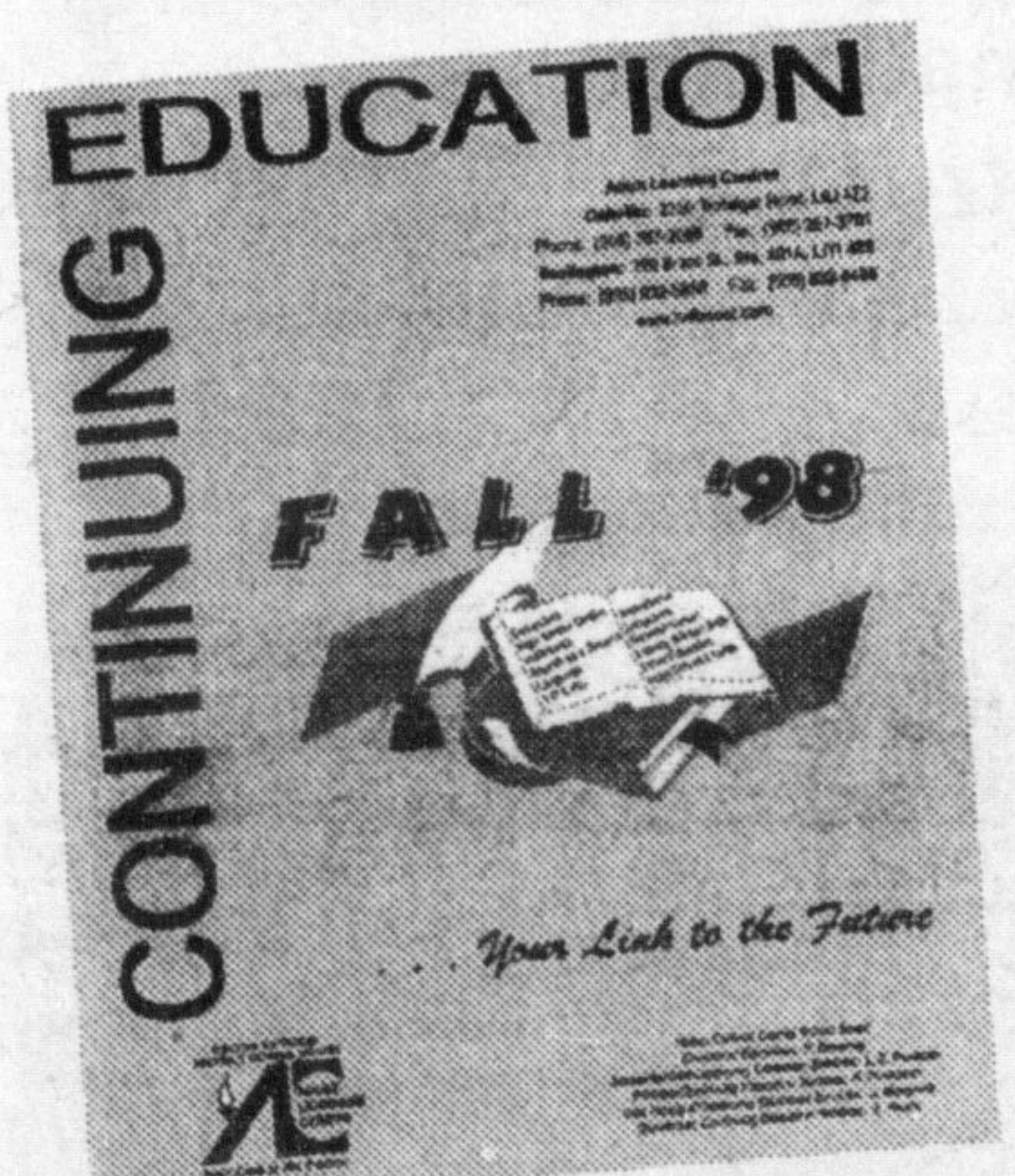
"Milton is a great friendly community that is expanding and so are its needs in retail," states Nanci.

The Downtown core has been very supportive, helpful and encouraging to this team. "We specialize in regular and plus sizes in lingerie, lounge wear and sleepwear and bras, panties, and bridal accessories. Our future plans include mastectomy fittings, a bridal registry, a wide selection of bra lines and the 'famous' men's night. The future looks good for CYPRESS.

"We've already had one bra fitting day which was a tremendous success," Betty adds, "with another one already planned." Things are looking good for Betty and Nanci from CYPRESS. Visit them today for all your intimate apparel and bridal needs.

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