

School board's 'policy governance' to be introduced after the elections

Halton school board trustees will wait until January before radically overhauling the way they do business.

Instead of introducing the new methods starting next month, 'policy governance' won't be introduced until after the next board takes over. Elections are set for November.

Policy governance has been described as a new system in which trustees develop and monitor policies, then hold the director responsible.

Critics think it diminishes a trustee's decision-making power in favour of the director. Advocates think it builds teamwork, promotes consensus and gives the board of trustees more power.

A vote to delay the onset of policy governance sparked a heated debate among trustees during Wednesday's meeting of the Halton District School Board.

Burlington's Sheila Flook wanted to delay implementation until June, 2001, but she failed to win support. Among her reasons was a desire to seek more input from board staff, and to let the next board determine how it wants to do business.

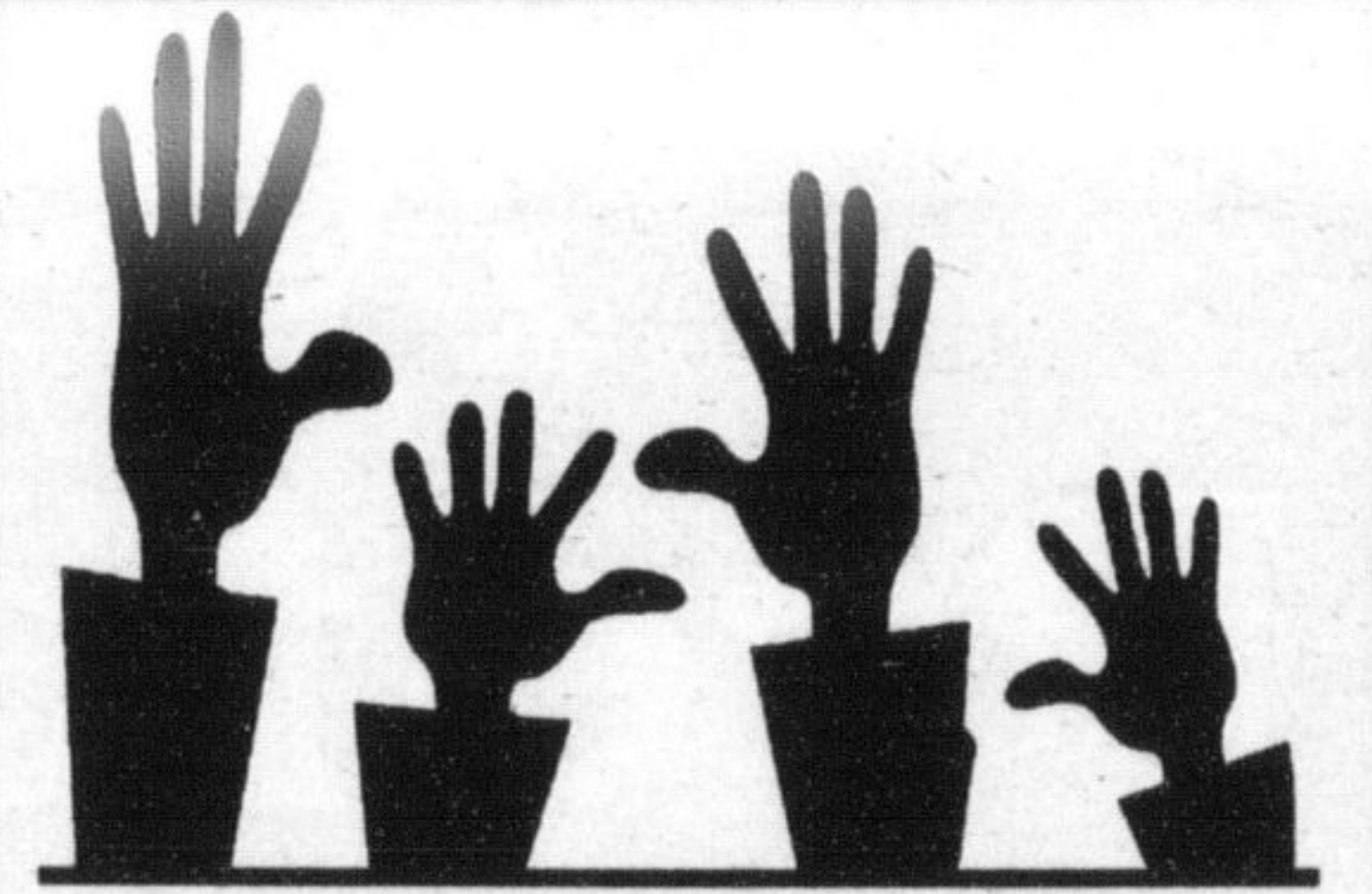
But January was reached as a compromise position, one backed by Burlington Trustee Michael Ellis, who also supported bringing in a facilitator to help train the next board, and help inform students and school councils on the new policy governance model.

"If we rush into this we could create turmoil in the system."

Oakville Trustee Peter Petrusich argued that policy governance should be introduced now, offering a chance to "smooth it in" during the last two months of the current term.

"This is something good," said Mr. Petrusich. "I think it's prudent to move ahead now. If we delay, things don't get better."

Got a hot scoop? We'd love to hear your story ideas. Call 878-2341, ext. 234.



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- North Halton Literacy Guild
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- Deidre & Friends Foundation
- Milton Lorne Scots Army Cadets
- Halton Social Planning Council & Volunteer Centre
- Deborah's Home
- TeleTouch Seniors
- Halton Museum Foundation
- Scouts Canada - Milton District
- Canadian Blood Services
- Heart & Stroke Foundation
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Derry Road plaza hosts open house

Welcome to our neighbourhood.

That's the message the tenants of the 550 Ontario St. S. commercial plaza want to send residents through its upcoming Fall Open House.

It will take place Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the corner of Ontario Street and Derry Road.

"We're hoping to make it an annual event," said Lynn Campanella of the DirecTV Ltd.

The open house will feature face-painting for kids, children's entertainment and a charity barbecue with funds going to Halton Women's Place.

That will allow merchants to join residents in a few friendly hours of fun.

"We just want people to know where we are and what we're doing here," said Ms Campanella. "We're relatively new here and there's a lot going on."

A raffle will take place, with prizes being donated by plaza merchants.

Other costs of the open house are largely being swallowed by plaza owner, Ricensberg Development Ltd.

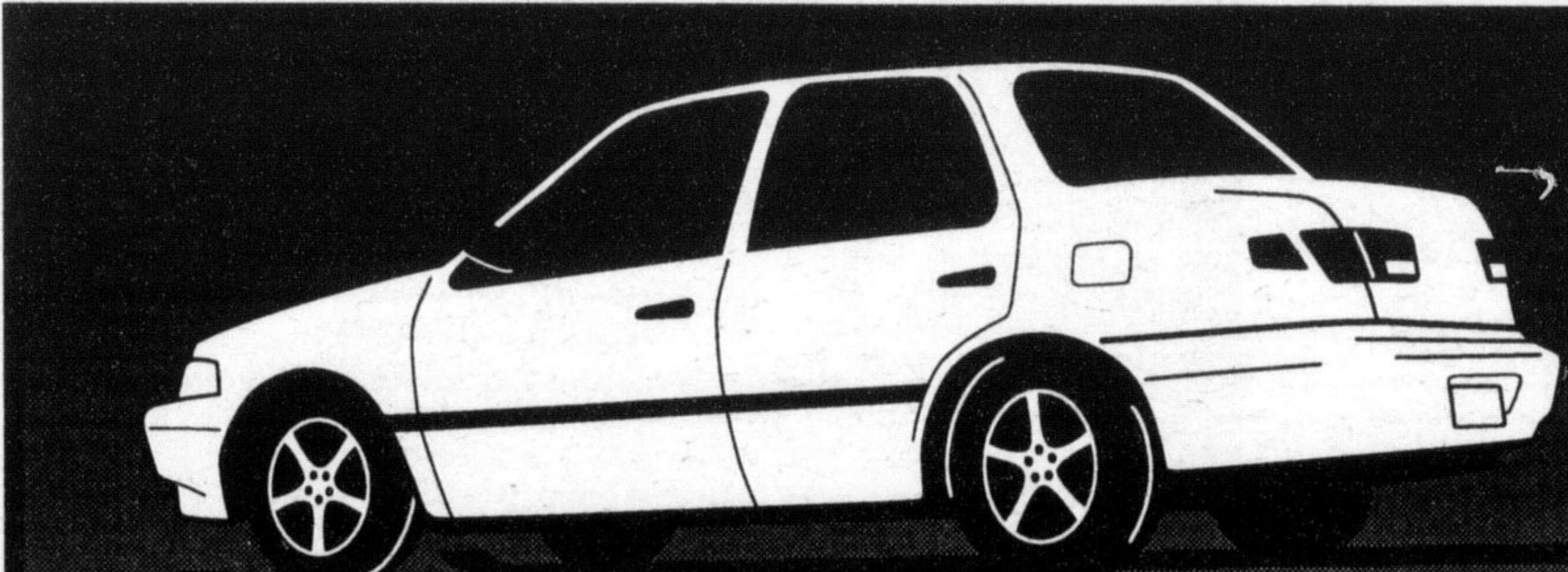
"They've very generously offered to cover the costs," said Ms Campanella.

The idea is to bring people out and show them how much there is to do and buy in the plaza.

"We have so many people who come out and say 'I didn't know you were here,' or 'I didn't know you did this,'" said Ms Campanella.

Tenants of the plaza include Hawkins Animal Hospital, dentists D. Dumencu and D. Johnson, Dance Elite, Cyr Electrolysis Clinic, Beverley Hills Weight Management and Nutrition Centre, Sun Haven Tanning Spa, Busy Bodies Play Town, Healing Touch Massage Therapy Clinic, The Co-operators, Body and Sole by Christine and the Electrolysis College of Canada.

Rounding out the plaza is Pizza Hut, Trattoria Domenico II Ltd. Amity Goodwill Industries and Super A Video.



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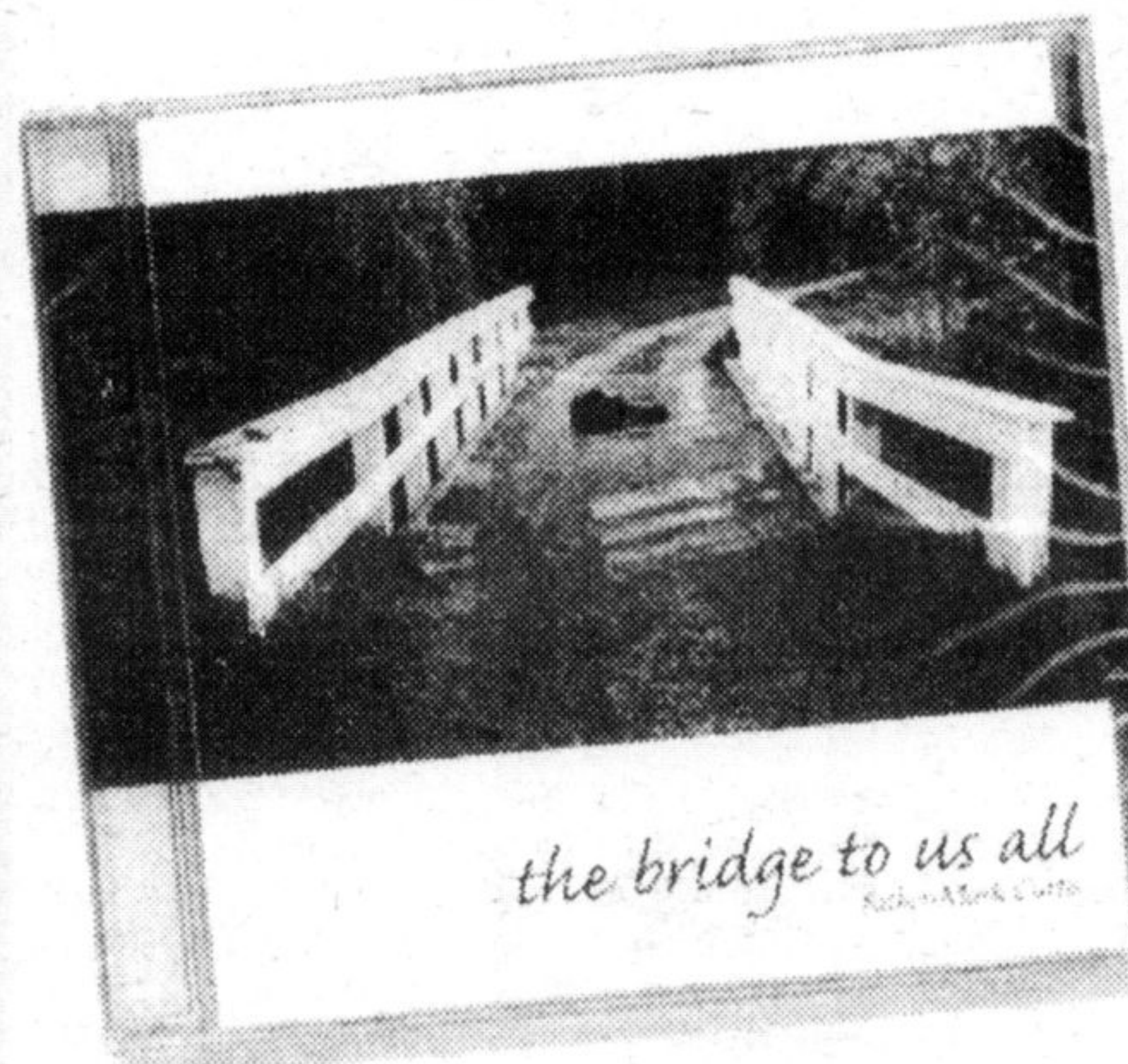
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