

Police association and board reach tentative deals Thurs.

The Halton Regional Police Association (HRPA) and Halton Regional Police Services Board have reached tentative contracts with both uniformed and civilian members.

The deals — which must still be approved by both sides — were announced at Thursday's police services board meeting by outgoing board member and negotiating team leader Jack Brewer.

Since the contracts remain pending, neither side could offer details,

but Mr. Brewer said he believes they have hammered out deals that are good for officers and the service, and also Halton taxpayers.

Halton police officers have been without a contract since December 2002 and talks began in October. According to HRPA President Dave Atkinson, the deals reached Tuesday are a "fair response" to the many variables involved.

Mr. Atkinson explained that the new three-year deals, which expire December 31, 2005, will be out-

lined in detail to the memberships during three sessions to be held February 11. Voting will take place February 12, 13 and 16.

The last collective agreements, approved in February 2000, represented a total 10.4 per cent increase in wages and benefits over the life of the contracts. Mr. Brewer also led the police board's negotiating team on that occasion.

At the end of the former contract the top salary for a first class constable was \$61,888.

Occasional teachers receive deal

The Halton District School Board has reached an agreement on a new contract with its occasional teachers in the elementary panel. School board trustees ratified a two-year deal at Wednesday's board meeting.

The pact is retroactive to September 1, 2002 and runs until August 31, 2004. The occasional teachers get a 3 per cent raise back to September 2002, 2.37 per

cent back to September 1, 2003, 1.79 per cent in February 2004 and 0.75 per cent on August 31, 2004.

The board has approximately 600 unionized occasional teachers affiliated with the Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario. The board's 300 or so high school occasional teachers already have a new contract.

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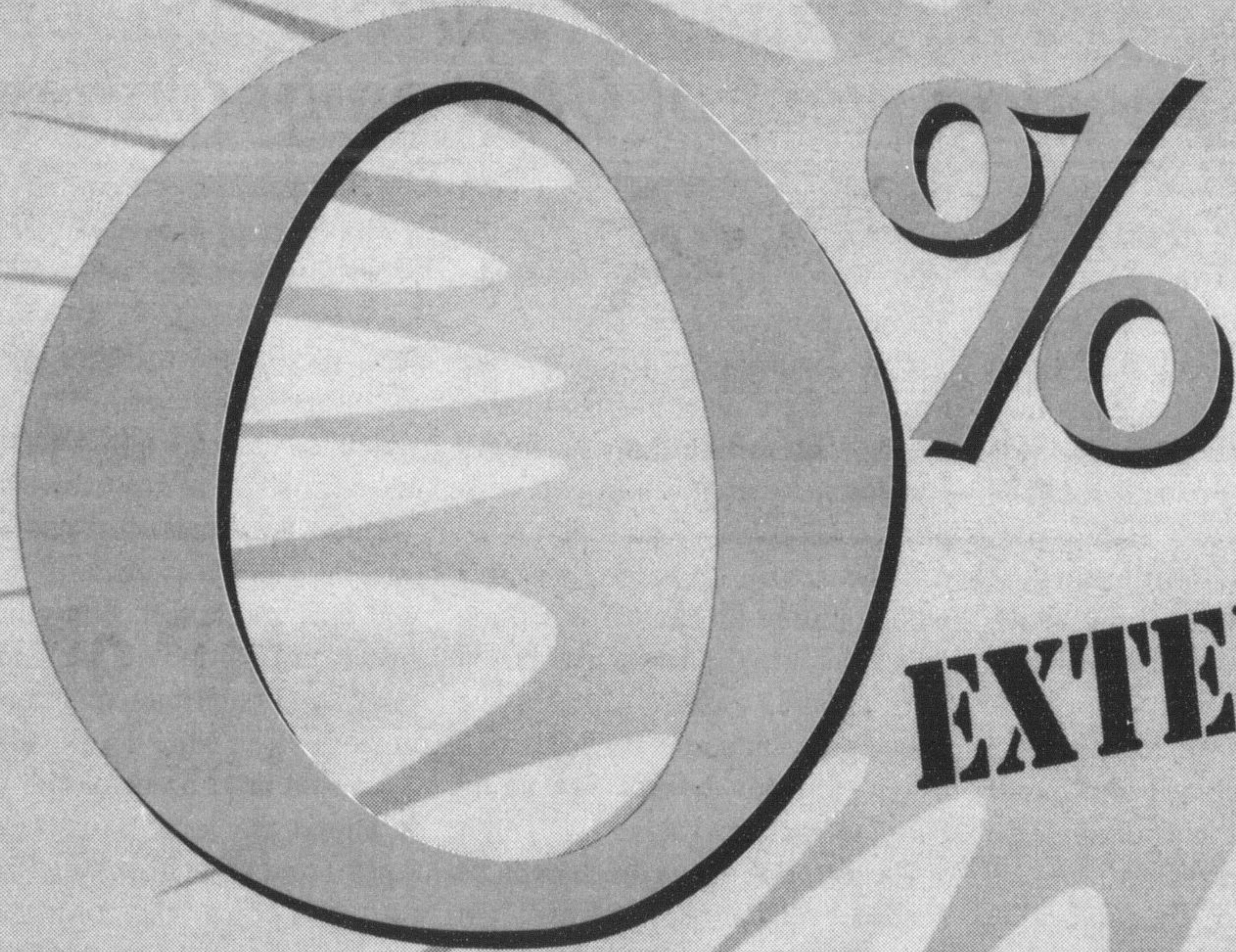
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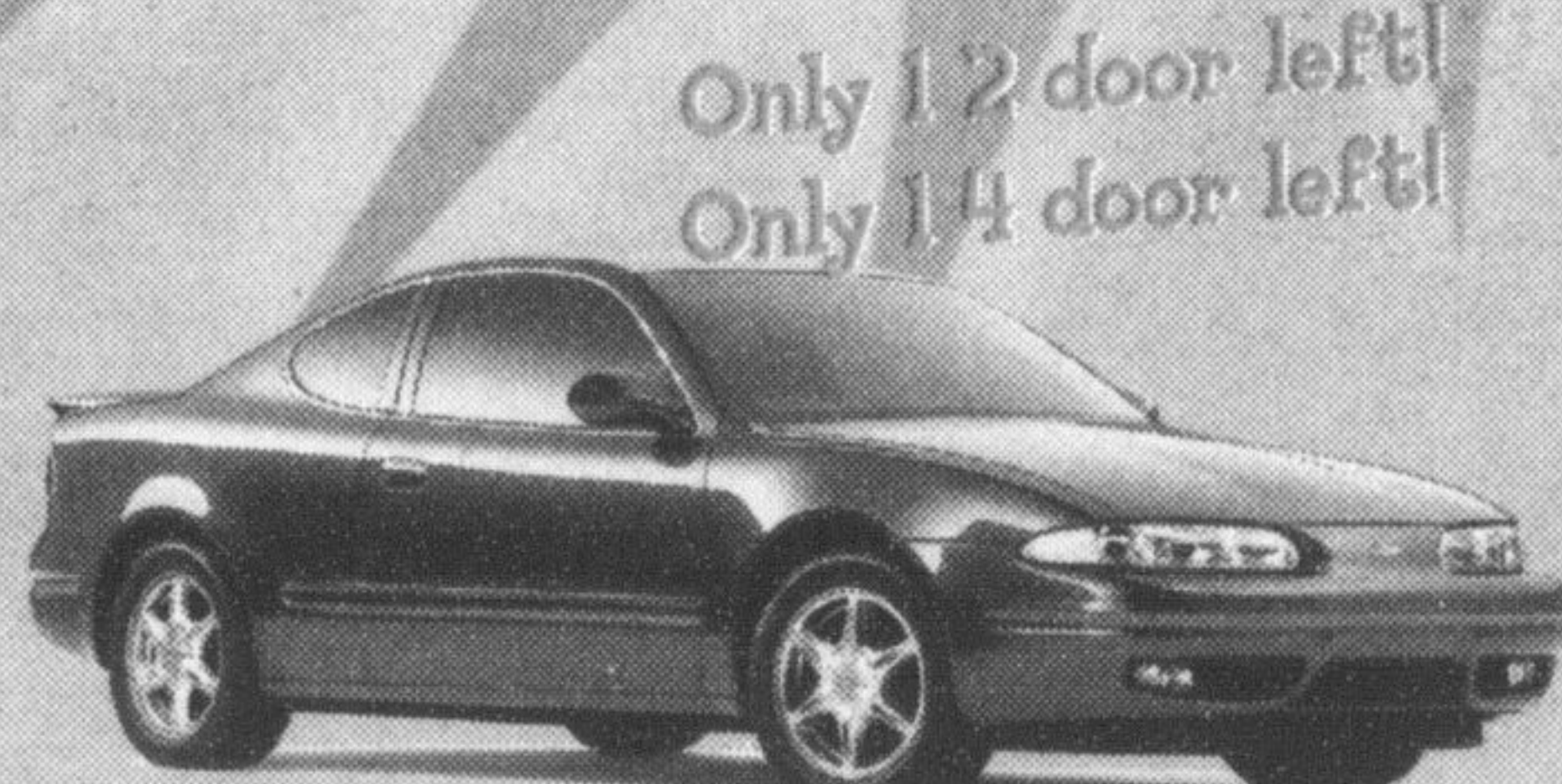
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