



Mark Clairmont
Sports Editor

Sportswriting no longer meat and potatoes

Natives of Georgetown have always boasted that their fair town is really a sport village masquerading as a bedroom community for Toronto. This week the truth bares them out.

Local coming sensation Ian Clark tuned up for the World Cross Country Championships in Paris, France, next month with a third place finish at the Toronto Star Maple Leaf Indoor Games' Canadian invitational 1,500-metres - the Gems make the playoffs - the hockey community will turn out in full force Tuesday night to honor the Royal Canadian Legion for meritorious service to the sport - squash player Pat Harris advanced to the Ontario finals of the national Heart Fund Squash Tournament - young figure skaters show impressively in regional contests - minor hockey teams make it past the first round of the playoffs - a local resident catches a hockey game in Los Angeles and much more happened on the sports scene in Georgetown this week.

For a town the size of this, happenings on the athletic front are numerous and at the forefront of a lot of conversations. When this paper comes out many people will be talking of the achievements of the athletes rather than the politicians or tradesman.

At one time all sportswriting meant was copying down the results of the game and using the statistics they provide to make a story. Statistics were the meat and potatoes of the job. Now since the inception of Sports Illustrated, the glossy full color subscription magazine, the trend is more toward the human beings involved.

According to David Shaw, the press critic for the Los Angeles Times, "today's more sophisticated and literate readers want more on the sports page than stories by numbers and cliches. They want to know not just what happened but how and why. The sports section is no longer an escapism" from the hard core front page news which usually depicts the world as a bad place to live.

"Where once the athlete was romanticized, glamorized, even mythified, he now is analyzed, criticized and even condemned. Sports events were once generally treated as seriously as a holy crusade, now sports are often dealt with lightly, humorously, even sarcastically or scornfully.

"Sports writers once functioned as sychophantic 'housemen' cheering on the local team in print, but now most sportswriters have achieved a level of professional detachment, in print, at least, and the rooster-as-writer is a dwindling breed."

"The new breed of sportswriter - socially and politically aware, motivated more by his own curiosity and need to write than by a love of sports for sports' sake - is not so inhibited.

"Many critics say the new school has gone too far. Their favorite example of this excess is the post-World Series interview in which New York Yankee pitcher Ralph Terry was interrupted by a congratulatory telephone call from his wife.

"Where's your wife?" a reporter asked.

"Feeding the baby," Terry replied.

"Breast or bottle?" asked the reporter."

Such is the new philosophy of sportswriting.

Dave Kentner, a local sports nut, realized part of a life-long dream while on a trip to California this past week.

He attended a Los Angeles Kings hockey game at the Forum out on the coast. Kentner said that it has long been his dream to see every National Hockey League team play on their own ice. As of now he has seen Los Angeles, Toronto, Buffalo, Detroit and Pittsburgh.

Kentner had originally planned a trip to Florida for his wife Gerry and daughters Lori and Steffanie. When his catering business became too busy to leave, he opted for the sunny west "since they had a sale on seats that were cheaper there than to Tampa (Florida)."

Although the Kentners experienced a hurricane and mudslides, on Saturday, the day of the Kings-Montreal Canadian hockey game, the temperature was 70 degrees fahrenheit. "Winning weather," Kentner said.

He was right. Only the win wasn't a home victory but a road victory. The defending Stanley Cup champions triumphed 5-4 on a "beautiful" goal by Evonne Lambert. Kentner said he thought Rauder defenseman could play for the Kings. (That's questionable).

Kentner said the \$32 he charged on his ChargeX for four tickets into the "fabulous Forum" with 15,000 other people, was well worth every penny.

Despite the constant sport emphasis on football (primarily) basketball and baseball, Kentner thinks that hockey will catch on in the States.

Squash

Local player in Ontario finals

Pat Harris will be representing Georgetown and the western region of this province at the Ontario finals of the national Heart Fund Squash Tournament. She won the right by winning the ladies' D flight of the local club competition, then won the western regional finals.

The tournament is just as it says. A means of squash players across the country helping fund heart research and treatment. Players pay, or donate, five dollars to enter. From there the winners advance toward the Canadian championship of the event.

Terry Madill got as far as the men's semi-finals in the A regional. Christine Kogon achieved the same results in the ladies' division of the A regional.

The performance of the three helped the Georgetown Racquet Club members forget their week in inter-club play. Two of the three men's teams lost.

First the good news. The B team won their match, at home to the Hamilton Squash Club. The match score was 4-1.

Al Kogon led the team with a 3-0 win over his opponent. Terry Madill, Rod Eastwood and Norm Hertz all had 3-1 wins. Boyd Hoddinott was on the losing end of a 0-3 score.

The C team, playing an away game at the Ontario Racquet Club in Oakville, were defeated 4-1 in their match. Barry Griffiths was the only winner, getting a 3-0 shutout victory. Losing 1-3 were Alex Furness and Doug Richardson. Dave Rivers and Dave McEwen were outscored 0-3.

Also playing in Oakville was the D team who had a bad day losing all but one set of games. That was a 3-0 romp by Christine Kogon. Her male team-mates Graham Smith, Doug Soverly, Tom Kankainen and Doug Farrigan all lost 0-3.

Although it may look like some of the players were troubled by not winning any of their games, many games which go up to nine points, are as close as those in tennis. There are serves, rallies and break points. However like most sports there has to be a winner and a loser.

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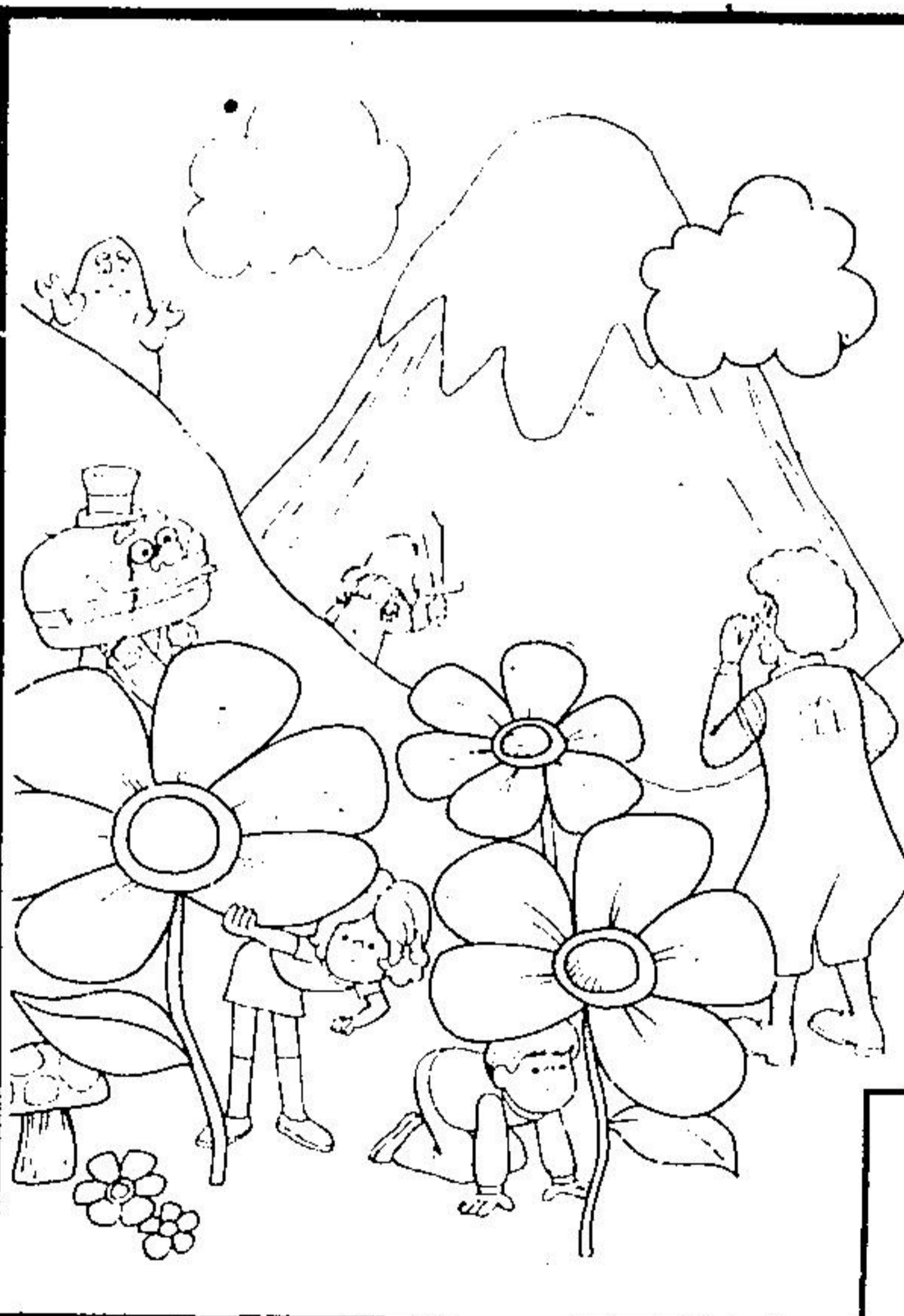
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