

By KEVIN CALLAN

It's been over five years now that Frodo and I have walked the forest trails together. Since the day I brought him home from Mountsberg Wildlife Centre, the little marauder has turned every normal wilderness excursion of mine into an everlasting adventure.

The summer of '86 was our first extended expedition together. Frodo, my pet ferret, and I drove across Canada eager to begin a five-week journey across the magnificent Rocky Mountains. With my trusty companion nestled on top of my backpack, we traversed glacial streams and treked over windswept passes.

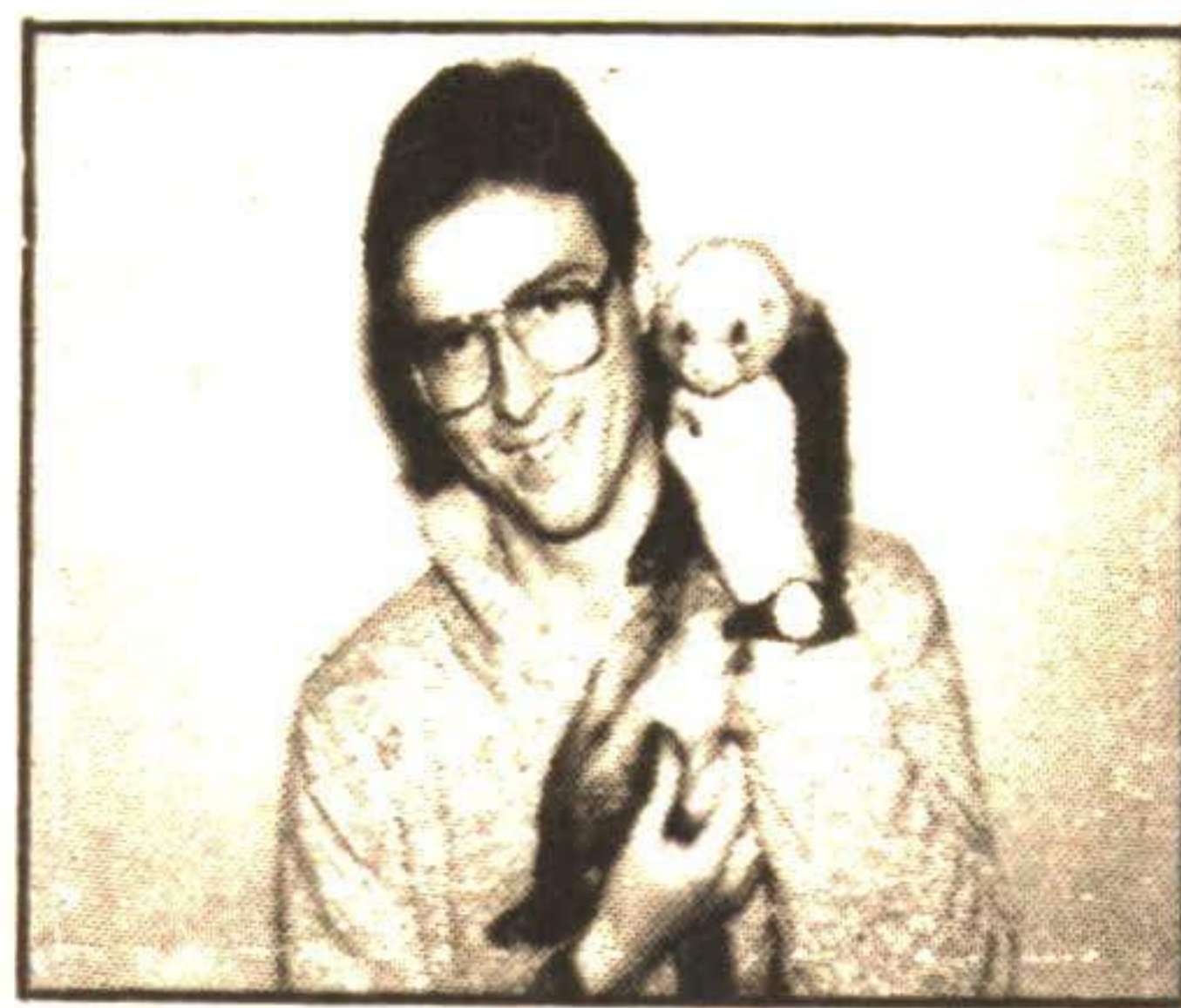
At times, however, it seemed difficult to have a frolicking ferret along. After encountering an angry bear, a heard of stampeding elk, and a lovesick skunk, I came to realize that having a curious weasel tagging along had its drawbacks.

## Nature's Way

# Frodo battles cancer

Tent training Frodo was a chore on its own. Waking up to an early morning frost and finding a frozen scat clinging to your glasses is not a welcoming way to start the day. It took over three years to finally brainwash Frodo to venture outside to relieve himself during the night.

Ski-packing with a frolicking ferret was unique to say the least. Telemarking down a steep wooded slope is hard enough, but to have a ferret constantly shifting his sleeping position inside my backpack and causing the 60 pounds lashed to my back to shift to and fro does have its major disadvantages.



Later in life, I resorted to changing exhausting backpack and ski-packing trips, to the ease of paddling across calm, tranquil lakes. How was I to know, however, that I owned the only ferret alive terrified of water. I spent my entire canoe trip coercing a stubborn ferret into a flimsy fiberglass vessel.

At every portage, Frodo would attempt to escape into the woods, choosing to fend for himself in the wilderness rather than face another nightmare out on the lake, battling motion sickness.

Now, it seems fighting off marauding bears, escaping the trampling hooves of elk, educat-

ing lovesick skunk on weasel I.D., and finally getting used to wearing a life-preserver, is old hat for my faithful camping companion, for Frodo is battling the evils associated with the dreaded sickness called cancer!

After completing a two-month canoe trip in the interior of Killarney provincial park, I noticed my pet ferret's frolick had fizzled. At first I thought it was just old age creeping up, but two months ago tell-tale signs started to point out the obvious. A prominent tumor protruded from his chin.

Immediate treatment was given by the neighborhood vet, and just last week Frodo went

under the 'knife' to have the growth removed.

It won't be known for another week or two if the sickness is spreading throughout Frodo's body. Meanwhile, our outdoor excursions have been cancelled as we await the outcome of the tests.

I'm positive, however, that Frodo's wounds will heal. In the meantime my companion and I will have to resort to living off the memories of wind-swept mountain passes, freeze-dried tender fiddles, and even the rolling waves of a lonely lake, while we await yet another wilderness adventure.

## Town requests Activan subsidy

The Town's Activan transit service is requesting a Provincial subsidy of over \$30,000 in order to continue its service throughout the year.

Activan, the municipal service that provides transportation for the physically disabled, operates on a projected budget of \$64,450.

Its estimated revenue for 1990, to be generated by user fees (not including charitable donations), is \$6,950.

The Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (MTO) will allocate subsidies for up to 50 per cent of the

budgeted operating expenditures. Therefore, the Town has requested \$31,712.50 to offset the cost of operating Activan.

MTO should process the application within the next month.

### Toastmasters Club

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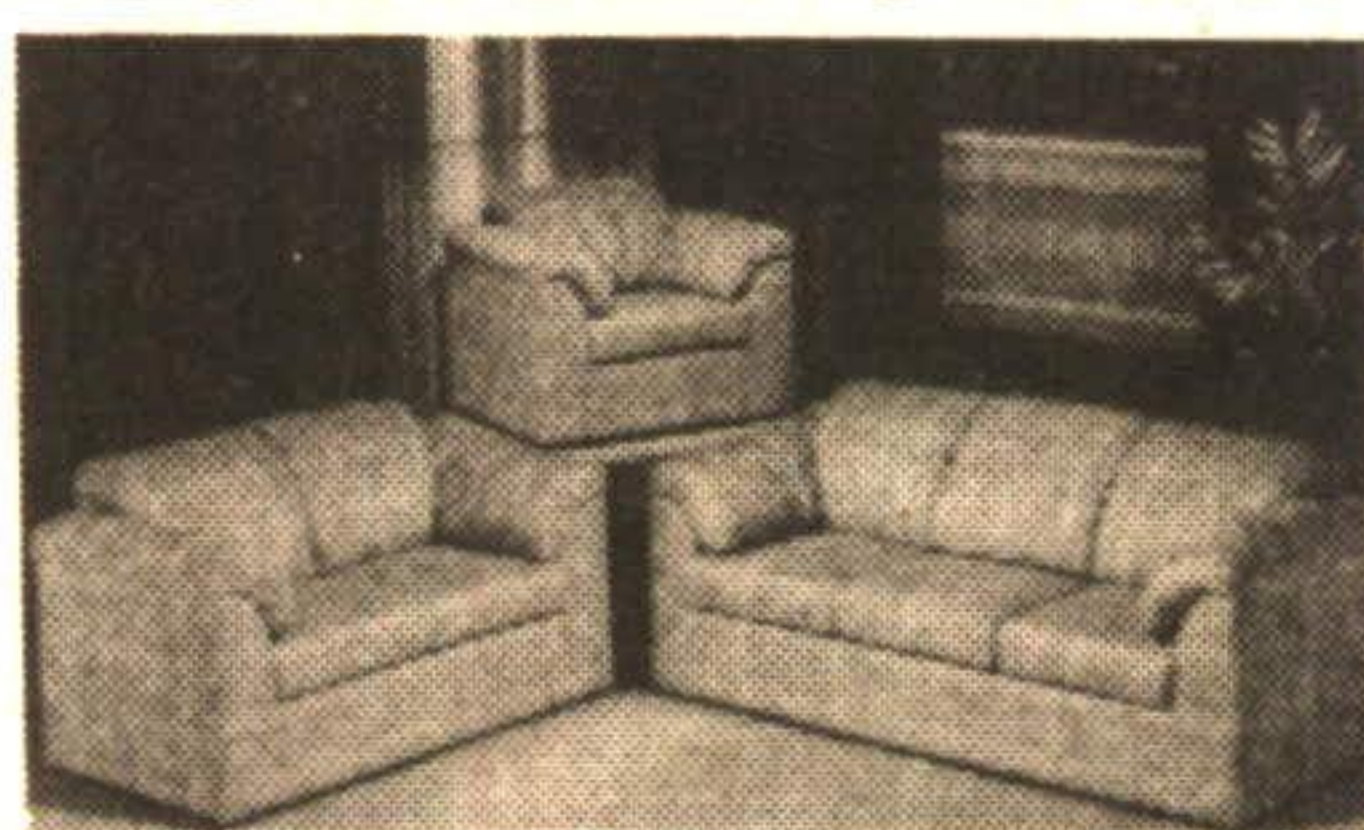


This contemporary sofa, loveseat comes in a full top grain, butter soft leather and is available in a wide colour choice. All hardwood frame.

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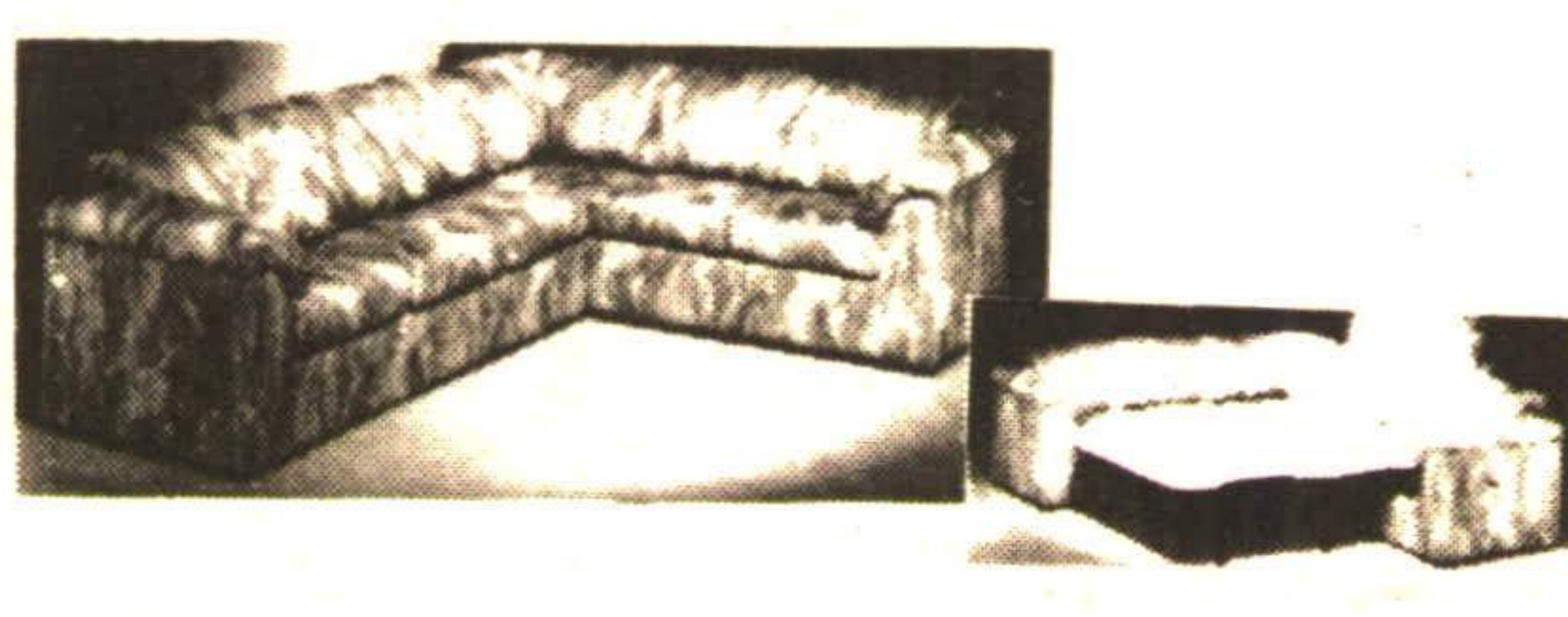
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