

THE HALTON HILLS WEEKEND

KEN NUGENT
Publisher

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Country Lane Video will stay

Dear editor:

Country Lane is here to stay.

On April 6 I went before council and told them that I was giving up and that we would list the Country Lane property for sale and move our operation into town. I asked that we be left alone until such move had been made. I didn't really expect that to happen. I did expect that they would be somewhat human and show some compassion. Well, what do you know, they took the boots to me. They had the animalistic behavior to attack when their prey was down. Not only did they decide to charge me immediately for the driving range, they said that if I opened the mini putt or batting cages they would press charges as well. Then they discussed my matter about how long would they give me to operate the video store before charging me with that offence as well, they threw 90 days around until Mr. William Robson suggested that he wanted us out by 30 days. How could anybody expect to move an operation like ours in 30 days? A new spot hasn't even been sought yet.

Letters

to the Editor

Nobody cared whether I found a location and was able to move.

I believe that their decision was based on personal feelings only, there wasn't a political reason why they couldn't have given us at least 90 days. They led me to believe for three years that it was alright to

'It will take a lot more than the likes of this council to pull me down.'

operate. What would 90 days matter? I think even my neighbors who fought me tooth and nail right from the start would have agreed to 90 days.

Their decision, I say, only shows how personal this matter really got. If anybody thinks they have won

this battle they are badly mistaken. We still own the land; what we do with it as long as it fits the zoning (industrial M1) is our business. And that is a wide range of usages. It will take a lot more than the likes of this council to pull me down. What this council has done is take away from the citizens of this town, a place to go and play mini putt, practise their batting skills and golf skills.

Country Lane is here to stay; an exact location is not available as of press time but a place will be found. I will be moved in 30 days. I won't let my 6,000 video friends down. Our new store will only be bigger and better. We will try to locate as central as possible. Until that time it's business as usual. Except don't come up hoping to use the mini putt or batting cages, they will have to stay closed. But the driving range will be operational for 30 more days. At the most we only hope to be closed for moving for two to three days around the 10th of May.

I would like to thank publicly Pam Johnston, who was the only councillor who voted no to the 30 day resolution.

For any inquiries call myself or Debbie at 877-2254 or 877-6767.

David Tarzwell

Matthew's deserving of our support

In the past two weeks, Acton Bowling Lanes has been a beehive of activity, as over 600 keglers have bowled in the Wheels for Matthew Committee's bowl-a-thon. Today, the finals will be held at Acton Lanes. But this isn't just a sporting event; it's a celebration of community spirit and support for a deserving young man. Three years ago, Matthew Fleet was a star athlete at Acton District High School, until a swimming accident left him disabled.

But Matthew, described as a quiet, soft-spoken person who has overcome his disabilities, is optimistic about his future. He is looking forward to attending university this fall. His goal: to become a teacher and to help young students with disabilities. His problem: transportation to and from and around the campus. The Wheels for Matthew Committee, comprising of several admirable community members, hope to solve that problem with a series of fundraising events to pay for a specially equipped van for Matthew.

The bowl-a-thon, so far, has been a grand success -- not only is it raising lots of money but it's been fun. Our own editorial team had a great time bowling, and the event has brought many people together. For instance on one team there was a three year old bowling with an 89 year old.

You can watch the tourney live on Cable 4 TV today, but why not drop into Acton Lanes. There's going to be a party. Watch teams vie for the championship, or go downstairs to the former Stedman's building to partake of drinks and hot dogs (courtesy of Acton IGA) with proceeds to the Matthew Fund and enjoy the square dancing, a rock band and more.

Or even better, call 853-1273 or 853-1283 to give a monetary pledge for the van and see that Matthew gets to school.



Wendy always has the right answer

A talented young lady occupies the desk next to mine in the office.

Wendy Long is doing a stint with us from Sheridan College, as she gains experience in the "real" newspaper world.

Everyday I'm in awe of this girl's talent.

I'm not referring to her journalistic talent, even though she has lots of that.

No, I'm talking about her talent with a telephone. She's the only one I know who can carry on a full scale conversation with an answering machine. She's incredible.

She dials a number, and after the message and beep, goes on something like;

"Hello, Mr. 'so and so', my name is Wendy Long and I'm a reporter for the Georgetown Independent, and I'm working on a story on 'such and such.....' and I would appreciate if you would call me at 873-0301, to discuss the details. Again my name is Wendy Long and

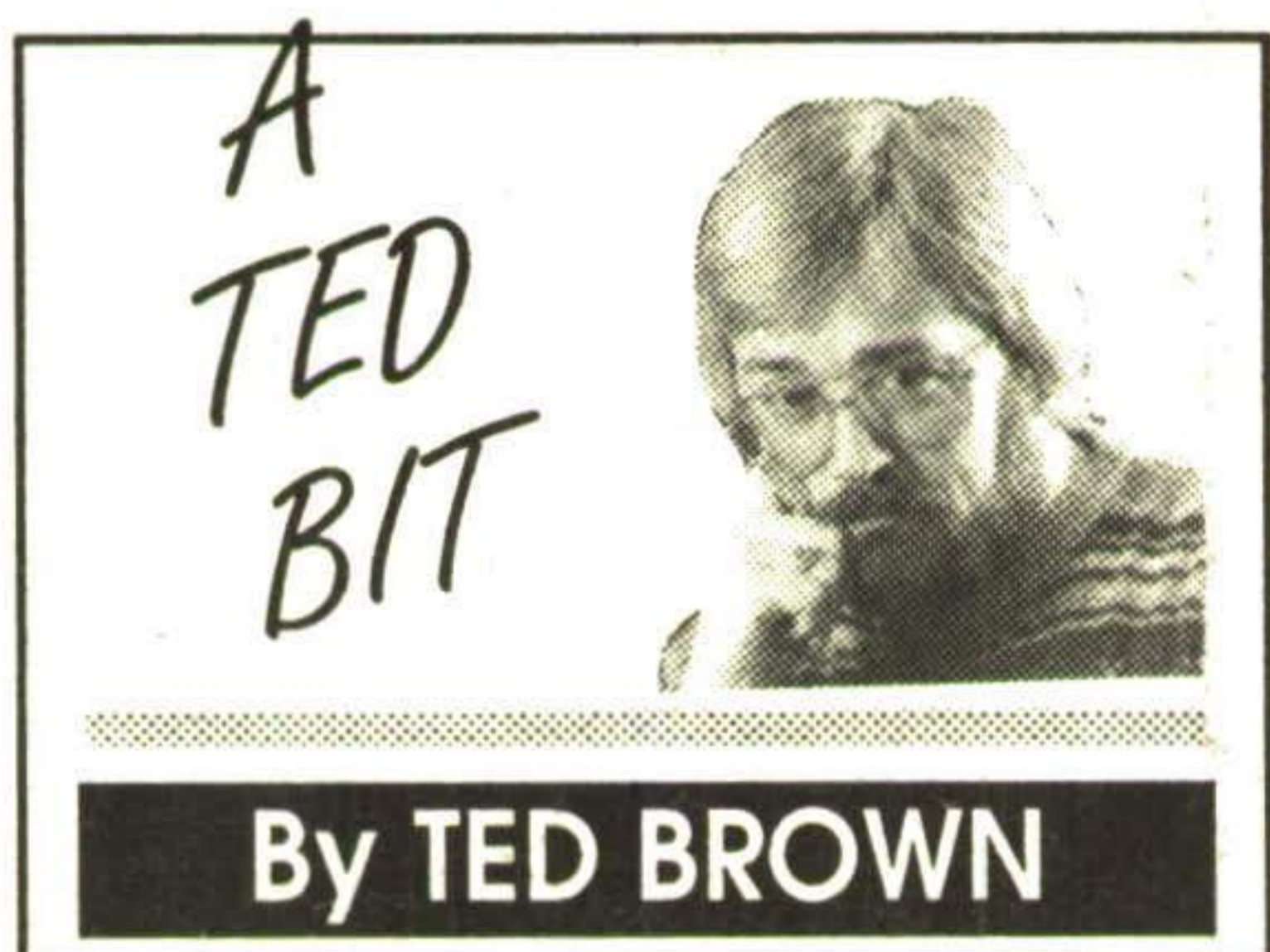
the number is 873-0301. Please call as soon as possible. Thank you!"

All that before the 30 seconds is up. And so totally organized.

Not me. Maybe it's my pride, I don't know, but I have an aversion to talking to a machine. And I'm never organized.

I usually end up mumbling something like, "Ahem, (cough, clear the throat, etc.) This is Ted... er...a...Ted Brown, and I'm, ahem.... calling to ask about...(check the notes) now what was I calling about?... oh yeah,...the phone message I found, wherever it is, somewhere on my desk...ahem.... Oh yeah, I'm with the Independent... and ..."

In short, I screw it up royally. I've always had this love/hate relationship with answering machines. I realize they are a great device, saving people a lot of time. But why must some people always try to be so cute in the introductory greeting?



A few weeks ago, I phoned a number and the message started something like this;

"Hi, we're not home right now," (That much is obvious; if they were home, they would have answered the stupid phone, unless they were engaged in some other activity...hmm...) "And because my wife got this damned answering machine on Club Z points, I guess you're supposed to leave a message."

Another I phoned had the message taped with classical music in the background. A nice touch,

except the music was so loud, I couldn't hear the greeting.

Sometimes, I wonder if these people have ever phoned their own number to hear the message from the other end.

There is the classic greeting for those who don't want the caller to get the idea the house is empty and waiting to be robbed;

"Hi, my wife and I are out walking Fifi and Bubbles, our man-eating killer Dobermans, but if you would leave us a message..."

Who are they trying to kid? No one walks a man-eating Doberman.

How about the one with a kid singing the theme song to "The Elephant Show?" Maybe they're expecting a call from a talent scout.

In my household, there is no need of an answering machine. Not with my kids around.

It would be nice to have one, at times, especially when the phone rings at supertime.

But it would be a waste of

money. As it is now, I rarely answer the phone. Not that I have anything against answering it. Or wouldn't like to do it from time to time.

No, it's just a simple situation when the phone rings, there's a chorus of four young voices chanting "I'll get it!" in unison, followed by an unholy scramble to be the first to lift that elusive receiver from its cradle.

My daughters could be in the "back fifty" of the farm and would still make a concerted effort to be the first to answer that phone. Of course, they're not impressed when the caller wants to talk to some other member of the family.

But those young ladies are my answering machine. And fairly reliable at that.

I only wish Bell Canada would give me a discount on my phone bill, for lack of wear and tear on the ringer of the phone.

After all, it only ever rings once before it's answered.