

THE HALTON HILLS WEEKEND

KEN NUGENT
Publisher

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Second Class Mail Registration Number 6969. The Georgetown Independent is a member of The Canadian Community Newspaper Association and The Ontario Community Newspaper Association.

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Words of warning

Halton schools opened this week and once again we urge drivers to be aware of children crossing the busy roads. Around most of the school areas, crossing guards are employed to ensure the safe passage of our children to and from school. These guards have the authority under the Highway Traffic Act to control traffic

But according to the Halton Regional Police, every year they receive complaints about drivers who disobey crossing guards' signs to stop. There have even been occasions when cars have deliberately brushed the guards as they stood in the intersections or narrowly missed crossing children. Guards are often subjected to verbal insults from impatient or abusive drivers as well, say the police.

The Halton Regional Police Service, however, is committed to supporting crossing guards by investigating and prosecuting any incidents. They warn that disobeying a crossing guard's signal to stop carries a \$78.75 fine and two points added to a driver's record. Drivers who endanger the guards' or the children's lives, deliberately, may face a criminal code charge, a lengthy licence suspension and imprisonment.

But why should these warnings be necessary every year? It takes only a few seconds for the children to cross the road under a guard's supervision. Surely a few seconds of waiting is well spent in ensuring a child's safety.

Mayor writes to Premier re labor bill

(The Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce filed this letter with our newspaper for publication.)

Premier Bob Rae, Province of Ontario, Dear Mr. Premier:

On behalf of the Town of Halton Hills, I am urging you to petition your government to reconsider implementation of Bill 40, Amendments to the Ontario Labour Relations Act.

The proposed amendments will severely limit our ability to maintain public safety as prescribed by the Municipal Act. Prohibiting the use of replacement employees will leave our streets in disrepair or unplowed in winter, thus causing concern for public safety. Amendments requiring disclosure of employee names and addresses directly contravene the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act. In

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addition, the proposed amendments will cripple the businesses that contribute to our tax base. The investors we so desperately need will not invest in a province where management's rights are less than those of labor.

In conclusion, the proposed amendments are detrimental to public safety, the economy and the general cooperative relationship that exists between labor and management. Your government can restore the faith that we have in our province by reconsidering the implementation of Bill 40.

I urge you, the Minister of Labour, and your government to stop the implementation of Bill 40.

Yours sincerely,
Russell T. Miller,
Mayor of Halton Hills

In tax shock

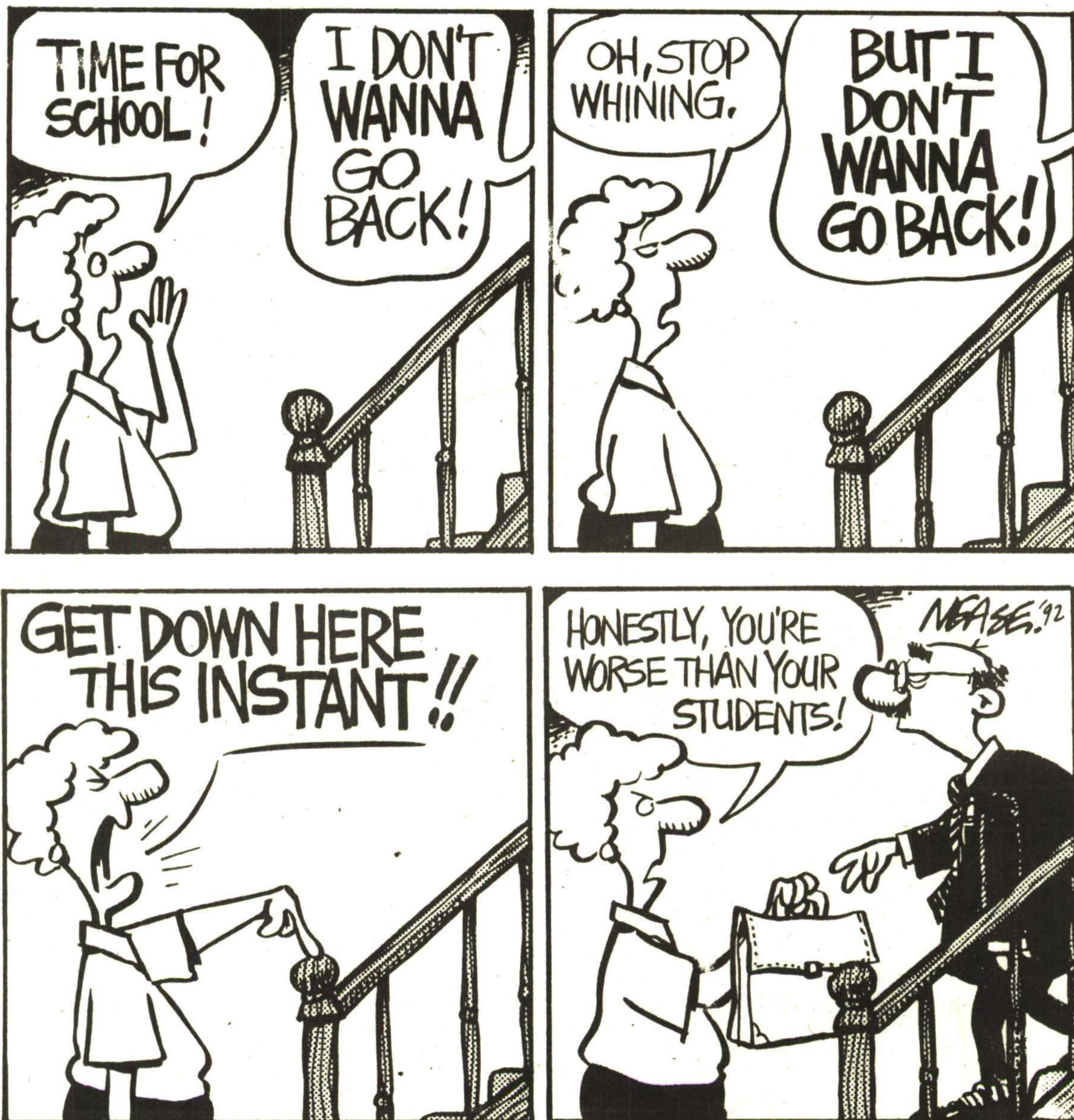
Dear editor:

Boy, how things have changed. Garth Turner, when he was a writer for The Sun, used to jump up and down about government spending.

When he had been in power for a year or so, things changed. Garth said the best thing since sliced bread was the GST. But this pales with the logic behind spending \$4 billion on helicopters. Read his column: "The media got it wrong - the same amount of money is going to be spent in Ontario as in Quebec. The benefits will spread equally around the country, and give a \$4 billion boost to the economy. If that's controversial, let's have more of it."

Perhaps I am missing something. If taxpayers have to spend \$4 billion to get \$4 billion back, where are the benefits, except to a new companies who get contracts. If Glen Kealey is correct, somewhere between 5-10 per cent will go in fees to the scoundrels in office. Tell me it ain't so, Garth. By the way, what is 5 per cent of \$4 billion...?

Yours in tax shock,
John Shadbolt, Acton,



Dr. Frankenstein and I have something in common

I think I know how Dr. Frankenstein felt years ago.

You see, I've created a monster. Now I didn't make him out of recycled body parts, as the original good doctor did, rather I just planted the seed and let it grow.

The monster is my nephew, and he's quickly running out of control. It all started innocently enough.

Back in January, the brass in this office decided to upgrade the computers and install brand new equipment. As a result, we were left with a number of old, yet perfectly usable computers, which the employees could buy from the company.

Never one to pass a good deal, I bought a couple of these old computers and set one up at home.

The other, without a monitor, sat in storage at home. I figured I could use it for parts, if the need arose.

Enter my nephew.

Like me, he's a gadget freak, mesmerized by technology.

He spotted the computer, and

was bitten by the bug.

It took him little time to hash out a deal with me, and was the proud owner of an old IBM XT clone with 256K RAM.

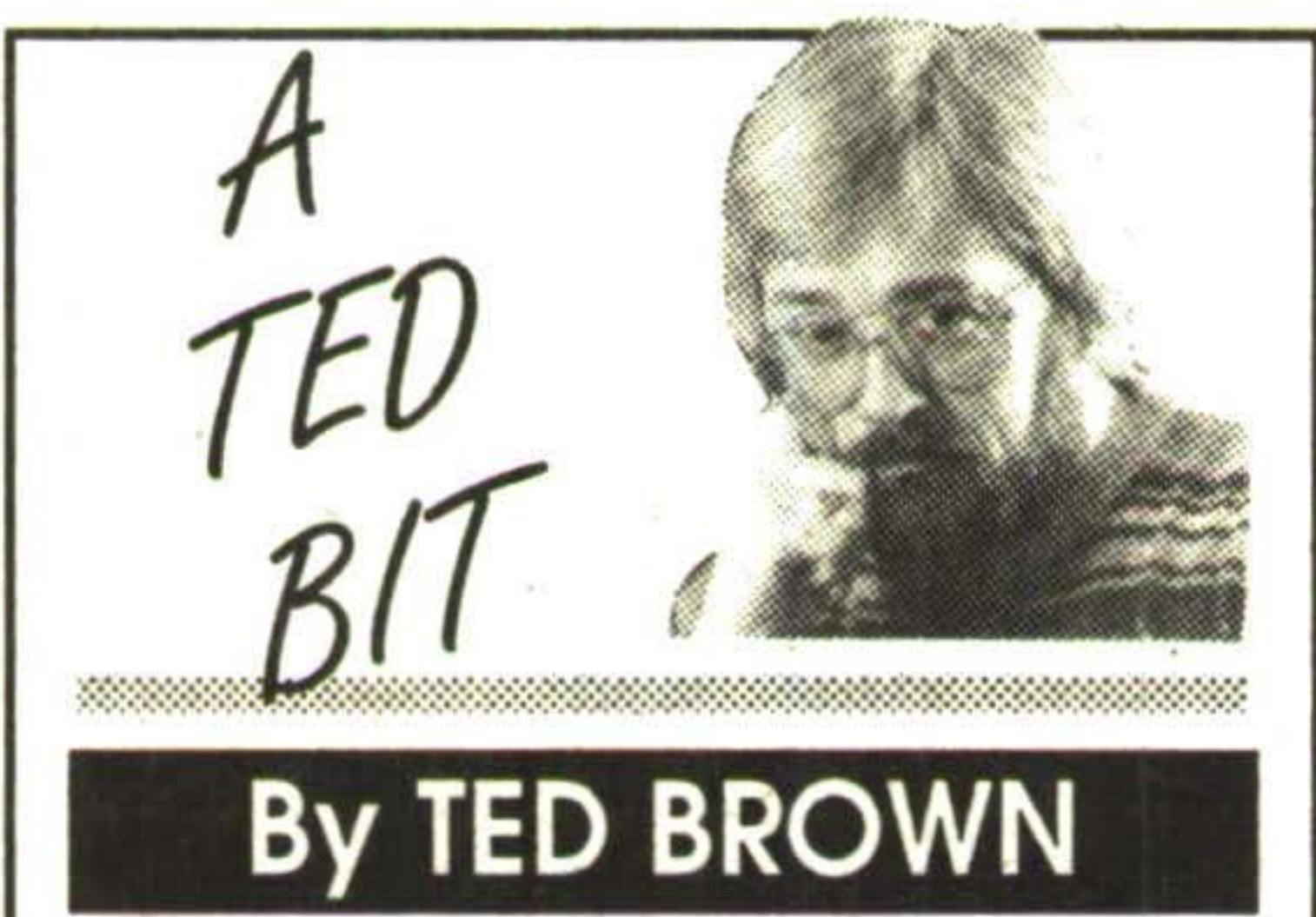
Later, I broke down and drove him to a Toronto clearance centre, where he picked up a monochrome monitor for peanuts, and was up and running, with obvious delight at having spent less money than it took to buy a "Gameboy."

End of story? Nope.

As a member of the local computer club for the past year, I asked him if he wanted to attend a meeting. I thought he'd enjoy seeing others with common interests and some of the programs they use. He decided to join, and was quite enthusiastic.

At club meetings, he listened as other members talked of upgrading memory, adding equipment, and generally overdosed on computers.

I'm sure he harbored this secret urge to transform his 256K XT into a super computer.



Being an inquisitive youth, he decided to check out "what made his XT tick," and he inadvertently shorted out a few wires, turning it into toast.

The computer sat idle for a good part of the summer, as he dedicated his time to a summer job, raising the funds to repair the mistake.

After a trip to a local computer store, he called me on the phone a couple of weeks ago.

"Uncle Ted," he exclaimed, "I got it fixed!"

He was wired for sound. "And you know what?" he continued, "The guy upgraded it for

me. It's now got 640K."

I told him that was great. With 640K, he could run more advanced programs and games.

That prompted the next request. "Uncle Ted," he began, "Do you suppose I could borrow one of your programs? Just to get this thing running?"

When I told him he was welcome to borrow my program disks, he said he would be over in minutes.

It was more like seconds. The next night, I received another call.

"Uncle Ted, I made a slight mistake, and wiped out a program disk. Can I come over to recopy it?"

I endured another late night, as he picked my brain, for whatever minuscule bits of information he could glean.

Another night; "Uncle Ted, I found this guy who has a used hard drive, and it will work on an XT!"

I replied something like "That's nice," as he told me he was going for it.

Coming home from a night assignments to his pickup truck parked in the driveway has become a regular occurrence at my house, as he impatiently awaits the arrival of Uncle Ted, to borrow yet another piece of software.

He installed the hard drive himself, and called me last Friday night, just as I was about to head out for a Labor Day weekend up north.

"Uncle Ted, can I borrow your Letterperfect program? The guy I bought the hard drive from says it's the best program around."

Nope. He had to wait until I got back.

Tuesday night he landed in, looking to borrow the program, and raved about future plans for his beloved XT. Mouse, joystick, color monitor, printer; the sky's the limit.

So I've created a monster, but it won't be a problem much longer.

You see, I've run out of things he can borrow.