

THE HALTON HILLS WEEKEND

KEN NUGENT
Publisher

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Dedicated to the cause?

In last week's editorial we discussed the call by Halton Board of Education requesting their 4,000 full-time employees give an one-time donation of a day's pay to drop the budget to an affordable level for all taxpayers.

While the employees' unions rejected the precedent-setting move, more than half of the employees have responded so far. Half a million dollars has been raised enabling the \$293 million budget to be dropped (with other cuts and grants) to \$291 million. For the employees of the Halton Board of Education the donations mean the saving of jobs, maybe as many as 75 and for taxpayers it means instead of paying a \$50 increase on their school tax bill, it'll only be about \$43.

But, it's truly a shame the public school board trustees aren't as dedicated to the cause as their employees. The trustees had 10 opportunities to cut even more out the budget and rejected all but one. One proposal called for the elimination of mileage allowance for trustees living south of Britannia Rd. Every year this proposal is brought forward and every year the majority of trustees reject it, calling it "discriminatory."

That was the teachers' argument for not giving up a day's pay — saying they would be discriminated more than other taxpayers. But still, more than 2,000 gave up their pay.

It seems some trustees aren't as dedicated in supporting education as their own employees. They're willing to ask their employees and taxpayers to make sacrifices but when it comes to make one themselves, they balk. Perhaps they can reverse this image, by donating a portion of their honorarium which they receive (some of it tax-free) for attending school board meetings. Let's all be dedicated to the cause.

Protest NDP abortion policies

(The following letter was filed with this newspaper for publication.)

Dear Premier Rae:

I have just read the recommendations of the Task Group of Abortion Service Providers and understand that your government intends to implement the 46 recommendations. Frankly, I don't understand the thinking of you and your colleagues when it comes to abortion and other family issues. The recommendations of the task group should have been filed in the appropriate place (the trash can). Let me explain why.

The 46 recommendations are outrageous and include:

No. 20: A requirement that all hospitals with obstetrics and gynecology services commit abortions.

No. 38, 39: Steps to force all Ontario physicians and nurses, regardless of their personal views, to make abortion referrals.

No. 41: A call for the expansion of the role of all counselling ser-

Letters

to the Editor

VICES to include abortion referrals (e.g. Children's Aid Societies and Family Service Associations).

No. 33: A comprehensive state-imposed sexual health curriculum, (i.e. including abortion education) compulsory in all schools.

No. 40: Provision of sexual health services to any person regardless of age or parental wishes. This includes abortion.

No. 21, 22: A law denying the rights of ordinary citizens to provide pro-life assistance or to protest at abortion facilities.

No. 43-45: Expediting the testing and approval of the abortion pill RU-486, and making the human pesticide available free of charge.

At a time when essential hospital services designed to heal and promote life are being slashed across the province, it is ludicrous that the NDP thinks Ontario needs

more abortions and wants to spend even more of our tax dollars on abortion.

I protest the policies that you are adopting which are infringing on the rights of doctors, nurses, hospitals, school boards, counselling agencies, pro-lifers and families and only hope that your five year term will end before you can come up with more asinine policies.

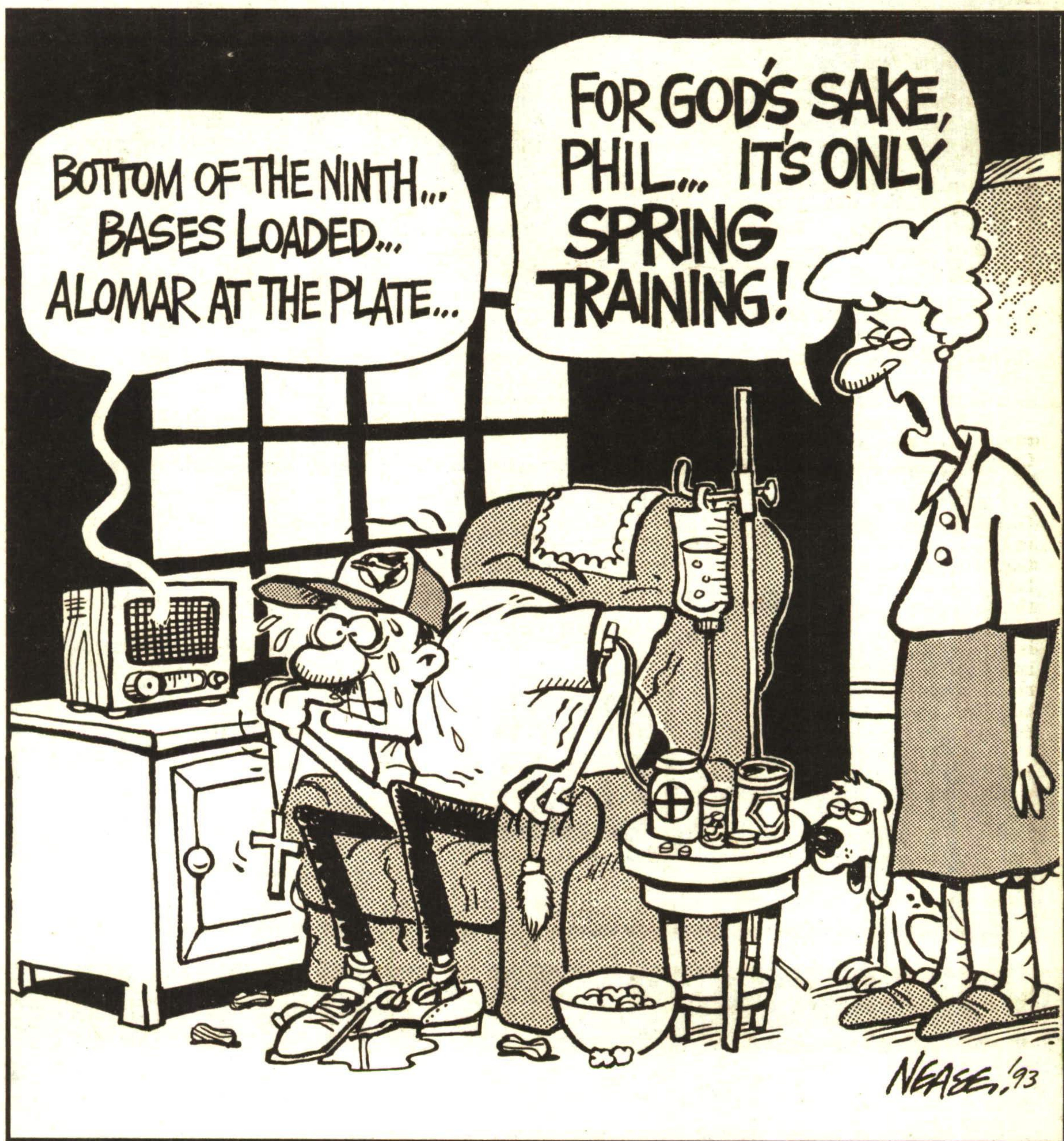
Yours truly,
Victor Estevan, president,
Halton North Riding Association
Family Coalition Party of
Ontario

Thanks for tourney help

Dear editor:

During the 33rd Bantam Tournament it takes all sorts of community help. I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thanks to M.V.P. Sports for laces and tape and to Goodlet's Hardware for the use of a refrigerator.

Gerry "Perky" Perkins,
Referee In Chief,
Bantam Tournament



Everyone needs a little boost from time to time

We all know about "Murphy's Law."

It's the one that reads: "if something can go wrong, it probably will."

Well, it seems to be the case with the Brown's vehicles. Both of them.

A week ago, it was headlights. This week it's batteries.

Being the procrastinating wonder that I am, I'm been more or less "running on empty," as far as my car's battery is concerned. The poor old thing has been on its last legs for a good portion of the winter.

Cold mornings have reminded me as the engine slowly winds over, and recently, the draw on the battery was so bad, the digital clock on my car radio lost its memory.

This battery was certainly a candidate for retirement.

About a week ago, it happened. The mercury plummeted to the lowest we have seen, and I headed out to the garage to drive to work.

As I inserted the key, the inevitable happened.

Nothing. Not a sound.

A quiet curse eased from my lips as my wife and I pushed the car out of the garage to boost the battery.

As I pulled the latch on the hood, the next inevitability occurred. The hood latch was frozen.

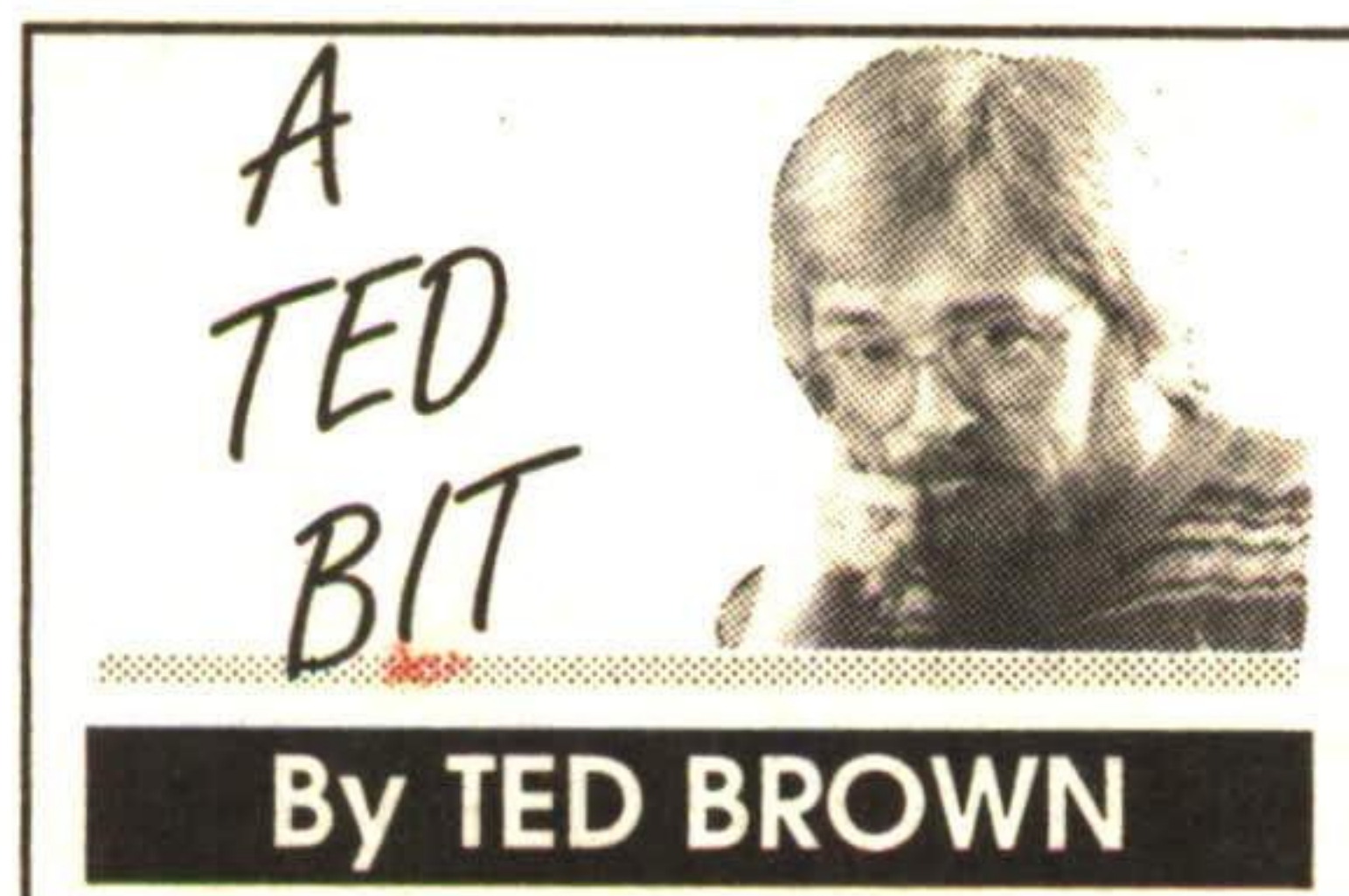
Iced solid.

The next curse wasn't so quiet.

After struggling, we got it opened, boosted the car with our van, and I was on my merry way, nursing that weak battery every morning by plugging in the block heater on the car, and showing it as much tender loving care as I could. I was determined to finish the week with it, planning to replace it Saturday. (I even had my Canadian Tire money sorted and counted.)

Friday morning arrived.

Now Friday is an important day of the week in our newspaper business. It's deadline day for the week-end edition.



And it's the day I don't need any distractions.

As I worked on the final touches of the paper, I was paged for a call.

My wife's annoyed, yet controlled, voice on the other end of the line beckoned me.

"Can you drive over to Moore Park Plaza, and give the van a boost?" she asked carefully. "The battery is dead."

"Dead! How could it be dead?" I was less than pleased.

"Well...., one of the kids left the key on so they could listen to the radio, and I guess it drained the battery. It won't start," she replied.

Remember Murphy's Law?

Well, in the newspaper business, there's an amendment to Murphy's Law. I call it Murphy's Law of Journalism. The gist of the law is similar, except it goes, "if anything can go wrong, it will, probably during deadline."

I jumped in my car and turned the key. It fired up immediately. I smiled to myself, thinking of the irony of my almost dead battery boosting the fairly new one in the van. I arrived at my destination, and pulled alongside the van, and pulled out my cables.

I managed to remain calm and composed, and didn't even yell at the kids for leaving the key on, as I snapped the cables on the battery of my car as it sat there idling.

And my wife watched the two free ends of the cables slide together on the ice.

And touch.
And spark.
And kill the motor on my car.
And, of course, the battery.

At that point in time, my normal good natured disposition ceased to exist. The kids sat quietly, my wife tried to look busy with the other end of the cables, as I balanced on the verge of exploding into a billion little pieces from sheer temper.

Now my car wouldn't start.

I will be eternally grateful an old friend of my wife's was shopping in a store nearby. She was kind enough to pull her car alongside to boost, first my car, then the van, and get us on our way.

I flew back to the office, parked my car, (front facing out) and headed inside to finish clearing the newspaper.

Since then, my car has acquired a new battery, and it purrs like a kitten when I fire it up. And a new set of booster cables are standard equipment in the van.

But something else has changed. Music on the car radio just doesn't have the same appeal to our kids.