

THE HALTON HILLS WEEKEND

KEN NUGENT
Publisher

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Abusing the system

The decision by Metro Toronto Housing Authority employee Helle Hulgaard to abandon her \$41,500 a year job to go on welfare is appalling.

For anyone to give up any kind of job, let alone a high-paying one, in this economy is unthinkable. There are thousands of unemployed and underemployed people in the province who would be happy to struggle by on Hulgaard's salary.

Welfare is not supposed to be a career option for people, it's there as a last resort for those who can't find work. And thanks to the recession the welfare system is already strained to the limit with people who legitimately have nowhere else to turn.

Hulgaard rationalizes her decision by saying she could make almost as much on welfare as she does working, and still be home to care for her children.

What about the children? What values does Hulgaard think she will instill in her children by giving up her career to live off the taxpayers.

Would it not be better for the children to know their mom worked hard, like a lot of other parents do, to make a decent life for them.

Children learn by example, and hard work is not a bad example for a parent to set for her children.

There is something terribly wrong with our welfare system if someone like Hulgaard can walk away from a good, steady-paying job and qualify for social assistance.

It's high time our welfare system is re-evaluated to prevent this type of blatant abuse of our social assistance system.

Prefers the mess!

Dear Editor:

I am writing in response to the letter from Mr. Rod Pinkney, who is concerned about the issue of rights for same sex partners. Mr. Pinkney also suggests that the idea of a child being raised by lesbian partners is "disgusting".

Unlike this writer, I think what is disgusting is not the prospect of a child being raised by parents of the same sex, but the fact that people are still being discriminated against on the basis of sexual orientation. Lumping together homosexuals as a group, and stating that they are unfit to be parents (or employees, or any other equal member of our society) is discrimination. Apart from the sexual orientation that they share, gay and lesbian individuals are as different from one another as are heterosexuals.

Homophobic comments such as this writer's illustrate why legal changes are needed to stop the dis-

Letters to the Editor

crimination that is obviously so prevalent in our society. Imagine walking down the street with your partner, and feeling inhibited from holding his/her hand because you are afraid that others will attack you verbally or physically because they don't approve. This is just one issue that a lesbian or gay person must contend with every day.

It is a terrible shame that we condemn happy, loving couples as "disgusting" when in fact, other people's mutually satisfactory, adult relationships are really none of our business. Mr. Pinkney questions the morals of the Ontario Human Rights Commission for ruling that medical benefits must be extended to the female partner of a female nurse. I would argue that the commission has an obligation to ensure that no one is the victim of discrimination based on sexual

orientation, and that if not doing this would make our country less of a mess, as the writer seems to suggest, then I would prefer the mess!

Sincerely,

Susan Pfeiffer Detmers

Trip was a success

To Whom It May Concern: On behalf of the Acton Horticultural Society, I would like to express our appreciation and heart-felt thanks for providing us with excellent coverage.

The planned bus trip to the White Rose "Festival of Roses" was a great success. This was due to the fact it was repeated several times in the community calendar over the last few weeks.

I am very happy the paper provides space for local organizations and groups to promote events and meetings.

Yours Sincerely

Trina Virgin

President

Acton Horticultural Society

"For many Canadians, Ottawa is OZ."

- KIM CAMPBELL



Find Levi's 501s in size 36-30? They don't exist!

I'm not a person who buys clothes all the time, rather I tend to go in fits and starts, and buy on impulse.

Last week I was hit with a blue jean impulse.

It happened when I found my best pair of jeans, (which have never been my favorite pair) happen to be in the laundry when I intended to wear them. I decided the time was right to invest in another pair.

The commercials are right, you know. A good pair of jeans is almost like an old friend, and although I don't get to wear jeans very much, (with them not conforming to the office dress code) I have always had a soft spot in my heart for a pair of good fitting blue jeans that hang so nicely on the closet door knob when you're not wearing them.

After checking my finances, and finding I had adequate funding if I skipped lunch for three weeks, I set out on a quest to buy a brand-new pair of pre-washed aged-looking

Levi's. (My initial target was blue denim Levi's - Levi's 501s to be exact.) I didn't think I was asking for much.

Somehow, I was hoping to find a pair with the right color, texture and fit, something like the ones on the girls in the Bud beer commercials.

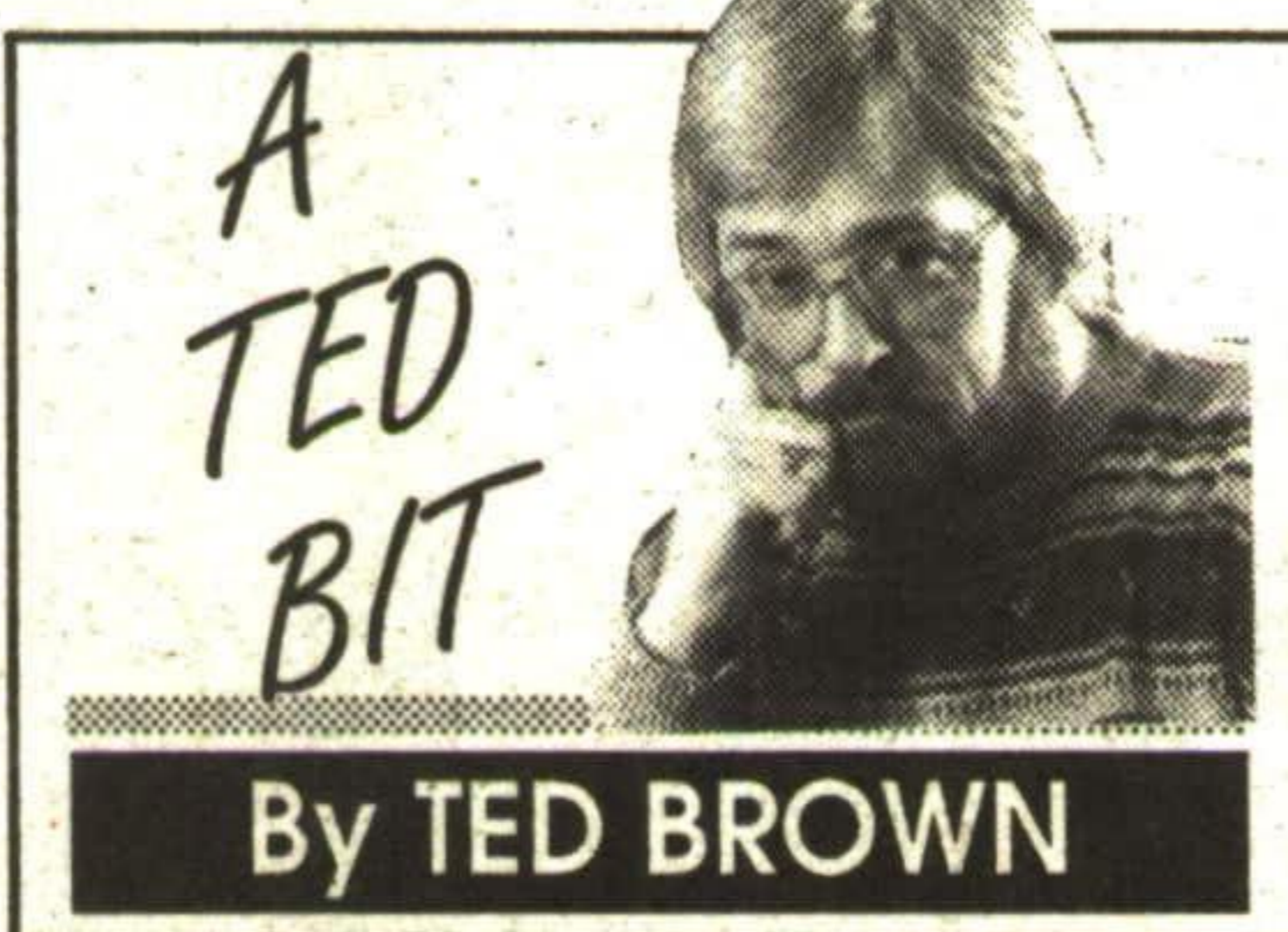
Size 36 waist with a 30 inch inseam, and pre-washed, or stone-washed or whatever-else-washed they have on the market today, so long as they didn't look like brand spanking new bright blue denim that reeked of dye.

Like a man with a mission, I headed into a local store, right to the rack. Dozens of pairs of jeans faced me, as I poked through the piles, looking for my beloved pair of Levi's 501 pre-washed 36-30s.

Hmmm. Nothing.

I found lots of pre-ripped, pre-washed, pre-aged-with-embroidered-seats jeans, and a few in weird colors, but failed to turn up a pair of 501s.

There were boot cut, straight



leg, super straight leg and so-tight-you'll-never-bend-your-knee straight leg, plus a host of other styles thrown in.

Somehow, coughing up \$30 to \$40 for a pair of jeans with the knees ripped out and some ludicrous embroidered pattern across the seat of the pants seemed out of my league.

In my younger days, when one ripped or wore the knee out of a pair of jeans, one said a private little farewell ceremony, cut them off for shorts and went through the long-drawn out procedure of buying another pair of brand-new jeans and taking six months of heavy

duty washing to get them in shape.

Now, I was seeing jeans I would have once tossed fetching top buck.

Back to my search.

I found a rack of Levi's. The labels were right, with the Levi Strauss trademark, but no 501s. The closest thing was a pile of 619s.

Hmmmm, 619s? What was the difference?

They looked the same, with their soft, faded denim, and they felt pretty good. Even the price was within my range.

"What the heck," I thought to myself, "They look good enough, even though they're not 501s."

I started sifting through the pile looking for a 36 waist.

The section dedicated to 36 waist jeans wasn't exactly overflowing with stock. There were all kinds of jeans in size 28 waist and 36 inch inseam, and size 40 waist with 30 inch inseam but hardly any 36 inch waists. Was 36 so common?

Visions of the man who would wear a 28 inch waist with a long inseam went through my mind. I

suspect he would have problems with dogs mistaking his leg for a hydro pole.

I located the small pile of 36s buried under the other sizes.

"Okay," again I thought, "Where are the 30 inch inseams?"

The search continued. Thirty-fours were pretty common, and there were all kinds of 32s, but no 30s. A search of the next pile was no better, but I found a pair of 36-30s in another brand, only they weren't pre-washed.

Back to the Levi's. After checking every pair in the entire display, I had to accept the 32s, and make plans to have them hemmed, complete with the orange thread.

Actually they fit nicely, and I even garnered a compliment from one of my neighbors on how they fit my er, ahem.. backside. (My words, not hers.)

But after all is said and done, one thing is certain.

They don't look anything like the jeans on the girls in the beer commercials.