

WEEKEND

KEN NUGENT
Publisher

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Miss Acton is not a beauty contest

Dear editor:

This is in response to a letter about the Acton Fall Fair Queen competition I would like to clarify a few things. It should be noted first that this is an agricultural-based pageant. Every year at least one of the judges is from the agricultural field, in addition to this some of the previous winners have had a 4-H background.

I agree that women should not be judged strictly on poise, personality and appearance, this is a mistake in the advertising that needs to be changed.

The judging is certainly not limited to these areas as the contestants are asked to fill out an information sheet outlining their scholastic achievements, future academic plans, their volunteer work and any special recognition

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they have received.

This information is passed on to the judges, who are then asked to take their decision based on all this information as well as on the contestant's ability to present herself in a positive and intelligent manner.

In answer to three specific complaints regarding the pageant let me first say that indeed people are judged on their poise. Poise is a necessary element in everyday life; everyone from the women who choose to make their families a career to the high-powered boardroom executives need it to deal with life's ups and downs.

As far as judging someone on their appearance, this is also done frequently, for if some cannot present themselves in a professional manner then they will not be taken seriously.

Finally the decision regarding

men in the pageant is being made on a yearly basis, but the judging criterion will remain the same.

As a former Miss Acton I take great offence to other people telling me that I was manipulated and demeaned simply by entering and winning this competition. When I chose to enter the competition I was 18 years old and quite able to make this decision in an informed and intelligent manner.

Being Miss Acton allowed me to learn a great deal about myself; it helped me to develop my confidence and public relations skills to name a few advantages.

I am not sure how other Miss Actons feel about their experience, and I in no way intend to speak for them, however I would say that before people complain about the pageant they should take the time to learn more about it.

I realize that some people will always feel that this pageant is inappropriate, however I hope that they will at least listen to and consider some of these thoughts.

Yours sincerely

Linda Robson

Miss Acton 1984 and coordinator, Acton Fall Fair Queen Committee

Downtown area needs growth

Halton Hills council last Monday, despite the protests from area residents, supported the amendment of a bylaw to rezone a piece of property in downtown Georgetown to allow for an eight story, 83-unit apartment building.

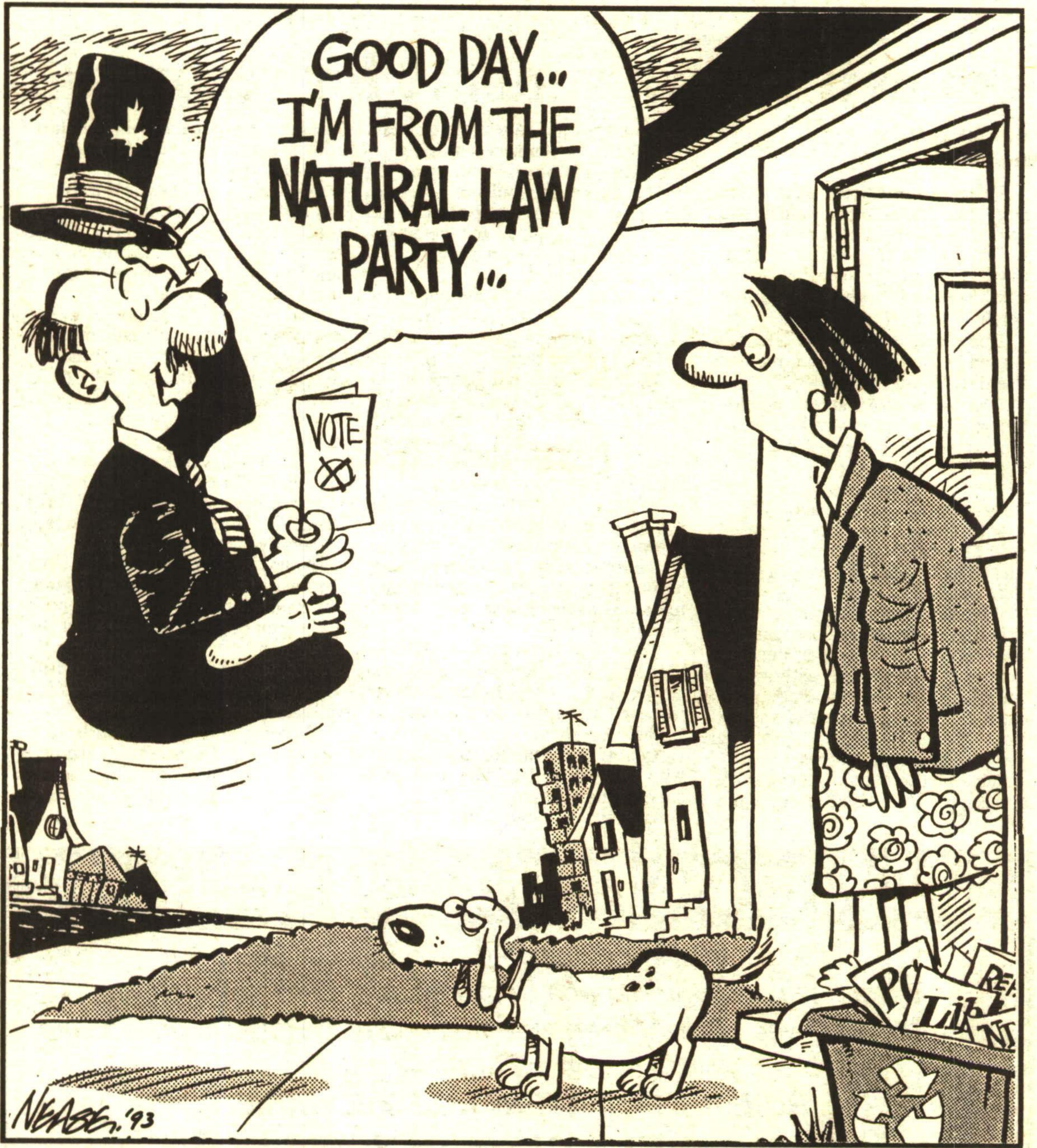
This building proposal is in accordance with the approved official plan of this town. How can the Town of Halton Hills deny a rezoning when their own official plan approves it? Halton Hills cannot afford the loss of credibility within the development industry, if it hopes to keep builders working here.

But residents argue the ambiance of downtown Georgetown would be overpowered by the tall structure.

Right now the ambiance of downtown, is of relatively empty sidewalks with excellent, quality stores struggling, for a pluriad of reasons, to entice shoppers to the downtown area.

Remember this is just the middle stage in the process of seeking approvals for this apartment building. The owners still have to seek site plan approvals, water allocation and fulfil other conditions, before the first shovel will be put into the ground.

There is still ample time for the opposing residents, the owners, and the town to come to some acceptable compromise. Everyone should keep in mind the end result is creating a useful addition to downtown Georgetown, which would not only provide badly needed apartment space for this town, but also supply a local buying power for the downtown residents already there — the downtown business community, without whom there would not be a downtown.



Thanksgiving is many different things to many people

Since this is Thanksgiving weekend, I felt I should write something about the season, and expound on the holiday.

Checking over previous years' columns on the subject, I found I had written about the lighter side of the season, with anecdotes about my family and past.

But this year, I felt I should take a different approach, and find out what others think of this very unique holiday.

Unique, you might ask?

I think it's unique; after all it's the only holiday the greeting card companies haven't been able to really cash in on.

Earlier this week, I took pen and notebook in hand and wandered about the office, collecting different opinions from some of my co-workers on how they view the Thanksgiving holiday weekend.

Almost everyone was quick to mention the turkey, gravy and pumpkin pie, and at the same time, everyone expressed an apprecia-

tion of family gatherings at this time of the year.

But others went another step, and saw the holiday in a different light.

"It's a really good meal, and the nicest time of the year with the colored leaves," said one person.

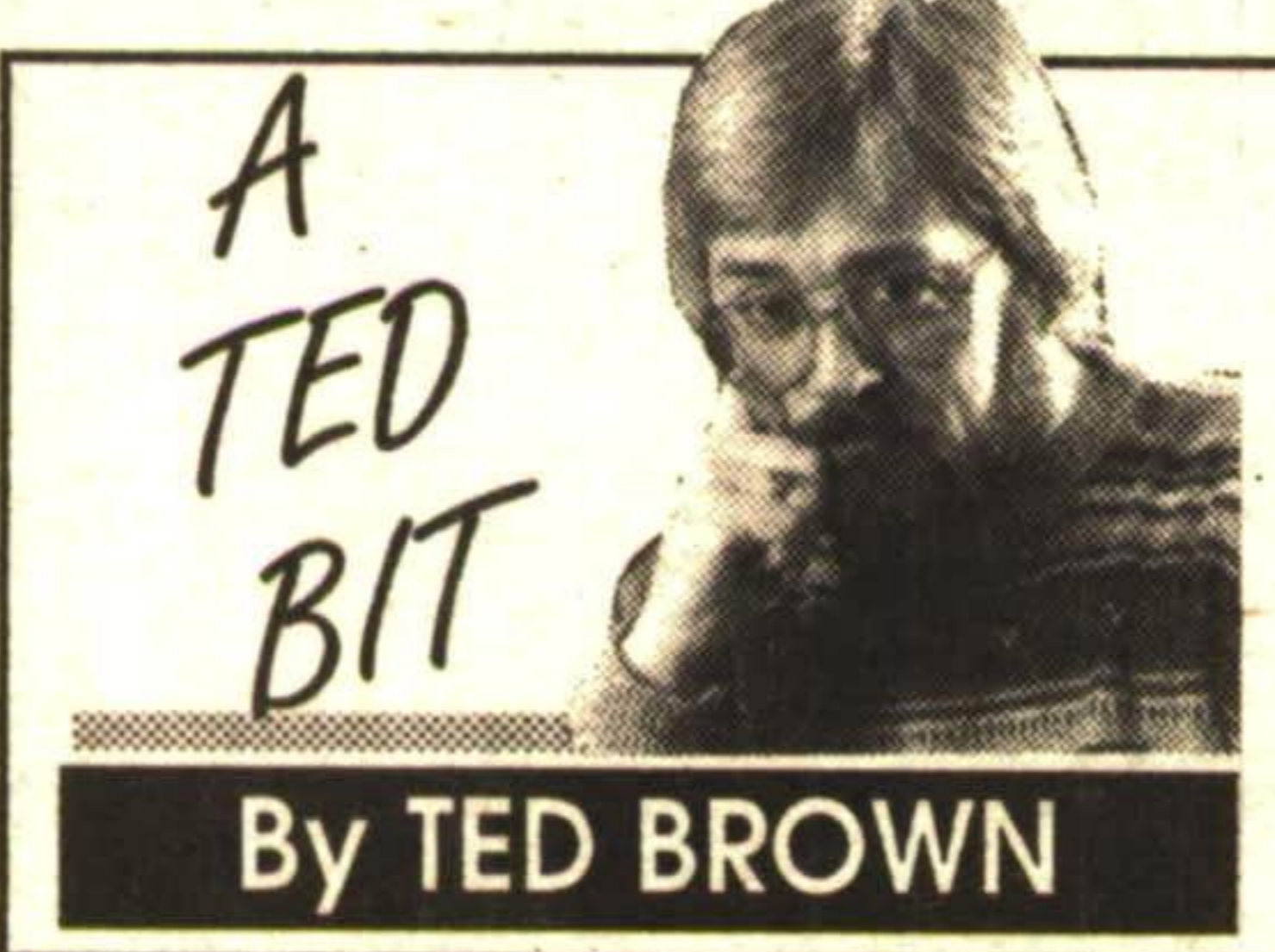
"It's a time for family and food, but has a down side because it tells me winter is close by," says another.

"A day off from work," said one, "But I get to eat a home-cooked meal at my Mom's."

"It's the time our family plans Christmas," said one co-worker, "We sit down and decide how we will celebrate and make all our plans then."

"It's my son's birthday," proclaimed one woman. "And it reminds me how thankful I am to have a wonderful son and daughter."

"It's the weekend of Erin fall fair, and one of the best fairs around."



Another co-worker said this Thanksgiving was special, because it was her first to celebrate since she became involved in a serious relationship, so she has to endure two Thanksgiving dinners.

(I told her it goes downhill from here on in.)

"It's a day off work, and it's fattening," grinned another.

"Thanksgiving tends to be the most depressing weekend of the year for me," admitted another. "Because it's the time we close up the cottage, shut off the water and pull up the docks. I'm a 'cottage

person' and it means I must wait until next Easter to get back to that beautiful, relaxing setting."

Thanksgiving was also described as a weekend of bumper to bumper traffic, but at the same time, a time to relax.

"It's a lot of *!&*@! work!" was one opinion.

"It's a time to get together as a family unit, and enjoy each others' company," smiled one person.

"It's the best long weekend in the entire year, and I don't know why," explained one co-worker. "Maybe that's because I don't have to buy any gifts, send any cards and the weather is cool so I don't mind cooking a big meal."

"It saddens me because it's the last long weekend before Christmas."

Another admitted she was a little saddened by Thanksgiving, as the family gatherings remind her of those who are no longer with her.

"It's just another long weekend to battle."

"This year, it's the weekend I have to cook a turkey, because my wife is working all weekend."

"It's the one weekend I don't have to visit my parents."

"It's a time to sit and relax with family (whether you get along with them or not.)"

"Thanksgiving is the time I must assume the daughter role, and help serve the hors d'oeuvres, while the men sit around and talk as they watch the women work, washing dishes, and clearing the table."

"It's the one time my brother, who is a mechanic, actually washes dishes, I guess so he can get the grease out from under his fingernails."

As I gathered all these comments, I felt something was missing, but finally found one person from within this office who I think had the right idea.

"It's the one time I actually sit down and remember to give thanks for all the good things we have."