

KEN NUGENT
Publisher

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Children want a loving, stable home

Dear editor:

My letter is in response to Cynthia Gamble's column, Homosexual couples should not be allowed to adopt children (May 25). Ms. Gamble makes a number of assertions which cannot be supported as "facts," although they are presented as such, concerning homosexual individuals and their relationship to children.

To begin with, although homosexual couples cannot procreate, they can, in fact, be shown to be a fairly consistent component of the human population. Since the rates of homosexuality can be shown to be relatively constant across culture, class and history, at somewhere between 5 and 10 per cent of the population (the data being sketchy, since it's not a good thing in most cultures to admit homosexuality), obviously the Laws of Natural Selection must be selecting for homosexuality in some way - or it would have died out. Surely, over the thousands of years the homo sapiens have existed, homosexuality would have died out, if attraction to those of one's own gender was a liability to survival. It certainly

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should have died out, if being raised by homosexuals was the way that homosexuals are created. There aren't many individuals out there who have been raised by homosexuals, and certainly no where near enough to account for the numbers of homosexuals in our society.

Further, if not recognizing homosexuality as 'normal' could be shown to reduce the rates at which homosexuality occurs, we shouldn't have any homosexuals in our culture. Homosexuality is not accepted as 'normal' by a very large proportion of individuals in our society. Therefore, if being homosexual was simply a matter of choice and acceptance, no one would be opting for it. Why would anyone want to be part of a group which is threatened by such phenomena as prejudice and 'gay bashing'?

As regards the few children who have been raised by homosexual couples, it has been documented through the study of these individuals that the raising of a child by homosexuals does not guarantee a homosexual child. It has been hypothesized that some factor not yet discovered by science, and which occurs either in utero or through genetics, determines homosexuality. In fact, as of my last reading of the literature, homosexuals are as likely to raise children who are heterosexual as the "rest of us."

But the biggest issue is what is best for our society's children. I think I can hazard a guess about what those children want: children want a loving, stable home, with someone who cares deeply for them.

If that home can be provided by two people who love each other and happen to be of the same sex, who am I to stand in the way of a child's potential happiness?

The important issue is the love in the home, and the ability to provide for the child.

Monique L. Attinger

A rare victory

Congratulations goes to our North Halton MPP, Noel Duignan. He has managed a rare feat in legislative work — succeeding in getting a private member's bill passed.

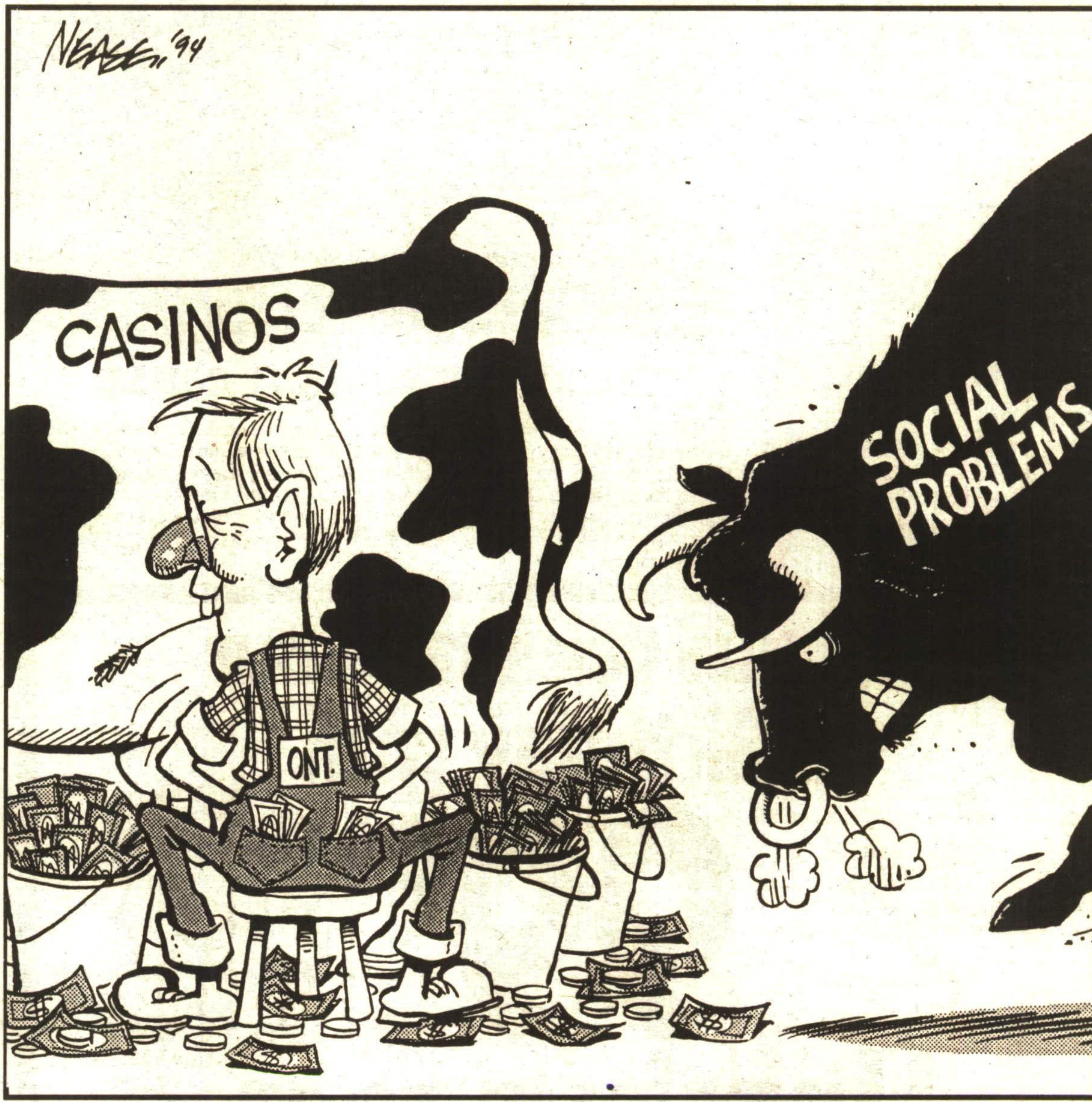
Bill 62 will prohibit all further waste management systems and waste disposal sites within the Niagara Escarpment Plan area. This could torpedo Reclamation Systems Inc.'s bid to turn the Acton Quarry into a private landfill.

But the victory is not Duignan's alone. He had help — a lot of help. Local environmental groups such as POWER lobbied intensely, as did local council, in particular the Acton councillors, Rick Bonnette, Norm Elliott and Gerald Rennie.

Every person who made a call, wrote a letter or attended the Queen's Park public sessions should be congratulated on a job well done.

Since 1987, our community has spent thousands upon thousands of dollars on this issue, and it's time now to invest in our community, not lawyers.

Although it's possible Reclamations Systems Inc. will battle the new law in court, let's for the moment savor this rare victory. And each time Halton Hills residents venture onto the Escarpment or drink a glass of water, be reminded that a community working together had a part in preserving this internationally recognized biosphere.



I'm skeptical about those exact times for the seasons

According to the calendar and the Farmer's Almanac, summer arrived last Tuesday.

At 10:48 a.m.

And, the same publication states fall will arrive September 23, 1994, at 1:19 a.m.

Now I'm curious about those times. Who determines the exact time a season changes?

Last Tuesday, I paid particular attention to the world outside, and kept watch to see what really happened when the clock hit 10:48 a.m., to witness the official arrival of summer.

I double checked my watch and car clock to make sure I was synchronized to see the change of the season.

Poised on the edge of my seat, I watched as the zero hour of 10:48 a.m. approached.

And passed.

And nothing happened.

Notta thing.

I admit, in all my 40 odd years, I've never seen anything happen when the season changed, but then again, I never watched before.

But after making a sincere effort to see this memorable event, I can truthfully say I saw nothing.

Now this opens up a whole new can of worms in my view.

We read in the Farmer's Almanac, or any other publication that predicts the weather, change of season and everything else, and simply take it for granted they are correct.

But how do we know they're right?

They could tell us something totally wrong, like summer actually arrived at 10:47 a.m., and we wasted a whole minute of summer because we didn't know it was here.

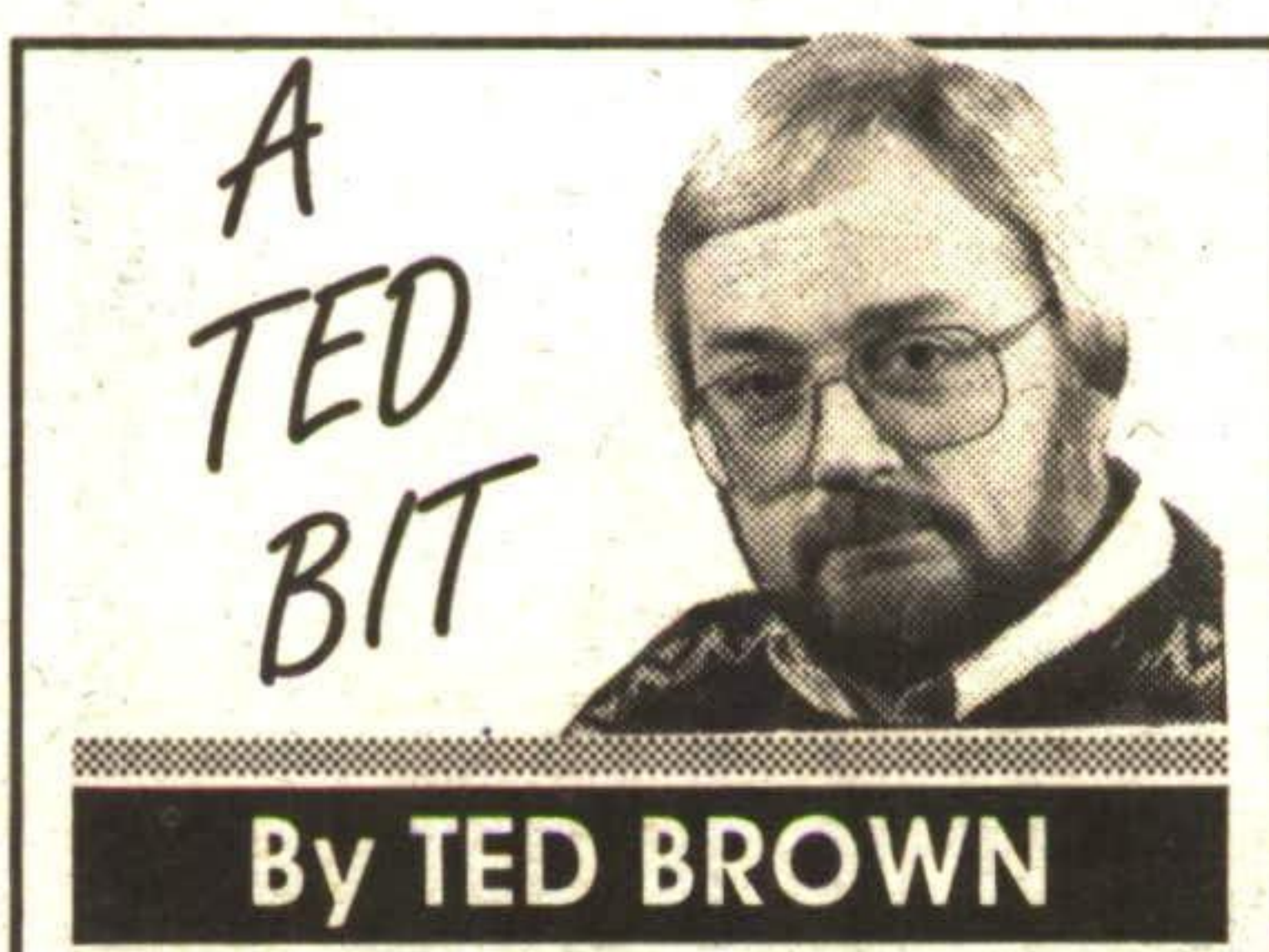
It's scary.

Or the other extreme, where they predict summer would make its entrance at 10:48 a.m., and it actually was a tad late, like 10:50 a.m.

Heavens, we could have been celebrating prematurely for at least a couple of minutes.

Then there's the other scenario.

What if someone calculated and computed the arrival and said a



particular season was to arrive at a particular time, and they forgot to carry the 2 or divide by 1.447, and missed by a whole hour or two?

That would really tick off Mother Nature, giving the wrong time for her to make the grand entrance.

And we all know how dangerous it is to provoke Mother Nature.

On the same thought, who's to say Mother Nature is always on time? We all have bad days, so what's to stop her from missing an appointment?

We could be standing around like a bunch of idiots, wishing each other a 'Happy First Day of

Summer," and the old girl hasn't even thought about firing the gun and starting the season.

Nope, I'm a tad skeptical about these exact times for weather and the seasons.

The weatherman on television tells me the sun will rise at 5:15 a.m. and set at 7:54 p.m.

Now judging from the reliability of most weathermen, I'm a little dubious of whether one can believe him.

First of all, does the sun suddenly pop over the horizon like someone turned on a light?

Nope, it starts as a glow, then finally becomes a light.

So is the sunrise time the start of the glow, the end of the glow, or the precise moment the bright yellow sunbeam fires in your bedroom window, through that little crack between the bottom of the blind and the window sill, and nails you square in the eye?

If it is, my clock radio is set at the wrong time.

Now some would be tempted to ask "Who cares?" about about

times.

And "so what if we're out by a minute or so?"

But I'm concerned.

People all over the world spend a fortune to have all these predictions published and someone is being paid money to make forecasts about the exact time a season will arrive, the moon will rise or the sun will set.

But who knows if they're right?

The season could be out by a whole day, royally screwing up every calendar ever printed, and no one would be any wiser.

Nor would they be held responsible.

Nope, those precise times are a little suspect and I think those people calculating the arrival of the seasons should be a little more credible and give a range when the season will commence, instead of nailing it down to the minute.

At least give the time within a day.

Or maybe hours.

Then it would be a little more credible.