

## Within spittin' distance

By now, everyone has heard the news about Gobgate, or Spitterama, or any of the other creative names attached to it. I'm talking 'bout wee Robbie Alomar. And his spit. You know, the spit that landed right in the face of plate umpire John Hirschbeck. Kinda gross, ain't it?

Well I'm disappointed to say the least. I've tried to be broad-minded about Robbie over the years, and made a few excuses for his sometimes ego-driven actions.

But this one goes too far.

Now everyone who plays the game of baseball (or better still, softball) will sometime be in a situation where they don't agree with the umpire.

And for those who can't accept the call of the said umpire, there are two options — you can argue the call, and risk getting tossed, or keep your mouth shut and continue playing.

I nearly got tossed at one game. Apparently the umpire thought I was standing too close to the little white line at the first baseline.

It's called the coach's box.

Seems he didn't like where it was marked on the ground. And consequently, it was my fault.

(Umpires sometimes have a unique view of things, but that's another story...)

I argued, he argued, and he issued his warning. I guess you could call it my one shot in my illustrious coaching career at being an honest-to-God, all-out bloody rebel.

But I didn't spit at him. I wanted to kick dirt on him, swear at him and do all sorts of un-Tedlike things. But I didn't. I shut up and pouted. And tried to exhibit some self-control to the jerk.

All within spittin' distance.

But back to Robbie.

The reason I take a personal interest in this incident centers around one of my daughters.

For years, she has worshiped the ground Alomar walks on (or spits on for that matter.)

When he played for the Jays, she HAD to have number 12 on her team. She even played second base, and bought Roberto Alomar batting gloves.

She was going to marry him. (I'm not sure she

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ever shared that one with Roberto, but that was the plan.) Whatever, she's adored him for years.

But when Roberto spit in the umpire's face, she was torn between two emotions; values and love.

Her friends at school haven't been kind either, telling her she has rotten taste in her dream men. (I've been telling her she's had rotten taste in all men for years, but that's a dad's privilege.)

Anyway, as we waited for the high school bus earlier this week, I scanned the sports section of the newspaper, and we discussed the Alomar incident. We talked about his lack of panache, his overly active ego and his paranoia for the media.

We even discussed how he doesn't like Toronto fans because they boo him and how his own brother, Cleveland's Sandy Alomar Jr., was not impressed with his actions.

According to the newspapers, in the course of the spit-slurping spat, Roberto Alomar even brought up umpire John Hirschbeck's son's death from a rare brain disease.

That wasn't very classy. In fact I said it was a low blow to deliver to another human being.

"And," I continued, "Umpires are human beings, although it pains me to have to admit it."

In a fatherly manner, I asked her to re-evaluate her view of Alomar, in light of his actions.

You know, there isn't a parenting book written that will ever prepare a dad for her response.

"It's okay Dad," she grinned, "I don't really care about his personality, his ego, or his actions."

"I just want him for his body."

## MAY WE RECOMMEND ...

Planning well ahead for peak travel times is a MUST! We have pre-purchased space on Sunquest's Dream Cruise on selected dates, New Years and the March Break being among them.

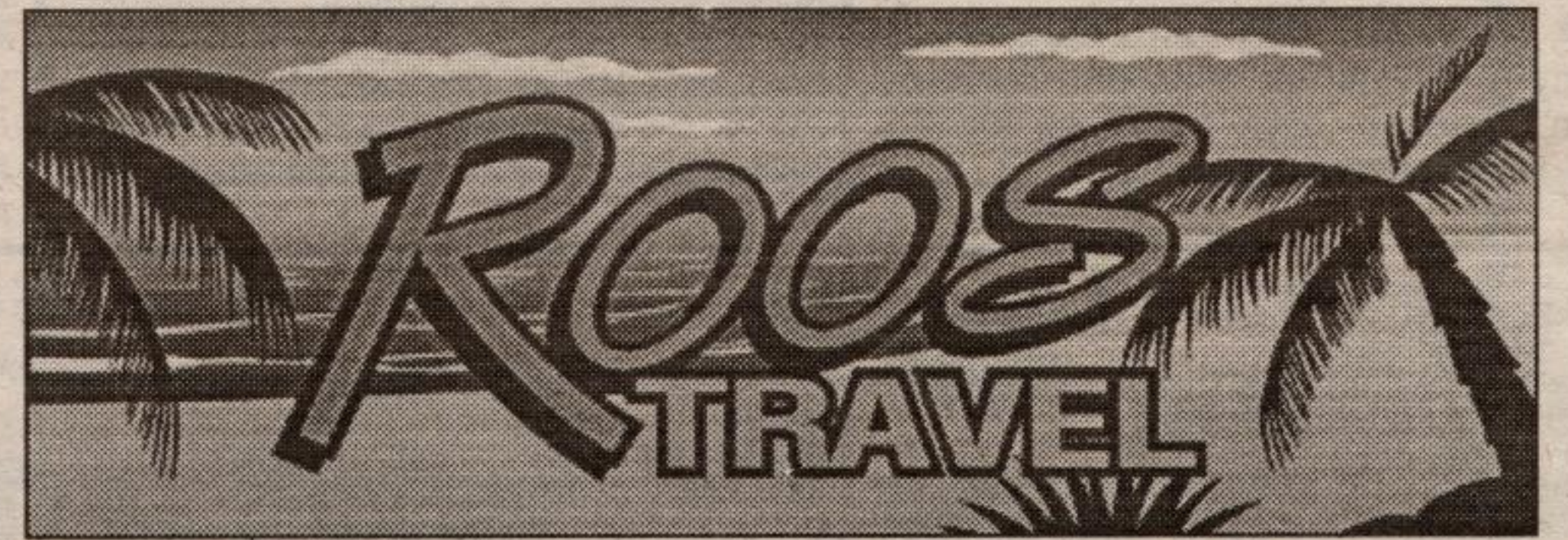


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PS ... I'm sailing on this cruise in February ...



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### REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF HALTON NOTICE OF A PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION FOR URBAN AND RURAL SERVICING GUIDELINES AND HIGHWAY DEDICATION GUIDELINES

The Regional Municipality of Halton is seeking public comment on two new Draft Guidelines concerning the "servicing" of development in Halton. These new Draft Guidelines have been developed in accordance with new policies of Halton's new Regional Official Plan are intended for use when considering the approval of new planning applications.

Halton's Draft "Urban and Rural Servicing Guidelines" primarily deals with the exemption of certain classes of Urban Area properties from the need for full municipal water and wastewater services. It also deals with the Regional Health Department requirements for the Private Supply of Water (Private Wells) and the Private Disposal of Sewage (Septic Tanks and Tile Fields) in Halton's Urban and Rural Areas.

Halton's Draft "Highway Dedication Guidelines" primarily deals with the exemption of certain development proposals in certain locations, eg. Hamlets, from the need to dedicate lands for road widening purposes or to provide such dedication different from that which is specified in the Regional Official Plan.

Public Information Sessions on both Draft Guidelines will be held on:

1. Tuesday October 8th 1996 at 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the (North) Auditorium of the Halton Regional Administration Centre, 1151 Bronte Road, Oakville; and
2. Thursday October 10th 1996 at 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Hugh Foster Hall, Victoria Park Square, King Street, Town of Milton (Municipal Offices).

Copies of the new Draft Guidelines will be available at the Public Information Sessions or can be obtained from the Regional Municipality of Halton Planning and Public Works Department, 1151 Bronte Road, Oakville, or by calling Ms. Kathy Kielt at Ext. 7200 at:

825-6161 (Burlington, Oakville, Milton residents)  
639-4540 (Aldershot residents)  
878-8113 (Georgetown residents)  
853-0501 (Acton residents)



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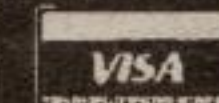
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