

In Praise of the Mullet

It's called a mullet. That is the word used to define hair that's short on the top and sides, and long in the back. It's many nicknames including Hockey Hair, Bi-level, Ape Drape, Mud Flap, Long Island Iced Tease, Shag, Sphinx and Bridge and Tunnel or B&T are a true testament to the mullet's controversial popularity.

There are a lot of folks who'd say the mullet had it's hay-day in the 80's and 90's with Billy Ray Cyrus, Mike Reno and Wayne's World. And that it died the day Jaromir Jagr got a haircut. Not true. The mullet of the new millennium is alive and well, and probably not too far away if you look hard enough.

The popularity of mullets in the big cities has waned in recent years, but have you been to Milton, Rockwood, Erin, Speyside, Listowel, The Shwa, Peterborough, Cayuga or Acton? Believe me, it's worth the drive. When you spot one it's like taking a 15 year step back in time, or flipping on A & E on a night they're running that show about the bounty hunter guy. Now that is a stop-and-stare mullet if I've ever seen one. He's one of the only famous people still sporting a mullet unless you consider professional wrestlers famous. I suppose it could be argued that Zigfreid and Roy would still be mulletting were it not for the mauling.

If you require further proof that the mullet is thriving in today's world, you need go no further than the internet. Al Gore did the world a huge service by inventing that thing. Cause when you Google the word "mullet", you are in for a full days entertainment. At the mere click of a mouse you'll find yourself knee deep in photos featuring a hairstyle that extols the virtues of 'business up front, with a party goin' on in the back'. There are entire websites dedicated to the celebration of the mullet. Mullet madness, mullets galore, mullet junky and mullet over, are just a few of the m-word catch phrases out there. Most of these sites feature famous mullets, mullets of yesteryear and of course mullet sightings.

Sometimes mullets can sneak up on you when you least expect it. Like at a NASCAR event, a fall fair, a bowling alley or your favorite evening news program. Don't be surprised if you see a mullet describing how the tornado sucked up his house and the five trailers

next to him. Or how the fire probably started cause he fell asleep with the French fries on.

I personally saw the fe-mullet of all mullets just the other day at the Tim Horton's on Highway 25 at the 401. She had short, tight curls on top with long, straight hair out the back. You could have scrubbed the pot and dried it with that do.

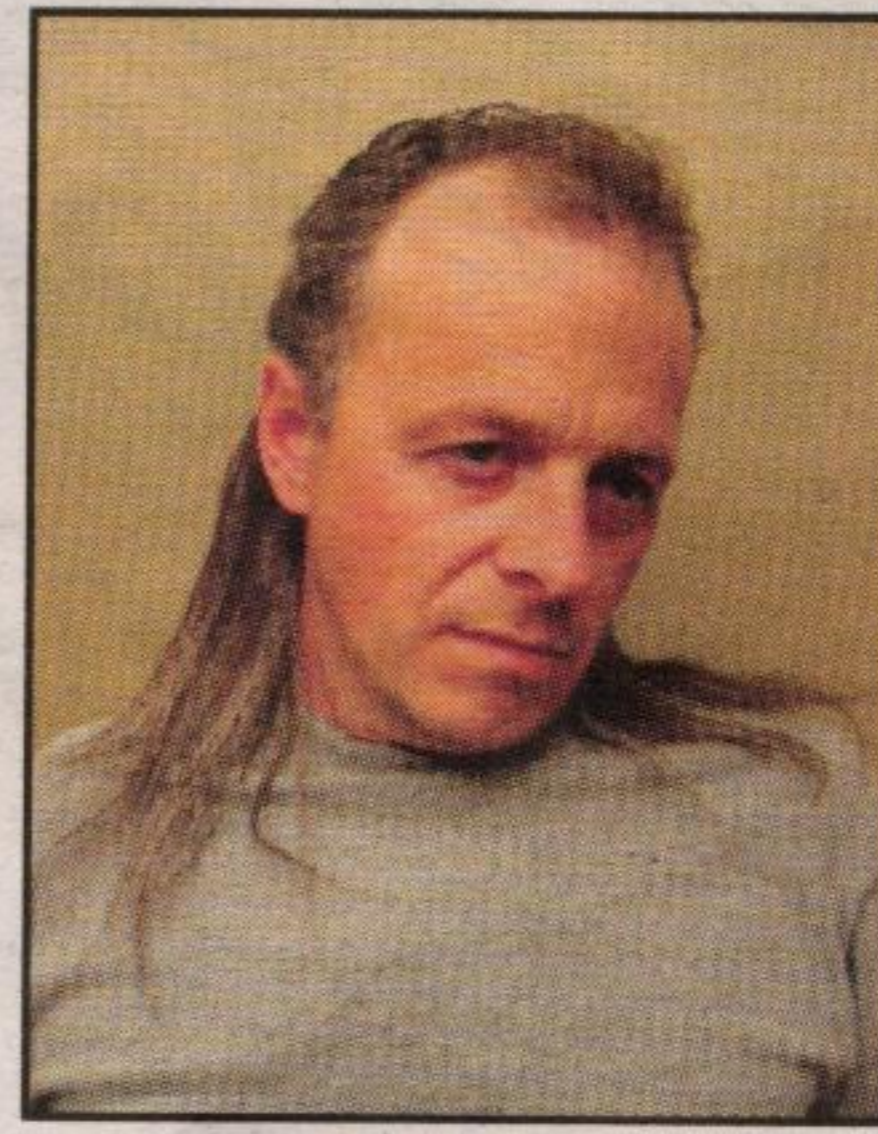
What inspired me to write about the mullet stems from an incident we had recently while showing our wedding photos. See, Julie and I were married in 1990, during the heat of mullet-mania. Whether I was mulletized during our nuptials is up for discussion, but most

people who see the pictures do feel compelled to utter the word so I guess the jury has reached a verdict. Although I will always make the case that my entire head of hair was long, it was just directed to the back. To date, there are no takers on that theory.

If that indeed was a mullet my wife glided down the aisle to greet, so be it. I remember really liking my hair back then. It allowed me to wear extremely large Ray Ban sunglasses that today make me look like a big bug. To re-live those glory days of mulletville, I enlist-

ed the services of my friend Sue Upton. Sue is a hair and makeup specialist of the tallest order. She recently finishing work on the upcoming *History Bites Prime Minister's* series with Rick Green due to air in the new year on the History Channel. I wouldn't be surprised to see Sue in the running for the Order of Canada after single handedly making up 15 Prime Ministers in one day. Come to think of it, with the state of politics in this country, maybe made up Prime Ministers are better than the real ones. Sue actually has books detailing the various mullets that have graced society over the years. We settled on these four to give as wide a spectrum as

Jeff Lumby's view from the country



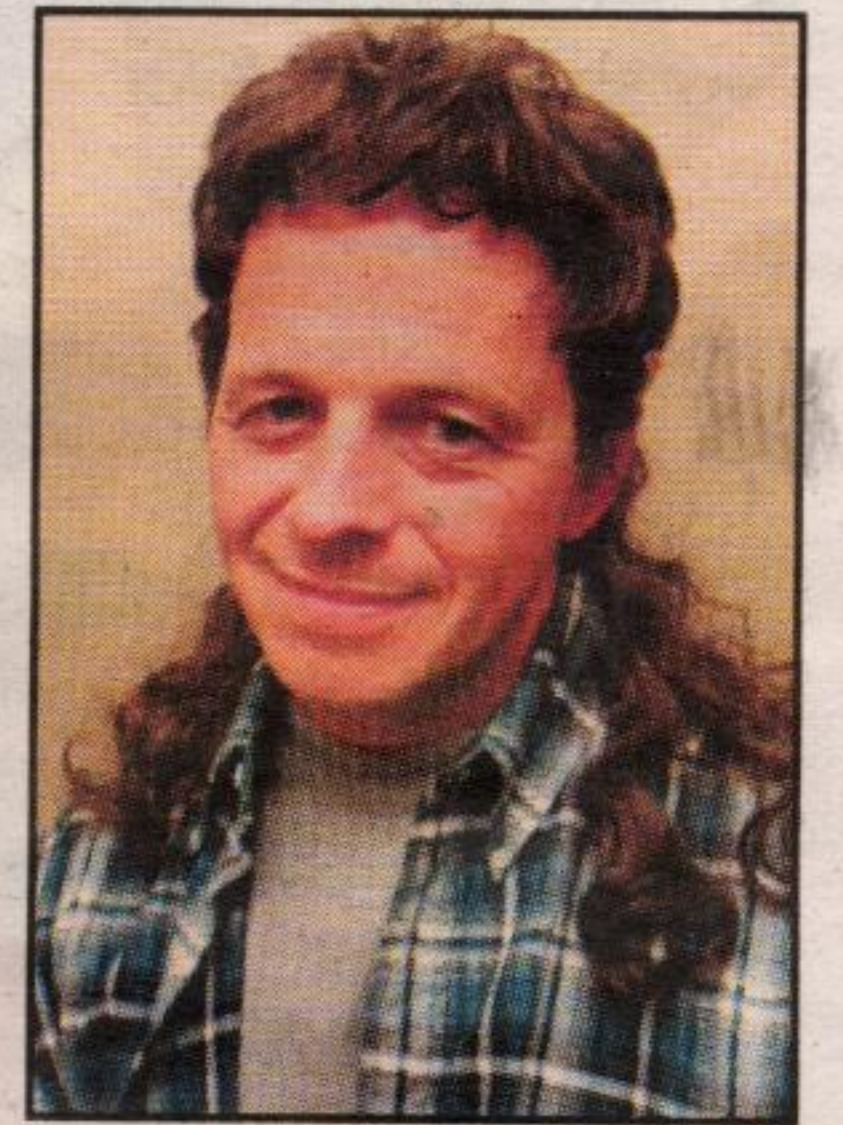
Original Hockey Hair

possible. As you can see, there is a world of possibilities in the land of the mullet.

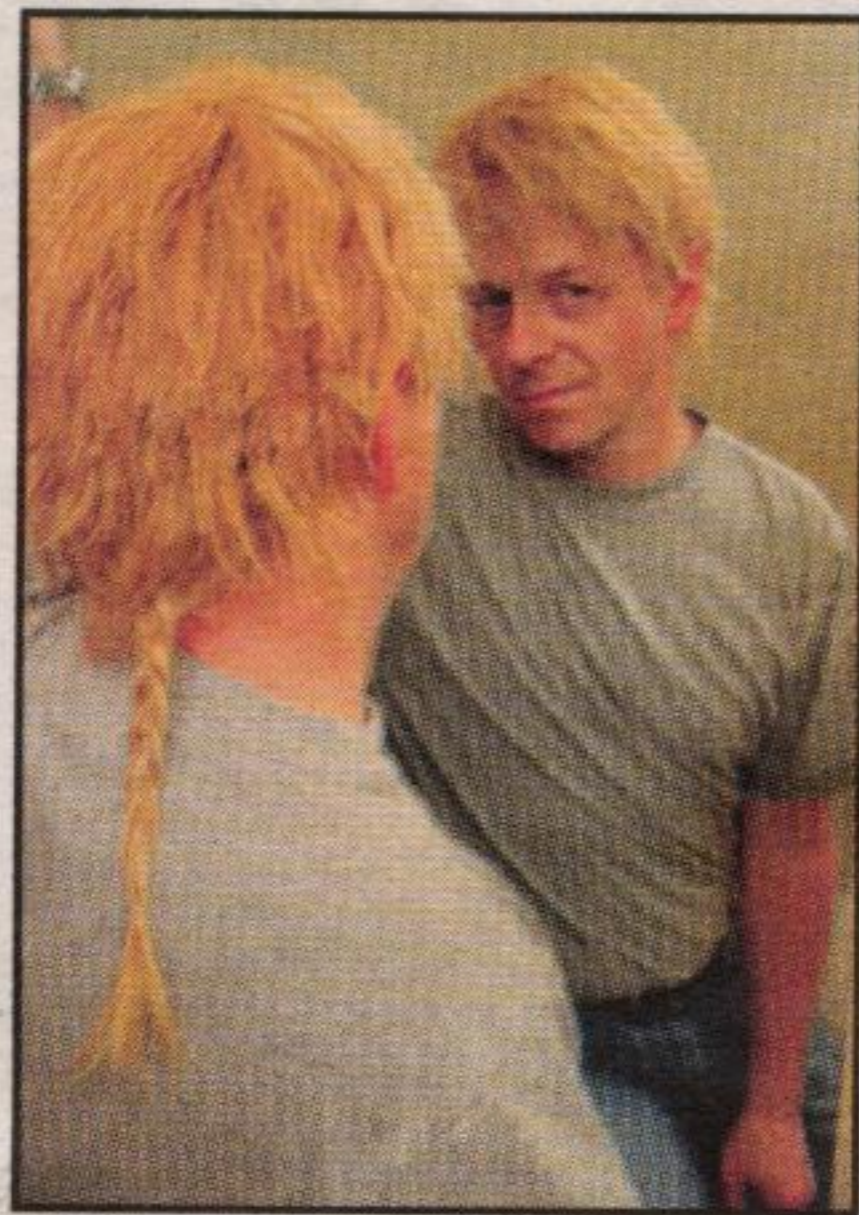
There is some discussion as to whether the mullet's origin dates back to Roman times or Rush's five-night stand at Radio City Music Hall in September 1983. What is clear is the effect the mullet had on pop culture for the 10 or so years following that concert, everyone from Mel Gibson in *Lethal Weapon* to Richard Marx and Brian Bozworth. If you weren't wearing your hair short on the top and sides

and long in the back, or Schlong, you weren't anybody.

So next time you see some guy holding on to yesterday with a wicked, sweet "neck warmer", just give him a little tip of the backwards ball cap. Cause if he's had that sucker since 1985, chances are the length of his hair out the back is about equal to the length of his forehead in the front.



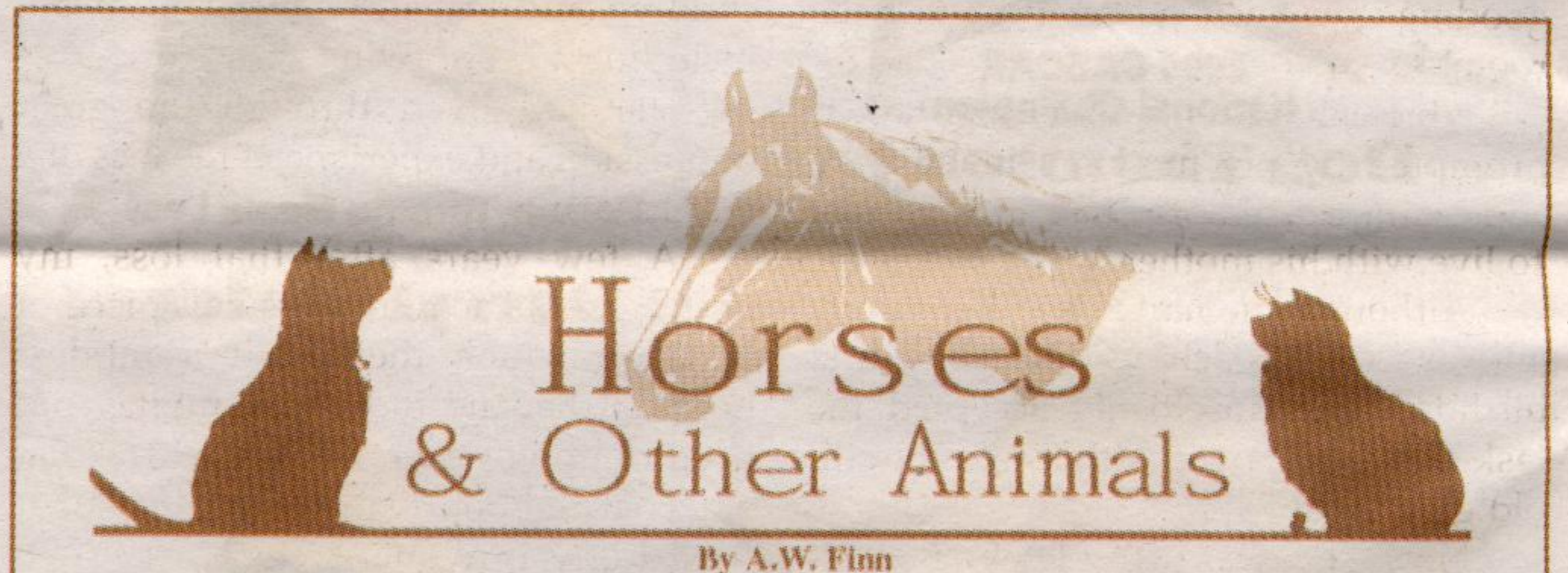
Skullet



Rat Tail



Joe Dirt Special



By A.W. Finn

The TARPAN Horse - Eastern Europe and Russia were the home of the Tarpan, another horse widely believed to have been an ancestor of the modern horse. It survived in the wild until the nineteenth century. One authority claims that the last Tarpan in captivity died in 1919, in which case the Tarpan that exists today, running semi-wild in reserves in Poland, must be a "reconstruction", almost certainly bred from the Konik, which it strongly resembles. Experiments with crossing Przewalski stallions and Konik mares have also produced an animal that looks like the original Tarpan.

Budapest, Hungary, customs guards discovered the carcasses of 300 rare birds hidden in the belongings of an Italian man entering Hungary from Romania. The birds were in freezer bags hidden in the trunk of his car. Customs regularly seize the carcasses of protected birds bound for Italy where they would have been sold to restaurants at high prices.

350 ducks washed up on the shore of Lake Ontario near Confederation Park in Hamilton. They were the victims of botulism. There have been other reported instances of similar kills in other areas of Lake Ontario and in Kincardin. The Hamilton Conservation Authority suggests that botulism is a natural occurrence at this time of year.

The West Edmonton Mall, according to Zoocheck Canada, has just added three sea lions. The sea lions were purchased from Scotland and were born in captivity. West Edmonton Mall is embroiled in controversy over keeping a dolphin in deplorable conditions.

Fort Dodge Animal Health, a division of Wyeth, has to comply with the US Food and Drug Administration and stop production and distribution of its heartworm prevention Pro-Heart 6. The firm had to recall its product for further study. The FDA reported that they had received 5,500 reports of adverse reactions as of August 4, 2004.

Wildlife researchers lead a flock of young whooping cranes south for the winter, warning people to stay out of their way after a curious ultralight pilot disturbed the endangered birds. A team of pilots led the 14 Whooping Cranes from Wisconsin to central Florida.

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