

THE HALTON HILLS **WEEKEND**

KEN NUGENT
Publisher

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Taxing time

All the hype these days seems to be focussed on a possibly massive taxpayers' revolt, should the pending federal budget prove unsavory to Canadians.

Taxpayers have hit the tax wall — some have even been squished in the process — and no more taxes is the message on everyone's lips.

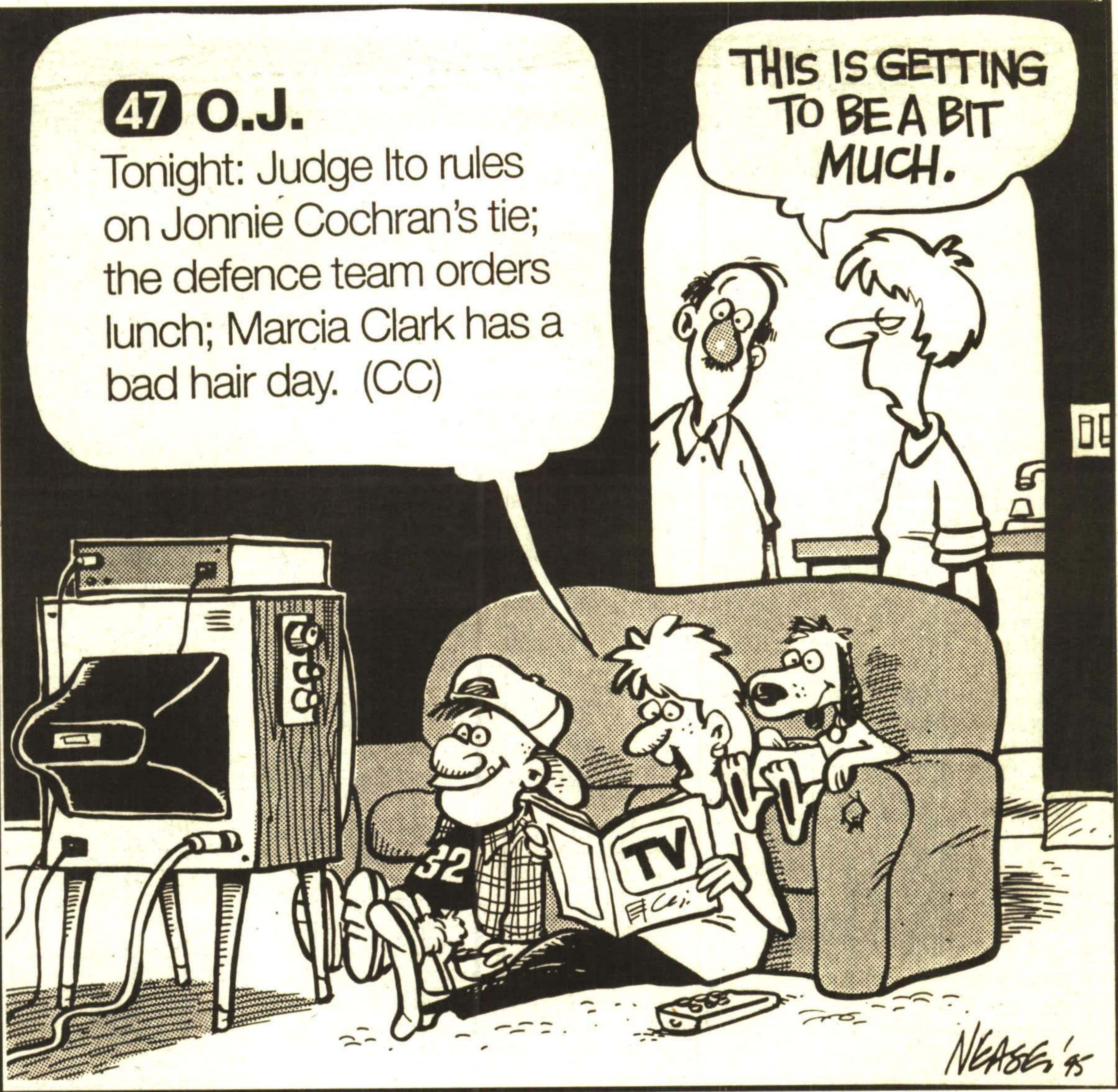
But while the pressure now seems to be on the national tax debate, taxpayers should not forget the local tax debates.

The town, region and school boards are all now going through the budget processes. Taxpayers pay a significant sum to these governmental organizations too; last year, with the focus on 0 per cent tax increases, the average Halton Hills urban taxpayer paid approximately \$2,221 in combined local taxes, while the rural taxpayer paid \$2,059.

This year, the focus is again on no more taxes, but as Acton/Esquesing public school board trustee Dave Whiting warns, it could be at a price — such as cutting the supplies kids need to learn....

There is a danger that the politicians could be become so sensitive to the pressure of special interest groups that the impact of cutting is not clearly thought out. Common sense cutting is as important as no more taxes.

The town and school boards invite public participation in their budget deliberations. By becoming involved in the process the public can ensure a balance of common sense and cost cutting — and survival of this taxing time.



Profound statements

Every day, as I drive to and from work, I pass by a neon-lit billboard situated in front of one of the local churches.

This billboard is unique, for on it is regularly displayed a profound message commenting on life.

I must admit, it tends to make me think. Apparently I'm not alone in being a regular reader of this sign. Seems it has a considerable following around town.

Just this week I noticed the message on the billboard read, "Life without principle draws little interest."

A tongue in cheek comment, ain't it?

A couple weeks back, the statement, "Anger is one letter short of danger" also struck me as profound.

It occurred to me how these little gems tend to stick in our mind, and make us consider things around us.

I was reminded of how as a kid, I used to hear all those old sayings about every aspect of life, and thought how true they proved to be.

And I'm sure we've all been subjected to all kinds of sayings since we could understand the language.

Some are humorous, others profound. But all share a common purpose. They make us think.

I asked my kids which sayings came to mind, and they recited; "You can't judge a book by its cover," and "When the cat's away, the mice will play."

(That last one tends to make me a tad suspicious about leaving the house in their hands for any length of time.)

And after some thought, I realized some of the better ones are simple, yet make a definite statement.

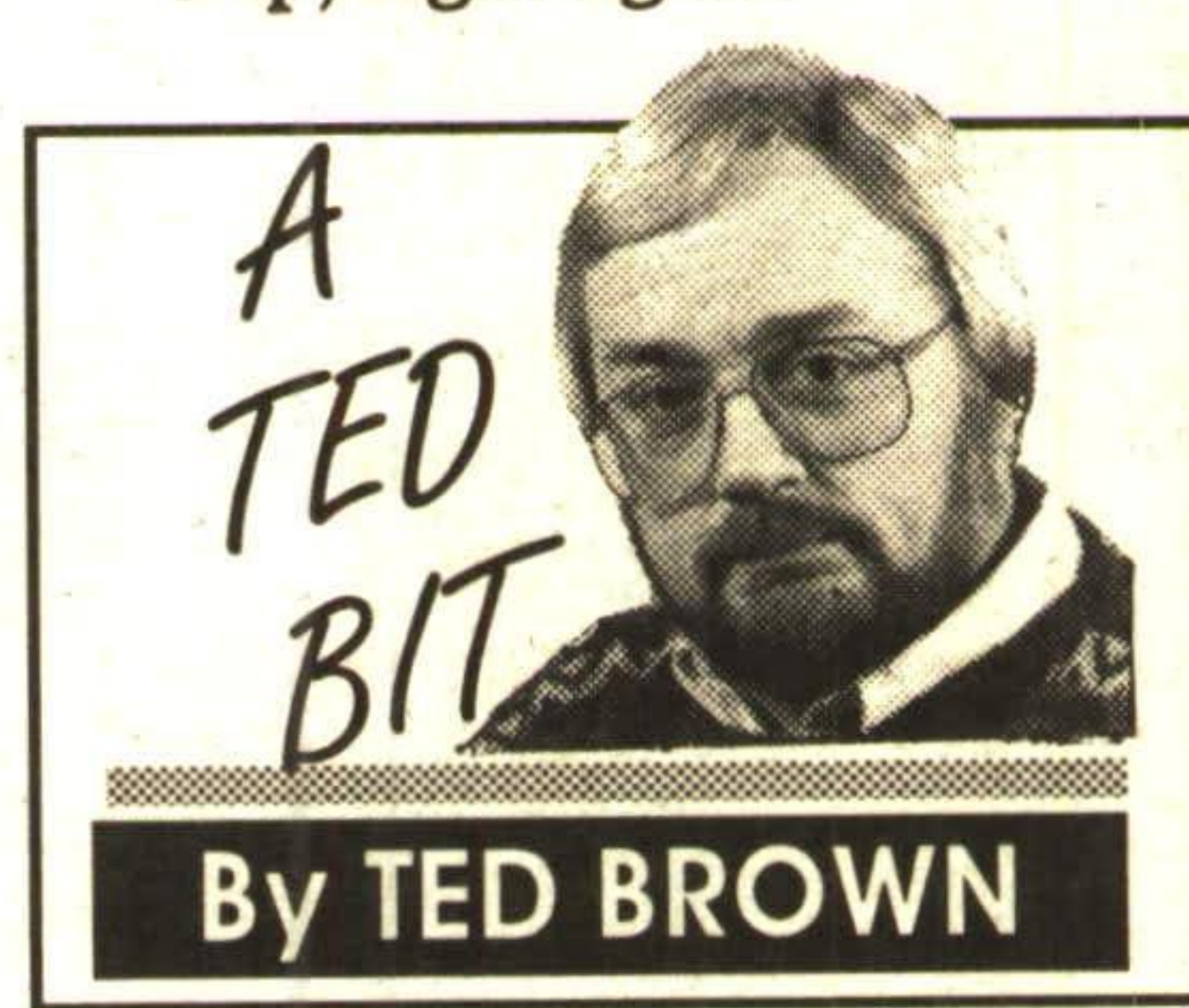
One of my co-workers told me one she has always carried with her is "The only constant in life is change."

See, it's true.

My grandfather always told me to "Be true to yourself," and I admit, he did practice what he preached.

Not long ago, I spotted a cute statement on a computer bulletin board which said "Teenagers are God's punishment for fooling around."

Yup, right again.



A desk calender I have in my office at home is filled with more gems. Entitled The Murphy's Law calender, it has a different word of wisdom for every day. Some of the beauties I've already enjoyed this year say things like:

"When leaving work late, no one will notice. But when you slip out early, you'll meet the boss in the parking lot."

"A committee is the only lifeform known to mankind with 12 stomachs and no brain."

"If you have the time to do something, you won't have the money. When you have the money, you won't have

the time."

And my personal favorite, learned and appreciated from experience;

"If there are two ways of connecting two wires together, the first combination will always blow the fuse."

My kids can relate to another; "You will suddenly fully understand algebra; after the test."

As a teen, I recall we used to say something like "Wild children in the back seat can cause accidents; wild accidents in the back seat can cause children."

Or, "The problem with sowing wild oats is occasionally one of them sprouts."

One of my co-workers, Kevin Powell, is a veritable fountain of old sayings, like his mother's statement about a mismatch mistake made while wallpapering. "Don't worry; a man on a galloping horse will never see it."


Or his other favorite, "A wet mule never flies at night."

So true. But what does it mean? (Like, I can honestly say I've never seen a wet mule fly at night, so it must be true.)

But over the years, the one statement I found to be the most profound came to me recently from one of Tom Clancy's novels, entitled Debt of Honor. It has a special meaning to me.

It reads, "Daughters are God's revenge on you for being a man; you live in mortal fear that they might accidentally encounter somebody like — yourself at that age."

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Did you know?

It's amazing what you can learn from the TV show, *Beakman's World*.

- There are more chickens in the world than people
- Mosquitoes have teeth
- It takes 720 peanuts to make one pound of peanut butter
- You will grow 400 complete eyelashes in your life
- There has never been a recorded death of a human by a wolf in the U.S.

Contributed by YTV (Channel 22)

If everyone is born to pay taxes ... who are these jokers collecting them?