

THE HALTON HILLS **WEEKEND**

KEN NUGENT
Publisher

The Halton Hills Weekend is published every Sunday by The Georgetown Independent/Free Press, at 211 Armstrong Ave. Georgetown Ont., L7G 4X5. It is one of the newspapers published by Metroland Printing, Publishing & Distributing Ltd., which includes: Ajax/Pickering News Advertiser, Barrie Advance, Brampton Guardian, Burlington Post, City Parent, Collingwood/Wasaga Connection, Etobicoke Guardian, Kingston This Week, Lindsay This Week, Markham Economist & Sun, Midland/Penetanguishene Mirror, Milton Canadian Champion, Mississauga News, Newmarket/Aurora Era-Banner, Northumberland News, North York Mirror, Oakville Beaver, Orillia Today, Oshawa/Whitby/Clarington This Week, Peterborough This Week, Richmond Hill/Thornhill/Vaughan Liberal, Scarborough Mirror, Stouffville/Uxbridge Tribune, Today's Seniors.

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Price: Store copies 50¢ each; Subscriptions \$26.00 per year by carrier; \$92.50 per year by mail in Canada; \$130.00 per year in all other countries. Plus G.S.T.

Second Class Mail Registration Number 6869. The Georgetown Independent is a member of The Canadian Community Newspaper Association and The Ontario Community Newspaper Association.

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Give us a reason

At the past two council meetings, we have reported that Councillor Robert Heaton has refused to participate in the town-wide direct deposit pay system.

Heaton wants to continue to be paid by cheque — despite a council-sanctioned policy change last December.

Since he has not provided the treasury department with the forms to initiate his direct deposit, Heaton has not been paid for two months — and he is now demanding in full the remainder of his current three term salary, plus 20 per cent interest.

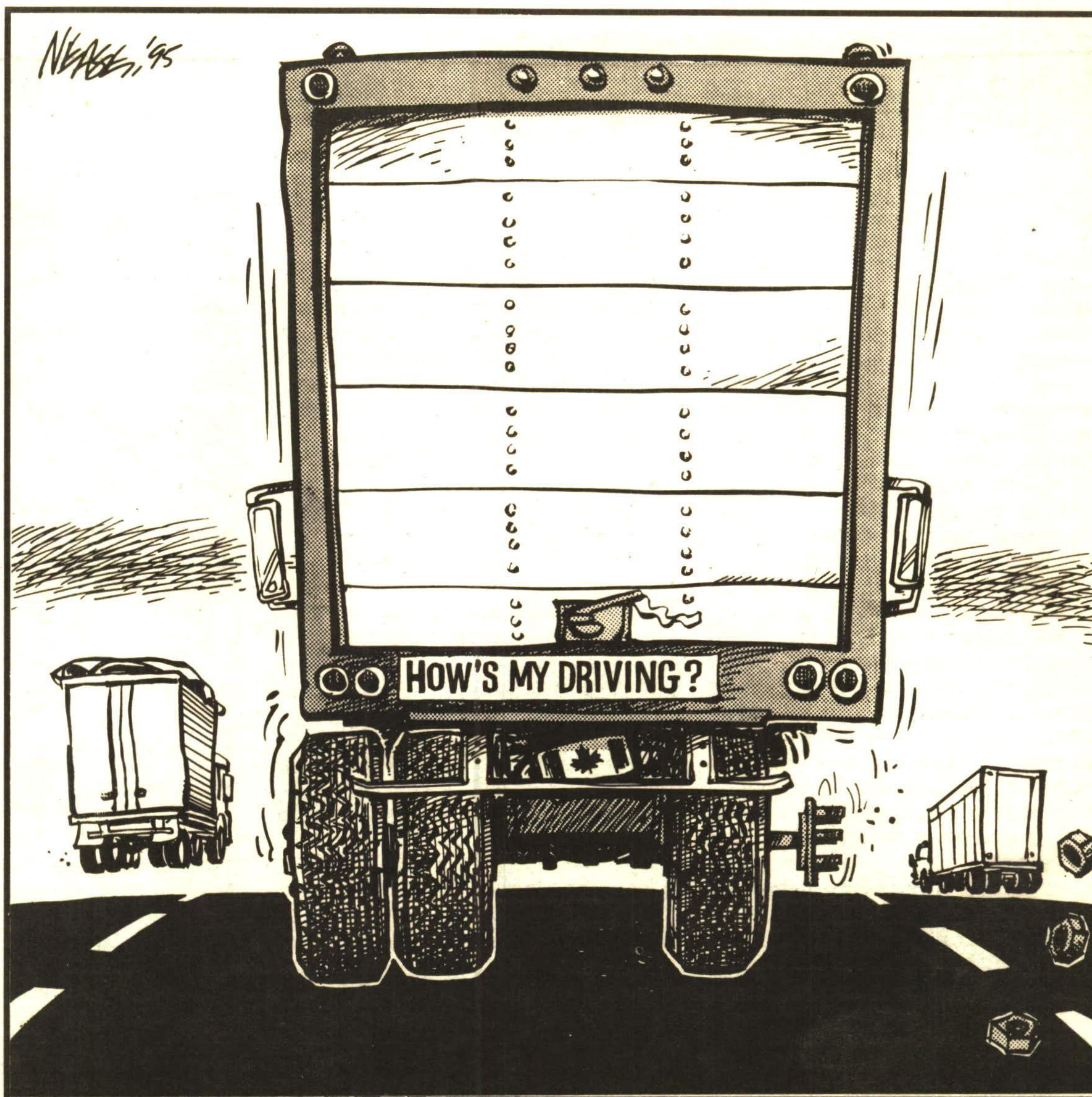
Throughout this issue, Heaton has not been clear about his reasons for not accepting the direct deposit system.

If he did clarify to the taxpayers why he cannot accept this system, and if they were valid reasons, perhaps something can be worked out.

However, so far, Councillor Heaton has not lucidly explained the reasons why he refuses to accept the system. Nor has he been willing to reintroduce the bylaw into council for an exemption.

No business, whether it is public or private, can bend the rules for an employee if that employee fails to provide a valid reason for an exemption.

Speak up, Councillor Heaton, and give your employers (Halton Hills taxpayers) a lucid reason.



No longer a hunter

As regular readers noticed, I wasn't here last week, and our local chief librarian, Betsy Cornwell, did the honors.

Betsy presented her own views on the newest information provider in the modern world, the Internet, stating she didn't think it addressed the needs of today's women.

She argued the Internet was designed and developed primarily by men, and consequently "the system grew up to conformity with the needs and work habits of the male users."

She described the system as "inappropriate to (women's) needs and capacities."

Boy, did Betsy ever open a can of worms with those statements!

Since Monday, we've received a number of comments about her views on the Internet; all contrary to her point of view.

Two were from men, one from a woman.

Although letters responding to Betsy's column are presented elsewhere in this newspaper, I'll quote a few.

Glenn McLeod was the first to comment, asking where Betsy found the figures of 96 per cent of the users on the 'net were male.

He felt it was impossible to gather demographics about Internet users, since it is such a vast network, and no one logs on by gender.

Rebecca Drotos was also perturbed with Betsy's comments, and took exception to her comparing 'surfing the 'net' to "male

stalking and hunting behavior," and was a little put out by her comment "Females have no leisure for the game of stalking, ... we have households to manage and children to feed, and we can't stray too far from those imperatives."

Rebecca, a self-proclaimed feminist, states "(work) systems were designed with the male worker in mind; that is why feminism exists."

She also chastised Betsy for suggesting a computer could respond to verbal commands to soothe a colicky baby, saying "Feminist issues have nothing to do with replacing the nurturing

in-cheek, but I had to address a couple of things.

I think Betsy has it all wrong about the "male/hunter/stalker persona."

You see, I haven't done any stalking or hunting for years. And when I did, during my younger, adolescent years, I don't think I ever "pounced on my quarry."

And after watching The Lion King movie with my nine-year-old, I was reminded the hunters and stalkers in the lion's social framework are the females. It's the human counterpart of shopping for groceries, I guess.

(Incidentally, with five females in my house I can honestly say none of them are "gatherers." A quick trip through their bedrooms would verify that one. However, my teenage girls could possibly fall into the "stalking and hunting" category.)

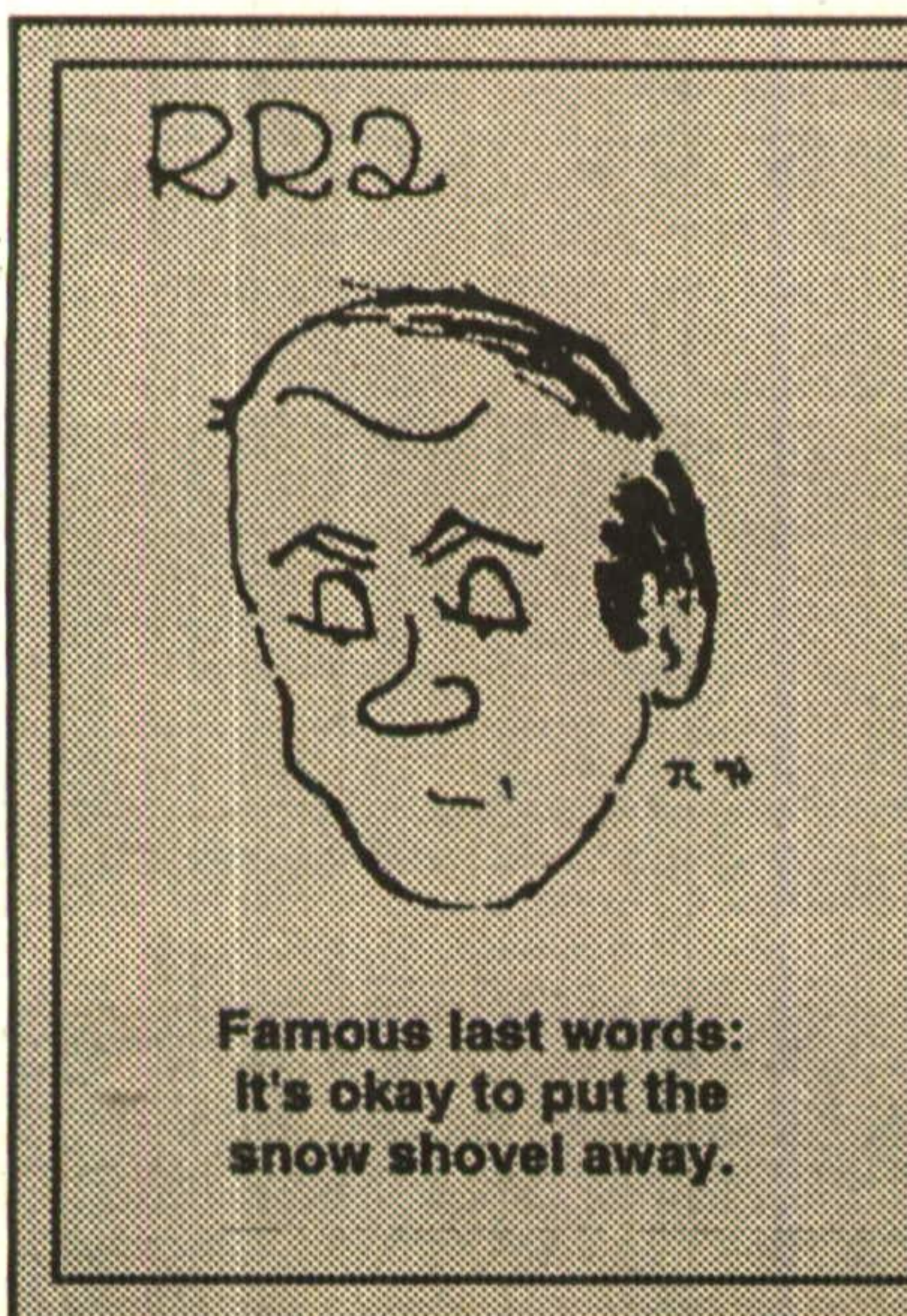
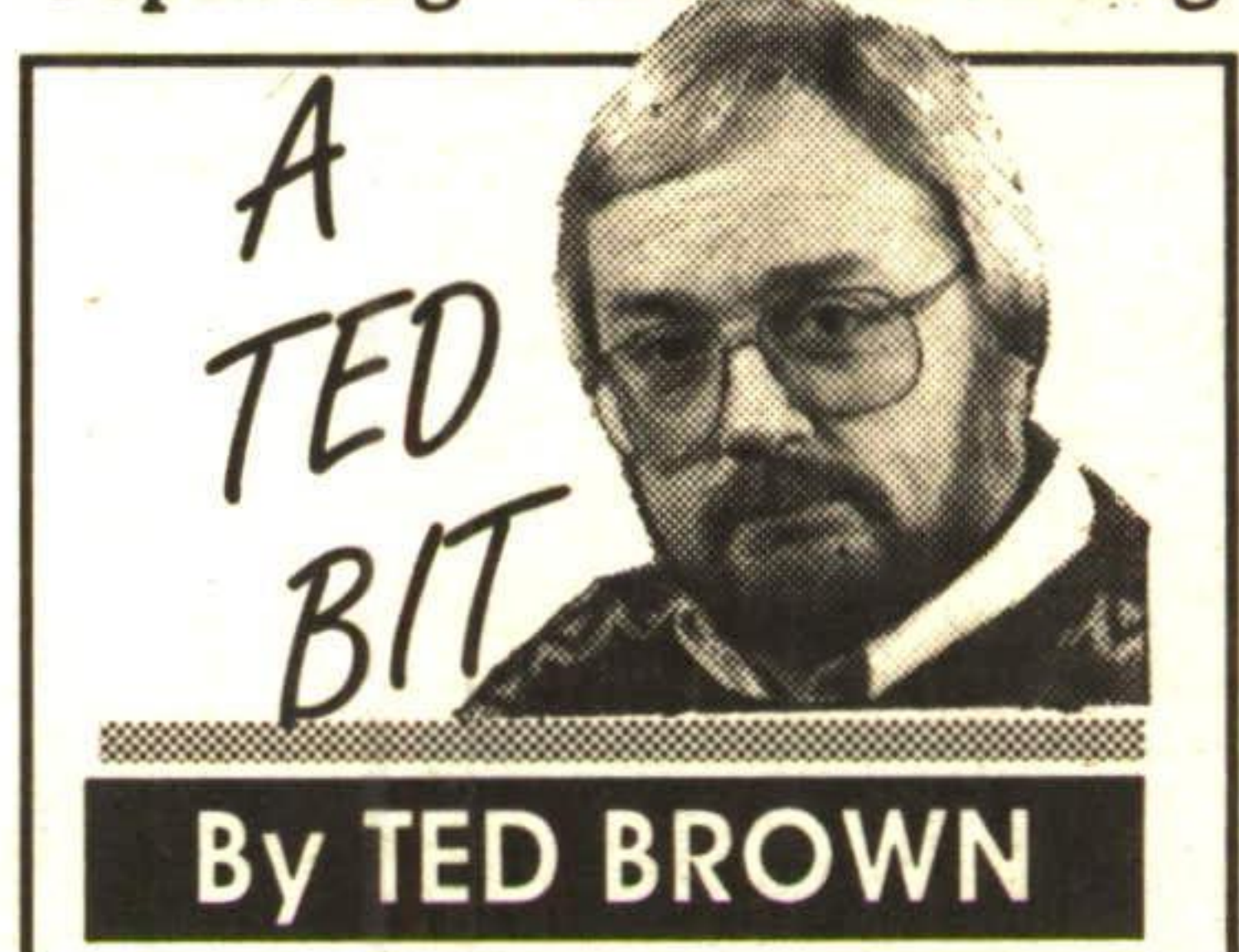
After calling Betsy, she admitted to being "both provocative and at the same time tongue-in-cheek" in her column.

But her message is loud and clear, and she pulls no punches. She wants women to become more involved, to demand changes and require the system to address their needs and interests.

And if it takes ruffling a few feathers around town to achieve these goals, then I guess she's prepared to take the flack.

But I must admit, I'm jealous.

Not since I wrote about toilet paper have I seen so many people fired up to that degree.



Did you know?

Studies show that sexual frequency and satisfaction begin to climb when couples share more time after the children leave home, according to the March 1995 Reader's Digest. In The Janus Report on Sexual Behavior, Samuel Janus, Ph.D and Dr. Cynthia Janus say that men's highest sexual frequency is between the ages of 51 and 64 and that women over 65 are more active than women in their 40s and 50s.