

THE HALTON HILLS **WEEKEND**

KEN NUGENT
Publisher

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Simple rules

In the weeks leading up to the holiday weekend, the Halton Regional Police Service is joining other forces in tackling the problem of aggressive drivers.

Halton Police are targeting three areas of aggressive driving behavior: drinking and driving, seat belt use, and speeding.

There is definitely a need for this campaign.

In recent weeks this newspaper has reported on several incidents which may have been avoided had drivers (and their passengers) been more safety conscious.

It seems we, and the police service, are constantly reminding drivers of the need to be more aware of their driving habits.

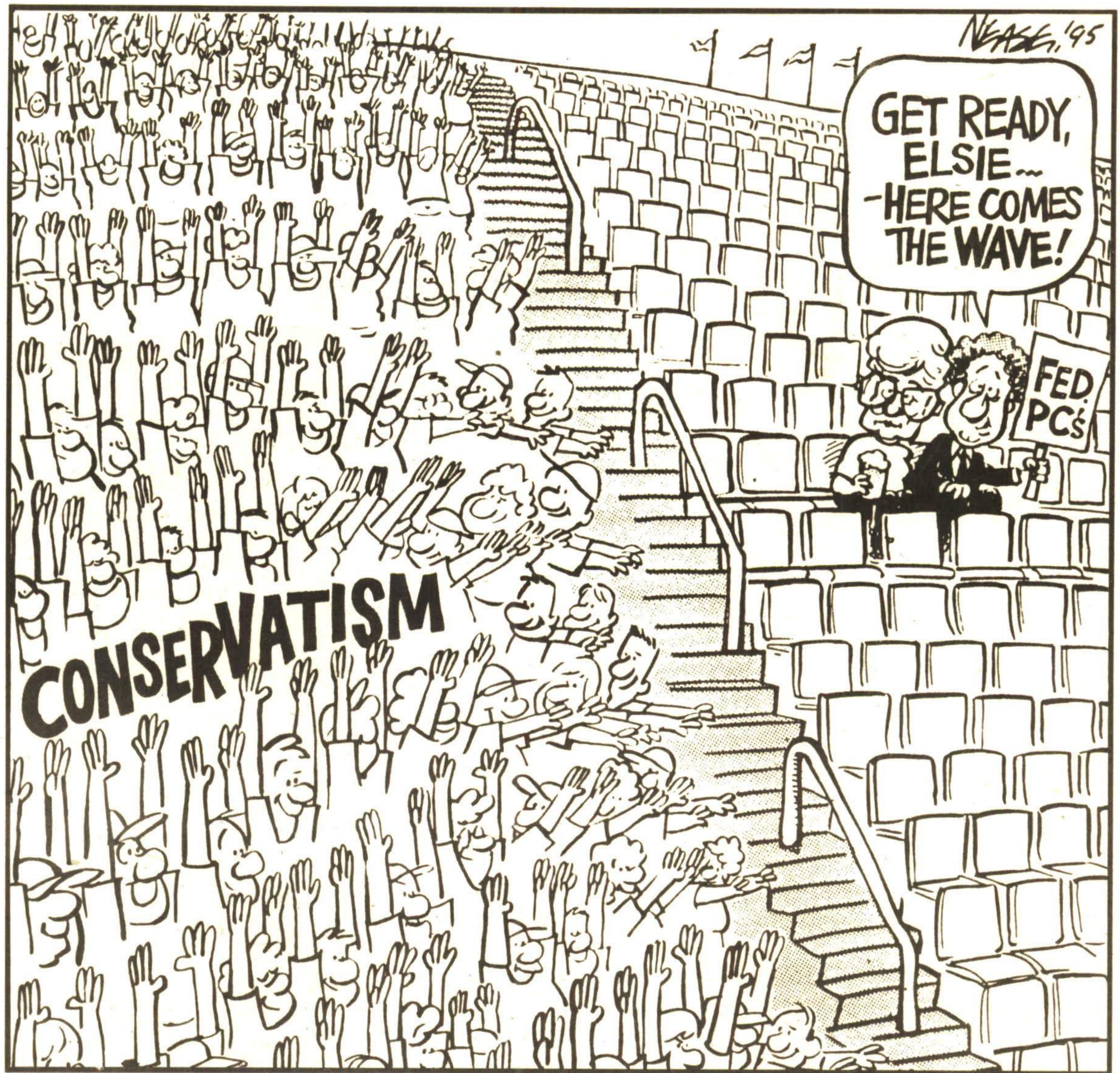
But still, aggressive drivers are seen on the roads every day — on Delrex, on McDonald Blvd., on Mill St., on Main ... near schools, near churches, near grocery stores

Everyone must honestly evaluate their own driving... it's not always the other guy who turns corners without stopping, who passes without signalling, who doesn't fasten their seat belt because they're just going to the corner store ... yes, we all have bad habits.

We must learn to treat cars with the respect that a 2,200 pound machine hurtling at 40-50 kph deserves.

The rules of respect are simple: don't speed, wear your seat belt, and don't drink and drive.

Simple rules to follow.



That restroom dispenser was a ground breaker

As I drove through Acton not long ago, I happen to pass by an old Acton landmark that is no more.

At the corner of Young and Mill streets, the old service station on the southwest corner has been reduced to nothing more than a big hole in the ground, as a huge excavator appears to be digging towards China.

That garage has always had a way of resurrecting a few old memories, from the days of the late 60s and early 70s, when John Hoare ran John's Texaco from that location.

You see, when I was a teen, a group of guys used to hang out at that garage, usually on weekends or early in the evening on warm summer nights, as they discussed such important subjects as cars, girls, cars, partying, the last person who drove by, and of course, more cars.

The group seemed to center around part-time employees, mostly high school students, who worked for John after school and on weekends, spending their time pumping gas and washing windshields.

The circle of friends that congregated there always added to the conversation at the garage as they dropped by on Friday nights, before heading out on a hot date, or on sunny, Sunday afternoons, as they recuperated from another late night, the night before.

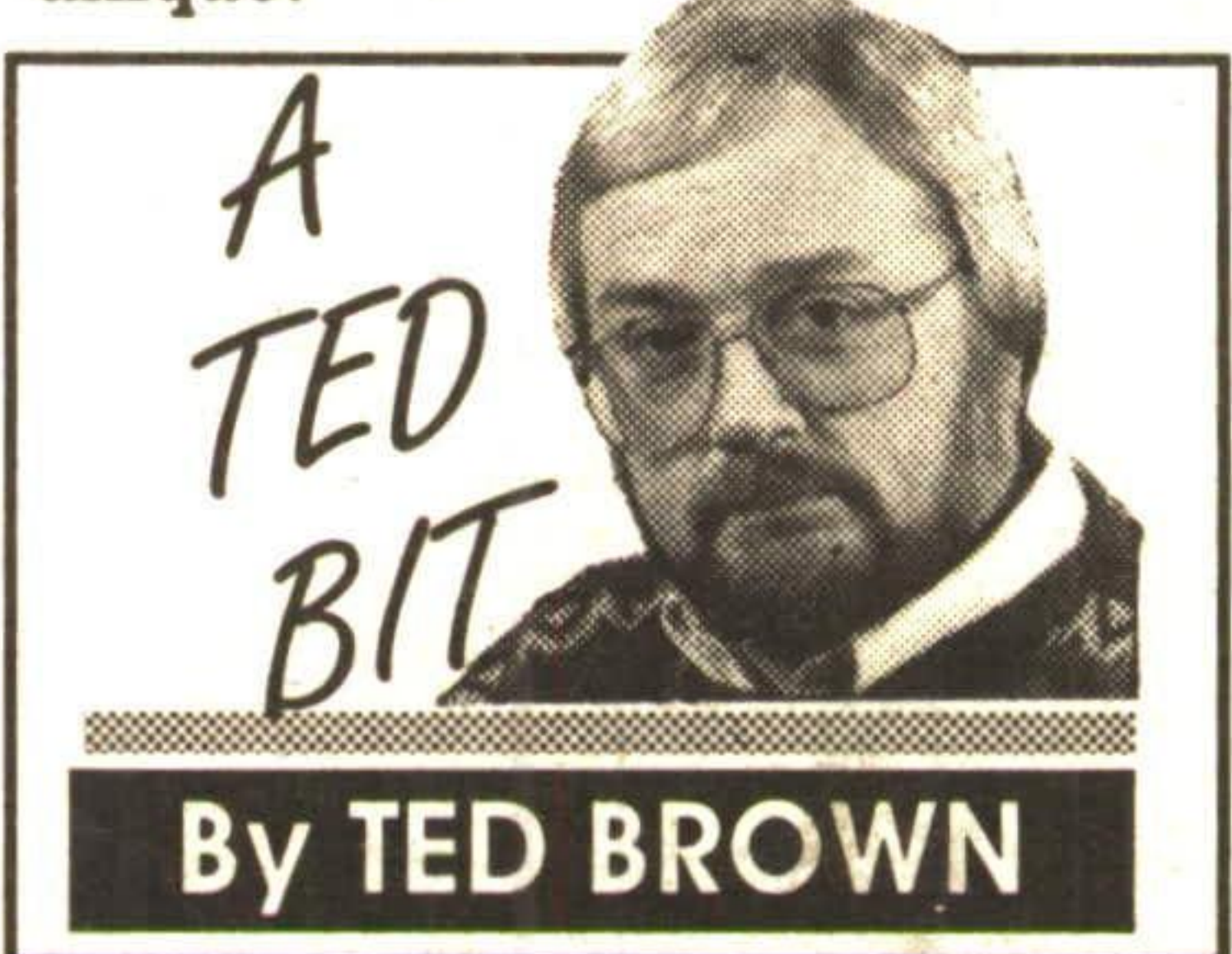
And they usually recounted their adventures (or lack of adventure) from the aforementioned previous night as well.

Although I wasn't a regular member of their group, I used to drop by from time to time, to fill 'er up, and catch up on the latest scuttlebutt from around town from the boys at Hoare's.

And it was always entertaining.

Of course, during those gab sessions, anyone standing in the office area of the garage always took note when someone dropped by to "borrow" the key to the men's restroom.

You see, that restroom was unique.



It had a coin operated dispenser.

And it dispensed, well, ahem, 'you-know-what's.'

I suppose today, such vending machines wouldn't be considered very avant garde in the restrooms of hotels, restaurants or service stations around Halton Hills.

But in the late 60s, that little coin operated drug store in Hoare's service station restroom was certainly a ground breaker in the Acton area.

Anyway, after he had picked up the key, we'd watch the patron head around the corner into the washroom, and eventually hear the clink-clunk

as the vending machine made yet another sale to one more satisfied customer.

And of course, everyone standing around would subtly turn their head to take note of who the happy customer was making the purchase as he returned the key to the office.

And they'd all nod.

And smile politely.

And I'm sure they all were secretly grinning from ear to ear on the inside, as the happy little shopper rushed back to his car, beaming with anticipation.

Even after business hours, Hoare's garage was a popular meeting place as people of all ages dropped by on their way through town, to buy a can of pop from the Coke machine out front.

But, as sure as death and taxes, all things eventually come to an end and John's Texaco was no exception. John later moved his business down to Main St. S., at the corner of Agnes St. in Acton.

And all the guys who once congregated at the garage have grown up, got married and are dealing with their own challenges, raising their own teens.

So as I drove by that big hole in the ground where the garage once stood, I was hit with a sense of déjà vu, and vividly recalled those numerous comical conversations of nearly 30 years ago.

And I had to smile, all the while wondering.

Wondering what ever happened to that little vending machine.....

RR2



Just lost my doctor; when he saw his latest malpractice insurance, he became a lawyer.

Did you know?

That New Jersey Devils' team name comes from a legend; a witch allegedly gave birth to a demon known as the Jersey Devil in 1735. The Devil was alleged to be a half-man, half-beast that stalked New Jersey's Pine Barrens or the area surrounding Lake Hopatcong for 250 years causing fear and terror. Others say the Devil was the 13th child of Mother Leeds, jinxed by gypsies.

Les Canadiens Magazine