

THE HALTON HILLS **WEEKEND**

KEN NUGENT
Publisher

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Tepid turnout

We must say that the turnout in Wards 1/2 on Monday to elect the new public school board trustee was most disappointing.

Of the 11,756 total eligible voters, only 1,842 or less than 16 per cent voted.

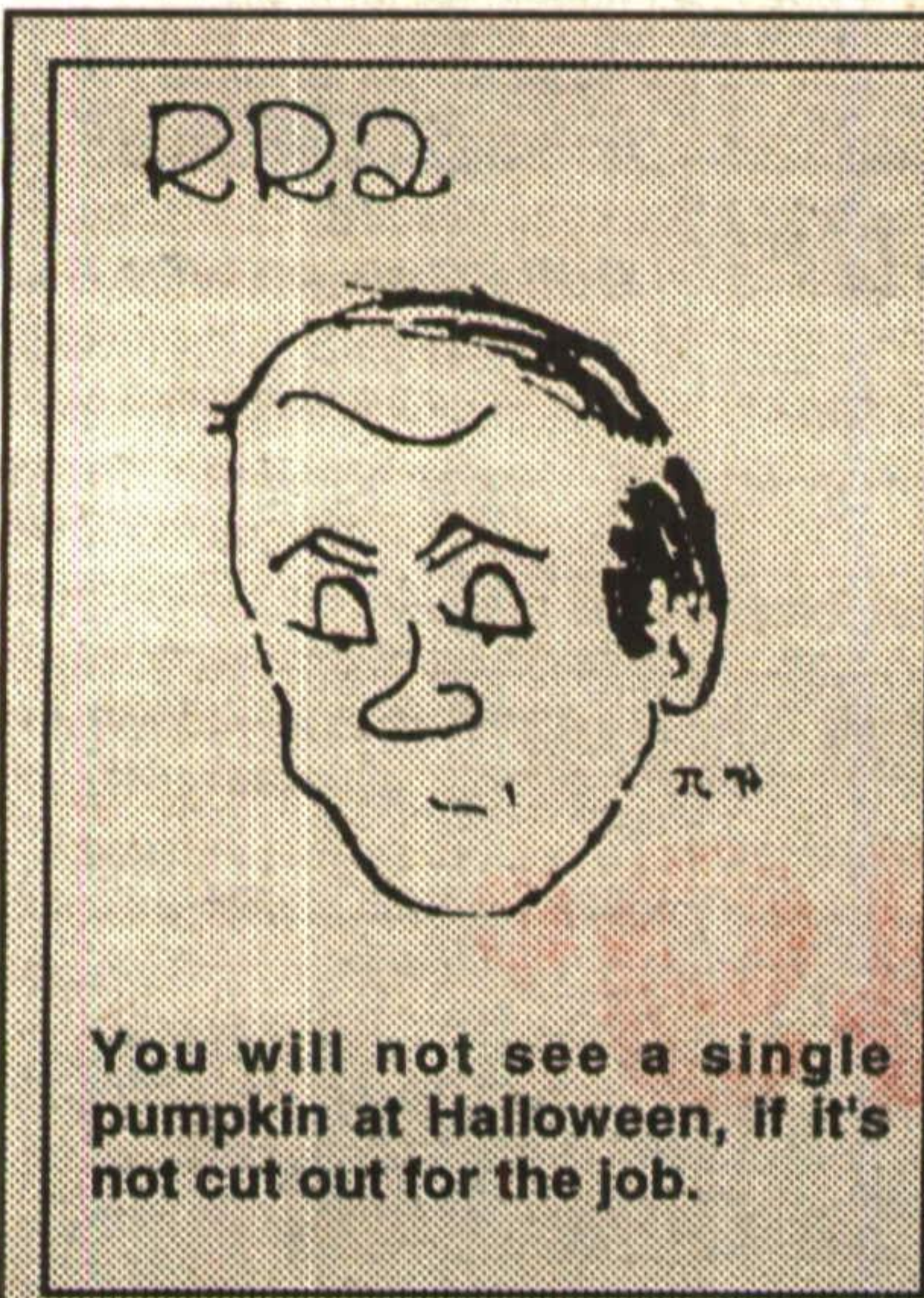
We wonder why the other 85 per cent chose not to. Do they not consider their children's or grandchildren's education important — or the amount of money being spent on it?

Nevertheless this disappointment aside, we applaud the eight candidates who stood for office, and we were pleased to find out that many are considering running for political positions in future elections. They are true citizens of democracy.

Now we extend our congratulations to Ethel Gardiner on her victory. As the newest public school board trustee, she has a tough job ahead of her. This past Thursday at her very first board meeting she had to vote on matters such as the future of Junior Kindergarten, and the major restructuring of the education system in Halton.

It was a daunting introduction, but we're sure Ms. Gardiner has the skills to serve her constituents well.

The question is, considering the number of those who voted, how many want to be served?



You will not see a single pumpkin at Halloween, if it's not cut out for the job.

Did you know?

Halloween activities actually date back to hundreds of years from an early pagan harvest festival that fell on the last day of the year on the old pagan calendar, October 31. Historians say the day served a triple purpose: bidding goodbye to summer, welcoming winter, and remembering the dead. On this special night it was believed that spirits and the ghosts of those who had died were allowed to walk about. To protect homes from evil spirits on this night, people began hollowing out turnips and pumpkins (symbols of the harvest) and placed lighted candles inside to scare the spirits from the house. Trick or treating began in famine-era Ireland when children would go house to house begging 'soul-cakes'.



It's tough to be an original spook

As the month of October winds down, and we approach dreary, cold November, one annual event always celebrates the end of the month.

Halloween!

Around our household, the littlest member of the family has been possessed by that annual gut-wrenching, monumental, earth-shattering decision she always endures at this time of the year.

"Dad, what should I be for Halloween?"

Over the years, we've gone through the gamut of costumes, and I've done the mobile spook/trick or treat patrol, escorting a multitude of people, animals and things ranging from mice to clowns, hoboes to witches, a giant pumpkin and even Morticia Addams last year.

So I'm no stranger to listening to this little lady trying to decide upon the most unique costume for the annual haunting.

"Dad, should I be Pocahontas? Or how about one of the fighters off Mortal Combat?" she questions, (incessantly, 12 hours a day, I might add.)

This quandary has been ongoing from, oh, at least the first day of school in September, and I have heard about more than a dozen "great" ideas for costumes.

But unfortunately, according to Jennifer, none are quite right.

Last year the "in" person to be was Belle, of Beauty and the Beast fame. But being Belle required a beautiful gown, (and she probably would have been confused for Cinderella

without the Beast.)

So she gave Belle a pass and mulled it over more and more.

In retrospect, I admit I was eternally grateful she didn't want to be any one of the vinyl-clad Power Rangers.

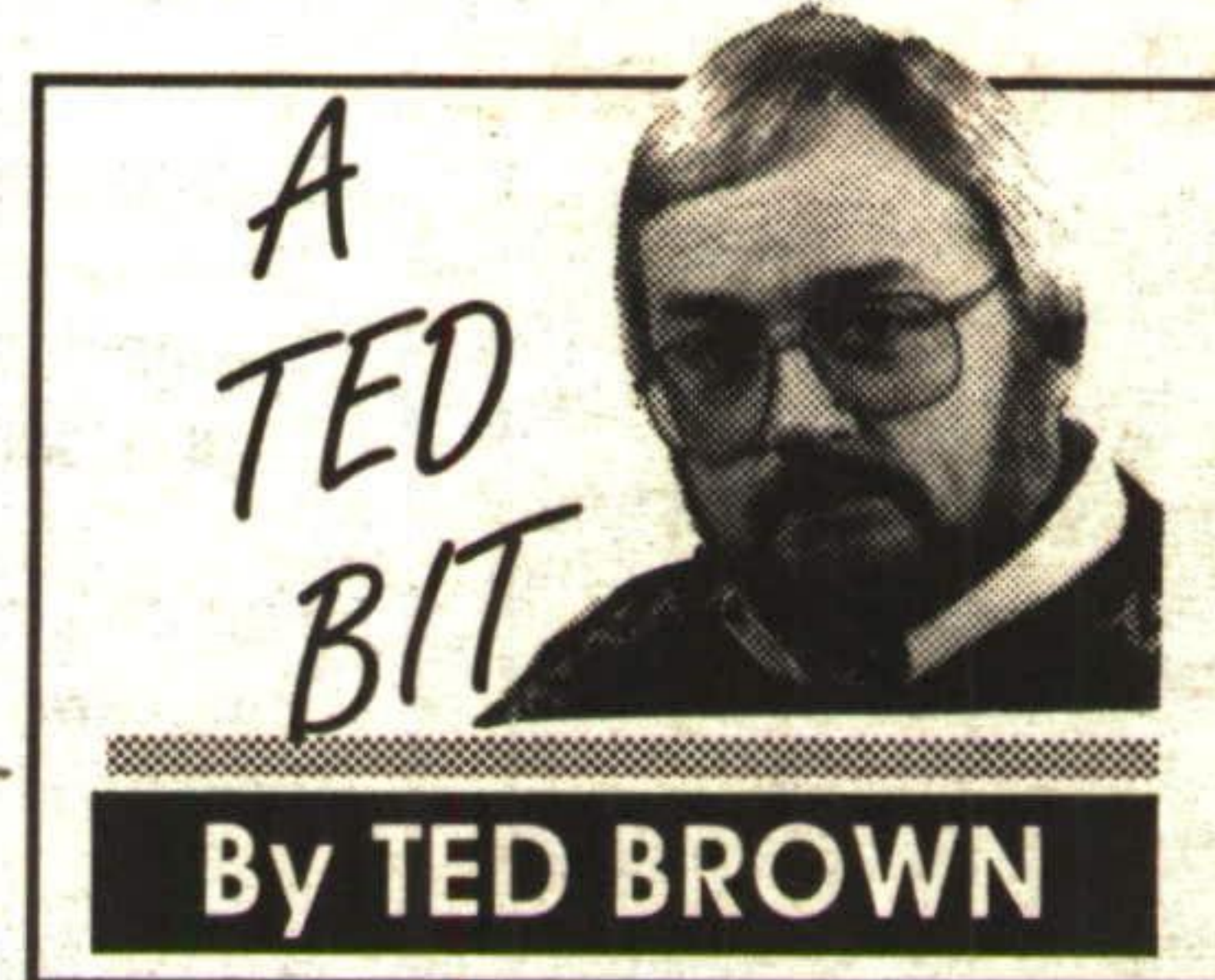
After much deliberation, (and finding the appropriate white-streaked, waist-length black wig,) she went as Morticia Addams.

And everyone thought she was simply a witch.

Not impressed.

It's tough to be an original when it comes to spooks.

This exercise caused me to reminisce a bit.



When I was a kid, we had our share of "in" costumes for Halloween.

I recall being at a school Halloween party where three, count 'em, three separate Zorros were running around with their black capes and little swords. (None had horses, but I had the best sword of the bunch...)

And like today, we always had a multitude of ghosts made from old white bed sheets (although the flannel sheets did take a little away from the haunting mood.)

The one time I was an original was the year I dressed up in my

grandfather's WW1 army uniform.

Only had one problem; I had to do a bit of explaining when I knocked on the door of elderly Col. Borne's house in Limehouse for some treats. (He was a retired career soldier, dating back to the Boer War.)

Again, not impressed.

We dressed as hoboes, cowboys, and Frankenstein's monster, all ultimately being mistaken for someone or something we weren't.

And everyone dressed up as a scarecrow at some point in time, and usually left a trail of straw behind them.

But it was fun, just the same.

Today, it seems our little people want to dress as some celebrity or the latest animated hero or heroine.

(Let's face it; if Disney produces a hit film this year, next year the main character will be THE costume for Halloween following behind the most popular lunch boxes in September and just ahead of the best selling doll at Christmas.)

But back to my daughter's decision.

She consulted friends at school, and even attended an early Halloween party last weekend, to get a preview of this year's best dressed spooks.

After my wife stepped in to help her assemble her costume, (moms are always good for that,) she made her selection.

A ninja!

Yup, a mask, a black outfit, a cape and she's set with an original costume.

So long as someone doesn't mistake her for Zorro.