

THE HALTON HILLS **WEEKEND**

KEN NUGENT
Publisher

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Pat on the back

Halton separate school trustee Joe Deoni needs a pat of the back.

Earlier this week, we reported how the Milton area trustee went public with the in-camera separate school board decision to grant five administrative staff salary increases of \$4,200 to \$8,200 a year. These increases were to apply to employees in the \$82,000 to \$99,000 rage.

Deoni voted against the motion, and felt so strongly about it he decided to inform the public of the decision, and even paid for an ad in the Milton Canadian Champion, to inform the taxpayers of his concern.

Deoni received numerous calls — in support of his stand.

Consequently, the Halton Separate School Board has decided to reconsider the decision.

And the five staff members will have to wait for their raises — possibly until next spring.

We applaud the actions of Deoni, who had the conviction and conscience to take exception to a controversial decision, and make his views publicly known. It's not easy to take an unpopular stand, yet Deoni was prepared to take the flack for going public, in the interest of being financially responsible to his constituents.

It seems, in light of the tough economic times we currently face, some members of the public sector have a problem showing economic restraint, although the private sector has been forced to accept it for some time now.

Fortunately for us, as long as we have concerned trustees like Joe Deoni around, members of the separate school board are going to be forced to wake up and smell the coffee.



Unearthing the 'Lost Ark'

I took a turn for the worse this week.

A complete about face; a radical change of character.

I cleaned off my desk.

Now, I think the last time I cleaned my desk was back in the spring.

Of 1990.

And back then, there was a reason for that cleaning. That was the time we moved to our present location, from our smaller offices downtown.

And I had no excuse that could get me out of it back in '90.

We were moving, and I had to get the desk into a state that was movable.

A monumental job, considering I had a few years of accumulated garbage to deal with.

But this time, I just felt like it.

A whim, a sudden change in the position of the stars, or whatever, it was simply something I wanted to do.

Voluntarily, no pressure, no orders from the top.

Kinda made me wonder if I was approaching a mid-life crisis.

Or male menopause.

Anyway, armed with an empty waste basket and a bottle of window cleaner, I rolled up my sleeves and jumped in to the melee headfirst.

It wasn't a pretty sight.

Now it's a well-known fact my desk is generally considered a disaster area in the office, second only to a hazardous waste dump.

Negatives, photos, bits of paper, old newspaper clippings and outdated press releases are mysteriously drawn it.

Some people, not familiar

with the hazard, have ventured into the vicinity of my desk and disappeared from the face of the earth, never to be seen again.

The X-Files' producer even called to see if I would let them use it as a set for one of their episodes.

But I declined — too risky.

Yes kids, don't do this at home. Venturing near my desk is only safe for a trained professional, with years of occupational experience in avoiding certain death under an avalanche of scrap paper.

So, brave adventurer I am, I headed into the "Brown Zone," ready to turn over a new leaf, and create an

years of papers, there it sat, a genuine arborite woodgrain top.

I felt sort of watery-eyed, like I had unearthed the long lost Ark of the Covenant, or some equally rare artifact.

I think my radical change in character was brought about by a recent radio talk show I heard. An office efficiency expert explained how to eliminate that mountain of paper one seems to collect at one's desk.

His solution evolved around the four D's: Dump it, Deal with it, Delegate it, and one more D I can't remember.

But it didn't make a lot of difference, 'cuz I never got past the first D.

In other words, I dealt with it by delegating it to the dump.

And while I was at it, I rearranged my desk furniture and resurrected another work station to set up next my desk giving me more working space.

Now my computer sits on its own work station and my desk resembles a vacant parking lot.

Just waiting for me to park more papers and magazines.

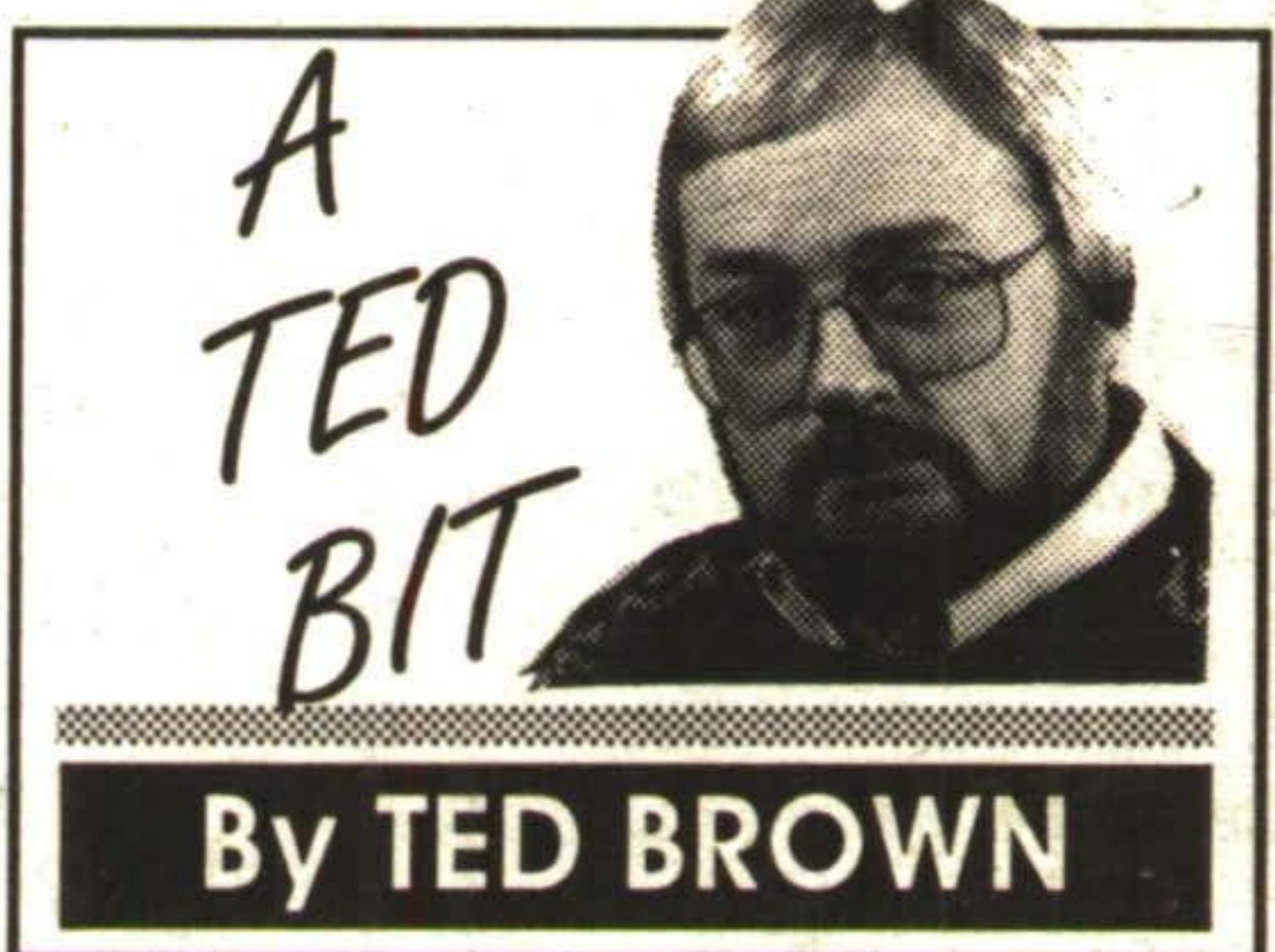
You know, there's a certain satisfaction in cleaning off your desk.

It makes your workplace more manageable, it generates greater organization and seems to make your job easier.

But the best part is surveying the rest of the office.

Because when you clean off your desk —

It makes everyone else's desks look terrible.



RR2

Got the answering machine; now it costs fortune answering all the messages I never knew about before.

Did you know?

Cigarette smoking is on the rise in Ontario, according to the Addiction Research Foundation (ARF).

Smoking rates that had been falling since the 1960s, reached a low in 1993 and now show large increases. Overall, 29 per cent of adults surveyed in 1995 were current (daily or occasional) smokers.

Men increased from 26 per cent in 1993 to 30 per cent in 1995. Women increased even more, from 19 per cent in 1993 to 27 per cent in 1995. Students have increased from 24 to 28 per cent in 1995.

— Addiction Research Foundation