

# THE HALTON HILLS WEEKEND

**KEN NUGENT**  
Publisher

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## Saluting our volunteers

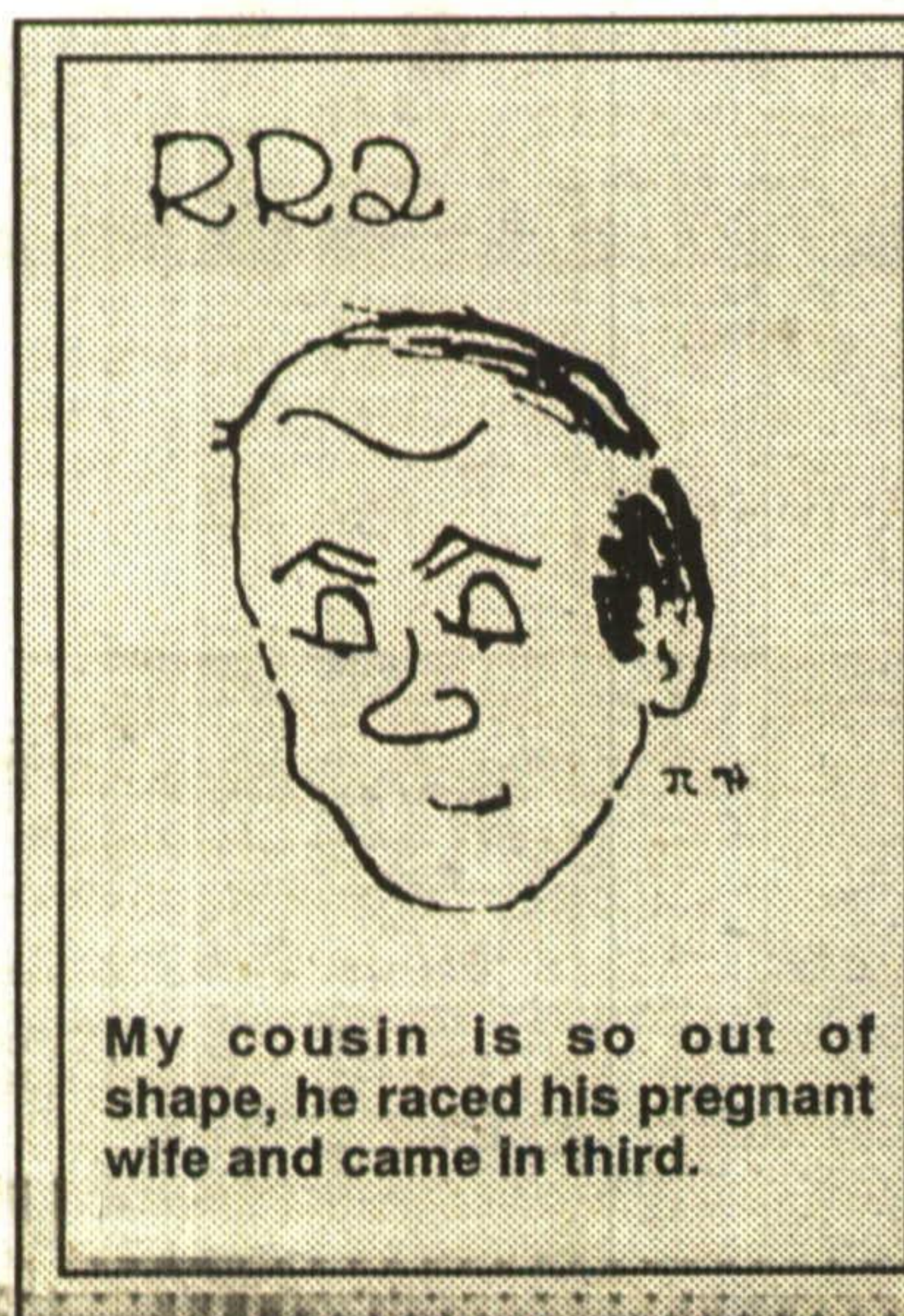
Today marks the beginning of National Volunteer Week — a time to thank and honor the many individuals who make an invaluable contribution to our community through volunteer service.

Volunteers play a strong and essential role in community life. Here in Halton Hills, the fire department and ambulance services rely on the dedication of their volunteers. Volunteers help run food banks, emergency shelters, youth groups and recreational programs. They work in hospitals, schools, museums, conservation areas and churches. They're in the arenas and on the playing fields. They're knocking on your door in the cold of winter canvassing for charitable donations. They're the ones who manage the community committees, citizens' action groups and charitable organizations. As good neighbors, they volunteer to support those in need — people who are elderly or just need a hot meal or someone to talk to.

Volunteers provide the vital links that hold our community together. Without their generosity and commitment, numerous programs and services upon which our community relies simply would not exist.

Let's take time out this week to recognize the efforts of our community volunteers — to reflect upon the enormous impact of their contributions.

Thanks for your time and effort — and a job well done!



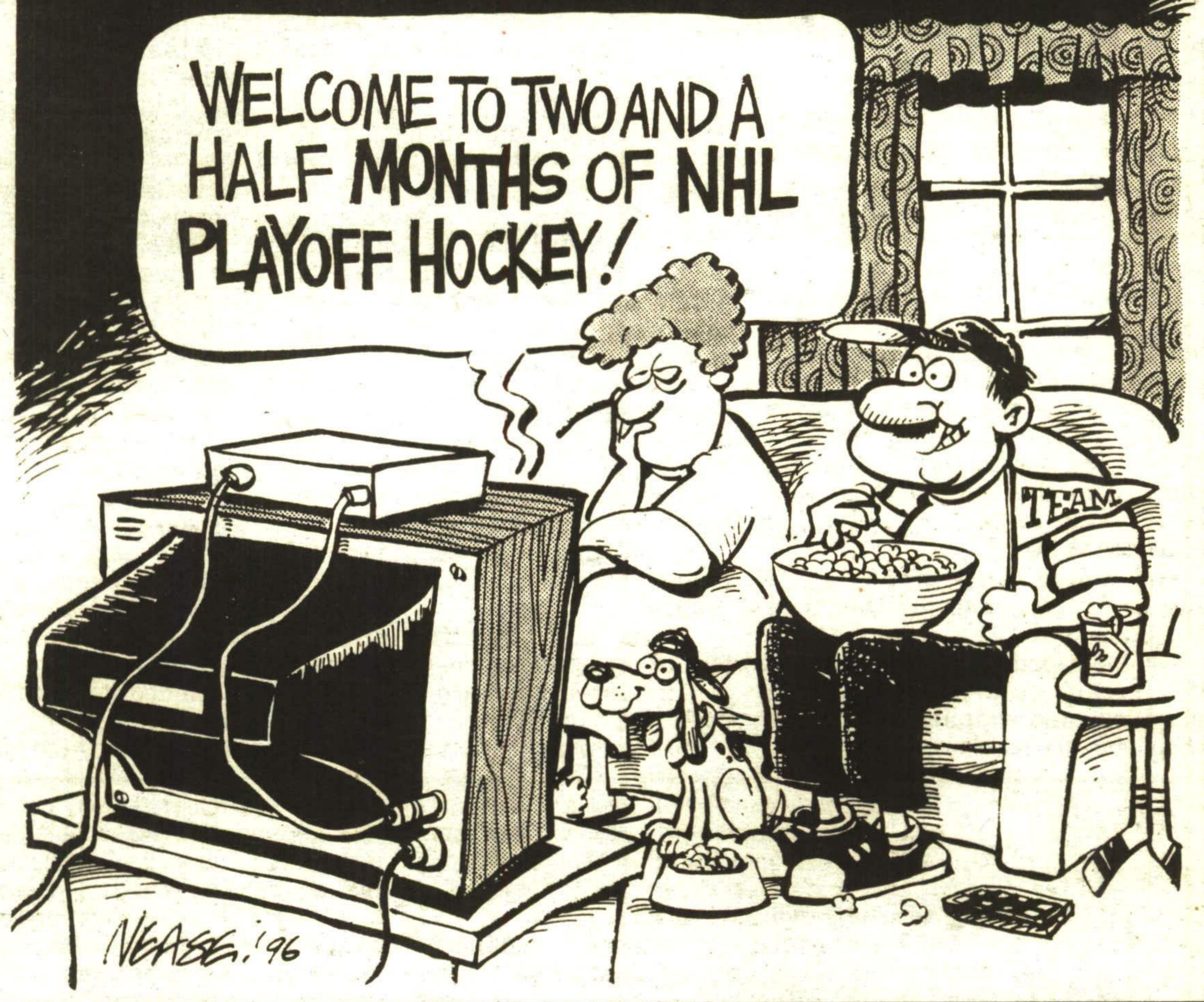
My cousin is so out of shape, he raced his pregnant wife and came in third.

### Did you know?

In AD 303, after tearing up edicts of the Emperor Diocletian in the streets, a Christian Turkish soldier known as Nestor of Cappodocia was tortured and martyred. If records are to be believed he seems to have been martyred on no less than four occasions, being restored to life each time. The courage and faith of Nestor spread and the early Christians gave him the new name of George. The tales of George's exploits appealed to British knights, because as the rescuer of maidens in distress, a scourge of infidels and a warrior prepared to die for Christ, he seemed to personify the ideals of a Christian knight. In 1222 the English proclaimed April 23 to be St. George's Day and a hundred years later he was adopted as the country's patron saint, St. George.

— Ken Baker

Canadian winters aren't really long... they just seem that way.



## That price keeps creeping up

I doubled the value of my car earlier this week.

I filled the gas tank.

Yup, with the price of gas lately, everyone has had to mortgage the farm to fill their tank with gas.

And it annoys me.

What other commodity can the supplier decide, at a whim, to increase by 10 or 20 per cent? Bell Canada can't, nor can any other so-called monopoly.

Up until lately, we've seen the price at the pumps mysteriously creep up a few cents, usually a day or so before a weekend, and drop back to normal after Monday morning passed.

And after checking a stack of old credit card receipts in my ashtray, I learned the average ran from 48.9 to 51.9 cents a litre last fall.

But now, we're accepting 59.9 cents a litre as the norm.

Now I don't drive a gas guzzler. After all, a compact four cylinder could hardly be classed as thirsty.

And considering it takes about 40 litres to fill my car on average, that ten cent per litre increase translates to about \$4 a tank.

I average about one and a half tanks a week, or 60 litres, so that ten cent increase means I'm laying out another \$6 a week, or approximately \$300 a year.

Adding to that figure the gas our van uses, which is a little thirstier than my car, and I'm looking at a total increase of about \$800 a year.

And I think my family is average when it comes to driving.

The sad thing about the whole deal is the fact we really can't get along without gasoline.

Oh sure, we can conserve, reducing the amount we use, but if one lives in a rural area like I do, or in an urban area with no public transit, we have few alternatives when it comes to jumping in the car to go somewhere.

I recently watched a TV news commentator suggest the best way to combat the higher prices of gas is to complain bitterly every time we pay for another tankful.

But that seems like a feeble approach to me, since most cashiers at gas bars

through the car wash at the same time.

That wash costs me about four bucks. Sound familiar? About the same amount as the increase in the price of a tank of gas.

Unfortunately, I can't afford it anymore.

I can go to a coin-op car wash for half the price. And with the arrival of warm weather, I'll be getting out the garden hose and start washing it in the driveway.

I don't buy windshield washer antifreeze at a gas bar either — it's much cheaper at the supermarket. And I always overlook all those high priced snacks, pop, windshield wipers and CD's on sale in the cashier's kiosk.

If I were a smoker, I'd also shop elsewhere. After all, cigarettes represent one of the highest markup items on sale today.

And perhaps it's time to start paying cash instead of using my credit card, since large gas companies don't make any interest on a cash sale.

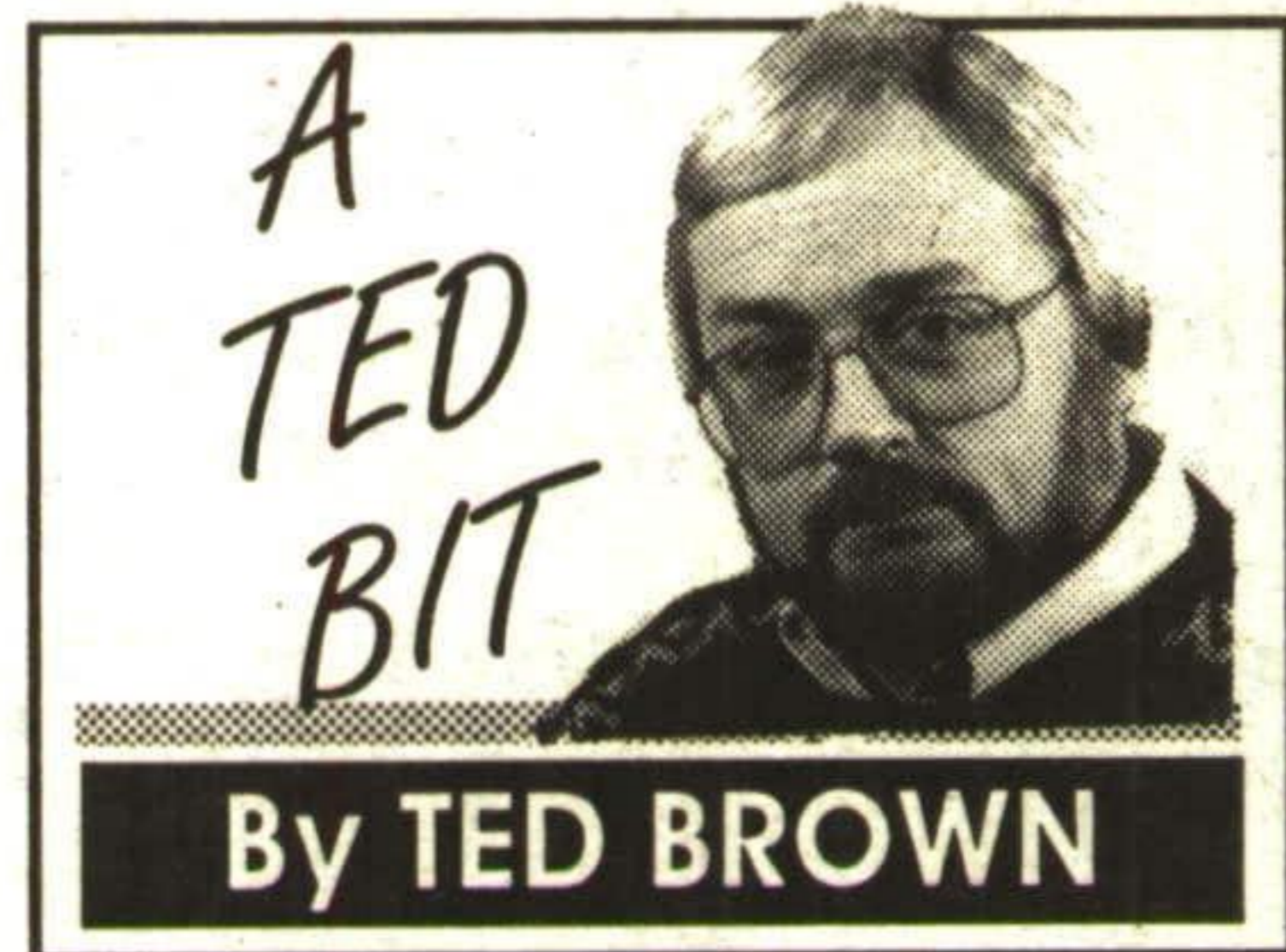
Ditto for debit cards too. I understand retailers hate to have a lot of cash in their till at any time.

So why make it easier for them?

I know, there's little I can do to combat the high prices of gas.

But I can make a statement to the retailers, the suppliers and all those in between, giving them a taste of the nickel and dime approach to retailing.

Think it'll work? I dunno, but maybe they'll get the message.



are simply students making minimum wage who don't have any say whatsoever about the price of gas.

Let's face it; those complaints go no farther than the cash register drawer.

Nope, to make a difference, I gotta hit 'em where it hurts.

In the pocketbook.

Since I have few options of where to buy gas (it's all priced within a cent or so at local pumps) I do have a choice where I buy other services.

I usually fill up at the local car wash, and generally run the car