

## Out with the ghost, in with the holly

**Y**ou know, the tracks of the many ghosts and goblins that patrolled the town Thursday night are hardly cold—and it's happened.

Yup, after a cursory walk through the local mall, I see the local stores' Christmas decorations are up and the tell-tale orange and black trappings of the haunting night are all but a memory.

Sort of an 'out with the ghost and in with the holly' time of year.

And why so soon? After all, what about observing Remembrance Day first, or at least give us a week or two to adjust to the late fall/early winter mode.

But, no way. The marketing giants want to make the most of the next eight weeks and milk every little red cent out of us—in the spirit of the season.

I dunno, but it seems awfully early to be thinking about chestnuts roasting on an open fire and one horse open sleighs while listening to Bing Crosby singing White Christmas or tolerating that annoying dog barking out the tune of Jingle Bells.

And I don't think I'm alone in this view.

Earlier this week, as I walked out of the mall, I overheard two ladies talking about the cold, wet weather and the onslaught of winter, as a bevy of snowflakes flew by.

The one said to the other, "I'm not ready for this sh\_t," referring to the snow.

"Next thing Christmas shopping will be breathing down our necks and it's a downhill battle from there," she added.

My sentiments, exactly.

But, (fortunately for the merchants), not all people in the world are as cynical as me.

In a conversation with a couple of co-workers the other day, one admitted to being nearly done shopping, while another said she couldn't get into 'real' Christmas shopping mode until early November.

**A  
TED  
BIT**



**Ted Brown**

I suggested they both needed counselling. When asked, I said I usually started thinking about it around Advent, but really get into high gear for Christmas shopping by the time the month of December hits double digits—beginning with the number two. They said something about "a typical male."

I'm probably hesitant to get into the spirit of the season too early because my two youngest daughters are the exact opposite.

They live for Christmas—all year 'round. The moment the Sears Wish Book lands in our mailbox, the youngest is assembling her Christmas wish list and letter to Santa.

(I think she's on draft number 10 by now.)

And I'm sure she would play Christmas carols in the middle of July if I let her.

The other is nothing short of a Christmas junkie from hell, all glowing with excitement of the season, ready to decorate the house from top to bottom by November 1.

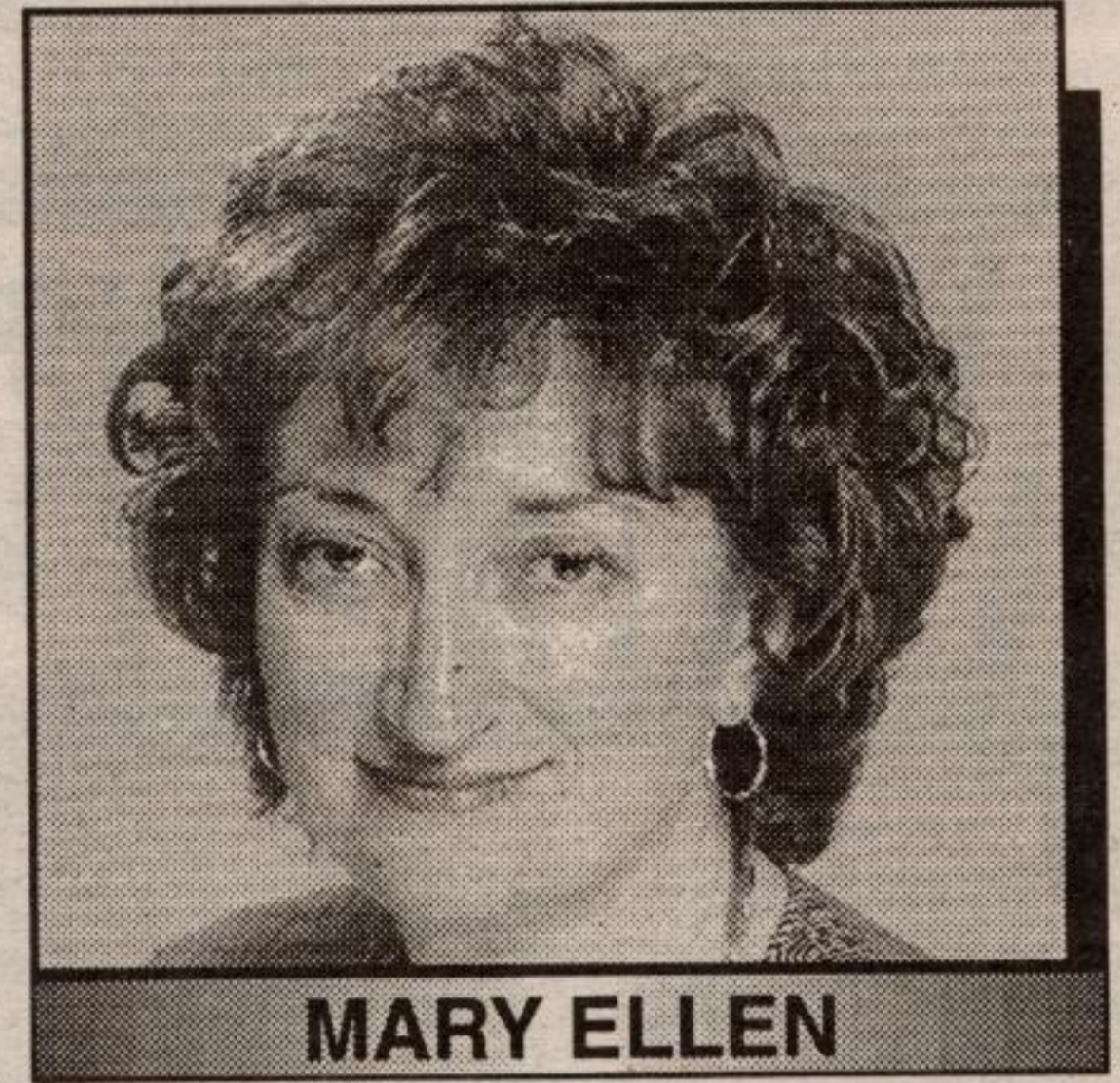
Now I'm no grinch, but dammit, there's a limit. After all, can't too much of a good thing can be hazardous to one's health?

But no matter what I say, I sure for the next little while, I'll be walking through all the shopping centres, watching all the frantic shoppers with disapproval.

But then again, I'm equally sure, before long, I'll probably start humming Bing Crosby's White Christmas.

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- Milford Sound and Mt. Cook

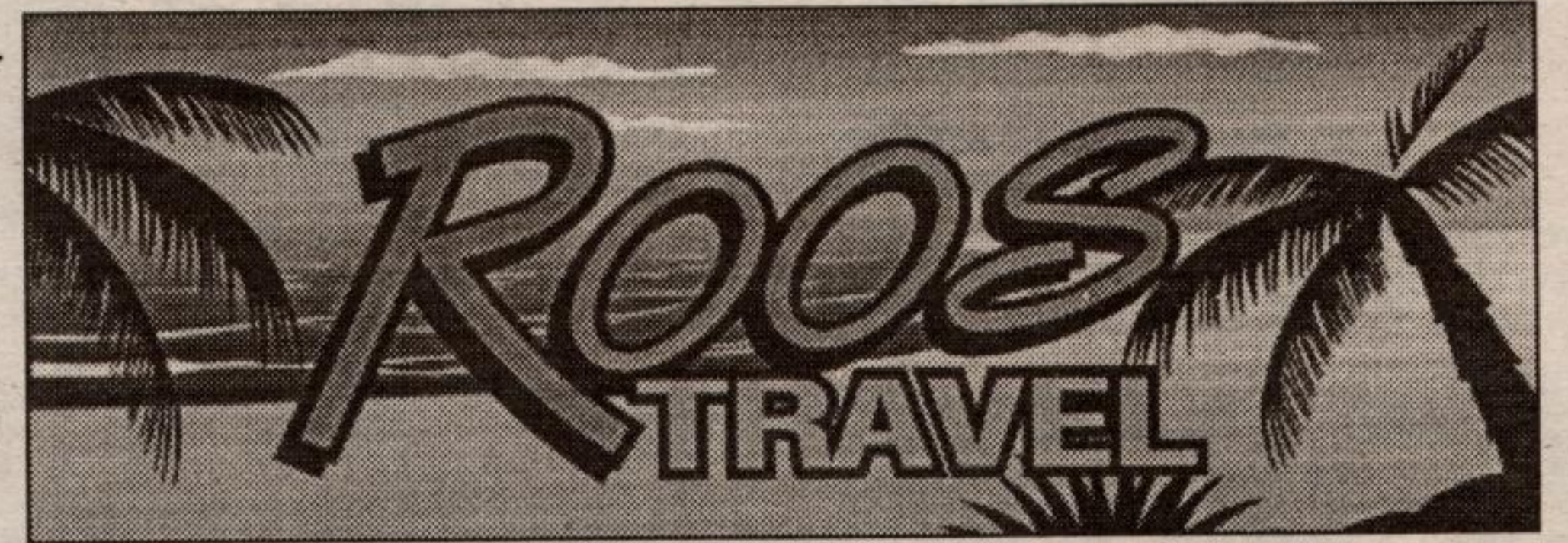
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**HOURS:**  
Mon.-Wed. 9 am-5:30 pm; Thurs.-Fri. 9 am-8 pm;  
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## GIRLS FASTBALL PLAYERS

The Georgetown Girls Fastball Association is seeking girls interested in playing REP fastball for the Georgetown Gems in the Peel-Halton Girls Fastball League. Indoor practices for pitchers and catchers to start in November followed by full team practices in the new year. Interested individuals should contact the coaches listed below for further information on practice dates/times and on the Georgetown Gems.

### TEAM - BANTAM

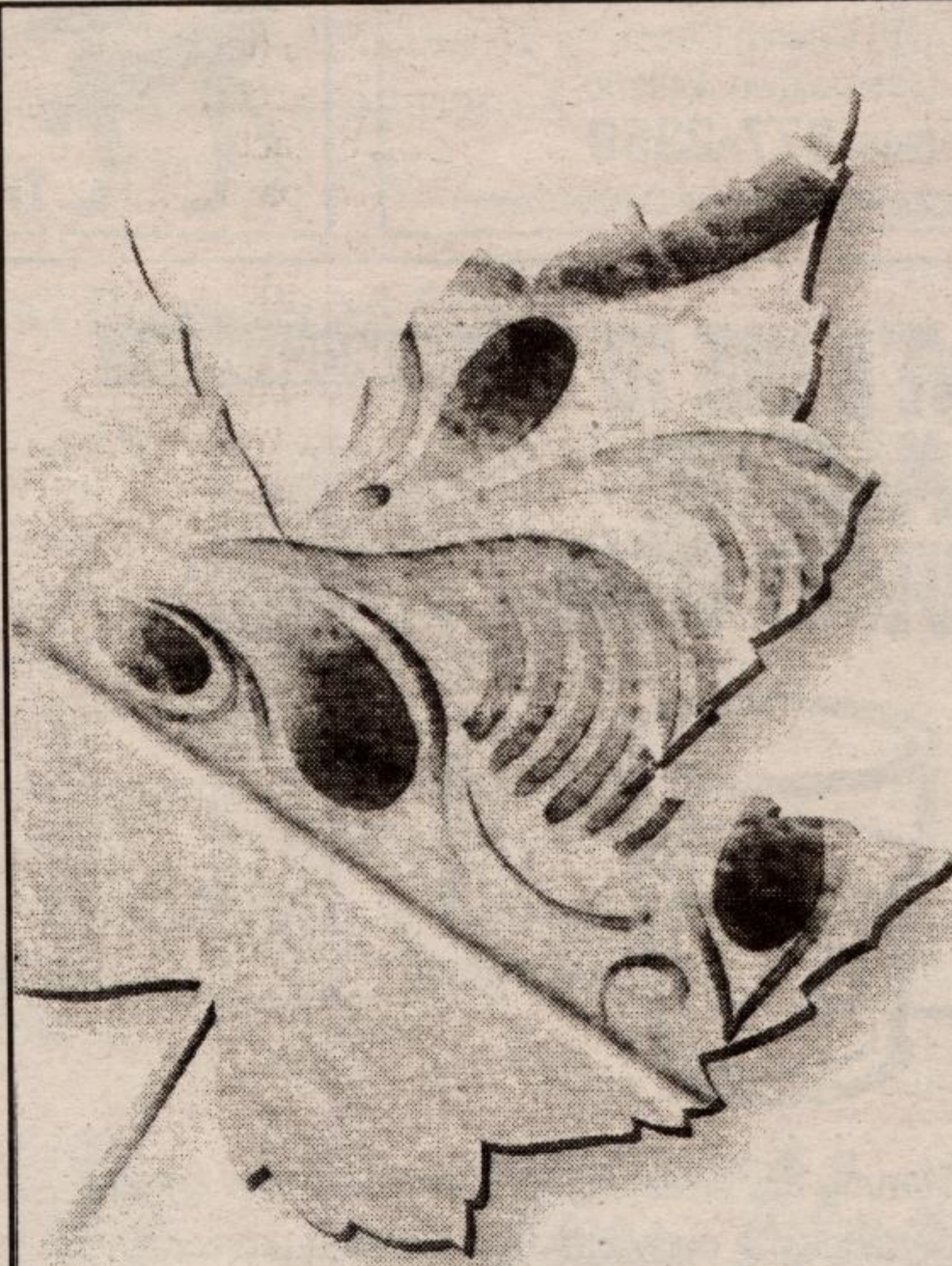
Age (prior to 01/01/97) - Under 16  
Coach - Monica Mastalerz, 877-1520

### TEAM - NOVICE

Age (prior to 01/01/97) - Under 14  
Coach - Scott Lindsay, 877-6237

### TEAM - MITE

Age (prior to 01/01/97) - Under 10  
Coach - Kelly MacNeil, 877-4045



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