When the cat's away...

ast weekend, my colleague, co-worker and sometimes wannabe boss let I the cat outta the bag in his column, as he revealed that he was going for two weeks vacation in the U.K.

And for the past seven days, we've managed to produce a few newspapers as Mr. McGhie and his missus waded through the flood waters some little out-of-the-way village in central England while second-in-command Cynthia Gamble slaved away at doing double duty in his absence.

Monday morning I overheard someone idly asking when John was to return, (of course, I'm sure Cynthia asked that a week ago Friday, before the seat of his chair was hardly cold.)

Anyway, it occurred to me that in keeping with the old adage, "when the cat's away, the mice will play," the editorial types here had the perfect opportunity to do a few things we couldn't get away with if he were here.

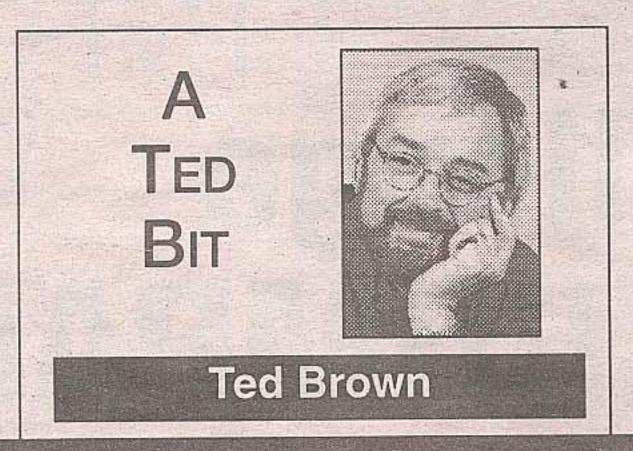
Take dress code.

Watching Cynthia walk in dressed in her workout gear and Lisa in her housecoat was certainly entertaining, while Herb with his old blue jeans and tattered sweatshirt looked the picture of comfort.

With McGhie away, flex hours could take on a whole new look, with the entire staff making it in by, oh, at least 10:30 a.m. By the way, those two hour lunches were great.

And in retrospect, I really think we should try to incorporate that afternoon nap into our routine even after John returns, since I could see everyone was totally refreshed when we left the office at 3:30-4 p.m.

I'll admit I do feel a tad guilty about the lack of night assignments that were covered, but being able to tell people we had no one available any single night this week was so easy, and John just wasn't here to counter our own self-imposed executive decisions.



I think one of the highlights of the past week was when Cynthia took that carteblanche approach to our expense sheets, just signing blank ones before we filled them in.

(I only hope head office doesn't notice the bill for the new set of tires for my car.)

You know, it seems to me that we should make this an annual thing, and companies across this country should send supervisors away for a couple weeks to let the 'mice' left behind to have a chance to stretch their little legs, and overstep their regular boundaries.

It's almost therapeutic.

When he returns, I really hope John doesn't go back and read those last couple editions, since when we forgot to use spell check, it made a really funny headline with a somewhat crude overtone.

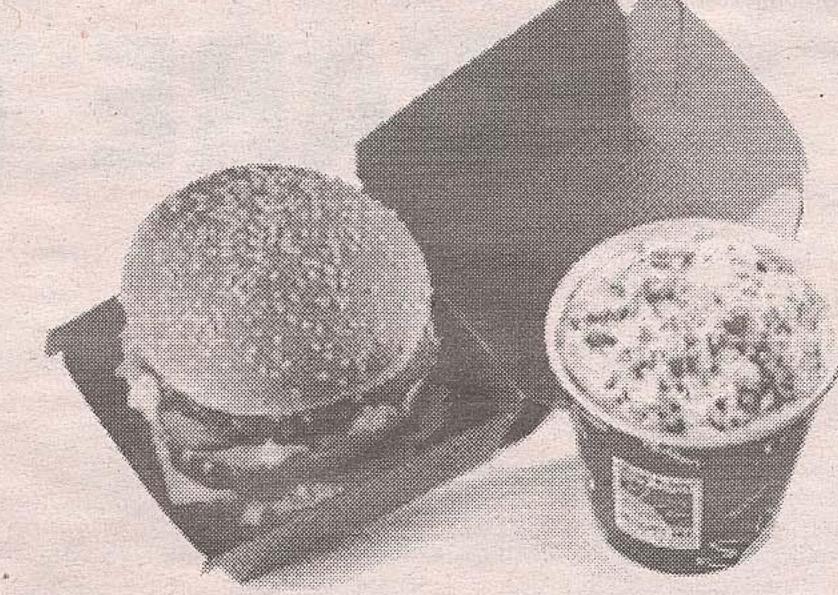
But if he does, we can only say one thing. "Sorry John, we were just so overworked without you here, we missed it completely."

You know, once in a while, you just gotta stroke the editor's ego, and keep him thinking he's needed.

And if you just spent the past 20 minutes searching for last week's papers to see if any of these things are true— I can only say I'm also taking bids from those wishing to purchase the CN Tower.

Because, in the grand scheme of things, all kidding aside— we do need him, at times.

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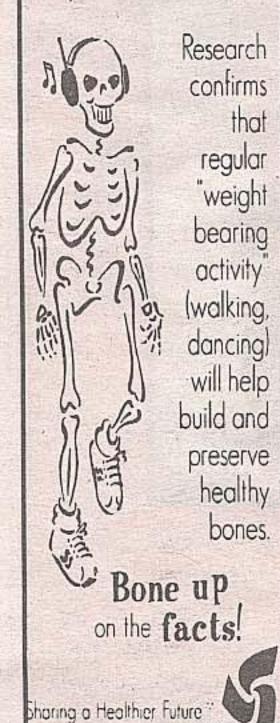
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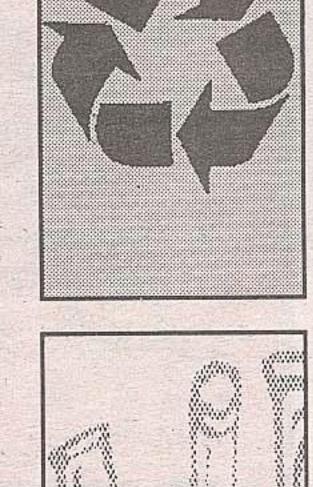
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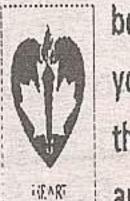
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