

Fall mornings? Ya gotta love 'em...

As I walked into the office Wednesday morning, I was accompanied by editor John McGhie. It would be safe to say he was in a snit. "Isn't this great weather, John?" I remarked, almost in a state of euphoria. "No," he snapped back. "It's too damned cold."

He went on to complain about the fact he could see his breath earlier that morning as he walked the dog.

Now I didn't take him to task on it—I figure he was just feeling like his blood was extra thin, since, by some incredible coincidence, that day happened to mark his passage into the fourth decade milestone club.

So, I let him whine, knowing he'll get over it eventually, and be able to actually accept the fact he's GETTING OLD.

Anyway, I went on to say how I thought the arrival of autumn was great, and the weather is cooling down with fresh fall nights that are great for sleeping.

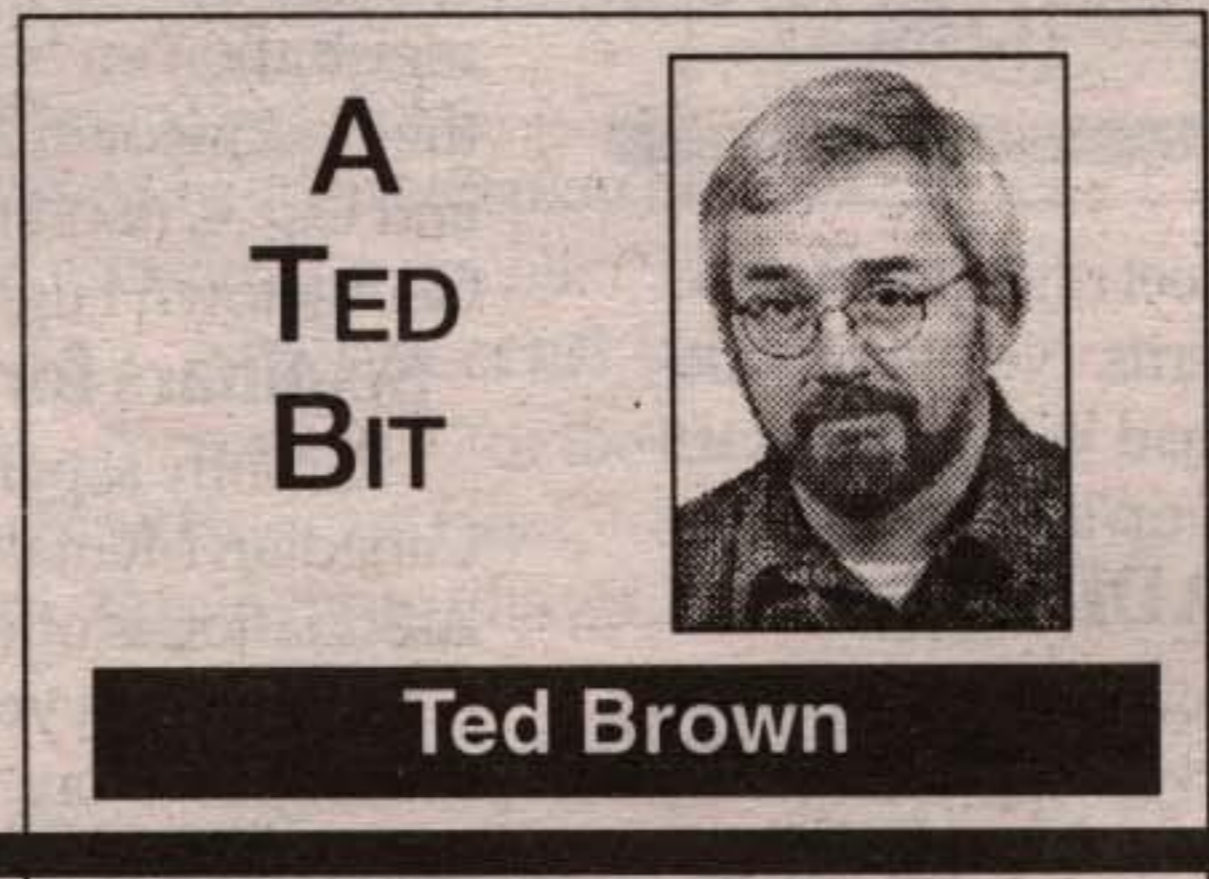
He continued to grumble and said something about it going downhill from here on in, and the next thing we know, the cold of winter will be upon us and it will stay that way until we go full circle when summer makes its way back around to us again.

I guess some people are born whiners, especially when the first day of fall lands on their 40th birthday.

But me? Notta chance—I love the fall.

That same night, I was pleased as punch as I performed the one and only fall job I enjoy. I removed the air conditioner from my bedroom window, and once again hung the old storm window back in its place.

It was one of those quality moments, as my eldest daughter lifted the old wooden window up to me, and I hooked it on the hangers to once again stave off the cold blasts of winter as it has for several generations of



Browns before me.

I'm sure McGhie would figure I needed counseling, if I admitted I even like the early darkness of the fall evenings, when we're driven inside to enjoy the warmth of the house, and find some relaxation in front of a fireplace, complete with a hot chocolate, which always makes everything seem a bit better.

I know fall is the shortest-lived season of the year, and I also admit it is followed by a less than ideal season of snow and ice.

And perhaps the fact that it is short-lived makes it that much more appealing to me, since I know I have a limited time to enjoy it.

But it matters not.

The fresh morning air, the bright blue skies, and the sun shining brighter at this time of year, makes it a fabulous season.

And most years, we get to enjoy a great color show as the leaves change.

I feel I have bite my tongue and keep my views to myself when I'm around the likes of McGhie—you know, those people who worship summertime, and that great bright ball of fire in the sky.

But next time he pulls into the parking lot, complaining about the cold fall mornings, I think I'm going to take some action.

I'm gonna suggest he look on the bright side, pull on a sweater and enjoy the weather. After all, does he have a choice?

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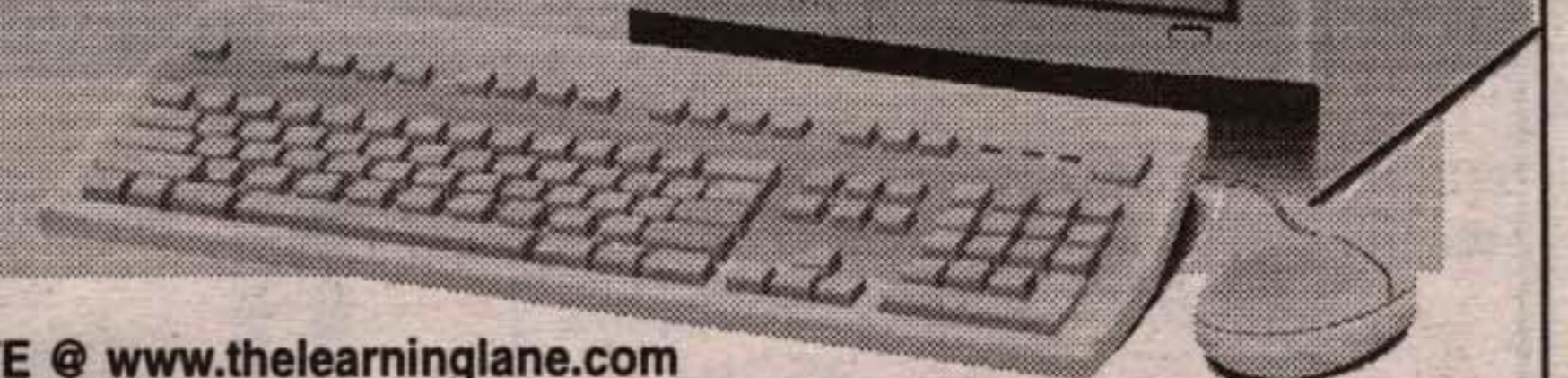
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