

We're STILL watching hockey?

It's Thursday morning and I'm somewhat numb from all the hoopla that is enveloping me today.

First thing this morning, when I looked at the Toronto dailies I figured I'd picked up some back issue from mid-February. The lead photos showed a bunch of euphoric Toronto Maple Leafs players hugging each other.

The word 'sweep' seemed to dominate the page, too.

Now, at the risk of dating myself, the last time I was the least little bit excited about the Leafs playing in the playoffs, I believe there were five other teams in the league.

And I also think I was doing high school homework at the time...

In other words, I think it would be an understatement to say I'm not a hockey fan—and haven't been for a good many years.

Not that I have anything against that great Canadian pastime, the people who play it, or those who follow it like some cult.

Plain and simple, it's just not my thing. But I do have one small, teeny-weeny observation.

Correct me if I'm wrong, but isn't this spring? So, why in hell are we still watching infernal hockey on television?

Gawd people, it's approaching the end of April. The rate we're going, they might just finish up the Stanley Cup final in time to celebrate Canada Day.

It's that time for April showers, that bring those May flowers, and all the great things Al Jolson used to sing about, long before I was even a glimmer in my dad's eye.

It's not a time to sit in front of the television to munch on potato chips and swig beer. (At this time of the year that activity ought to be transferred to the deck or verandah where it belongs.)

But for some reason (most likely financial) we are now being bombarded on all the prime time viewing slots with the National Hockey League,

A TED BIT



Ted Brown

complete with countless players with names no one can pronounce, (let alone spell) long after the rites of spring are old news.

It's at a crisis level at home.

As I ventured quietly into my eldest daughter's bedroom to ask her something earlier this week, I was trying to be considerate and not bother her, since she was writing a fourth year university essay to finish off the semester.

There she sat, slaving away at her computer, with her television on in the background. Every time the crowd cheered, she was drawn away from her keyboard to make sure Ottawa hadn't scored. When Toronto did score in overtime, her screams of joy resonated throughout the house.

I retreated, shaking my head in disbelief.

For some reason, I figured having daughters meant I'd be permanently watching the Martha Stewart network, or at least Allie McBeal.

But this past week, the television has been eternally tuned to the hockey games. I honestly don't think I've seen one program this week that didn't have someone blowing a whistle.

But I won't complain. In fact, I'll just retreat to the living room, as I do most evenings, and enjoy some quiet music, or play my guitar.

Because I'm certain I won't have to endure it too much longer.

After all, Canada Day will be on us before we know it.

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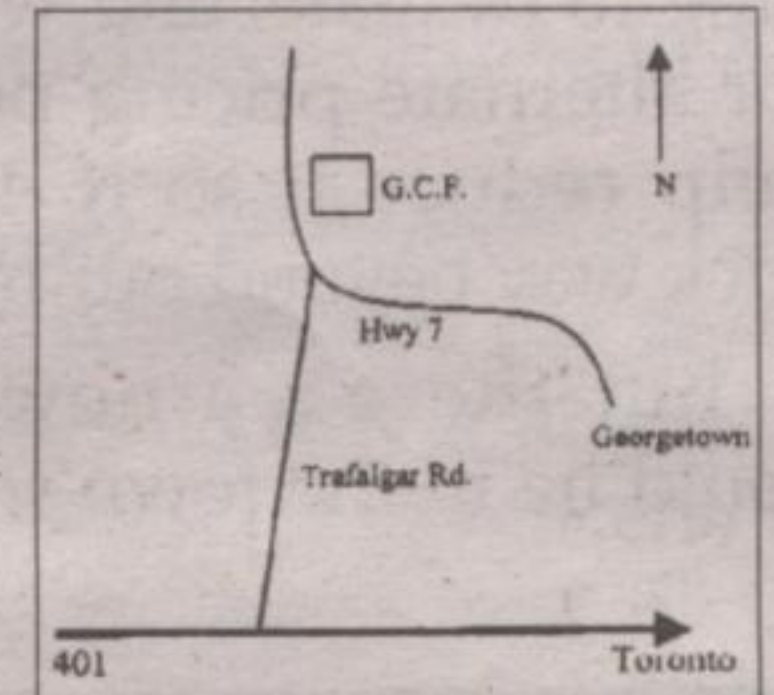
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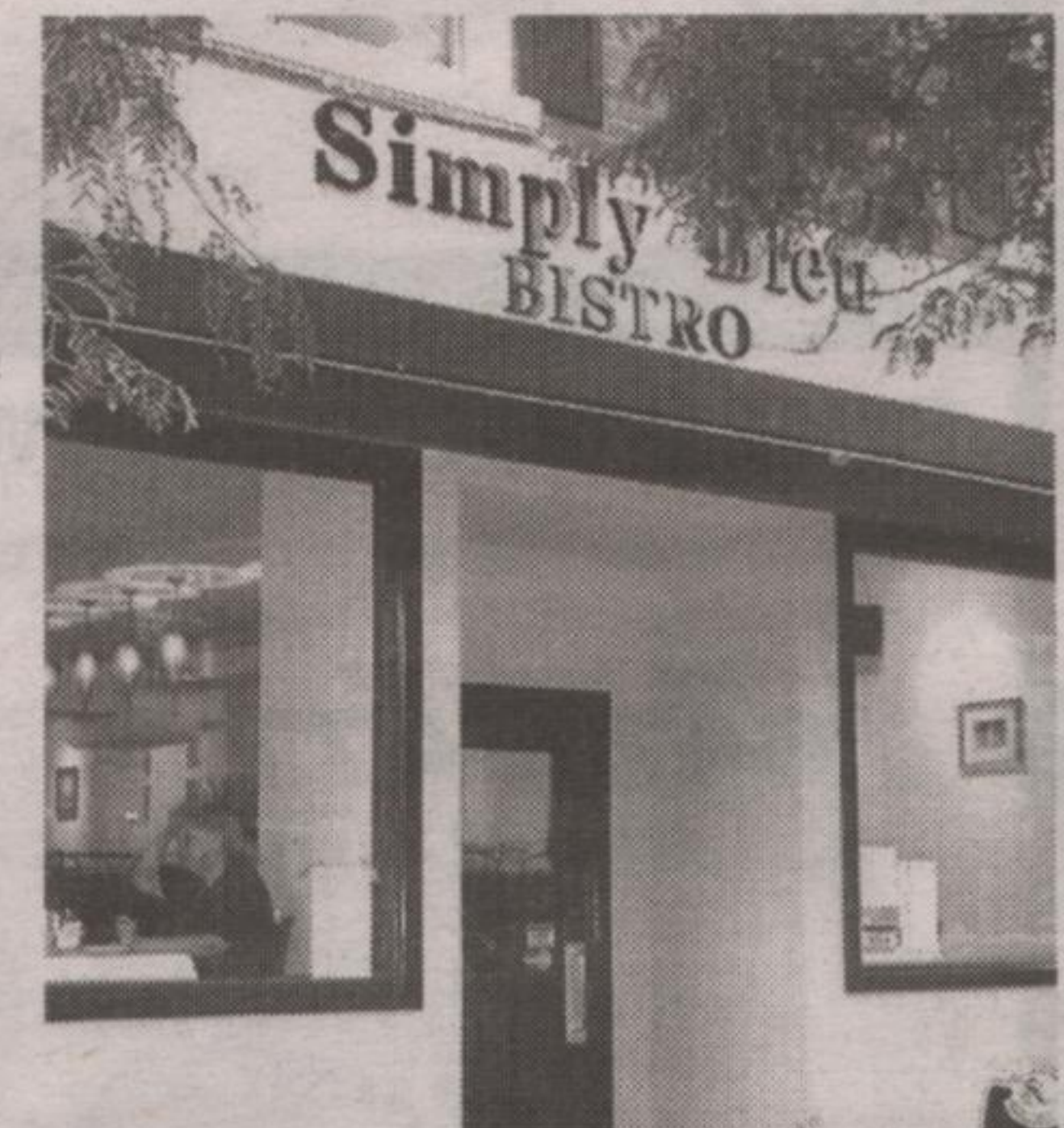
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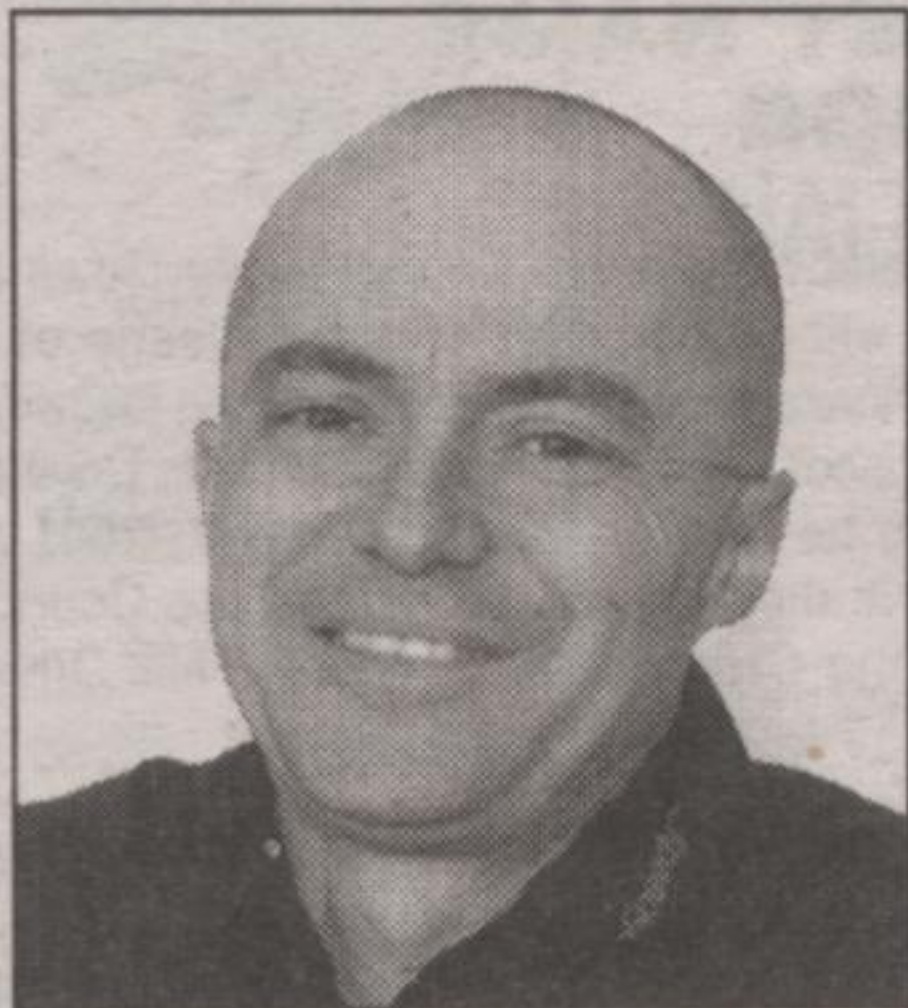
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Our new program will be available to provide consistency and enhancement to the current Senior Kindergarten program available through the Board of Education. We will concentrate on enhancing math and reading skills through the **arts and crafts medium**. A unique way to make learning fun! We will be offering an introductory program on the 22nd and 23rd of May. We will host two half day workshops where children can come in to sample the program and parents can observe.

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