

EDITORIAL

with Frances Niblock

Winning at all costs?

As members of a visiting boys' soccer team committed at least 15 off sides in the first half of a recent soccer game in Acton, their coach was beside himself. His frustration grew and grew as the players continued to make the same error and were repeatedly forced to give up possession of the ball.

As he implored the players to watch their positions, his yelling from the sideline became louder and louder with each off side call by the referee – the yelling didn't seem to do much good as the players continued to take off side calls.

During a half time break, he singled out particular players and warned them rudely that if they didn't start paying attention, he'd bench them. There seemed to be little soccer instruction or encouragement during the break – just a lot of hot-headed yelling at the players who sheepishly stared at their feet as their coach's mini-rant continued.

While there was no bad language, the tone and attitude left little room for fun and seemed to back up a recent study that found direct or indirect abuse occurs in approximately 40 per cent of youth hockey, baseball and football.

Researchers found that amateur sport coaches routinely commit psychological abuses against young athletes. The JustPlay sport research firm, which logs incidents in youth sports leagues, said no one is monitoring the situation and children need protection. It said direct abuses include coaches who berate or threaten players, incite violent play or demoralize young players.

Certainly, the way the coach of the visiting team was speaking to his players was demoralizing, and it didn't seem to do any good as the off side calls continued. While the team ended up winning the game, there didn't seem to be much joy in the victory and that's too bad.



BERRY GOOD

Dressed in her strawberry top and hat, Acton's Hannah Bennett, 19 months, enjoyed a big fresh strawberry from Andrews Scenic Acres at last Thursday's Acton Farmers' Market.

– Marie Shadbolt photo

The wonders of the bra

Of recent, my listening pleasure in my truck has dramatically changed. I have about six stations programmed into the satellite radio that I love. Two stations are ones where I get to relive my high school years with music from the 80's.

It is sort of a Catch 22 as they say. On one hand, I love the music. On the other hand, along the tickertape at the bottom which says the song, it also says what year the song is from. I try not to look at that part because it is kind of a slap in the face. I really don't need to be reminded the song I'm singing along to is almost 30 years old.

Some of the other stations I like are a selection of comedy channels and some talk radio stations. However, as Little J grows, I am learning the drive is no longer about me. One day Mrs. Dude Sr. came with a collection of story books and a C.D. that went with them. A few days later I made the mistake of putting the C.D. in when Little J was having a "I'm hungry meltdown" about ten minutes from home. Fortunately she loved the C.D. and instantly quieted down. Unfortunately, she now thinks almost every road trip we should have that C.D. play. There are only eight songs on this C.D. and I am glad she loves it, however, it is the equivalent of a bad Sharon Lois and Bram karaoke. After a few hundred kilometers it is starting to get to Mommy, yet we still keep listening to it and singing along.



By Angela Tyler

At home, it is another story. It's my turn to pick the music and I choose online satellite radio. Whether we are playing, reading a story or doing household things, the radio always seems to be playing. I'm not sure if Little J is just learning to compromise or whether she doesn't care if the wheels on the bus go round and round at that point.

During home time, I'm really enjoying listening to talk radio. Barbara Walters has a show which is as enjoyable as watching her television programs. In the morning, there is this, for want of a better word, psychic that is quite entertaining. They even have a pet psychic on Tuesday evenings. This one has me a little skeptical. I mean how difficult is it to tell someone that their dog really does like their dog bowl?

In the late afternoons, it's a toss up of whom to listen to. First we have Dr. Laura. Wow, she can be downright scary. Second, we have these two women. One happens to be Martha Stewart's daughter who is the furthest thing from what you would think Martha Stewart's daughter would be. Whoa does she

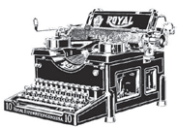
have a "potty mouth". Most days though, I find myself listening to Rosie O'Donnell. I don't think I've ever been a big "Rosie fan" yet at the same time I'm finding her quite entertaining and informative.

During the day some of the commercials that air and keep in mind satellite radio is promoted as commercial free, are quite alarming making you wonder who on earth would think of this product was A: necessary and B: someone would buy it.

There is one commercial that starts off by talking about how women will spread deodorant underneath their breasts to help conquer...well...under boob sweat. Then they go on about how women will also do this to their cleavage. I've heard of women putting glitter on their cleavage, but never deodorant. However, by using this revolutionary and apparently necessary product, women will never have to smear deodorant under our boobs again. Again...after hearing this I was having one of those shake your head in wonderment moments and not in wonderment as if you've just seen Niagara Falls for the first time.

On the weekend I was telling a friend about this ad and she made me laugh. "Oh hell, I have so much padding in my bra it would soak anything up under there." Ah, problem solved.

Looking Back



10 Years Ago

• A dream became a reality when the Off The Wall drop in youth centre officially opened on Mill Street, offering local youth a place to hang out and have fun.

• Staffing the Acton ambulance depot around the clock shaved 1:04 minutes off the emergency response times, and more service enhancements are expected when Halton takes over land ambulance responsibility from the province.

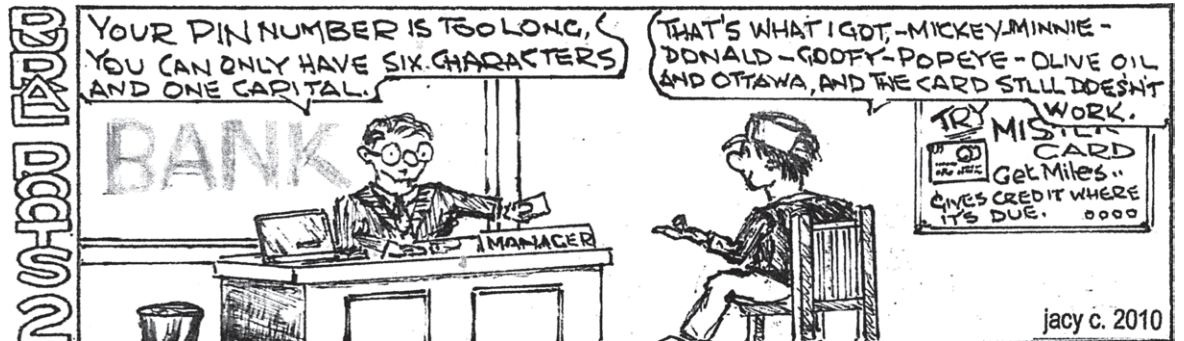
• The multi-million reconstruction of the Highway 7-Trafalgar Road will result in four months of heavy truck traffic through Acton as traffic is re-routed through Acton to get to Highway 25.

Five Years Ago

• Urooj Siddiqui's hard work paid off with cold hard cash. The 18-year-old Acton resident earned a \$1,000 university scholarship from her employer – McDonald's – for her hard work at the restaurant and at high school where she earned a 97.7 per cent average.

• A 2.6-pound, 23.5-inch Pike hooked by Acton's Drake Andrews was the largest fish caught in Fairy Lake during a fishing derby in Prospect Park.

• Acton's John Shewfelt had the right stuff as he was selected by his colleagues to attend the Honeywell Educator's in Space academy at the U.S. Space and Rocket Centre in Alabama.



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