



COMMENT



THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

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Milton, Ont. L9T 4N9

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Classified: 905-875-3300

Circulation: 905-878-5947

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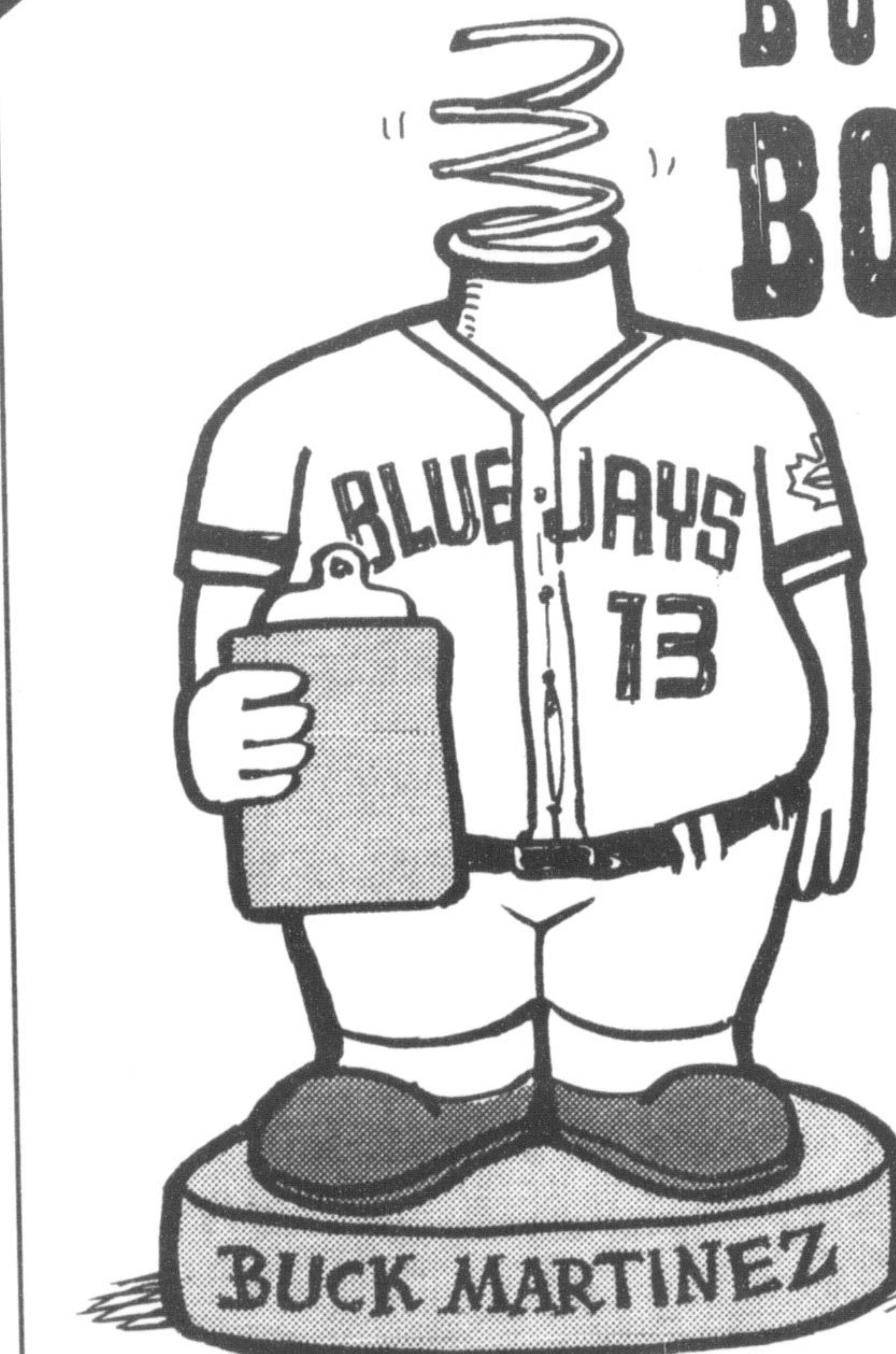
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JUNE 3 • 2002



Under-achieving millionaires?
A self-destructing pitching staff?
We're passing the Buck!

BUCK MARTINEZ BOBBLEHEAD DAY



NA 6/7/02

Lawsuit unusual, but bullying too common

The issue of bullying has hit disturbingly close to home with news that a Kilbride brother and sister have filed a suit against the Halton District School Board alleging they were bullied for years at their school.

While the lawsuit may seem somewhat unusual, sadly the issue it represents is far too common.

A recently-released study by the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health found that while violence among youths is on the decline, roughly one if four students is being bullied at school.

The survey of more than 4,200 Ontario students in grade 7 to OAC concluded that 25 per cent had been bullied since the start of the school year.

Another 33 per cent admitted to having bullied someone at school that year.

These disconcerting figures suggest that as much as half of a school's population may be involved in either bullying or being victimized by a bully.

Certainly such destructive behaviour can't be condoned, but it's likely to take a concerted effort by those at school and at home to put an end to this anti-social ugliness.



OUR READERS WRITE

Baby wildlife sometimes appears abandoned but really hasn't been; mother not far away

Dear Editor:

I would appreciate the opportunity to voice my disgust at some people who think baby wildlife has been abandoned and feel the need to intervene.

They may think they're helping but they're not.

The majority of times, the mother is out looking for food for the young and isn't too far off. They

shouldn't, under any circumstances, be picked up. If people think they're abandoned or injured, they should go to the proper authorities and they will look after that. There are people at Hilton Falls who deal with this kind of thing.

I love wildlife and any other animal as well as the next person, but let's help the wildlife live.

Leave them where they belong, in

the wild. Go to the authorities if you think there's something wrong.

I'm personally, looking after a baby rabbit due to someone taking him away from his mother and I'm happy to say he's still alive and hopping, but some cases aren't like that. So, please help conserve our wildlife. Don't pick them up.

Tammy Vona
Former Miltonian

Woman thanks ladies who helped her at post office

Dear Editor:

Please convey my heartfelt thanks to the two young ladies who helped me at the post office last Sunday (May 26).

I didn't get their names, but I sure appreciated them just being there to aid me.

Freda Best-Strain
Kingsway Place

Three hours isn't a lot of time for street parking

Three hours isn't very much time at all. But that's all the time you have if you're parked on the street in Milton.

With the exception of the downtown area, this time limit must be extended to at least six hours in some areas and 12 hours in others.

Many Milton families have multiple vehicles, which leaves little room in the driveway (cluttered garage or not) for anyone to visit.

Now I've been accused of wearing out my welcome several times in the past, but rarely within three hours.

This week town councillors looked at making a few changes to the on-street parking bylaw, before sending the issue back to Town staff for further consideration. It appears none of the suggested alterations were acceptable to them. Nor were they acceptable to me.

The staff-recommended approach was to allow

residents to petition to have the three-hour limit removed from their street. In order to do so, 70 per cent of street residents must approve of the idea, as well as pitch in to collect \$250 for signage.

Such a move would allow 24-hour parking in exempted areas — at least for most of the year.

The biggest obstacle in revamping the bylaw is that parking isn't permitted on any streets within the town from 2 to 7 a.m. between November and April. This is for snow-plowing reasons.

To skirt this problem, I borrow an idea brought forward by a speaker to the Milton community services committee Monday. Alternate parking from side to side, depending on whether it's an even-numbered day or an odd-numbered day.

By alternating sides of the road, road maintenance vehicles will still have access.

The trick to all of this, of course, is to first study



From my perspective

with RICHARD VIVIAN

which roads in town can accommodate the extended and alternating parking. Restrictions in some areas should be fully expected, as emergency vehicles must always have access.

Now I know there are people in town who are looking to on-street parking changes to ease their difficulties in finding an overnight spot. My suggestion won't make their problems go away, as

there's no guarantee of an on-street spot being available.

Unless those individuals were misled by either their landlord or real-estate agent, they knew what the parking situation was before they moved. Parking difficulties should have been anticipated.

To these people I recommend something I have personally done in the past when parking was in short supply. Look around your neighbourhood for houses that don't use their entire driveway and offer the owner/tenant a small amount of money to use that leftover space.

It does work. For the most part, renting driveway space is cheap and doesn't cause an inconvenience to either party — provided the driveway is within a couple minutes' walk of the renter's home.