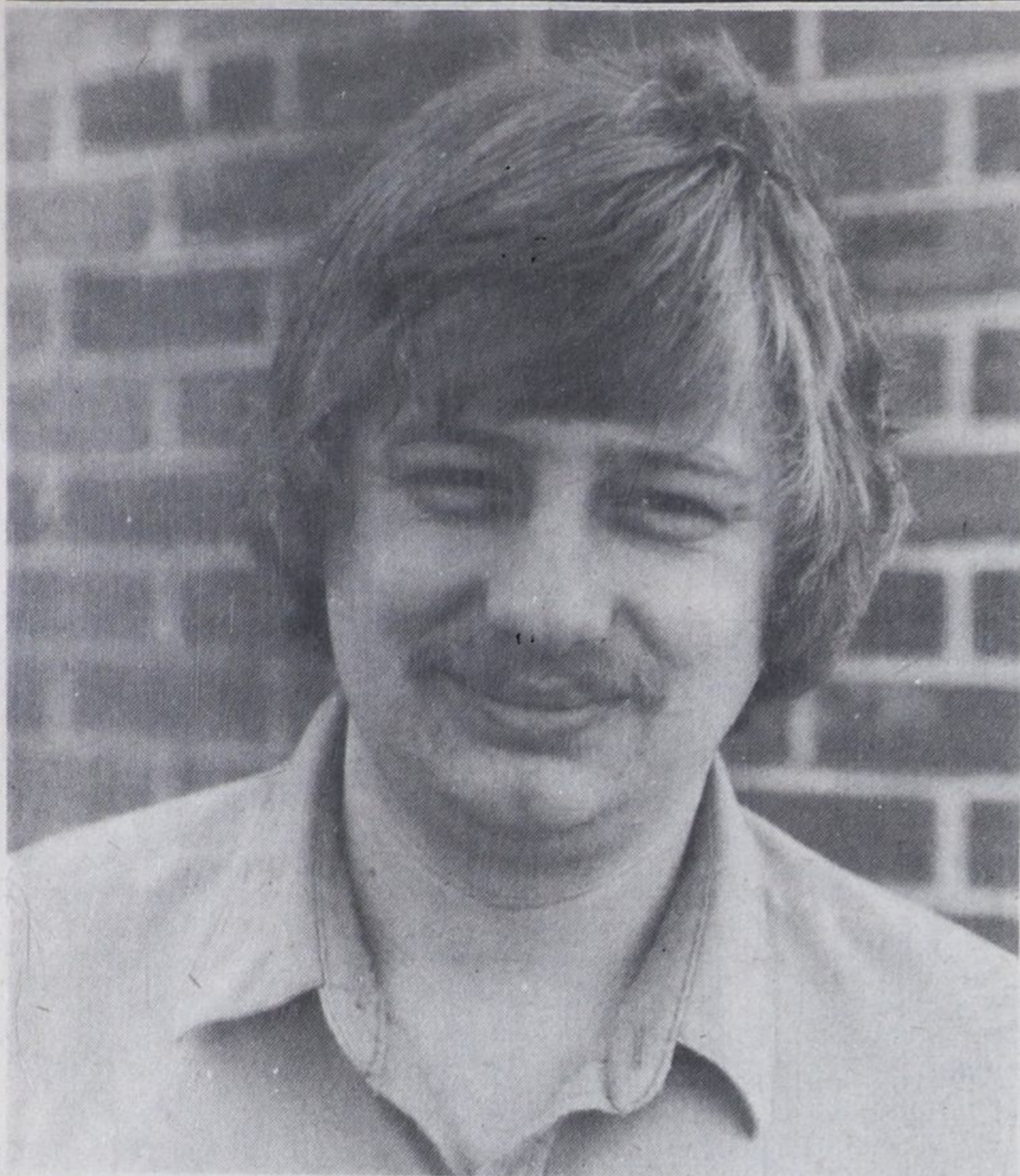


That's My Line



Tom Wright Theatre Manager

by Murray Moore

The manager of the Midland movie theatre, and drive-in, and the Penetanguishene movie theatres, admits that the availability in the future in Canada of pay-tv is going "to hurt" commercial movie theatres "for the first little while." People are going to be attracted to 24 hour a day, nonstop television not constantly interrupted with commercials.

But the enthusiasm of the public will crest and recede, Tom Wright thinks. "Pay-tv will be a fad, like citizen's band radio, and skateboards. The public will enjoy it at first. But people will get tired of sitting at home 24 hours a day. Even though I am a theatre manager, I won't have one in my home. I go to a movie on my night off."

Wright does get to see movies when he is the projectionist of a movie and he doesn't. He has seen Raiders of the Lost Ark, the movie he thought the best of last year—he has yet to see the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences choice, Chariots of Fire, reviewed in Wednesday's edition over 40 times. He will even still sit down to watch it. But when he is in the projection booth, he is always checking the volume of the sound, the focus of the image on the big screen, the projectors, or preparing for the next evening, or some other constant duty.

"I work in the theatre, so I only see bits and pieces. I can describe a movie but I can't tell someone the feeling it leaves."

The traditional movie theatre where people go to sit in the dark in a crowd to see a movie will survive, Wright

thinks, because people will always have a need to get out of their homes. "People still have to get away from home. I couldn't spend 15 hours at home, seven days a week, every week."

"I had a CB radio. It was great for a while, until I lost interest. I still have it, but not in my vehicle. Pay-tv is going to be the same way."

Wright spends many of his waking hours in theatres as it is. His working day starts at 10 a.m. and goes until 4:30 p.m., stops, resumes at 6 p.m. and continues until the last show of the evening is over, or later, six days a week.

The movies are still a home-away-from-home for teenagers who want to get away from Mom and Dad, Wright says. "They talk your ears off during the show."

Adults, or serious moviegoers of any age, who want to hear only the soundtrack of the movie they paid to see, should sit far, far, back in the theatre, particularly on a Friday evening. The kids sit at the front and "laugh or giggle or say something smart about you" when they are cautioned to keep their conversation quiet, Wright says, from personal experience.

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Tiny to ask OMB to hear Midland's land grab bid

annexation saga has long way to go before being resolved

by Adrienne Graham Gardner

Although Midland has repealed their bylaw calling for annexation under the new Municipal Boundaries Negotiation Act, today's court hearing in Toronto will proceed.

Tiny was challenging Midland's Feb. 8 bylaw on the basis that a previous application to the Ontario Municipal Board for annexation had never been repealed and therefore invalidated the second attempt.

City of Barrie withdrew its bylaw applying to annex part of Vespra Township two weeks ago, and Midland has now withdrawn its bylaw.

Both were prepared following a sample

provided with the newly enacted Municipal Boundaries Negotiation legislation.

Solicitor for Tiny Township, Gordon Teskey says "We see a lot of problems with the legislation; it's going to create a lot of work for lawyers."

Although Midland has now withdrawn the bylaw which Tiny hoped to challenge before the Supreme Court of Ontario today, both parties will appear in Toronto.

Teskey says "The court will not hear the case, because in essence Tiny has won. It will be declared moot, and costs will be taxed."

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