

You are an extraordinary person

By Mich Barnes

I wonder if things were meant to turn out this way? I was born into a family of large people. Everybody's six feet or more. My brothers all shop at Mr. Big and Tall. I'm the only one who shops at Mr. Short and Dumpy.

So I'm the runt of the litter. Big deal, I'm not bitter. Besides, what can you do? Nature's made up its mind on this one. Height wasn't in the cards for me.

And to think I started so tall. I was a big kid. I still have a long

body, but around eleven years of age the legs quit growing. They sent a message to my pituitary: "Forget it."

So what do you got? You got a guy with a tall body and little jockey legs, but life goes on and I've learned to modify. I try to meet most women sitting down behind the wheel of a small car.

They think I'm a giant of a man that the miners knew well. Then I step out, saunter up to the bar on sausages for legs. It ain't pretty.

Turmoil builds character.

Thank you, Mother.

I jest. It's not that bad. I'm not that teeny-tiny. I don't go to the beach and lay on a face cloth. It's just that compared to the large members of my family, I'm the Joel Gray of the clan. But enough of me. How 'bout you?

How did you turn out? Seriously, compared to the others in your family, I bet you weren't the pretty one? And if you weren't, you certainly weren't the smartest. You were certainly the money mind of the bunch. Admit it, you shopped at Mr. Short and

Dumpy.

Sure, you have your good points, we all do. But compared to others -- your family, your friends -- you've such a long way to go.

We are our worst enemies.

Shakespeare was right: "Thus conscience be the cowards of us all." Where does it all stop?

Wherever you are, however you are, you're all right. There's no money in needless comparison. There's only one of

you, thank God.

You are extraordinary. That alone is special. Go from there.

Be good to yourself -- you're worth it.

Champions remarkably similar

By John Futhey
Lakehead Living

Well, the Edmonton Oilers have won the Stanley Cup. Like the New York Mets winning last year's World Series, it came as no surprise to some. There's more, however, that joins these two teams than just being acknowledged as the best in their respective sports.

Disregarding a certain cocaine dependency, both possess a very dominant player. Wayne Gretzky probably means more to the Oilers than Dwight Gooden does to the Mets, but when they are at the top of their games, there is no one better.

As well as having the best players, both teams also hold claim to the most overrated ones. Hockey writers quickly overlooked Grant Fuhr's all-too-frequent 5 goal/23 shot performance against inferior teams in the wake of his relatively steady playoff goaltending.

Whenever he hits a home run, the Mets' Darryl Strawberry's large numbers of clutch strikeouts are conveniently forgotten, however inconsequential the home run might be.

And now, after the Oilers' third Cup win, both are the teams everyone loves to hate. The Oilers are rapidly assembling their own lineup of Gary Carters, Len Dyrkstras and Ray Knights in players like Gretzky, Kevin Lowe and coach Glen Sather.

As the Oilers and Mets resemble each other, so too do the fates of the losing teams in the two finals, the Philadelphia Flyers and the Boston Red Sox.

Philadelphia overcame a rash of injuries and a recent history of poor playoff performances to get within one a step of the Cup.

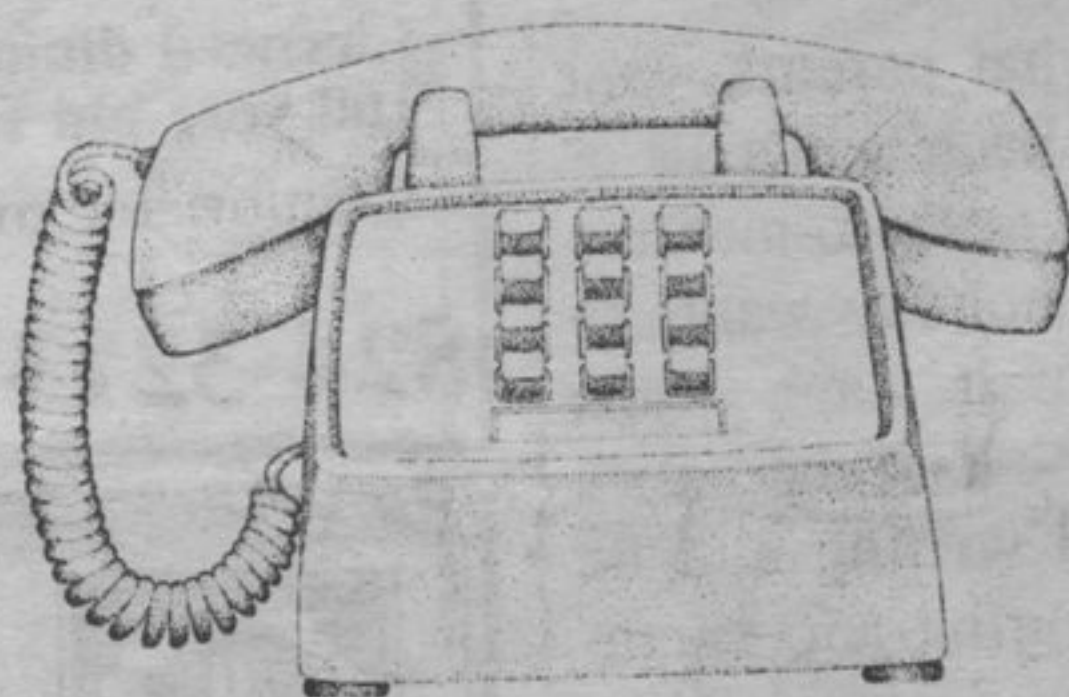
Boston played nail-biting baseball even to get to the Series, and had a courageous Bill Buckner made more painful play, Boston would have shed forever the "chokers" label.

But this is modern sport's somewhat twisted version of "nice guys finish last." In recent years, the sentimental favourite has lost with unfortunate regularity. Now it's just in hockey and baseball lore that gritty performances are rewarded with Stanley Cup and World Series rings.

That historic thrill-of-the-unexpected was felt when the Red Sox beat the Angles last fall in the ALCS, and a tingle of the same head rush was remembered after the gutsy Detroit Red Wings won Game 1 of their semi-final over the Oilers, a feeling that vanished very quickly after the contest.

ANOTHER PROGRAM FROM ASSURED HOUSING FOR ONTARIO TOWN OF SCHREIBER

Thinking of upgrading your low-rise rental building? Interest-free, forgivable loans start here.



824-2711

One phone call can help you get loan assistance -- up to \$5,000 per unit with no repayment for five years. Forgiveness can then be earned at ten per cent per year if the property remains rental.

In need of essential repairs?

About 30 per cent of Ontario's rental housing is in low-rise apartment buildings.

Three out of every five of these buildings are more than 25 years old--many in need of major upgrading.

Does your low-rise require such essential repairs as plumbing, wiring and heating?

For low-rise buildings less than five storeys.

The Low-Rise Rehabilitation Program offers landlords a forgivable loan of up to two-thirds of

the cost of upgrading each rental apartment. The loan maximum is \$5,000 per unit.

To be eligible for financial assistance, apartments must be in buildings of less than five storeys.

Built prior to 1960.

1959

This program is designed for a variety of small rental buildings constructed before 1960--whether a low-rise, duplex or multiplex. Other criteria for project selection? Your building must contain two or more rental apartments. Also eligible are apartments above stores.

Find out if you qualify for assistance.

Giving financial assistance to owners of low-rise buildings is just

one of the ways your provincial government works to

preserve and stimulate rental housing throughout the province.

The program will help to revitalize some 17,000 older low-rise apartments across Ontario.

If you feel you have a project that qualifies, talk to your municipal office. We're willing and ready to help. All it takes is one phone call.



LOW-RISE REHABILITATION



Ontario

Ministry of Housing

Hon. Alvin Curling, Minister