

Weekender

Comment

Hospital decision parochial

It all seemed so logical. The provincial government had allocated 500 new acute care beds to York Region hospitals. And it was suggested that some of the new beds be incorporated into the design of the Markham Stouffville Hospital.

Instead, northern and western politicians in York Region kicked and screamed that the 500 beds be divided up between existing hospitals in Newmarket and Richmond Hill. And, in the end, the Markham and Stouffville area councillors were outgunned.

Not only is the decision a slap in the face to the eastern areas of York Region, but it's a failure to realize the significant growth and acute need for medical facilities in the Markham and Stouffville areas.

Incorporating 70 of the 500 new beds in the yet-to-be-built Markham Stouffville Hospital would have been cost efficient and would still have left 430 beds for the other hospitals.

At 244 beds, our guess is that our new hospital will be at capacity soon after it's opened. Hospital planners will be kicking themselves that they didn't enlarge the new hospital now, rather than adding additions later.

And, it again shows a failure by regional politicians to think regionally. In this case Markham and Whitchurch-Stouffville were the losers.

ONCE THEY ADD AN EXTENSION TO BULLOCK DR. WE'LL HAVE ALL THIS TO LOOK FORWARD TO!



Yuppies love microwaves, VCRs

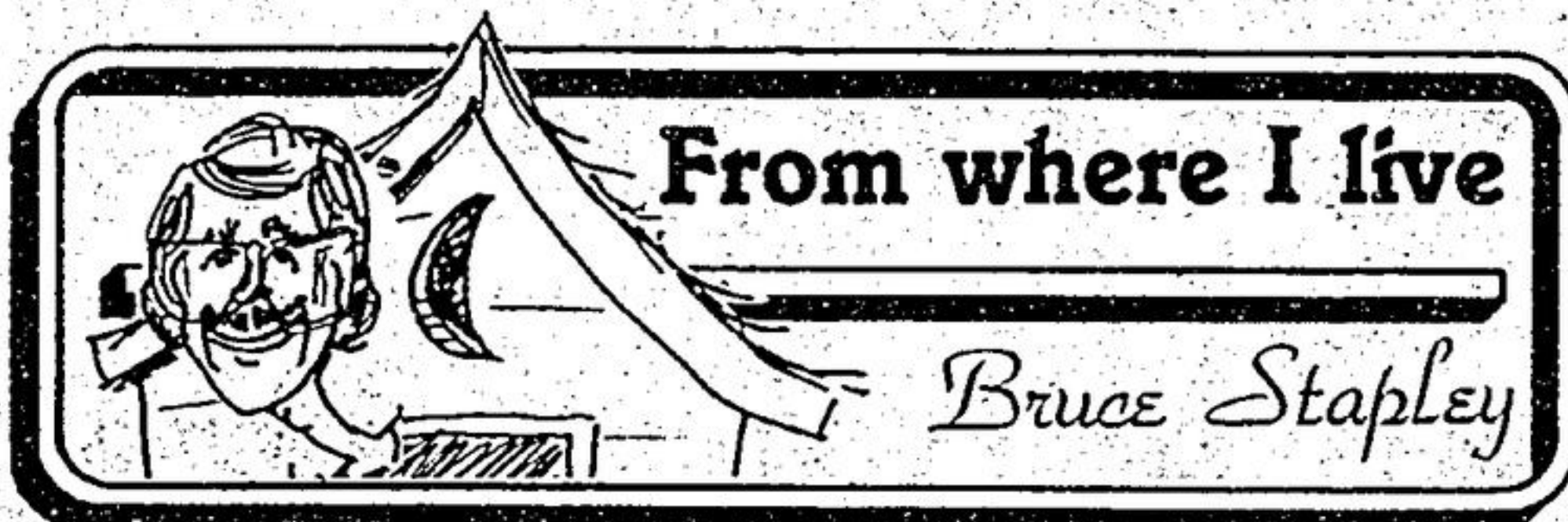
It would appear that the two most essential pieces of equipment that any self respecting Yuppie simply must possess today are the microwave oven, or "zapper" as my friend the working girl calls it, and the VCR, the best thing that ever happened to a television set.

If you, perish the thought, should find yourself without either of these two cornerstones of North American culture, recreation and culinary expediency, then it's time you started leaving obvious hints to those people given to shelling out the big money on Christmas presents.

Like making a big stink about all those leftovers that end up collecting mould in the back 40 of your fridge.

Or complaining loudly about the high cost of taking the family to see a movie, or bemoaning how those commercials make watching a first rate film an exercise in frustration.

If your spouse, and your



friends, are too cheap to lay one of these machines on you, and your personal funds can barely handle mundane things like groceries, then consider a barter system.

Our microwave came to us as the result of some rather astute wheeling and dealing. My lawyer bought one of my hand made pine originals for his office. We turned the cash into a microwave oven.

While we may have found countless uses for this most efficient time saving servant, there are some who still don't trust those little electric waves passing through their food.

Stouffville chiropractor Dr.

Allen Turner just looks at me funny when I try and tell him what a terrific piece of equipment a microwave oven is.

Allen is totally committed to holistic healing and organic foods, and is afraid of what a zapper might do to an otherwise perfect natural food concoction.

Now it must be mentioned that some of Al's disdain for my little oven stems from the fact that he's never really forgiven me for the time I conned him into eating both an ice cream cone, and a Cheesy, on the same day, when I was guest at his cottage a while back. His wife Lorna still doesn't believe it!

Anyway, having mastered the art of fast food preparation, the problem now remains of filling the need for the other half of the essential electronic toy tandem, the VCR.

Through the years, we've probably laid out enough money on rental machines to buy three brand new units.

But one of the problems of renting a machine is the dilemma that arises when you've paid out your dough, and you bring the machine home only to discover that one of your all-time favorite films is on television that night.

Which is exactly what happened to this kid recently. I had wangled a dinner invite from a friend, the condition being that I bring a movie for the evening's entertainment.

I had always wanted to see Key Largo, with Humphrey Bogart, so I rented it. But I didn't find out until later that The Graduate was on the tube that night.

After a lengthy, agonizing period of indecision, we chose The Graduate. I just had to see Dustin Hoffmann pounding on the glass at the back of the church shouting "Elaine, Elaine!", followed by his scooping up Katherine Ross, wedding dress and all, and running off with her in the back of that bus. Classic stuff! Some other time, Bogey.

Another problem with rentals is the feeling that you are not getting your money's worth unless someone watches every second of whatever movie you have picked.

A recent birthday party for our eight-year-old daughter found Marissa and her friends in her room playing dress-up while Mom, Dad and big brother remained in the TV room watching The Monkees.

So enough rentals! It's back to shopping around for a great deal on a VCR for our family.

Does anybody out there need a hand made pine corner cabinet?

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